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# Support for Networks to Follow Up National Subject Evaluations

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Financial scheme: Coordination and Support Activity

Application deadline: 4 June 2025, 13:00 CEST

Relevant thematic areas for this call: Ground-breaking research

Target groups: Research organisations

Funding scale: NOK 500 000-2 000 000

Amount of funding presumed available for this call for proposals: NOK 40 000 000. The estimated funding available under this call is up to NOK 40,000,000. A total of NOK 100 million has been set aside for the follow-up of the four scientific evaluations (EVALNAT, EVALBIOVIT, EVALMIT and EVALMEDHELSE). The amount is tentatively divided into NOK 64 million for the call for funding for researcher schools and NOK 36 million for this call. The actual distribution may be different if there are not enough qualified applications for one of the calls.

Project duration: 12-24 months

Contact for the call: Marianne Grønsløth | Banebrytende forskning | [magr@forskningsradet.no](mailto:magr@forskningsradet.no)

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## Important dates

**23 Apr 2025: Open for applications**

**04 Jun 2025: Application deadline**

**November 2025: Expected response to the application**

**01 Dec 2025: Earliest permitted project start**

**01 Jun 2026: Latest permitted project start**

**31 May 2028: Latest permitted project completion date**

## Purpose

The Research Council supports network activities that address the needs described in the national reports for the subject evaluations of natural sciences (EVALNAT), mathematics, ICT and technology (EVALMIT), life sciences (EVALBIOVIT) and medicine and health sciences (EVALMEDHEALTH). Evaluated research groups may apply for funding for coordination and networking activities for national and international collaboration within the same sector or between sectors for research groups that participated in the evaluation.

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## About the call for proposals

You can apply for up to NOK 2 million for networking activities under the auspices of administrative units that meet the requirements. See below for more information about who can apply and requirements for the administrative unit and project manager.

We prioritise collaboration between research groups at different administrative units that wish to establish research activities aimed at new research needs, as pointed out in the national reports for the four subject evaluations. The projects must include activities that address one or more of the following needs:

- better utilisation of expertise between geographically dispersed research groups
- link between basic and applied research
- facilitating better utilisation of national and international research infrastructure
- establishing collaboration with relevant international research groups
- positioning to have a leading role in Horizon Europe applications and other international project applications

The list is not exhaustive, and support for other ways to strengthen collaboration between research groups across administrative units and disciplines may also be relevant. In order for us to allocate funds in the upper range of the framework, the application must be aimed at several of the aforementioned needs.

We are also announcing [Support for Research Schools to Follow Up National Subject Evaluations](#)

The call is available in both Norwegian and English. The text of the Norwegian call for proposals is legally binding.

### Who is eligible to apply?

Only evaluated administrative units ([see the list of administrative units with research groups](#)) in the subject evaluations of natural sciences (EVALNAT), mathematics, ICT and technology (EVALMIT), life sciences (EVALBIOVIT) or medicine and health sciences (EVALMEDHEALTH) can apply on behalf of research groups that participated in one of the evaluations. The administrative unit must be part of an approved Norwegian research organisation. [See the list of approved research organisations](#).

- The Project Owner must submit the application on behalf of an evaluated administrative unit.
- Administrative units with 10 or fewer evaluated research groups may submit one application.
- Administrative units with more than 10 evaluated research groups may submit a maximum of two applications.

### Who can participate in the project?

#### Requirements relating to the Project Owner

The research organisation to which the administrative unit belongs is to be listed as the Project Owner in the application form and must have approved the submission of the application.

The application must be a collaboration between evaluated research groups from at least 3 research organisations, and the Project Owner must submit the application on behalf of all the partners.

#### Requirements relating to the project manager

The project manager must have an approved doctoral degree or achieved associate professor qualifications before the application deadline. For the purposes of this call, being or having been employed as researcher 1 (forsker 1), researcher 2 (forsker 2) or senior researcher in the institute sector is considered to be associate

professor competence.

The project manager must be a permanent employee of the Project Owner's administrative unit, and must be the academic leader of one of the research groups that are part of the network for which you are applying for funding.

### Requirements relating to partners

Approved Norwegian research organisations may participate as partners in the project and receive funding.

What can you seek funding for?

You can apply for funding to cover the actual costs necessary to carry out the project. The Project Owner must obtain information on costs from the partners in the project. These costs must be entered in the cost plan under the cost type to which they belong.

You can apply for support for the work of organising the network activities, the costs of preparing and conducting meetings and travel costs associated with meetings.

We require that you break down the project budget into the following cost types in your application:

- [payroll and indirect expenses](#), which are costs incurred by the Project Owner and partners in other research organisations.
- [other operating expenses](#), which are costs for other activities that are necessary to carry out the project. All costs entered as "other operating expenses" must be specified in the application.

