

We apologize for the poor quality of the transmission during Maris welcome speech. Parts of it has been removed from the recording. Please find the full content of her talk below.

Mari Sundli Tveit, CEO The Research Council of Norway:

Dear professor Pavel Kabat, dear everyone

I am very happy that Norway is again a full member of The Human Frontier Science Program Organization.

The Research Council of Norway will be the point of contact and responsible for the financial commitment for the Norwegian membership. This is an opportunity for Norwegian researchers to initiate new international research projects and collaborations.

The HFSP programs aim to support transformative research at the frontier of the life sciences. HFSP supports ground-breaking and interdisciplinary basic life science research and promotes scientific exchanges across national and disciplinary boundaries.

This complements the possibilities in our national programs as well as the possibilities within Horizon Europe, in particular the Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions and the European Research Council. Last week the Research Council Published our new policy for Recruitment for Research and Early Career. One of the main goals is to increase the quality of Norwegian research further, and to actively promote the exchange of knowledge and competences between scientific areas, sectors and countries.

Mobility will be a key factor, in particular the outgoing mobility of young researchers. The HFSP program fits well with our policy, and I hope that young researchers will see this opportunity and take advantage of it.

I also hope that those of you who are professors and group leaders will promote the HFSP scheme for your young aspiring colleagues. It is very prestigious to receive a grant from the HFSP, a Researcher Grant or a Fellowship Grant. These grants will boost the career of young researchers and open many doors.

One of the challenges reported by potential applicants in our previous membership period was that the level of funding for the Fellowship Programmes is lower than the national funding for postdocs in Norway.

We are planning to provide personal top-up funding for outgoing fellows, this is in line with the action plan in the new policy. We also plan to provide top-up funding to the institutions for incoming postdocs. The total amount from HFSP and the Research Council will be similar to the funding for Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions postdoctoral fellows. More information will be available later when we have worked out the details.

To summarize, this is an opportunity for starting ground-breaking research projects in new, international interdisciplinary collaborations. And I hope that Norwegian researchers will embrace this opportunity and apply to the programs.