HANDBOOK FOR THE STRATEGIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM 2020-2023

SOCIETAL CHALLENGES

RULES FOR APPLICANTS AND EXPERT PANELS

2020

Version 1.0

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PREFACE

This is the first version of the Handbook for the Strategic Research and Development Program 2020-2023 on societal challenges to be used by applicants, Expert Panels and external experts.

The objective of this handbook is to increase the transparency of the process for all parties involved, from the announcement of application submission deadlines to the decisions on funding. The handbook contains the program's rules and other useful information, such as the rights and obligations of the grant recipients. For the handbook to serve its purpose, everyone involved with the process (applicants, Expert Panel members and external experts) is encouraged to read it in its entirety.

1 GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE STRATEGIC PROGRAM 2020-2023 ON SOCIETAL CHALLENGES

1.1 THE ROLE OF THE STRATEGIC PROGRAM

The Strategic Research and Development Program (the Program) is an open competitive program that operates according to the Act on Public Support for Scientific Research (no 3/2003 with later amendments). The Program's priorities are determined by the Icelandic Science and Technology Policy Council and Rannís is responsible for the administration of the Program.

The Strategic Research and Development Program is a temporary fund for key priorities. Projects should entail a close collaboration between businesses, research organisations and universities in a particular field or interdisciplinary fields based on quality research programmes.

The objective of the Program is to bring together the knowledge and strengths of different disciplines, thus contributing to a better understanding of Icelandic society and the environment, finding solutions, and supporting a diverse and innovative society in times of rapid changes.

The Program is divided into three categories in line with the emphasis of the Science and Technology Policy Council:

a) Environmental issues and sustainability

b) Health and welfare

c) Life and jobs in a changing world

Collaboration between universities, organisations and businesses is encouraged.

1.2 TIMELINE

The deadline for applications to the Strategic Program is 1 September (Step 1). Applicants receiving the highest rates from the Expert Panels will meet the Board of the Strategic Program (the Board) and present their projects to it (Step 2) before a final decision on allocation is made. The approximate timing of the application process can be seen in Figure 1.

15 May 2020	• Application system opens
1 September 2020	• Application deadline (step 1)
September and October 2020	• Expert Panel assessment work
15-30 October 2020	• Presentation for the Board (Step 2)
November 2020	• Grant allocation announced

Figure 1 - Approximate timeline of the application process

1.3 BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STRATEGIC PROGRAM

The Minister of Education, Science and Culture appoints a six-member Board of Directors of the Strategic Program. Three Board members are nominated from the Board of the Research Fund and three from the Board of the Technology Fund. The names of the Board members are published on website of Rannís. The Board issues rules and guidelines for the Strategic Program and makes funding decisions based on the evaluations of the Expert Panel. General queries regarding the Program and applications under review shall be directed to the expert staff of the Strategic Program at Rannís.

1.4 EXPERT STAFF OF THE STRATEGIC PROGRAM

Expert staff of the Strategic Program at Rannís provide information and assistance all weekdays from 9:00 – 16:00.

1.5 ETHICS FOR ADMINISTRATORS

Members of the Strategic Program's Board of Directors, the Expert Panels, expert staff, and others who administratively handle application to the Program are bound by strict confidentiality. Applications, including all enclosed material and review sheets, are treated as confidential information. The confidential information is not to be used for any purpose other than the review process and may not be disclosed, published, or otherwise made available to third parties. No copies of any confidential information shall be made available in any format except for purposes of review. After completion of the review, a copy of the application and review documents will be stored in the electronic registry of Rannís in accordance with Regulation on electronic records management. Expert Panel members acknowledge that any disclosure or misuse of any of this confidential information may cause the owner irreversible harm.

1.6 RULES REGARDING CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Expert Panels members and Board members are disqualified from assessing an application if any of the following conditions apply:

- General disqualification reasons listed in the [Administrative Procedures Act No. 37/1993](#).
- Close friendship, family ties or affinity by marriage between an Expert Panel member or a Board member and an applicant.
- Personal conflicts exist between an Expert Panel member or Board member and an applicant.
- If an Expert Panel member or a Board member is in professional competition or in close collaboration with the applicant.

