https://www.regionaleforskningsfond.no/en/rff-oslo/rffoslo2/2021/pre-projects-to-mobilise-trade-and-industry-for-research/

COMPLETED

# Pre-projects to Mobilise Trade and Industry for Research

PUBLISHED 22 DEC 2021 | LAST UPDATED 27 SEP 2022

Financial scheme: Support from Other Funders

Application deadline: Open-ended

Relevant thematic areas for this call: Regional development

Target groups: Industry

Funding scale: NOK 100 000-300 000

Amount of funding presumed available for this call for proposals: NOK 2 700 000

Project duration: 3-12 months

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Download all files

The call applies for as long as funds are available. After grants made in June, NOK 780 000 remains in this call. After grants 26. of Spetember, it is likely that there will be no more funds left in the call and that it is closed.

The template for the project description may only be obtained by contacting a competence broker. Please note that the template for the project description was updated in June 2022, and make sure you obtain the correct version.

This is an open-ended call for proposals, and applications are processed as follows:

- *Applications submitted by midnight on 26 th August are processed by the Fund's Board on September 26 th.*

- *Applications submitted by midnight on 16 th November are processed by the Fund's Board on December 16 th.*
- *Applications submitted by midnight on 20th December are processed by the Fund's Board at end of January / early February 2023.*

## Viktige datoer

**30 Mar 2022: Earliest possible project start-up**

**15 Jan 2023: Last possible project start-up**

**15 Jan 2024: Latest possible project end**

## Purpose

The purpose of *Innovasjonsdistrikter Oslo* (Oslo Innovation Districts) is to strengthen research-based innovation in the region's industry based in the innovation districts, Oslo Science City, City Centre and Innovation District Hovinbyen.

Pre- projects to Mobilise Trade and Industry for Research are small R&D projects in companies with little or no R&D experience. The company must collaborate with an R&D institution in the project. The company must have an ambition for the pre- project to lead to further research activity or cooperation with research institutions.

We wish to support pre-projects that can demonstrate potential for value creation and sustainable innovation in either new or improved products, services, or production processes.

SHORTCUTS


↓ **About the call**

↓ Who is eligible to apply?


## About the call for proposals

The Oslo Innovation Districts scheme aims to strengthen research-based innovation in the region's industry and commerce, based on the innovation districts Oslo Science city, City Centre, and Hovinbyen.

- Who can participate in the project?
- What can you seek funding for?
- **Relevant thematic areas**
- Regional development
- **Practical information**
- Requirements for this funding scheme
- Administrative procedures


The company must have an ambition for the work to lead to further research or collaboration with research institutions. The pre- project should be a preparation for participation in other research funding schemes, such as Regional Research Funds, the Research Council of Norway's innovation programmes, SkatteFUNN tax incentive scheme, or Horizon Europe.

Grants allocated are to be used for the procurement of R&D competence, and at least two-thirds of the grant amount must be used for the procurement of R&D.

**How to apply**

Contact a competence broker in Oslo. The competence broker can provide advice regarding the design of the project and assistance in finding the relevant research environment for the project. Following dialogue with the competence broker, you can set up your application for this call. You can find an overview of competence brokers in Oslo here.

Applications that are submitted when the applicant has not been in contact with a competence broker may be rejected.

The call is available in both Norwegian and English. The original Norwegian call text is the legally binding version.

Who is eligible to apply?

Companies with a registered business address in Oslo municipality that have limited research experience and are working on developing new products, processes or services can apply for funding under this call.

Companies that are, or have been, project owner for a main project funded by the Research Council of Norway, a Regional Research Fund (RFF) or the research programme of the European Union in the past five years are considered experienced R&D companies in this context and cannot apply.

Who can participate in the project?

**Requirements for project owner**

The company is the project owner. The project administrator is the person in the company who is authorised to represent and commit the organisation in relation to the City of Oslo.

The applicant company shall be the project owner in the application form and must approve submission of the application. If the application is a collaboration between multiple organisations, the organisation acting as project owner shall submit the application on behalf of all the partners.

