

Expression of Interest (EOI) procedure from the Grants Office for FRIPRO proposal reviews

In autumn 2023, the Research Council of Norway (RCN) is introducing an open-ended deadline along with resubmission restrictions for the Researcher Project for Young Talents and Researcher Project for Scientific Renewal (FRIPRO) schemes.

Rationale for the expression of interest

The FRIPRO scheme is highly competitive and a successful proposal requires a considerable time investment from the researcher and administrative support staff. Through the system of EOIs, we wish to ensure that:

- a) scientific staff do not spend time on a proposal with little chance of success;
- b) our support process is structured well and is as adapted as possible to the needs of scientific staff.

Procedure for the evaluation of the Expression of interest

EOIs must be written according to the designated template and sent to the Grants Office (soknadshjelpen@mh.ntnu.no).

EOIs can be submitted to the Grants Office throughout the year. Although there is no fixed deadline to submit an EOI, we encourage researchers to send well-developed **EOIs as early as possible** before they plan to submit their application to the RCN.

We encourage researchers to discuss with their Department Leader (and Group Leader, as appropriate), before sending an EOI.

The EOI will be evaluated by the department leader, with support from the research advisers from the Grants Office, along the following basic criteria:

- The project idea is mature enough and fits the scope of FRIPRO
- The applicant's CV and experience fit the call

Scientific staff will be informed of the outcome of the EOI **within 2 weeks** (possibly longer if the EOI is received close to or during standard holiday periods – e.g. Christmas or the summer break).

If it is deemed that the EOI will likely result in a competitive FRIPRO application, the Grants Office will set up a timeline with the researcher.

- If it is deemed that the project is not sufficiently mature, falls outside of the scope of FRIPRO, or that the CV of the researcher is not yet a good fit for the call, the Grants Office, together with the department leader will communicate this to the applicant and advise them on other suitable funding opportunities.

Applicants that receive support are expected to add soknadshjelpen (soknadshjelpen@mh.ntnu.no) to the application form in the portal.