- Expert Panels members cannot be principal investigators of an application to the Program.
- If a Board member is party to an application to the Program, the Board member must resign from their role on the Board for the relevant grant year and a deputy Board member will take their place.

Expert Panel members and Board members who are disqualified pursuant to the above must recuse themselves from meetings where the relevant application is considered and a decision about the grant is taken. This shall be reported in the meeting minutes.

If a Board member or a member of the Expert Panels is employed by an applicant, the intimacy of the relationship between the employee that is involved in the application process and the directors of the relevant body must be assessed. This type of relationship does not automatically lead to disqualification due to conflict of interest.

Members of the Board and the Expert Panels are responsible for identifying circumstances which might create a conflict of interest that could influence their judgment of applications submitted to the Strategic Program.

1.7 APPLICANT'S CODE OF ETHICS AND APPROPRIATE LICENSES

The applicant shall indicate in the application whether the project contains elements that need to be examined specifically with regard to general code of ethics. In such cases, it is necessary to explain what the ethical issue entails and how it will be addressed.

If required appropriate licenses must be made available (e.g. [Science Ethics Committee](#), [Privacy](#), [Food Agency](#), etc.). If a license application is still pending by the deadline for submitting an application to the Program, it should be stated in the application. As soon as it is obtained, the license should be submitted to the expert staff of the Strategic Program. If the license will not be obtained, the expert staff should be notified. An

agreement is not concluded until necessary licenses have been obtained.

The applicant must comply with international rules and regulations where applicable, for example on the treatment of biopsy and the use of patents.

1.8 MISCONDUCT

Should suspicion of misconduct, fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, or misappropriation in connection with an application or a funded project arise, the Board will be notified without exception.

Suspicion of misconduct during the review phase will result in the withdrawal of an application from the review process during an investigation. Should suspicion of misconduct be deemed baseless, the application will be reviewed following standard review procedures. If misconduct is proven the applicant institute/company will be held responsible for taking appropriate actions. The Board is also authorised to initiate independent investigations into cases of misconduct.

Misconduct discovered during the application phase, during or after the funding period may result in the Board imposing a specific penalty such as a partial or full repayment of the grant or barring the applicant from submitting future applications to the Program.

1.9 OPEN ACCESS TO RESULTS

According to the Act on Public Support for Scientific Research no. 3/2003 with later amendments, results of research funded by public funds shall be published through open access. The above-mentioned law on open access only apply to the publication of results in peer-reviewed scientific journals.

Beneficiaries should mention the Strategic Program and grant number in all publications of the results in the following manner:

"*This work was supported by The Icelandic Strategic Research and Development Programme for Societal Challenges, grant number…*"

2 INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANTS

2.1 TYPES OF GRANTS

The scope of the Strategic Program for Societal Challenges is at minimum ISK 300 million per year for three years. The application process for the Strategic Program is a two-step procedure. The first step entails the submission of a complete application to the Rannís electronic application system before the announced deadline. The Expert Panels assess the quality of the applications and ranks them accordingly. In the second step, representatives of the top-ranked applications are invited to present the project (15 min) and answer questions from the Board (15 min).

The Strategic Program is divided into three categories in line with the emphasis of the Science and Technology Policy Council:

1. Environmental issues and sustainability
2. Health and welfare
3. Life and work in a changing world

The aim of the grant allocations is to accelerate development within these three categories. Interdisciplinary collaboration, promoting research and innovation, is encouraged. It is essential in the applications to bring together the knowledge and strengths of different disciplines, technologies, and scientific categories including social sciences and humanities, and to cover the entire innovation process from research to utilization. The aim of the work is to increase the understanding of Icelandic society and the environment, to find solutions and support for a diverse and innovation-oriented society in times of rapid change.

Up to half of the fund will be allocated to projects under category 1.

The duration of projects can be up to three years. The maximum grant amount for individual projects is ISK 150 million in total during the funding period.

International collaboration is encouraged but grants will only be paid into bank accounts of Icelandic organisations, institutes, or companies.