### Requirements for principal investigator

There are no formal qualification requirements for the principal investigator. The principal investigator's professional competencies and suitability for implementation of the project will be assessed by the administration.

### Employment requirements

The principal investigator must be employed by the project owner or by one of the partners.

### Requirements for R&D providers

The research organisation shall be registered as an R&D provider on the application form. We use the Research Council of Norway's list of approved R&D providers here.  Only R&D environments shown on this list can be R&D providers.

Foreign public universities and institutions can also be R&D providers. It must be documented and described in the project application that the foreign R&D provider has academic competence in the field.

## What can you seek funding for?

You can apply for support to cover the actual costs necessary to implement the project.

The project shall comprise activities that fall within the categories of **industrial research** or **experimental development**. You will find a more detailed description of what this entails in Article 25 of the Commission (EC) General block exemption Regulation.

The following costs may be included in the project:

- Payroll and indirect expenses incurred by the company;
- Procurement of R&D services from approved research organisations or foreign R&D providers
- Other operating expenses

Detailed and important information about what the budget shall include can be found on this webpage.

### Calculation of support

The company can apply for up to **NOK 300,000 and up to 70 per cent** of the budgeted project costs. The minimum amount that can be applied for is NOK 100,000.

At least two-thirds of the support amount must be used for the procurement of R&D. For example, if the support amount is NOK 300,000, this means that NOK 200,000 must be used for the procurement of R&D.

The extent of support (aid intensity) for the company's project costs depends on the project's content and type of R&D activities as these are defined in the rules for state aid, including the size of the company, the project's research activities and collaborative constellations.

The extent of support may thus vary from 25 to 70 per cent for approved applications.

| Type of business/type of activity | Industrial Research | Experimental Development |
|---|---|---|
| Small business | 70% | 45% |
| Medium-size businesses | 60% | 35% |
| Large businesses | 50% | 25% |

The final amount of support for approved applications will be specified in the letter of grant commitment.

**Conditions for funding**

Support to "undertakings" are state aid. In this context undertaking means any actor that operates economic activity by offering goods and/or services in a market. When an undertaking receives funding covering parts of its' project costs, either as project owner or as a partner in the project, this must take place in accordance with the General Block Exemption Regulation (Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014).

Read more about the conditions for allocation of state aid.

**Own funding**

The company itself must provide at least 30 per cent of the project cost as own funding. Own-funding in projects can be in the form of cash and/or in-kind contribution such as personnel expenses and indirect costs. Personnel expenses and indirect costs must be calculated based on actual costs. You can find a guide on how to calculate personnel expenses and indirect costs for industry and commerce here.

Only wages paid by the project owner may be included in personnel expenses. The project owner and any other partners that make their contribution in the form of own funding must be up to date with payment of

employers' contributions and tax deductions. Unpaid in-kind contributions cannot be considered as co-financing.

**The grant cannot be used for**

- Survey of research literature
- Purchase of equipment
- Market research and marketing
- Establishment of networks, clusters, or consortiums
- Writing of applications to national and regional programmes

**Reporting and disbursement of grant**

We disburse 75 per cent of the grant at the start of the project.

The remainder is paid out at the end of the project, on the condition that the final report and the project accounts are approved. The actual grant is based on expenses in the project accounts that are entered in the project owner's or project partners' accounts.

## Relevant thematic areas for this call

Priority areas are:

- Health and life sciences
- Green transformation and circular economy
- Digitalisation and digital transformation

Support can also be given to projects within:

- Internationalisation
- Innovation in the public sector, the public sector as a test arena
- Innovation across industries

You can read more about Oslo Innovation Districts on this website (Norwegian only).

### Regional development

`MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY` `THE ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY` `HEALTH AND WELFARE` `EDUCATION` `TRAVEL AND TOURISM/EXPERIENTIAL TOURISM/CULTURE` `RETAIL/WHOLESALE AND THE SERVICE SECTOR`

# Practical information

Requirements for this funding scheme

The application must be created and submitted via the online application form in Research Council of Norway's application portal: My RCN web. Use the button "Create application" to create your application.

