





Learning from  
**ex-post**  
impact assessment

.... and developing  
**ex-ante**  
impact assessment





07/03/2019

# Outline

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- 1 Short background
- 2 What are potential impacts in proposals?
- 3 How do we think impacts can arise from projects?
- 4 How should you write impact into proposals
- 5 How will the RCN assess «impact»?



# Why is the RCN giving more attention to impact in proposals

- Increased awareness to challenges, missions and research and innovation's transformative role in society
- Transformation in RCN investment instruments and assessment criteria
  - Portfolio management, investment with clearer impact targets
  - 7 new «application types»
    - Esp: “Collaboration and competence project”
  - Impact as one of three main assessment criteria



FNs BÆREKRAFTSMÅL



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## Nye «søknadstyper» i Forskningsrådet fra 2019

04.03.2019

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Kolonneittel

Forskerprosjekt	Kompetanse- og samarbeidsprosjekt	Innovasjonsprosjekt	Kommersialiseringprosjekt
Fornylse og utvikling på tvers av alle fag og tematiske områder	Samarbeid på tvers av sektorer for å bygge kompetanse og kapasitet på viktige nærings- og samfunnsområder	FoU-investeringer for nyskapende produkter og tjenester i næringsliv og offentlig sektor	Utvikle de beste forskningsideene til kommersielle muligheter
Forskningsentre Langsiktig finansiering av fremragende og nyskapende forsknings- og innovasjonsmiljøer			
Forskningsinfrastrukturer Verktøy for nyskapende forskning og utvikling			
Koordinerings- og støtteaktiviteter Tiltak som bidrar til planlegging, koordinering, merverdi og formidling av FoU-aktiviteter			





# Horizon Europe

THE NEXT EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION PROGRAMME (2021 – 2027)

#HorizonEU



THE EU FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

# HORIZON 2020



EXCELLENT SCIENCE  
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## HORIZON 2020 PROPOSAL WRITING: FOCUS IMPACT



- Funding
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- Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund
- Working with business
- Excellence with impact**
- > Pathways to Impact

Home > Innovation > Excellence with impact

## Excellence with impact

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) collectively invest £7 billion in research and innovation each year to meet tomorrow's challenges today, bringing about a positive impact in our society, economy and in our lives through:

### Creating new knowledge

- funding basic research excellence
- responding to society's challenges
- developing skills, leadership and infrastructure
- leading UK research direction

### Driving innovation

- creating environments and brokering partnerships
- co-delivering research and innovation
- intelligence for policy making.

## What is impact?

Impact is **the demonstrable contribution that excellent research makes to society and the economy**. This occurs in many ways – through creating and sharing new knowledge and innovation; inventing groundbreaking new products, companies and jobs; developing new and improving existing public services and policy; enhancing quality of life and health; and many more.

## Types of research impact

We aim to achieve research impact across all our activities. This can involve academic impact, economic and societal impact, or both:

- **Academic impact** is the demonstrable contribution that excellent research makes to scientific advances, across and within disciplines, including significant advances in understanding, method, theory and application.
- **Economic and societal impact** is the demonstrable contribution that excellent research makes to society and the economy, of benefit to individuals, organisations and nations.

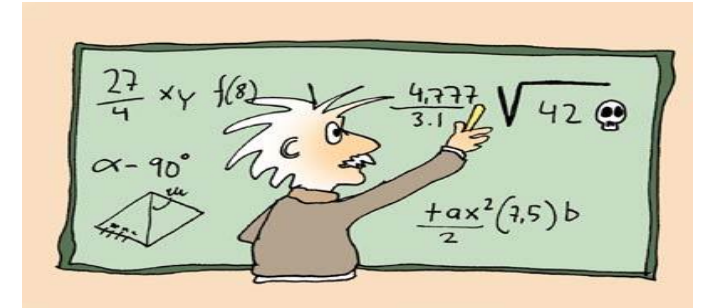
### Why does impact matter?

- Spending public money means demonstrating the benefits of that investment to society = **accountability**
- Research can be improved by engaging with a broad range of potential beneficiaries = **quality**
- Shortening time to benefits, and increasing the impact we know our investments have = **maximising benefits**
- It enhances UK attractiveness for research and innovation investment = **reputation**.



# What are the potential outcomes and impacts?

- **Scientific/academic impacts**
  - World class science, highly cited, core contribution to scientific fields
  - Capacity building
  - International and transdisciplinary collaborations
- **Societal impacts**
  - Research results addressing and tackling societal challenges, national thematic or UN SDGs
  - Societal R&I uptake
- **Economic and innovation impacts**
  - Innovations and economic growth
  - Employment
- Emphasis will vary between application types





# From proposals planned outputs to potential outcomes and impacts

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# What will be the project's outputs?

