

16 June 2026

MH Grants Office: Funding Updates

Welcome to the June funding newsletter from the MH Grants Office. You can expect our newsletter in your inbox on the first Friday of the month, at most monthly and every 2nd or 3rd month during periods with fewer announcements to share.

Check out the [MH Grants Office website](#) to read more about the support services we offer, see an [overview of funding opportunities](#) available to health researchers in Norway, and more.

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From idea to research project – should I apply for a grant? The question of budgets....



You have come up with a great scientific puzzle or have unanswered research questions that you're itching to solve.

When are ideas fruit for a grant proposal and when are they not?

If there is a call with a mandate to support your type of project whether that is basic research, clinical trials, pilot studies, or something else, you are off to a great start. However, this is not all that matters.

YOUR PROJECT IDEA APPEARS TO FIT A CALL MANDATE - DOES THIS MEAN YOU SHOULD APPLY?

Not necessarily. It comes down to the fit between maximum budget for the call and your needs. Of course, you can't possibly have a detailed idea of costs early in the idea-phase.

However, you may already have a sense of what you will need to successfully complete a project based on your idea:

- lab access,
- hiring extra personnel (technicians, PhDs, postdocs),
- time off teaching,
- access to any bio banks, health registries, or population registries,
- etc.

Are any of the things you need very expensive, are any already freely accessible at NTNU? Do you need to cover your own salary with the grant? Looking at things holistically, what general size budget is necessary for the project to be possible?

CONVINCE THE FUNDER THAT THE GRANT YOU APPLY FOR IS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT.

The max. budgets assigned to calls for funding tell us a lot about the scale of the projects they are looking to fund. FRIPRO early career, for example, allows you to apply for up to 10M NOK. While you may apply for less, the max grant size is an indication of the type of project they'll fund. If you could easily complete your project with 2 or 3M NOK, then it is too small a project to be competitive within FRIPRO.

Reviewers for any given call, no matter how big or small, want to be convinced that your project could not be executed without the grant. When a project's budget must be stretched to fit the grant size, the project you envision is probably smaller than the target projects for that call.

Are you able to do the project yourself, but added a PhD position because the budget has room for it? This won't sell the proposal to a reviewer, regardless of which call it is. You must prove that you **need** the requested funding, not just that you **can** spend it. That PhD candidate needs to have a meaningful role in the project.

The other side of this also applies. If your project is so big and expensive that the call budget is stretched thin, you will not convince reviewers that it is realistically feasible without significant risk.

GRANTS COME IN DIFFERENT SHAPES AND SIZES. FIND ONE THAT FITS IN SCOPE AND BUDGET.

Do you need just some money for organizing seminars, workshops or a conference? The RCN has a scheme for that:

↳ [Support for Events \(relevant thematic areas carry by year\)](#)

Is a PhD or a postdoc all that is missing for you to be able to do what you need?

↳ [Perhaps you qualify to apply for funding to hire a PhD or Postdoc form Samarbeidsorganet \(HMN\)?](#)

Do you just need some dedicated time without teaching duties?

↳ [Perhaps you qualify for a full time or 50% researcher position from Samarbeidsorganet \(HMN\)?](#)

Is the maximum FRIPRO budget forcing you to make too many compromises that effect the scientific excellence?

↳ [Consider applying for an ERC Starting, Consolidator or Advanced grant!](#)

Perhaps the maximum ERC budget is still not enough to execute your project without significant compromises to scientific excellence:

↳ [Look into the ERC+ Grants](#) or consider if the idea better fits a large consortium project model (perhaps [Horizon Europe's Health Cluster](#), or [Cancer Mission](#)).

This list is not exhaustive but demonstrates that grants come in different shapes and sizes depending on what and how much you need. Applying for the right call for your idea, both in terms of content and size, increases your chance of success.

This is not a discouragement against applying to ERC/FRIPRO.
It's an invitation to think big!

Big money asks for big ideas.

Ask Yourself:

Have you been able to comfortably continue your line of research via funding for PhD and/or post doc positions? Try to think what you could do if you had 10M NOK or €1.5M (i.e. 12M NOK or €2M if you're an experienced researcher)!

Set aside the smaller ideas and let the call mandates and budget sizes drive your ambition, and once you do let us know!

KEEP THESE DEADLINES IN MIND:

ERC StG	14 October 2026	€1.5 M
ERC CoG	12 January 2027	€2M
ERC AdG	26 August 2027	€2.5M
FRIPRO (all)	Open-Ended	10M NOK or 12M NOK

The MH Grants Office is here to support your applications however big or small.

Horizon Europe

Join A Cost Network

Join new international research networks as a stepping stone to Horizon Europe

Norwegian researchers and companies can now apply to join 80 new COST networks launching in 2026. The Research Council of Norway has found that participants in these networks have a higher chance of success in the EU's Horizon Europe.

