|  |
| --- |
| **Please note: This template must be used for grant applications submitted for the 15 September 2021 deadline Previous versions of the template are not to be used.**  This document is the template for the project description for Innovation Projects for the Public Sector. The project description must follow the setup and instructions provided here. Complete all the main items and sub-items in the template in the order listed here. The template has been designed to ensure that all the elements included in the assessment criteria are described. Applicants are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the assessment criteria, which are presented at the end of the text of the call for proposals.  When developing your project we recommend using our [project development tool.](https://www.forskningsradet.no/siteassets/malgruppene/prosjektkanvas/prosjektkanvas-offentlig-sektor---forskningsradet.pdf)   The project description is a mandatory attachment to the online grant application form to be completed and submitted via the ‘My RCN Web’ portal. In the following, it will be referred to as ‘the grant application form’. Guidelines are provided for each item in the grant application form, and we recommend that you read these carefully.  The following information is to be entered in the grant application form:   * Project partners * Information relating to the project * Relevant thematic areas (the thematic areas are presented in the text of the call. You may select up to three thematic areas of greatest relevance to your application.) * Progress plan * Budget   Some of the information entered in the grant application form must be explained in greater detail in the project description. It is therefore recommended that you work with the grant application form and the project description in parallel.  The template provided below must be used, and all items of information **must** be completed in the given order. Delete the guidelines instructions and (text in italics) and fill in the information for each item in the template*.*  Main items and sub-items in the template 1. Challenges and needs  2. Excellence  2.1 The innovation  2.1.1 Innovation concept 2.1.2 Knowledge needs  2.2 R&D activities  2.2.1 R&D objectives2.2.2 R&D challenges, design and scientific methods  3. Impact  3.1 Potential for value creation  3.2 Utilisation of results  3.2.1 Plan for the realisation of the innovation  3.2.2 Dissemination, sharing and exploitation  4 Implementation  Project plan for the R&D project  4.1.1 Main activities of the R&D project  4.1.2 Project organisation, cooperation and support  Formal requirements  The project description must not exceed 10 pages, including the list of references, and it is not possible to upload a project description that exceeds this limit. The page format should be A4 with 2 cm margins, single line spacing, and in Arial, Calibri, Times Roman or similar 11-point font. 9-point font may be used for references and figure text. Note that the referees who will be assessing the grant proposal will not be able to open any links entered in the project description. |

Project description for Innovation Projects for the Public Sector

# Challenges and needs *Describe the challenges and needs the project seeks to resolve.*

* *Describe how the innovation can help to solve a challenge or meet a need that has been identified by the public sector entity.*
* *Explain the relationship between the primary objective and the secondary objectives listed in the grant application form, and how these will address challenges and needs in connection with realising the innovation concept.*

# Research and innovation *Describe the planned project in a manner that makes it possible to assess the degree to which the project represents an ambitious innovation that is supported by relevant R&D activities.*

## The innovation

### The innovation concept

* *Describe the innovation concept and how it represents something new for the applicant, any partners in the public sector and, when relevant, their users/target groups as well.*
* *Describe what is new in the innovation and how this relates to the state-of-the-art in the area.*

*What is innovation?  
Innovation in this context means new or significantly improved goods, services, processes, organisation and management forms or concepts that are introduced to achieve value creation and benefits to society.*



*Source: The Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS) Innovation Barometer*

### Knowledge needs

* *Explain why this research is needed to realise the planned innovation.*

## R&D activities

### R&D objectives

* *Provide clearly defined, verifiable objectives for the R&D activities. The anticipated results of the project must be clearly stated.*

### R&D challenges, design and scientific methods

* *Describe the key R&D challenges involved in the project.*
* *Describe and delimit the research question that will be addressed. This should be presented in the context of already known or available state-of-the-art knowledge/technology/solutions so as to indicate your knowledge of the research front.*
* *State whether a search in scientific literature, patent databases or similar has been conducted.*

* *Explain the planned approach and choice of methodology.*
* *What is the level of ambition established for the scientific objectives, and are there any special factors (risks) that may make it difficult to achieve these objectives in full?*

# 3. Impact *Expand on the information you provided in the grant application form under the section on ‘Impact’. Describe how the project will facilitate value creation in the public sector entities and lead to benefits for other segments of the public sector. You must also set up a plan for how the innovation will be introduced and lead to value creation, both during the project and after its conclusion.*



## Potential for value creation

* *Describe the potential for value creation that the innovation entails for the applicant and any partners from the public sector and their target groups, such as increased efficiency, improved quality, reduced costs, more useful or improved services for the target groups or other aspects of value creation.*
* *Describe the project’s potential contribution to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals or other positive societal outcomes.*