The grants may be used to co-finance internationally funded projects with a similar purpose. One of the long-term objectives of the Program is to strengthen partnerships in Iceland to enhance the capacity to submit applications to international competition funds.

Applications must meet all eligibility requirements for professional evaluation. If it becomes apparent during the evaluation process that one or more conditions are not met, the application will be withdrawn from the evaluation process.

2.1.1 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND SUSTAINABILITY

The objective of this category is to contribute to the objectives of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement, to understand and solve Iceland's major environmental threats, and to promote the use of new technologies and innovation for sustainable use of resources and food production. These include, i.a. climate, protection of land and sea, pollution, sustainable energy and transport, food security, natural hazards, sound dissemination of environmental knowledge to the public and the impact of environmental change on people and society.

2.1.2 HEALTH AND WELFARE

The objective of this category is to promote preservation of health, diagnoses and treatment of diseases, monitoring of changes in public health and prevention of diseases. It is also necessary to investigate how people can live better for longer time, to promote healthy aging and the wellbeing of people in all stages of life in the times of rapid change. This includes the changing age composition of the nation, access to health services, prevention and preventive measures, mental health, well-being, utilization of health technology and databases, lifestyle diseases and work-life balance. This also includes how to disseminate reliable scientific knowledge of health to the public.

2.1.3 LIFE AND WORK IN A CHANGING WORLD

The objective of this category is to increase the understanding of the impact that large and rapid changes are having on society, the labour market, and people's lives. These changes include technological progress, demographic change, migration, changes in communication and changes in business. This includes utilisation of ingenuity, technology, and innovation in response to changes, need for human resources, community diversity, equality, community trust and education at all levels of education. It also includes how to disseminate scientific knowledge and innovation to meet the above challenges.

2.2 APPROVED EXPENSES

2.2.1 SALARIES

Grants awarded by the Program may be used for labour costs. Not all participants need to be named when application is submitted before the application deadline, but the work contribution of all participants who are to receive payments must be defined in the application. The grants may not be used to pay salaries to those who are already employed and receiving salaries (including pensions); to pay overtime or to purchase teaching discount.

2.2.2 OPERATING EXPENSES

It is possible to apply for the costs of necessary resources for the project. All operating costs must be accounted for in the appropriate fields in section 4 of the electronic application form. Prototypes may be designed and constructed to confirm possible utilisation. It is not allowed to apply under this section for items that are to be paid by the overhead, including general office equipment such as computers, see further section 2.2.7. Unexplained costs will not be accepted.

2.2.3 CONTRACTED SERVICES

This section includes work which is not carried out by participants in the project, but which is necessary for its progress. All costs for purchased services must be accounted for in the appropriate fields in section 4 of the electronic application form. Bids for purchased services shall be available at the time of signing of contracts.

It is not possible to apply for overhead, indirect costs, or facilities for contracted services.

2.2.4 PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT

It is possible to apply for up to ISK 2 million for purchases of equipment and devices. An offer from a seller or manufacturer of the equipment must be available at the time of the signing of contracts. Funding for more expensive devices and equipment can be applied for to the Infrastructure Fund.

2.2.5 PUBLICATION EXPENSES AND PATENTS

It is possible to apply for up to ISK 500 thousand for publication costs. The amount can be distributed over the contract period. Patents and design protection costs are not eligible. It is possible to apply for grants for patents from the Technology Development Fund.

2.2.6 TRAVEL EXPENSES

Here, the total cost of travel necessary for the progress of the project shall be entered. The explanatory notes shall state the reasons for all trips and in what way they are related to the project.

2.2.7 OVERHEAD EXPENSES AND FACILITIES

It is allowed to request that up to 20% of the applied sum, excluding the contracted service, can be used for overhead and facilities. These are costs of office and research facilities such as rent, heating, electricity, management of business units, books and periodicals purchases, purchases and operation of computer equipment and related purchases. The amount for overhead and facilities shall be included in the total amount of the requested grant.

2.3 WHAT SHOULD AN APPLICATION ENTAIL?

To be considered eligible an application must contain:

A. Project description using the Strategic Program's template. The template is a custom form available in the application system (there are no templates supplied for other documents).