The networks supported by the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST), are international networks of researchers covering all fields, disciplines, and sectors.

Participants contribute their own research to the network, and COST provides support for meetings, seminars, and conferences within the network, as well as summer schools and short-term research stays. COST does not fund research.

[A link to the networks and more information about how to join is available from the Research Council of Norway.](#)

More information about these calls and available support is available through the [Grants Office](#).

Upcoming EU Calls: Fall 2026 – Spring 2027

Plan your applications ahead! These deadlines are annual and generally occur around the same time each year. We generally advise that you begin to think about your application well ahead of when the call opens.

EU proposals, including partnered proposals, qualify for Project Establishment Grants (PES). [More information is available here.](#)

BOTTOM-UP CALLS (GROUNDBREAKING SCIENCE)

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 27 August 2026 | ERC Advanced Grant 2026 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>For active researchers who have a track-record of significant research achievements.</i> |
| 17 Sept. 2026 | ERC Proof of Concept 2026 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>NB: This call is only for current ERC Grant holders or PIs whose ERC projects ended after 01.01.25.</i> |
| 2 Sept. 2026 | ERC Plus Grant 2026 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>For bold transformative research that goes beyond the scope of existing ERC programmes in budget and/or duration.</i> |
| 14 Oct. 2026 | ERC Starting Grant 2027 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>For Researchers 0-10 years since PhD defence (formerly 2-7 years).</i> |
| 12 Jan. 2027 | ERC Consolidator Grant 2027 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>For Researchers 5-15 years since PhD defence (formerly 7-12 years).</i> |
| 11 May 2027 | ERC Synergy Grant 2027 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>A group of two to maximum four Principal Investigators (PIs) working together and bringing different skills and resources to tackle ambitious research problems.</i> |

26 August 2027

ERC Advanced Grant 2027

- *For active researchers who have a track-record of significant research achievements.*

COLLABORATIVE TOP-DOWN (I.E. THEMATIC) CALLS

15 Sept. 2026

EU Cancer Mission 2026:

- Virtual Human Twin (VHT) Models for Cancer Research
- Microbiome for early cancer prediction before the onset of disease
- Pragmatic clinical trials to optimise immunotherapeutic interventions for patients with refractory cancers
- Earlier and more precise palliative care
- Boosting mental health of young cancer survivors through the European Cancer Patient Digital Centre (ECPDC)
- Development of a research capacity building programme on cancer with and for Ukraine
- Improve the Quality of Life of older cancer patients

28 Oct.2026

Pathfinder Challenges 2026:

- Biotechnology for Healthy Ageing

13 April 2027

Cluster1: Health Single Stage:

- Addressing disabilities through the life course to support independent living and inclusion
- Integrating climate-related exposures into the human exposome and characterising its changes in response to climate change
- Tools and technologies to support health adaptation to climate change
- Development of novel small molecule antiviral therapeutics for pathogens with epidemic potential
- Development of monoclonal antibodies to prevent and treat infections from Flaviviruses
- Development of monoclonal antibodies to prevent and treat infections from Filo-, Nairo-, Phenui-, Picorna- and Toga viruses
- Development of innovative antimicrobials against pathogens resistant to antimicrobials
- Prevention and management of chronic non communicable diseases in children and young people (GACD)
- Personalised approaches to reduce risks from Adverse Drug Reactions due to administration of multiple medications
- Development of cell-free protein synthesis platforms for discovery and/or production of biologicals

21 Sept. 2027

EU Cancer Mission 2027:

- Leveraging functional genomics to reveal novel targets for cancer treatment
- Clinical research by Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructures for the benefit of patients with common cancers
- Phase 1 including first-in-human clinical trials to test biomarker-guided medicines or multimodal treatment interventions for patients with rare or very rare cancers or cancer subtypes
- Improving equitable health outcomes and added value for and with cancer patients

- through health-economics research, health systems research and outcomes research
- Pre commercial procurement of affordable solutions for healthcare systems in the areas of cancer technologies, cancer medical devices, or cancer medicines

European Partnerships: IHI Call 13 updated topics

The Innovative Health Initiative European Partnerships has updated the topics for the upcoming call for proposals IHI 13.

The two-stage call has three topics:

- [A network to boost the next wave of European innovations in healthcare](#)
- [An AI foundation toxicology model and framework to support waiving a second species in drug safety studies](#)
- [Decode the immuno-science of age-related immune-mediated diseases](#)

Information on the individual topics as well as rules and procedures for two-stage calls will be presented during four webinars from 24-30 June 2026. [Find out more and register.](#)

You can find general information about European Partnerships in our [December 2025 newsletter](#) here.

