How the changes planned by the Research Council of Norway will affect us
Outline

• Why is the Research Council of Norway reorganizing
• New organization of the Research Council
• New calls in 2019 and new evaluation criteria
• Advices to our research groups/departments
• Summary
Why new organisation

- "New Director"
- The objectives:
  - invest in the best and most relevant projects – viewed overall;
  - promote value creation and restructuring and find solutions to other major societal tasks;
  - provide users with unified, transparent services;
  - reduce costs by launching simplification, standardization and digitalization measures, among other things.

- Introduce:
  - Integrated portfolio management
  - Common funding and assessment areas
  - Internal reorganization
New organization

- The new boards on two levels
- Executive board “Styret” replaces “hovedstyret”
- Portfolio boards related to specific sets of thematic or scientific budgetary aims
- Internal reorganization:
New portfolio boards

- Industri og tjenestenæringar
- Muliggjørende teknologier
- Energi, transport og lavutslipp
- Landbaserte bioressurser, landbasert mat og miljø
- Klima- og polarforskning
- Petroleum
- Hav
- Helse
- Velferd, kultur og samfunn
- Utdanning og kompetanse
- Demokrati, styring og fornyelse
- Global utvikling
- Humaniora og samfunnsvitenskap
- Naturvitenskap og teknologi
- Livsvitenskap (medisin og helse)

Nomination for board members for the 15 boards due date January 2019
Important changes in 2019

- One overall application process
- **One call** for each type of application annually
- New evaluation criteria
- New templates for all type of applications
- New templates for CVs
- **Limitations** concerning the total number of applications per principal investigator
  - Please check each call for specific limitations
- New web pages from April 23rd
New evaluation criteria

- **Excellence – Impact – Implementation**
  - Further specific description for each call

- **Excellence**
  - Originality in research and innovation
  - Robustness/solidity

- **Impact**
  - Potentials
  - Knowledge transfer and implementation

- **Implementation**
  - Project manager and team
  - Plans and organisation
Example: Evaluation criteria for Researcher project

Excellence

The extent to which the proposed work is ambitious, novel, and goes beyond the state of the art

- Scientific creativity and originality
- Novelty and boldness of hypotheses or research questions
- Potential for development of new knowledge beyond the current state of the art, including significant theoretical, methodological, experimental or empirical advancement

The quality of the proposed R&D activities

- Quality of the research questions, hypotheses and project objectives, and the extent to which they are clearly and adequately specified
- Credibility and appropriateness of the theoretical approach, research design and use of scientific methods. Appropriate consideration of interdisciplinary approaches
- Where relevant, the extent to which appropriate consideration has been given to ethical issues, safety issues, gender dimension in research content, and appropriate use of stakeholder/user knowledge
Example: *Evaluation criteria for Researcher project*

**Impact**

**Potential impact of the proposed research**
- The extent to which the planned outputs of the project address important present and/or future scientific challenges
- If relevant with respect to the project objectives, the extent to which the planned outputs will address UN Sustainable development goals or other important present and/or future societal challenges.
- The extent to which the potential impacts are clearly formulated and plausible

**Communication and exploitation**
- Quality and scope of communication and engagement activities with different target audiences, including relevant stakeholders/users
Example: Evaluation criteria for Researcher project

Implementation

The quality of the project manager and project group
• The extent to which the project manager has relevant expertise and experience, and demonstrated ability to perform high-quality research (as appropriate to the career stage)
• The degree of complementarity of the participants and the extent to which the project group as a whole assembles the necessary expertise needed to undertake the research effectively, and provides added value

The quality of the project organization and management
• Effectiveness of the work plan, including the extent to which resources assigned to work packages are aligned with project objectives and deliverables
• Appropriateness of the allocation of tasks, ensuring that all participants have a valid role and adequate resources in the project to fulfil that role
• Appropriateness of the proposed management structures and governance
Project description template
for Researcher Projects, Young Research Talents, Mobility Grants

• 1. Excellence
  – State of the art, knowledge needs and project objectives
  – Novelty and ambition
  – Research questions and hypotheses, theoretical approach and methodology

• 2. Impact
  – Potential impact of the proposed research
  – Measures for communication and exploitation

• 3. Implementation
  – Project manager and project group
  – Project organisation and management

• Further guidance in specific document
Type of Projects

- Researcher Projects, Young Research Talents, Mobility Grants (Deadline April 10th)
- Collaboration Projects on Societal Challenges and Business Development (April 10th)
- Knowledge-Building Project for Industry (September 4th)
- Innovation Projects (September 25th)
- Centre Scheme Funding (SFI two-stage April and September 25th)
- Commercialisation Projects (September 25th)
- Coordination and Support Activities (September 25th)
- Research Infrastructure (2020)
- Specific requirements for each call/application
Overview of calls in 2019

See:
How should we respond to these changes?
Advices to research groups

- The significant changes by the Research Council calls for better planning and coordination of the internal application process
  - Annual plans for applications within each research group/department
  - Allocation of resources to support the work with applications
  - Quality assurance of all applications

- Robust research groups key to success
Plans and coordination

• Which calls are relevant for the research group in the year to come?
  – The Research Council of Norway
  – Horizon2020

• Which type of application?

• Who should apply (PI and co-PIs)?

• External collaborators

→ Annual plan research group/depart.
Allocation of resources and approval

- Time to write and to get feedback
  - Reduced teaching load for PI?
- Budgeting and administrative support (not all the day before the deadline)
  - Personnel?
  - Infrastructure
  - Other costs?
- Approval of proposal/budget by department head / dean in due time
Internal review of applications

- All applications from research groups should be subjected to internal review prior to submission.
- Internal peer review require internal deadlines prior to the final deadline.
- Peer review can be arranged within research groups or departments, external reviews can also be used.