B. Applicant's CV (the Europass template is recommended)

The following must be included where appropriate:

C. Partnership declaration if "other participants" are registered in the application

The professional evaluation of an application is solely based on information provided in the application and its annexes.

No documents or data are accepted after the application deadline for step 1. The Board may request additional documentation in connection with the presentation of the project during step 2. To ensure equal treatment of all applicants, applications where the correct form and template are not used are rejected.

Such rejection can occur at any time during the assessment process.

Applications are only accepted through the Rannís electronic application system.

Attachment A. Project description.

Use the custom form (template) which can be found in the application system. The project description may be in English or Icelandic.

The template uses 11 pt. Calibri font with a line spacing of 1.5 and 2.5 cm.

The project description states:

a) Objectives and social impact of the project, research questions / hypotheses, viability, and novelty.

b) The current state of knowledge in the field.

c) Project management and project plan (time- and workplan, methods). Capacity of a project group (i.e. the ability of the project group to achieve set goals). If applicable, explain what permits need to be obtained.

d) Milestones and outputs. Refer to the more detailed description of milestones and outputs in section 3 of the electronic application system.

e) Collaboration (domestic / foreign)

f) Presentation and publication of results and data (including open access plan). Value of potential

spin-off opportunities that may arise from the project.

Applicants will be asked to confirm that they have used the correct form and template before submitting the application.

Before uploading the project description into the application system, the bibliography is removed and inserted into a separate document. These two documents are uploaded separately as PDF files. The application system considers the number of pages in the project description but not in the bibliography. The project description can be a maximum of 20 pages. The project description adds a cover page and a guide page, so that the application system allows a 22-page PDF file to be uploaded.

To facilitate professional evaluation of the application, it is important that the project description is of a high standard. Factors considered in the evaluation are listed under section 5 of the Assessment Sheet. Keep the following in mind:

- It is important that the project has well-defined objectives and / or research questions and hypotheses. It must be explained how the societal challenges are dealt with in the project. The work should be divided into well-defined tasks.
- Each part of the work needs to be described, connections to other parts of it explained and the time needed on each part estimated.
- Explain the research and / or development methods used and why they are used in each case. Where appropriate, a description of the methodology used for data collection and evaluation of data must be available.
- The main milestones marking different phases of the project should be described in the time- and workplan. If a project application is for two or three years, milestones shall be defined and described for the progress report (6 months) and the annual development report (12 months) for each project year. A more detailed description of the work packages and milestones can be found in section 3.2 of the electronic application form.

- Collaboration within the project should be described including if there will be an active collaboration between universities, institutions and companies. In particular, international cooperation should be described in the project.
- Information, if applicable, on which parts of the project are a doctoral or master's projects, which schools and faculties the students will attend and what their contribution entails in the project.
- Describe how the results of the project will be communicated to the public.
- Describe how the results will be presented and published in professional journals, reports, conferences, etc., and whether, and then how, the ownership of the results will be protected. Explain how the law on open access to results obtained by funded projects will be enforced.
- Ethical issues should be reported, if applicable.

Attachment B. Applicant's CV

CV's must be concise and provide information useful for the evaluation of an application. The Europass template is recommended. The CV must include information on the applicant's current position as well as information on education and training, postgraduate guidance where applicable, previous positions and qualifications, list of publications and URL database with information on "h-index" or equivalent. Interruptions that have occurred during the carrier due to parental leave, sick leave or otherwise should be accounted for.

Attachment C. Statement of cooperation

Signed confirmation by those registered as "other participants" in the application stating what their role is in the project.

2.4 REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS

Applicants are encouraged to read Sections 3 to 5 - *Review Process of new applications, Instructions to expert panels* and *Assessment Sheet*, which outlines the evaluation criteria used by the Expert Panels.

2.5 THE STRATEGIC PROGRAM'S EXPERT PANELS

Three Expert Panels will assess the applications to the Program and there may be overlaps between them so that some Experts Panel members may sit on more than one Expert Panel. The Board of Directors appoints the Expert Panels members on the bases of their expertise in relevant fields. Each Expert Panel is composed of up to nine individuals with extensive research and / or innovation experience. The composition of the Panel reflects the diversity of various disciplines and the gender ration is close to even.