You can save and make changes to the application whilst you work on it. The application cannot be amended once it has been submitted.

The application and all the appendices must be in Norwegian or English.

- All appendices must be in PDF format.
- Only applications submitted via MY RCN web will be processed.

**Mandatory attachments**

- Project description of max. 5 pages. Use the standard template provided by your competence broker. We only assess project descriptions written in this template.
- CV for the principal investigator
- Form for partner information. This shall also be completed for the company that is applying. Use the standard template that can be downloaded at the bottom of this page.
- Self-declaration for private companies. Use the standard template that can be downloaded at the bottom of this page.

**Optional attachments**

- CVs of key participants in the project

We will not assess documents and websites linked to the application, or any other appendices that are not specified above.

## Other conditions

- We allocate funds in accordance with the EEA rules on state aid to companies that participate in projects. The Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development has reported the Regional Research Fund scheme to the ESA pursuant to the regulation on exemption from reporting obligation for state aid Section 1, cf. EEA Agreement Appendix XV no. 1j (regulation (EU) no. 651/2014).
- You must provide information in the application as to whether you have applied for support for the same or a similar project from other public aid schemes.
- Requirements for co-financing and liquidity must be satisfied before funds can be paid out.
- If projects that have received a grant are not completed, or in the event of inadequate reporting, the City of Oslo can demand repayment of the grant.

**Forskning og innovasjon | FORREGION**

Innovasjonsgrad
I hvilken grad møter innovasjonsidéen i prosjektet et udekket behov?
▪ Hvor original og nyskapende er innovasjonen?
▪ I hvor stor grad har prosjektet potensial for å bringe fram ny kunnskap.

Relevans og kvalitet på FoU-aktivitetene
▪ I hvilken grad er FoU-aktivitetene relevante og/eller av kritisk betydning for innovasjonen og som bidrag til forprosjektet?

**Virkninger og effekter | FORREGION**

▪ I hvilken grad er det potensial for at resultatene fra forprosjektet kan bidra til
– verdiskaping i norsk næringsliv og/eller offentlig sektor?
– å løse betydelige nåværende og fremtidige samfunnsutfordringer, også med henvisning til FNs bærekraftmål?

**Gjennomføring | FORREGION**

Hvor god er
▪ Kvalitet på prosjektplanen med mål, arbeidspakker, milepæler, ressursinnsats og relevante risikovurderinger
▪ Kvalitet/kompetanse til prosjektleder og eventuell prosjektgruppe
▪ Organisering, med roller og ansvarsdeling, styring og strategisk forankring
▪ Budsjett og finansiering

Plan for utnyttelse av FoU-resultatene for innovasjonen:
▪ Hvor god og realistisk er bedriftens plan for videre utvikling av ideen når forprosjektet er gjennomført? (f.eks. i form av hovedprosjekt)

**Prosjektideens relevans | FORREGION**

Hvor godt vil forprosjektet bidra til at bedriften får erfaring med å ta forskning i bruk i sitt innovasjonsarbeid?

Hvor godt er forprosjektet i tråd med de regionale satsingsområdene?

**Samlet vurdering | FORREGION**

Administrative procedures

### Assessment of applications

We first assess whether the submitted applications satisfy the formal requirements regarding the applicant, research partner, that they have been written using the correct templates, etc. Applications that do not meet the formal requirements may be rejected.

We then assess the quality of the applications according to the criteria above. In this call the applications must have a minimum score of 4 on all criteria to be eligible for funding. When the quality of the applications have been assessed, they are presented to the board of RFF Oslo for the final decision.

The board of the Oslo Regional Research Fund (RFF) decides whether an application is approved or not.

## Download templates

- 2022 egenerklaering- FORREGION.docx
- 2022 skjema_for_partneropplysninger_FORREGION.docx
- 2022 eng-self declaration pre-projects.docx

2022 eng-template-for-partner_information-pre-project.docx

cv-template-mal-for-cv.docx

* MANDATORY ATTACHMENT

Download all templates

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Messages at time of print 2 November 2026, 05:24 CET

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