## – Dissemination

- Articles, books, conference presentations, Open Science

## – Communication

- How will the world know about the project?

## – Capacity and competence building, skills

- PhD, post grad courses
- Stakeholder training

## – Exploitation

- Knowledge transfer with public sector/industry
- Products, patents & new processes

## – Collaborations

- Academic - international, cross/transdisciplinary
- Non-academic stakeholders



# Planning for impact

- Spell out your research objectives and the challenges they will/can meet
  - Academic and/or societal
  - Be ambitious and realistic
  - Reflect on possibilities
- Multiple «pathways to impact»
  - What kind of activities will be necessary to promote project findings & results
  - To relevant beneficiaries and stakeholders (groups that “own” the challenges)
- Study successful impact cases,
  - How did they plan?
  - How could they have planned (better)?

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## Impact case studies

The Oxford Impacts series celebrates the range of impacts the University has on the world of policy, health, Oxford academic subjects, that

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### For ansatte

Alt innhold

Forskingsstøtte

## Kommunikasjon og impact i eksterntfinansierte prosjekter

Forskings- og innovasjonsresultater må kommuniseres til målgruppene for at de skal kunne synliggjøre forskningens og innovasjonens impact (samfunnsbidrag). Disse nettsidene er en verktøykasse for forskningsrådgivere og forskere. Sidene tar primært for seg EUs krav, men vil også være relevante for søknader fra andre finansører med andre krav til kommunikasjon av impact.

Impact — hva er det og hvorfor er det viktig?

- Hva er impact?
- Impact etter prosjektslutt

Viktige EU-begreper

Impact-relaterte begreper som brukes i EU-systemet.

Finansørenes krav til kommunikasjon og impact

- FRIPRO
- EU
- SFF

Gode eksempler (kun for UiOs ansatte)

Forskningsprosjekter som har lyktes med impact, både i søknad- og driftsfase. Flere eksempler kommer fortløpende.

- EU Kids Online, Humanistisk fakultet
- MultiLing, Humanistisk fakultet

Kommunikasjonsstrategi for forskningsprosjekter

Kommunikasjonen skal støtte synliggjøring av målene for impact i prosjektet. Det er lurt å tenke på dette allerede i søknadsfasen for å vise at mål, tiltak og ressurser er gjennomtenkte og realistiske.

- Kommunikasjonsstrategi for forskningsprosjekter
- Interessentkartlegging: Hvilke målgrupper vil du nå?



## Impact in the *Research project* template

- **Potential impact of the proposed research**
  - Building on the description of project objectives and novelty in chapter 1, **describe clearly why and how the project outputs may address important present and/or future scientific challenges and have an impact on the research area/field, if successful.**
  - **If relevant**, building on the description of knowledge needs and challenges in section 1.1., **describe why and how the project outputs, if successful, have the potential to meet the mentioned societal challenge(s).**
  - If relevant, describe how new knowledge and project outputs have the potential to address one or more of the UN sustainable development goals.
- **Measures for communication and exploitation**
  - Describe the **target audiences and stakeholders/users** of the project results and outputs (in or beyond the scientific community).
  - Outline briefly the scope and plan for communication and engagement activities.
  - Provide a brief **description of planned activities that will contribute to the realisation of the potential impacts** of the project results and outputs (in or beyond the scientific sphere).



## Impact in the *Collaboration project* template

In addition to points mentioned in the Researcher project template:

### **Potential impact of the proposed research**

- Building on the description of knowledge needs and challenges in section 1.1., **describe why and how the project outputs, if successful, have the potential to meet the mentioned societal and/or industrial challenge(s).**
- **Describe how the project output will promote future value creation in industry, the public sector and/or civil society.**

### **Measures for communication and exploitation**

- **Describe how the stakeholders/users are involved in the dissemination and utilisation of the project results**





# Corresponding fields in the application forms

## Outcomes and impacts

[Close ?](#)

**Outcomes and impacts**  
Briefly describe the project outcomes and impacts you expect the project to have in addition to its research results. The term "outcomes" refers to what the project will entail for the participants and related framework (target group, users) in terms of changes in competency, conduct, practice and policy. The term "impacts" refers to long-term changes in society to be brought about by the project's results and outcomes. Describe how activities within the project and complementary activities outside the project will help to realise these outcomes and impacts. A more detailed description of this may be provided in the project description. Projects awarded funding will be asked to report on the status of anticipated and achieved impacts and effects upon completion of the project.