The Board appoints the chairpersons of the Expert Panels from the members. The chairperson is responsible, with the assistance of an expert staff member from Rannís, to organise the work of the panels according to the strategy and function of the Program and Code of Ethics. Once appointed, the names of the members of the Expert Panels are published on the Program's web page on Rannís website.

Applicants choose in which category they want their application to be evaluated. Another category can be specified as a related category, if applicable. Rannís employees may move applications between categories in consultation with the chairpersons of the Expert Panels. Further information on the work of the Expert Panels can be found in section 4 - *Guidance for Expert Panels.*

Applicants may not, under any circumstances, contact members of the Expert Panels during the evaluation process. Questions regarding individual Expert Panels and disciplines should be directed to the Strategic Program's expert staff. If an applicant contacts a member of an Expert Panel regarding an application, the application will be removed from review process.

3 THE REVIEW PROCESS

The review process for the Strategic Program is a two-step process. The first step is the review of applications by the Expert Panels, but in the second step, representatives of top-rated applications are invited to present their projects and answer questions from the members of the Board.

3.1 PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS

3.1.1 INITIAL SCREENING

Applications are screened by the Program's expert staff at Rannís. Incomplete applications and application which do not comply with Program's rules are rejected without further review and the relevant applicants are informed of that outcome.

3.1.2 EXPERT EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS

All applications are reviewed by relevant Expert Panels (step 1). For each application, the Panel submits a written evaluation and ranks the applications (see section 4 - *Guidance for Expert Panels*).

3.1.3 FUNDING DECISION

Once the Expert Panels have finalised their works, the chairpersons meet with the Board to report on the Expert Panels' deliberations and whether any issues arose during the evaluation of the applications. In particular, the chairpersons report on top ranking applications. After receiving the advice of the Expert Panels, the Board invites applicants of the top-ranking applications to present their project (step 2). Applicants are given 15 minutes to present the project and another 15 minutes to answer questions from the Board. Following the presentations, the Board makes decisions on funding.

After the Boards allocation of grants, the applicants will receive a letter with the decision and the written evaluation given by the Expert Panel. The decision of the Board is final pursuant to Article 4 of Act No 3/2003.

3.2 AFTER RECEIVING FUND

3.2.1 GRANTS AWARDED

Information on awarded grants is published on Rannís website and the principle investigators of all projects´ receive a mail regarding the Board's decision.

3.2.2 DISTRIBUTION OF ANNUAL PAYMENTS FOR FUNDED PROJECTS

- First payment (40%) is upon signing a contract.
- Second payment (40%) to be paid upon approval of a progress report.
- Final payment (20%) upon approval of the progress/final report. Deadline for submission of the report is specified in the contract.

3.2.3 OWNERSHIP OF RESEARCH RESULTS

The general rule is that ownership and utilisation of results and returns is in accordance with the individual's contribution. Recipients of the Program's contributions are required, as far as possible, to protect the right of ownership and utilisation of the results. If the Program's support is withdrawn due to default of the project, the Program will obtain all the results of the project that have been submitted to it and can then publish them without delay. Participants in collaborative projects supported by the Program shall conclude their own agreement on the right of ownership and utilisation of results. The Program's expert staff at Rannís can provide a template of such a contract.

3.2.4 FOLLOW-UP

The project principle investigator is responsible for submitting progress reports in accordance with the contract. The reports are reviewed by the Program's expert staff who submit recommendations to the Board on how to continue support to the project. The Program's expert staff may request further information and explanations from the beneficiaries and, if needed, consult with the relevant Expert Panel. The final payment of 20% of the grant is paid upon approval of the final report. If a report is not approved, the Board may cancel the contract with grantees and request a refund of paid grants. Templates for progress reports, annual reports and final reports can be found on the Program's webpage.