Information about available support is available through the [Grants Office](#). Send us an email and we're happy to help with any questions you may have.

Norwegian Research Council

FRIPRO will switch to new application system this fall

The Research Council will move FRIPRO over to the new application system this fall, closing the old application system for good.

The exact date that it will be closed has not yet been announced.

If you plan to apply using the old template before the system switches over, or have already started to work on it in the old template, the NFR recommends saving a pdf of your application so that you have a starting point to work from in the new system if you do not submit before the old application system is shut down.

Note: Once the new application is introduced, the old system will be deleted, and you will lose any applications that were in progress there. The Radical Ideas call will switch over later than the remaining FRIPRO calls.

The Research Council has set a max character limits for each section of the proposal in the new system.

If you have already experienced the new application portal/template through the recent thematic calls which had deadlines in April, please note that the application forms for FRIPRO will differ from these in both some sections and in character limits. The RCN has hinted that in the FRPRO template, more space will be dedicated to excellence, and less to impact than in these earlier calls.

If you think you will likely apply in the fall, it is best to work with the old template and be ready to dedicate time to adjusting it to requirements of the new template if it is released before you appl. Keeping in mind sections may need to be shortened or elaborated.

Other Calls for Funding

Upcoming Call: Olav Thon Foundation Nordic research collaboration in medicine (age-related neurodegenerative diseases).

The Olav Thon Foundation has earmarked up NOK 48 million for grants to Nordic research collaboration in medicine for 2027.

The collaboration must include specific research groups in at least two Nordic countries and be led by personnel holding professorships or equivalent permanent academic positions.

Applications are invited for research collaboration on **age-related neurodegenerative diseases**, including Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease.

Deadline: 15 September 2026

[For details, read the call announcement here](#)

Support Activities

REMINDER: Get an RRS position for your project

MH faculty continues to offer a 3-year PhD position as own financing to awarded NFR and HEU projects in 2026 where MH-faculty is allocated at least 6 million NOK of the externally financed budget.

The faculty covers salary, social costs and operating costs in compliance with the current routines for RRS positions at the faculty.

Requirements to qualify:

1. Notify the faculty no later than 2 weeks before the application deadline/scheduled date of proposal submission (open-ended).

The following information is required:

- The name of the call for proposals
- The project title
- The name and department of the project leader
- The total budget for the project
- MH-faculty's share of the externally financed budget.
- If the MH-faculty is a partner, please include the name and organization of the project manager.

2. An email from the head of department confirming their support for the proposal.

Please submit this information, including documentation of support from the head of your department by email to:

laila.berg@ntnu.no

NB: MH reserves its right to use the "first come, first served" principle for prioritization if the annual RRS-resources earmarked for this purpose are exceeded.

ERC Proposal Reading Sessions

Do you plan to apply for an ERC grant in the coming calls and can't make it to an NFR organized reading day?

The Grants Office at the Medical Faculty has access to successful ERC proposals from across NTNU and we organize NTNU-wide reading days once or twice a year. Keep your eyes posted in Innsida and this newsletter to stay updated.

If there are no reading days coming up when you need them, you can also send us an e-mail, and we can arrange for you to come visit us to read up to three proposals.

You can reach us at: soknadshjelpen@mh.ntnu.no.

NFR/RCN Proposal Reading Day

Time: August 12th, 12:00-15:00

Place: TBD (Øya Campus)

Registration deadline: August 10th

Register [here](#) and choose up to three proposals you want to read. [An overview of the available proposals can be found here](#)

The Grants Office invites you to a reading day of proposals that have been funded by the Research Council of Norway.

[Click here to add this event to your outlook calendar.](#)

It is invaluable to see how successful proposals are structured and formulated, whether you are writing your own proposal or helping others secure funding as an adviser. We now have an updated and expanded our list of available proposals and are very grateful to the 19 researchers who have agreed to share their work.

If you have any questions about securing funding from the research council or would like more information, you can reach the MH Grants Office at: soknadshjelpen@mh.ntnu.no.

Reading Day Rules:

To protect the researchers who have been so kind as to share their ERC and NFR proposals, these rules will be in place during our reading days:

- You can only read the proposals at the set time and place
- You can't take the proposal out of the room
- No copying or taking pictures of the proposal
- You may take notes on paper, laptop or other digital note-taking device.
- Before you can see the proposals, you will have to sign a non-disclosure agreement

Early Career

MSCA Postdoctoral Seminar Recording Available

The Nordic 5 Tech alliance organized an informative MSCA application seminar on June 3. If you missed it, you can watch the recording using the following link:

[MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship Training 3.6.2026](#)

The presentations and a summary of the Q&A are available here:

[NTNU MSCA PF Symposium 2026](#)

To unsubscribe, you can send an email to:

soknadshjelpen@mh.ntnu.no