The cost types **equipment** and **procurement of R&D services** cannot be used.

You will find detailed and important information about [what to enter in the project budget](#) on the website.

In addition, you must be aware of the following if you are awarded funding from us:

- The Research Council's prerequisites for awards can also be found in our general terms and conditions for R&D projects on the information page [What the contract involves](#).
- The project manager and the Project Owner must have assessed and handled the consideration of research security in the project. [Research security](#) refers to risks associated with unwanted transfer of knowledge and technology, impact on research and innovation, or breaches of research ethics/integrity where knowledge and technology are used to undermine key societal values.
- Grant recipients in research organisations and the public sector (Project Owners and partners) must have [action plans for gender equality \(GEPs\)](#) available on their websites. This must be in place before the contract is signed for projects with grants from us. The requirement does not apply to the private sector, interest groups or the voluntary sector.
- The Research Council requires full and immediate open access for scientific articles, see [Plan S - open access to publications](#).
- For all projects that handle data, the Project Owner must prepare a data management plan in connection with the revised application, [where you will find more information about the requirements for data management plans in projects that receive funding from us](#).
- For medical and health studies involving humans, the Research Council sets [special requirements and guidelines for prospective registration of studies and publication of results](#).

## Relevant thematic areas for this call

This call applies to subjects and research areas that were evaluated in the subject evaluations EVALNAT, EVALBIOVIT, EVALMIT and EVALMEDHELSE.

### Ground-breaking research

## Practical information

### Requirements for this funding scheme

You can change and submit the application several times until the application deadline. We recommend that you submit your application as soon as you have completed the application form and uploaded the mandatory attachments. When the application deadline expires, it is the version of the application that was submitted

most recently that we process.

- The number of applications that can be submitted per organisation can be found under "Who is eligible to apply?"
- The application is to be written in Norwegian.

### **Mandatory attachments**

- Project description of a maximum of 5 pages. Use the standard template that you can download at the bottom of the page.
- CV for the project manager. Use the standard template that you can download at the bottom of the page.
- CV for the leaders of collaborating research groups. Use the standard template that you can download at the bottom of the page.

Applications that do not meet the requirements above will be rejected.

All attachments to the application must be submitted with the application. We do not accept attachments submitted after the application deadline unless we have requested additional documentation.

We will not consider documents and websites linked to in the application, or attachments other than those specified above. Be careful to upload the correct attachment type, as there are no technical restrictions on what kind of templates it is possible to upload in the application form.

### **Assessment criteria**

Applications will be assessed in light of the purpose of the call and the following criteria:

#### **Excellence**

##### **Originality/Novelty**

- The extent to which the concept is sound, credible and novel.

##### **Solidity**

- The extent to which the project objectives are clear and relevant.
- The quality of the proposed deliverables from the project.

#### **Impact**

##### **Potential**

- The extent to which the expected effects are specified.
- The extent to which expected impacts on the system and societal levels are specified.

##### **Knowledge sharing and exploitation**

- The quality of the proposed communication and dissemination activities.
- The extent to which it is credible that the proposed outputs will contribute to the specified effects and impact.

#### **Implementation**

##### **Project Manager and project group**

- The extent to which the Project Manager and project group are qualified and have the necessary expertise and are positioned to implement the project.
- The extent to which management structures and procedures are appropriate.

##### **Plans and management**

- The extent to which the work plan is clear and understandable, and the time table realistic
- The extent to which objectives and measures are coherent.
- The extent to which the project has the support of the leadership of the Project Owner and any partners, and the allocation of roles in the project is clear.
- The extent to which the budget is realistic and appropriate, and resources are allocated so that each of the partners can fulfil their role.
- The extent to which potential risks have been discussed.

#### **Relevance to the call for proposals**

The extent to which the project satisfies the guidelines and stipulations set out in the call for proposals.

### Pre-assessment

Applications that do not satisfy the formal requirements will be rejected.

The Research Council may reject applications where the Project Owner or partner has materially breached its obligations in other projects funded by the Research Council in the two years prior to the submission of the application.

The application may be rejected if the project manager has been appointed to the Joint Integrity Committee or the Investigation Committee in the last two years prior to the submission of the application.

### Administrative assessment

Applications that meet the formal requirements will be processed administratively by the Research Council. The administration will make an assessment based on the criteria set out in the call and an assessment of relevance based on how well the application addresses the needs described in the national reports from the four subject evaluations.

The administration prepares a recommendation based on the assessment of the applications and an overall portfolio assessment that takes into account the distribution of networks by subjects and topics.

The portfolio board for Ground-breaking research then makes a decision regarding funding.

We expect to publish which applications will be funded during November 2025.

## Download templates



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Template for CV researchers.docx



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