### **Attachment to the application for long-term basic funding for operation of large-scale research infrastructure[[1]](#footnote-2)**

**Please note:**

* Page format: A4 with 2-cm margins, single spacing and Times New Roman, Arial or Calibri 11-point font.
* All sub-items under each main item must be completed in writing and any necessary documentation must be provided.
* All items must be completed in English.
* Elements that will be emphasised when assessing the information provided in this attachment are described at the end of this document.
* The attachment must not exceed five pages.

1. **Budgeting and accounting model for operation of the infrastructure**

Describe the *financial model(s)* used by the host institution(s) with regard to the operation of research infrastructures.

*Please note: The Research Council requires that the financial model(s) present actual operating costs under a specific cost centre or as Research Infrastructure Resource (RIR) costs.[[2]](#footnote-3) Furthermore, the financial model(s) must present how the operating costs are planned distributed between the projects and activities that will employ the infrastructure and any basic funding.*

1. **Specification of the operating costs of the infrastructure**
2. Specify the annual operating costs for the relevant *cost centre(s)/RIR(s)*.
3. Explain which cost elements are the major cost drivers.
4. **Description of the future use and degree of utilisation of the infrastructure**
5. Specify the annual capacity of the infrastructure for the next 5–10 years. If possible, specify the expected annual degree of utilisation for the same period.
6. Specify the most important users of the infrastructure and/or those who are anticipated to be the most important users (researchers at universities and university colleges, research institutes, trade and industry, health trusts, students, etc.) over the next 5–10 years. Indicate the proportion of these that are external users (i.e. not affiliated with the applicant institution(s) or consortium).
7. Describe the consequences for the national research groups using the infrastructure if the Research Council does not award basic funding for operation.
8. **Specification of how the operating costs of the infrastructure are planned to be financed**
9. Describe the extent to which infrastructure users are expected to contribute to the operating costs via funding allocated for their R&D projects.
10. Specify the contributions of the owner institution(s) and any partners to the annual basic funding for operation over the next 5–10 years and suggest other possible sources of funding.
11. Specify the expected contributions of the internal and external users and the various user groups to the operation of the research infrastructure over the next 5–10 years. In the event that the research infrastructure will be used for both economic activity and non-economic activity, the applicant must provide an estimate of the proportion of capacity of the research infrastructure that will be used for non-economic activity.[[3]](#footnote-4) Please also see the information on the [state aid rules](https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/apply-for-funding/funding-from-the-research-council/Conditions-for-awarding-state-aid/) on the Research Council website.

*Please note: The Research Council’s policy is to help ensure that costs for operation of research infrastructure are to be covered by the projects that use the infrastructure. This includes projects receiving funding from the Research Council.*

1. **Justification for seeking basic funding for operation from the Research Council**
2. Explain why it is impossible to require that the actual operating costs are covered in their entirety by means of user contributions.
3. Explain why the infrastructure will require additional personnel to be eligible for co-funding of such salary costs under an INFRASTRUKTUR grant.
4. Describe plans for developing financial sustainability, with the aim, preferably, of reducing the basic funding from INFRASTRUKTUR for operation in the future.

**Prerequisites that must be met**

The Research Council will only consider awarding funding through INFRASTRUKTUR for operation of a research infrastructure if all the prerequisites stipulated in Section 5 (Funding to cover operating costs – special cases) of the document "What is eligible for funding?” have been met.

**Research Council’s assessment of the information provided in this attachment**

The INFRASTRUKTUR initiative is primarily intended to provide funding for investment in new or upgrades of existing research infrastructures. The Research Council maintains that operating costs for a research infrastructure are to be covered to the greatest possible extent by the projects using the infrastructure. The Research Council will therefore be very restrictive in awarding funding for funding for operation of infrastructure through the INFRASTRUKTUR initiative.

When assessing the information provided by the applicant in Items 1–4 (including sub-items), the Research Council will attach importance to the following:

1. The budgeting and accounting model for operation of the infrastructure.
2. The ability to document that the degree of utilisation is high in relation to the capacity of the infrastructure. Data infrastructures must document a significant number of users and the user group(s) must have a stated need for the services provided by the infrastructure.
3. The explanation of why the operating costs are high and why the available R&D funding to users (project funding, basic allocations received by their own institution, etc.) cannot be expected to cover operating costs.
4. The contribution of the applicant and partner institutions to the long-term basic funding for operation must constitute a significant portion of the total annual operating costs. (Consideration must, however, be given to the fact that the basic allocations to the various institutions differ.) The Research Council wishes to avoid situations in which it ends up as the sole “underwriter” for basic funding for operation.
5. The presentation in the funding plan of how the infrastructure’s operation will be financed and the applicant’s plans for developing financial sustainability, with the aim, preferably, of reducing the Research Council’s basic funding for operation in the future.

1. The term *“large-scale infrastructure”* refers to research infrastructures of national importance that are particularly large and costly. It is up to the Research Council administration to determine whether the infrastructure sought is qualified as “large-scale infrastructure”. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. A *Research Infrastructure Resource (RIR)* is defined as a laboratory or other common research infrastructure for which the operating costs are presented separately and distributed proportionally between the projects and activities that employ the infrastructure. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Economic activity in the context of research infrastructure includes hiring out of equipment and laboratories, provision of services to undertakings, and performance of commissioned research activity, among other things. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)