Progress reports

A progress report should be submitted halfway through the contract period. The progress report gives an overview of the accrued total costs for the halfway period. The cost statement shall be based on statements from each participant, signed and confirmed by the principle investigator. The progress of the project shall be accounted for and refer to milestones and project phases according to the contract. A payment is authorised pursuant to the approval of the relevant expert staff member of the Program. Template for a progress report is provided on the Program's webpage.

Annual reports

The annual report shall describe the accrued costs and funding of the relevant grant year and the estimated costs and funding of the upcoming grant year. All major changes to the project (including parental leave or sick leave) must be explained and changes to the research plan justified. The Board´s approval is required for the transfer of more than 20% of the total amount of funding between different cost items. The annual report shall be accompanied by a transaction balance list for the project during the grant year. Templates for the annual report can be found on the Program´s webpage.

Final report

Upon the end of the project a final report shall be submitted detailing the progress of the project, results and conclusions. A detailed summary of costs (itemised table and list of transactions) shall accompany the report and state any deviations from the original budget. A template for a final report is available on the Program's webpage.

4 GUIDELINES FOR EXPERT PANELS

The role of the Strategic Program's Expert Panels is to review applications to the Program based on the societal and/or scientific value of the projects, how they fit within the objectives of the category, the skills and facilities of applicants to carry out the project, and the likelihood of the project delivering measurable results and benefits. The Expert Panels review the applications, submit a written report on each one, and prioritise applications on the basis of the professional evaluation.

4.1 ONLINE RATING SYSTEM

Each Expert Panel member gets access to the Program's online rating system where all applications submitted to the panel, relevant accompanying documents and Expert Panel review sheets can be viewed. Expert Panel members must accept a confidentiality statement and declare possible conflict of interest before getting full access to the applications. Expert Panel members do not get access to grant applications where they have declared conflict of interest.

4.2 THE REVIEW PROCESS

The applications received by the Expert Panel are divided amongst panel members. Each application is assigned to three readers within the Expert Panel, but all members are encouraged to review all applications assigned to their respective Expert Panel.

Once all applications have been evaluated by the three readers of the relevant Expert Panel and reviews have been drafted, the Panel meets at the premises of Rannís to discuss all applications and give the final grade and rankings.

4.3 EXPERT PANEL MEETINGS

Before Expert Panel Meetings

Three readers from the Expert Panel write a review of each application in the electronic assessment system. Considering the other readers' comments, the editor prepares a summary of the strengths and weaknesses of the applications they are responsible for.

In Expert Panel Meetings

Expert Panel members who have recused themselves due to conflicts of interest regarding an application shall leave the meeting when the relevant application is discussed. This shall be documented in the meeting minutes by the expert staff member from Rannís assigned to the panel.

During the Expert Panel meeting, the editor presents the respective application and their assessment. Then the other readers provide their comments and the whole Panel discusses the reviews and makes a final statement. The report must be constructive and be made to the benefit of the applicant.

Category	Review
A1	Outstanding application with essentially no weaknesses
A2	Very strong application with negligible weaknesses
A3	Strong application with minor weaknesses
B	Application with one or more limiting weaknesses
C	Weak application with major shortcomings or not eligible for the program.

Table 1. Rating categories

A list of each grant type is compiled, and applications are classified into three categories: A (A1-A3), B and C. Subcategory A1 is intended for outstanding applications.

After the Expert Panel Meetings

The chairperson of the Expert Panel confirms the final statement and presents the review process and its outcome to the Board. The Board invites the project applicants of those applications that receive the best evaluation to a meeting and then decides on grant funding.

4.4 REVIEW CRITERIA

Members of the Expert Panels evaluate applications based on the three main factors described below which will form the basis of the Panels' conclusion. The Board of the Program sets rules on how the weight of these factors is assessed internally for each application category.

NOVELTY

Novelty is defined as a change in known criteria that leads to increased knowledge or value creation. The definition includes the need to clarify the state of knowledge, technology, and procedures in the field and how these factors relate to new needs and opportunities. Project novelty is a measure of the impact of the project on the premises for new knowledge, whether in the relevant field of study

and / or to gain an advantage based on new solutions, methods, equipment, knowledge, technology or procedures that are the products of the project.

