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

**Background & Context:**

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. The Grants Office has been offering support, in the form of proposal reviews to applicants this scheme, and will continue to do so; however, we will introduce a new procedure based on the submission of an Expression of Interest (EOI), anchored with the department leader.

**Procedure:**

EOIs must be written according to the designated template and sent to the Grants Office (soknadshjelpen@mh.ntnu.no). EOIs can be submitted 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 also encourage researchers to discuss with their Department Leader (and Group Leader, as appropriate), before sending an EOI.

Outline of the steps in the procedure:

 1. Researcher plans to apply for FRIPRO

* They fill in the designated EOI template (up to 3-page project description and CV) and send it to soknadshjelpen@mh.ntnu.no.
* In case of resubmissions to FRIPRO, the proposal and evaluation form from the previous submission needs to be included as an attachment.

2. 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
	+ The EOI will be evaluated when it arrives, and the researcher will be informed of the outcome within 2 weeks (possibly longer if the EOI is received close to or during standard holiday periods – e.g. Christmas or the summer break).

3. If it deemed that the EOI will likely result in a competitive FRIPRO application, the Grants Office will set up a timeline with the researcher to agree on when the researcher shall send their full draft proposal and by what date they can expect to receive feedback.

* If it is deemed that the project is not sufficiently mature / falls outside of the scope of FRIRPO, 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 will advise them on other suitable funding opportunities/how to build up a competitive proposal for a FRIPRO submission in the future, as appropriate.

Applicants that receive support are expected to add søknadshjelpen (soknadshjelpen@mh.ntnu.no) to the application form so we have access to the portal.