## Utilisation of results *Utilisation of results is about reaping benefits and ensuring that both expected and unexpected benefits are actually realised. This means that utilisation of results is about more than just finishing a project; it entails ensuring that practical use is made of the project. Utilisation of results can take place during the project in that some benefits are realised through the implementation of the project itself, and others after the project period is over. This process begins when the project starts and the utilisation process also continues after the project is concluded. Describe a plan for the utilisation of results.*

### Plan for the realisation of the innovation

* *Describe how the innovation will lead to changes and benefits. A draft plan should be submitted for the realisation of the innovation that can be carried out in parallel with the R&D activities in the project (for example utilising results as they are achieved), as well as plans for further realisation after the R&D activities are concluded. Key milestones must be provided for important stages en route to realising benefits. Decision-making points that may be important in determining the course to pursue for realisation of the innovation must be included. You should also consider which tools may be of use and describe roles and support for the project. Describe and explain any risk factors that may have a significant impact on the realisation of the innovation. It may be relevant to consider the following:* 
  + *risks relating to implementation;*
  + *financing risks;*
  + *organisational risks;*
  + *risks relating to the need for amendment of the statutory framework;*
  + *market risks for any private-sector actors taking part.*

*Note: Risk factors related to the research activities are to be described in Part* *2.2.2*.

*Examples of relevant factors to describe:*

*Plan for implementing and introducing new or updated services*

*Plan for implementing new methods, new organisational structures or new management models.*

*Plan for introducing new or improved organisational structures or processes.*

*Methods and tools intended to be used in the utilisation of results.*

*What measures are planned for the realisation of value creation. Examples include needs for new expertise, new technology, dissemination and training, establishing cooperation to promote better dissemination.*

*Which resources will be essential to enable the actors to implement the plans for realisation of the innovation?*

*Various tools may be relevant in this context:*

[The Norwegian Agency for Public and Financial Management (DFØ)](https://dfo.no/fagomrader/gevinstrealisering#Last-ned-veilederen-til-gevinstrealisering:6636)  
[Roadmap for service innovation](https://www.ks.no/fagomrader/innovasjon/innovasjonsledelse/veikart-for-tjenesteinnovasjon/) from KS

[Knowledge and tools – National Centre for Public Sector Innovation (coi.dk)](https://www.coi.dk/viden-og-vaerktoejer/)

### Dissemination, sharing and exploitation

* *Describe the potential for sharing and exploitation in other segments of the public sector.*
* *Describe the activities planned for exploitation in other segments of the public sector.*
* *Describe the plans for dissemination, both as scholarly and as popular science dissemination.*

# Implementation *Expand on the information you provided in the grant application form and describe the planned project in a manner that makes it possible to assess the degree to which the project plan provides an adequate basis for successful implementation of the R&D activities and utilisation of the results.*

## Project plan for the R&D project

*Main activities and key milestones  
Main activities and key milestones in the project are to be specified in a separate table in the grant application form, and the descriptions in this section are to provide further details about the information listed in the table.*

*Costs and funding   
The costs to be covered and funding to be provided by each partner must be entered in the appropriate tables in the grant application form. Costs per project partner and per main activity are also to be entered in the application form.*

*Note: Please read the information on the* [*website pertaining to budgets*](https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/apply-for-funding/Budget/) *carefully, and consult the guidelines to filling in budget tables in the grant application form.*

### Main activities of the R&D project

* *Describe the overall project plan using a Gantt chart or similar.*
* *Describe each main activity (M1, M2, etc.) providing the following information:*
  + *Title.*
  + *Scientific content: provide a brief description of what the main activity comprises.*
  + *Important deliverables and results to be achieved.*
  + *Key milestones for the R&D activities.*
  + *Project partner responsible for carrying out the main activity.*
  + *Other participants in the main activity.*

*Each main activity must comprise R&D tasks that either fall within the R&D category ‘industrial research’ or within the R&D category ‘experimental development’, and the correct category must be selected in the Progress Plan table in the grant application form. The definition of these terms is given in the* [*EEA state aid rules for R&D support*](https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/apply-for-funding/funding-from-the-research-council/Conditions-for-awarding-state-aid/)*.*

### Project organisation, cooperation and support

* *Describe the project’s organisation and management structure*
* *Describe how each partner supports the project, which should also be described in the partner form.*
* *Explain how the selected organisational model and management structure are appropriate in relation to the complexity and size of the project.*
* *Describe the role that each of the partners will have in the performance of the R&D activities, and the knowledge/expertise that they will be contributing.*

*If the project entails collaboration with parties other than the partners listed in the table for partners, these must be described here. This may comprise other national projects/groups, \*\*municipalities that will not participate directly in the project, but will monitor it based on an interest in the results, or others. Key information related to subcontractors may also be included here.*