IMPACT

Under this review section, the potential impacts of project´s products and derived opportunities are assessed. It is of great importance when assessing the projects how well the applicant presents and defines its products and their value where appropriate. Value creation is defined on the basis of acquired knowledge and the value it creates for society, whether the product is a tangible product or a general solution to societal problems.

It is necessary to explain how the transfer of knowledge will be implemented. It is important to describe the status of current knowledge and the impact of new knowledge on present-day societal challenges.

IMPLEMENTATION

Efforts are made to assess the probability that the project will be implemented as outlined in the application. Particular attention is paid to the following:

- The benefits of the multidisciplinary collaboration and the involvement of different organizations / companies / teams.

- The probability that the project will be completed in accordance with the work, time and cost schedule.

5   EVALUATION SHEET

The categories for Environmental issues and Sustainability, Health and Welfare and Life and Work in the World of Change are of equal importance in the assessment of novelty, impact, and implementation.

The significance of assessment value on 2.4 varies according to categories, as can be seen in Table 2. Some assessment values require that applications must reach a minimum score in order not to be considered failed by the Expert Panel. The values (2.1, 2.2, 2.4 and 3.1) in Table 2 show which rating values require a minimum value to pass the assessment and can be seen in more detail below where the scale is discussed.

Evaluation criteria and values	Environmental issues and sustainability	Health and welfare	Life and work in a changing world
1. Novelty	**30%**	**30%**	**30%**
1.1 Technology and processes	50%	50%	50%
1.2 Contribution to knowledge and methods	50%	50%	50%
2. Impact	**40%**	**40%**	**40%**
2.1 Utilization- value derived from the project	30%	35%	35%
2.2 Valuation and precondition	30%	35%	35%
2.3 Value of derived opportunities from the project	10%	10%	10%
2.4 The likelihood of the project contributing to positive environmental impacts	30%	20%	20%
3. Implementation	**30%**	**30%**	**30%**
3.1 Work, time and cost schedule	40%	40%	40%
3.2 Ability and networks to exploit results	30%	30%	30%
3.3 Benefits of multidisciplinary collaboration and diversity.	30%	30%	30%

Table 2. Different weightings of factor within categorises

Note that the rating value 2.4 is displayed twice below as the minimum rate value for the Environment issues and Sustainability category is higher than for the other categories.

5.1 NOVELTY

Novelty is defined as a change to existing knowledge that generates further knowledge or value creation. The definition includes the need to clarify current knowledge, technology and procedures in the field and how these factors relate to new needs and opportunities. Novelty is thus a measure of the impact of the project on the premises for new knowledge, whether in the relevant field of study and / or to gain an advantage in the market on the basis of new solutions, methods, equipment, knowledge, technology or procedures that are the products of the project.

1.1 Technology and process

Limited change		Technical transfer		Technology development	
No change.	Applies known technology or processes with minor changes.	Applies known technology processes in innovative ways (technology transfer).	Leads to an improved known technology or processes (technology transfer + improvements).	Leads to significant improvement in known technology or processes and can be the basis for new patents (reform + technology development).	Development of new technologies, previously unknown, and can be the basis for new patents (technology development

1.2 Contribution to knowledge and methods

Limited contribution		Some contribution		Significant contribution	
No change.	Minor contribution to knowledge or methods.	Leads to improvements of known methods or knowledge area.	Leads to considerable improvements of known methods or knowledge area.	Leads to new discoveries of the methods or areas of knowledge.	Leads to breakthrough discoveries in methods or knowledge areas.

5.2 IMPACT

Under this assessment section, the potential impact of the project´s product and derived opportunities are assessed. How well the applicant presents and defines the project's products and their value, where appropriate, is of great importance in this assessment. Value creation is defined on the basis of acquired knowledge and the value it creates for society, whether the product is a tangible product or a general solution to societal problems.

It is necessary to explain how the transfer of knowledge will be implemented. It is important to describe the status of current knowledge and the impact of new knowledge on present-day societal challenges.

