## Project description template for Research Projects

*Version date: 10.02.21*

This template is identical with the project description template used by the Norwegian Research Council, except we use 1,15 line spacing (not single line spacing) and have made minor changes in the section headings (3.1, 3.2) and in the guidance.

This project description can be written in English or Norwegian.

The 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 sections

### Chapters and sections to be used

### Excellence

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

### Impact

* 1. Potential impact of the proposed research
  2. Measures for communication and exploitation

### Implementation

* 1. Researcher and project group
  2. Project organisation and management

1. **Guidance**

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| **Please note:**  Complete all 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, together with the application form, designed to address the elements of the evaluation criteria. The applicant is advised to read the instructions for the expert panel and the user representatives, and to familiarize themselves with the evaluation process.  The project period, the progress plan including the project's main activities and milestones, the budget, the dissemination plan and more, are to be provided in the electronic grant application form. The project description is to provide a more detailed description of the objectives, the background for the project and how it will be carried out.  The proposed research should be presented clearly, using a language that is understandable also to individuals with a general scientific understanding of the field.  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, 1,15 line spacing and Arial, Calibri, Times New Roman or similar 11-point font. It is permitted to use 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. |

### 1. Excellence

This chapter should provide a description of the planned project to enable an assessment of its excellence, i.e. the novelty/originality and quality/solidity 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 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. **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.
  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.
* Give a brief account of possible risks that might endanger achieving the project objectives and describe how to manage these risks.
* If relevant, specify why an interdisciplinary approach has been chosen.
* If there are ethical issues to consider, describe how these will be dealt with.
* If relevant, describe
* how gender perspectives are taken into account in the research content
* 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
* how relevant stakeholder/user knowledge will be used

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| **Excellence -** **please note:**  Make sure that the theoretical approach and/or choice of methods is well accounted for and described, and that it is clear how the methods are adequate for addressing the research questions, hypotheses, and project objectives.  Ethical considerations must be included. For Norwegian and international ethical guidelines please visit <https://www.etikkom.no/forskningsetiske-retningslinjer/Medisin-og-helse/> |

### Impact

This chapter should describe the importance of the anticipated results in terms of the potential scientific impact, and, if relevant, the potential societal impact of the research. The potential impact can be in the short or longer term. The chapter should also specify the planned measures for exploitation, communication and dissemination 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.
* If relevant, 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 challenge(s).
* If relevant, describe how new knowledge and project outputs have the potential to address one or more of the UN sustainable development goals.
  1. **Measures for communication and exploitation**
* Describe the target audiences and stakeholders/users of the project results and outputs (in or beyond the scientific community).
* Outline briefly the scope and plan for communication and engagement activities.
* Provide a brief description of planned activities that will contribute to the realisation of the potential impacts of the project results and outputs (in or beyond the scientific sphere).

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| **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.  If the proposal is initiated in the context of a specific societal challenge, please describe how the project outputs can contribute to addressing this challenge. If this is not a relevant context for the project in question, the item does not have to be addressed. This description will be used by the expert panel, together with the rest of the project description, to assess the quality of the project (irrespective of what funding scheme it is submitted to).  The 17 UN sustainable development goals (SDGs) provide a global roadmap for a better future for all ([Link](https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/)**)**.If relevant for your project, 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 UN's sustainability goals. If this is not a relevant context for the project in question, the item does not have to be addressed. |

### Implementation

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

* 1. **Researcher and project group**
* Describe the expertise and experience of the researcher (PhD candidate / postdoctoral fellow) in the context of the proposed project to complement the information in the CV.
* Describe briefly the project team, including main supervisor and 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 a structure of work packages and Gantt chart(s).
* Provide a brief overview of research infrastructure and other resources that will be essential for carrying out the proposed project.
* Describe the allocation of tasks to the project team members, linking the tasks to specific work packages.
* Describe the organisation and management structure, including the collaboration between the research group and the NGO responsible for the application to the Foundation Dam.
* If applicable, describe 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).

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| **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 work plan, work packages and tasks should present a realistic and feasible approach to using the methodology and achieving the objectives presented in the first chapter. The ambitions and workload should be realistic in terms of resources such as personnel, expertise, research infrastructure, etc. |