## Project description template

## Knowledge-building Project

**This project description template consists of**

**A:** Overview of the chapters and sections to be used as the structure of the project description

**B:** Guidance on the content in each chapter and section

## A: Chapters and sections to be used

**Project title**

### Excellence

* 1. State of the art, knowledge needs and project objectives
  2. Research questions and hypotheses, theoretical approach and methodology
  3. Ethical issues

1.4 Novelty and ambition

### 2. Impact

* 1. Potential impact of the proposed research

2.2 Measures for communication and exploitation

### 3. Implementation

3.1 Project manager and project group

3.2 Project organisation and management

## B: Guidance

The proposed research should be presented clearly, using language understandable to individuals with a general scientific understanding of the field. Please note that the referees in the panel where your application is reviewed do not necessarily work in precisely the same area as you.

Complete the chapters and sections in the template, following the order of the items as given in part A, and delete the guidance (part B). The template is designed to address all the elements of the assessment criteria. The applicant is strongly advised to read the assessment criteria and the call text carefully.

The project description is not to exceed 11 pages, including the list of references. It is not possible to upload an attachment that exceeds this page total. The page format must be A4 with 2 cm margins, single spacing and Arial, Calibri or Times New Roman, using an 11-point font. It is permitted to use a 9-point font for the list of references and figure captions. Links that are listed in the project description will not be included in the assessment.

### Project title

Use the same title as in the application form.

### Excellence

This chapter should provide a description of the planned project to enable an assessment of its excellence, i.e., the quality/solidity and novelty/originality of the proposed work.

* 1. **State of the art, knowledge needs and project objectives**
* Summarise the state of the art of the research area/field the project aims to contribute to and describe the knowledge needs and challenges that justify the initiation of the project.
* State the overall project objectives and aims in the context of the state of the art and knowledge needs.
  1. **Research questions and hypotheses, theoretical approach and methodology**
* Describe in detail the research questions and/or hypotheses.
* Describe thoroughly the theoretical approach and/or methodology chosen to address the project objectives, research questions and/or hypotheses. Use a structure of work packages.

NB! Provide enough detail to enable reviewers to understand what you are proposing, how it will be carried out and whether it is feasible.

* Give a brief account of possible risks that might endanger achieving the objectives and describe how to manage these risks.
* Describe how relevant stakeholder/user knowledge will be involved/used.
* If relevant, specify why an interdisciplinary approach has been chosen.
* If relevant, describe how gender perspectives will be taken into account in the research content.
* If relevant, describe how potentially undesirable effects from carrying out the project, on human and animal health, climate and the environment and society at large, can be avoided.
  1. **Ethical issues**

All applicants are required to provide a brief description on how ethical issues will be dealt with, to ensure the panel that there is an appropriate plan for management of ethical issues. If a more detailed description is needed, this may be included in other sections of the project description, such as in the methods section or in the data management plan to be submitted if the project receives funding.

The responsibility for ensuring that the research ethics standard is followed lies with the individual researcher and research institution (cf. Research Ethics Act).

The panel's assessment and the Research Council's funding decision do not entail any research ethics approval.

See more information and guidance on the following website: [ethical standards in research](https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/research-policy-strategy/ethical-standards/).

* 1. **Novelty and ambition**
* Describe the potential for development of new knowledge beyond the current state of the art, including significant theoretical, methodological, experimental and/or empirical advancements.
* Highlight any particularly novel, original or ambitious aspects of the project, e.g., in the objectives, research questions/hypotheses, approaches and/or methodology.

**Excellence -** **please note:**

Make sure that the theoretical approach and/or choice of methods is well accounted for and described in detail, and that it is clear how the methods are adequate for addressing the research questions, hypotheses, and project objectives.

### Impact

This chapter should describe the importance of the anticipated results in terms of the potential academic impact and the potential societal and/or industrial impact of the research. The potential impact can be in the short or longer term. The chapter should also specify the planned measures for communication and exploitation of the project results.

* 1. **Potential impact of the proposed research**
* Building on the description of project objectives and novelty in chapter 1, describe clearly why and how the project outputs may address important present and/or future scientific challenges and have an impact on the research area/field, if successful.
* Building on the description of knowledge needs and challenges in section 1.1., describe why and how the project outputs, if successful, have the potential to meet the mentioned societal and/or industrial challenge(s).
* Describe how to ensure reproducibility and the potential to reuse the project outputs through open science practice such as FAIR data, software, models, algorithms, etc.
* Describe why and how the project output will promote future value creation in industry, the public sector and/or civil society.
* Describe how new knowledge and project outputs have the potential to address one or more of the [UN sustainable development goals](https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/) (SDGs).
  1. **Measures for communication and exploitation**
* Describe the target audiences and stakeholders/users of the project outputs (in or beyond the scientific community).
* Outline the scope and plan for dissemination, communication and engagement activities.
* Provide a brief description of planned activities that will contribute to the realisation of the potential impacts of the project outputs (in or beyond the scientific sphere).
* Describe open science practices to ensure early and open sharing and wide distribution of research outputs.
* Describe how the stakeholders/users are involved in the dissemination and utilisation of the project results.

**Impact - please note:**

The description of the potential impact should be project specific and related to the planned research. General elaborations on the benefits of research in a wider context should be avoided.

The 17 SDGs provide a global roadmap for a better future for all. Describe how the knowledge and outputs generated in this project can contribute to solving challenges and/or shed light on important issues related to one or more of the SDGs.

### Implementation

This chapter should provide a description of the project team and partners, task allocation, organisation and management.

* 1. **Project manager and project group**
* Describe the expertise and experience of the project manager in the context of the proposed project to complement the information in the CV.
* Describe the project team, including collaborators, to complement the information in the CVs. In particular, describe the complementarity of the participants in the context of the proposed project.
  1. **Project organisation and management**
* Describe the work plan using Gantt chart(s) or other visual representation of the plan.
* Describe the allocation of tasks to the project team members, linking the tasks to specific work packages.
* Describe the organisation and management structure.
* Describe the partners, their role and how they will participate in the the project. Please include the following table:

*Table: Cash-contribution from industry partners and corresponding RCN funding*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Norwegian partners from the industry sector | Funding (NOK) – the stated amounts must be confirmed in the Letters of intent |
| Total cash contribution from Norwegian industry partners  (Name all industry partners with cash) |  |
| Funding applied from RCN (max four times the total cash contribution above) |  |
| Total funding |  |

* Describe and justify the stakeholder/user involvement in the project and explain why this will contribute to carrying out the specific measures which are proposed for the exploitation of the results (see section 2.2).

**Implementation - please note:**

Avoid repeating information already contained in the CVs. Focus on the concrete roles and tasks, and how the project team, including key collaborators, is suitable and adequate for the research project.

The ambitions of the project, described in chapter 1, should be realistic in terms of resources such as personnel, expertise, research infrastructure etc., described in this chapter.