2.1 Utilization - Value derived from the project (application must have a minimum of "Some value" to pass evaluation)

Limited value		Some value		Significant value	
Limited value is expected from a project.	Limited value is expected from a project. Adds little to existing knowledge	Some value is expected from a project. Limited need.	Considerable value is expected from the project. Limited need.	Significant value is expected from the product of the project. Considerable need.	Particularly high value is expected from the product of a project. Extensive need.

2.2 Utilization - Valuation and its prerequisite (utilization needs at least "Some probability" to pass evaluation)

Low probability		Some probability		High probability	
Low probability of value being achieved. Expectations for value creation unrealistic.	Low probability of value being achieved based on information in the application or perquisitions are lacking.	Some probability of value being achieved, and perquisitions reasonably credible.	There is a considerable probability of value being achieved, and perquisitions are credible.	High probability of value being achieved and perquisitions highly credible.	Particularly high probability of value being achieved. Perquisitions are detailed and credible

2.3 Value of derived opportunities that can arise from the project

Limited value		Some value		High value	
No change.	Low value beyond what was stated in the valuation.	Some value beyond what was stated in the valuation	Considerable value beyond what was stated in the valuation.	High value beyond what was stated in the valuation.	Particularly high value beyond what was stated in the valuation.

2.4 The probability of the project contributing to a positive environmental impact *(applies to the categories Health and Welfare and Life and Work in a changing world)*

Low probability		Some probability		High probability	
Low probability that the projects will contribute to a positive environmental impact.	Limited probability that the projects will contribute to a positive environmental impact.	Some probability that the projects will contribute to a positive environmental impact.	Considerable probability that the projects will contribute to a positive environmental impact.	High probability that the projects will contribute to a positive environmental impact.	Particularly high probability that the projects will contribute to a positive environmental impact.

2.4 Probability of the project contributing to a positive environmental impact (the application requires a minimum of "Some probability" to pass evaluation)
(applies to the categories Environmental issues and sustainability)

Low probability		Some probability		High probability	
Low probability that the project contributes to a positive environmental impact.	Limited probability that the project contributes to a positive environmental impact.	Some probability that the project contributes to a positive environmental impact.	Considerable probability that the project contributes to a positive environmental impact.	High probability that the project contributes to a positive environmental impact.	Particularly high probability that the project contributes to a positive environmental impact.

5.3 IMPLEMENTATION

Efforts are made to assess the probability that the project will be implemented in a way as the project's partners have stated for the project. Particular attention is paid to the following:

- The value of multidisciplinary collaboration and the diverse composition of the group and involvement of different organizations / companies / teams.
- The probability that the project will be completed in accordance with the work, time, and cost schedule.

3.1 Work, time, and cost schedule (application needs at least "Schedule is rather realistic" to pass evaluation)

Schedule is unrealistic		Schedule is somewhat realistic		Schedule is realistic	
Exceptionally low probability that the project will be completed according to schedule. Prerequisites and capacity are lacking.	Limited probability that the project will be completed according to schedule. Prerequisites and capacity are flawed.	Some probability that the project will be completed according to schedule. Prerequisites and capacity are somewhat lacking.	Considerable probability that the project will be completed according to schedule. Prerequisites and capacity are acceptable.	High probability that the project will be completed according to schedule. Prerequisites and capacity are good.	Particularly high probability the project will be completed according to schedule. All prerequisites and capacity are present. Exceptionally good.

3.2 Probability that capacity and networks to exploit results are present

Low probability		Some probability		High probability	
Low probability of utilization. Capacity, networks, and prerequisites are not present.	Limited probability of utilization. Capacity, networks, and prerequisites are not present.	Some probability of utilization. Capacity and networks are present to some extent.	Considerable probability of utilization. Capacity and networks are mostly present.	High probability of utilization. Capacity and networks are present.	Particularly high probability of utilization. Capacity, networks and all other prerequisites are present.

3.3 Value of the collaboration

Low probability		Some probability		High probability	
Collaboration does not exist	Value of collaboration for the project and participants is limited.	Value of collaboration for the project and participants to some extent.	Value of collaboration for the project and participants is considerable.	Value of the collaboration for the project and participants is high.	Value of the collaboration for the project and participants is very high.