[0]

Outcomes and impacts \*

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## Dissemination of project results

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**Dissemination of project results**  
A dissemination plan is to be drawn up for each project. Please provide information regarding plans for scientific and popular dissemination activities and contact with users, including relevant target groups and type of dissemination.  
A more detailed dissemination plan may be provided in the project description.

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Dissemination plan

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- How will the Research council assess Impact?



# New assessment criteria for all RCN proposals

## Three dimensions of quality

- **Excellence**
  - Original and ground breaking research and innovation
  - Quality of the proposed R&I activities
- **Impact**
  - Potential impact of the proposed research and innovation
  - Communication and exploitation
- **Implementation**
  - The quality of the project manager and project group
  - The quality of the project organisation and management





## Impact assessment criteria in *Researcher project*

### **Potential impact of the proposed research**

- The extent to which the planned outputs of the project address important present and/or future scientific challenges
- If relevant with respect to the project objectives, the extent to which the planned outputs will address UN Sustainable development goals or other important present and/or future societal challenges.
- The extent to which the potential impacts are clearly formulated and plausible

### **Communication and exploitation**

- Quality and scope of communication and engagement activities with different target audiences, including relevant stakeholders/users





## Impact assessment criteria in *Collaboration project*

### **Potential impact of the proposed research. The extent to which:**

- The potential impacts are clearly formulated and plausible
- The outputs of the project address important present and future scientific challenges
- **The outputs of the project address important present and future challenges for the sector(s)**
- **The developed competence and expected results will promote future value creation, in the Norwegian industry and/or development of the public sector?**
- The outputs will address relevant UN Sustainable development goals
- The project will be undertaken in a responsible manner, with reference to relevant methodology for achieving this

### **Communication and exploitation**

- Quality and scope of communication and engagement activities with different target audiences, including relevant stakeholders/users
- **Involvement of the stakeholders/users in dissemination and utilization of the project results**



# The «impact» of impact in the overall assessment

Experts/panel

RCN team

Funding board

Excellence

Impact

Implementation

Panel's overall assessment (only RP)

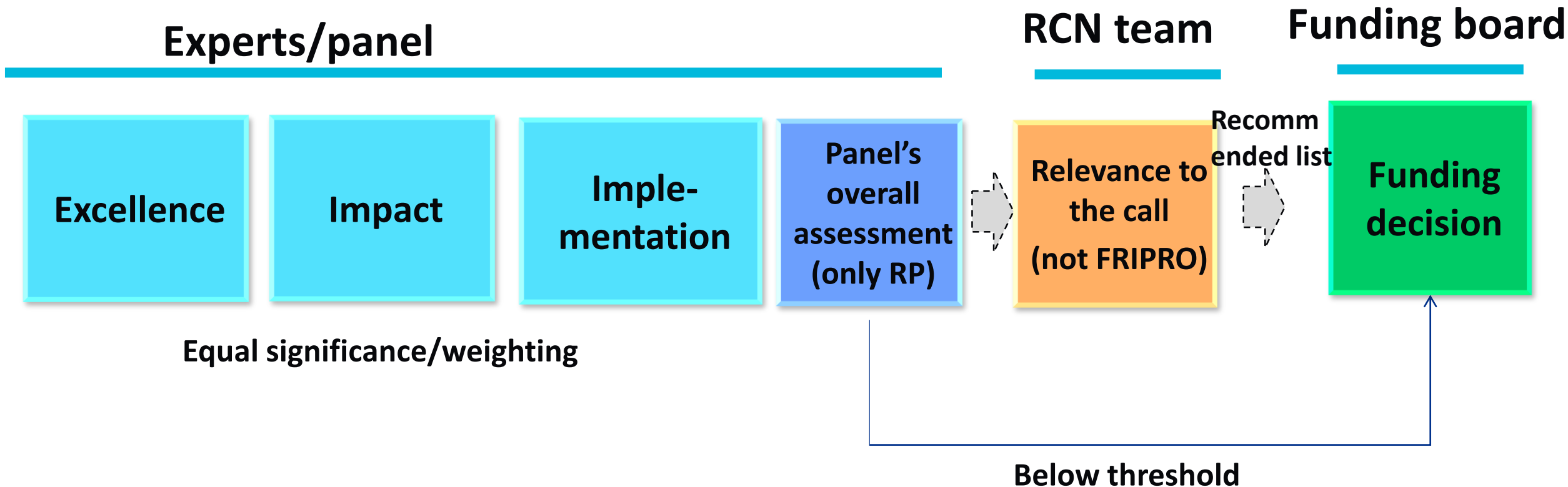
Relevance to the call (not FRIPRO)

Recommended list

Funding decision

Equal significance/weighting

Below threshold





# Thank you!

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**Any questions?**





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Kolumnetittel