

Funding of national-oriented research infrastructure

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National strategy for research infrastructure (Tools for research) (2008-2017)

- **The overall objective of the strategy is to:**
 - Establish research infrastructure that enables Norway to meet the knowledge challenges facing society in a constructive and cost-effective manner
 - Create a framework for effective assignment of roles and a transparent, strategic prioritization process that safeguards quality and ensures consistency in the procedures for awarding allocations
 - Make Norwegian research groups known internationally for their ability to provide outstanding research infrastructure

National strategy for research infrastructure (Tools for research) (2008-2017)

- **The strategy proposes that adequate and reliable long-term financing is ensured**
 - Government fund for research infrastructure with a start capital of NOK 20 billion
 - The profit will be reserved for investment in new and existing research infrastructure and associated operational expenditures included
 - 25% of the annual return distributed over the budget of the R&D institutions, 75 % channeled through the research council

National strategy for research infrastructure (Tools for research) (2008-2017)

Rational division of labour between the R&D institutions, the Research council and the ministries

- R&D institutions: Basic infrastructure
- The Research council: Nationally-oriented infrastructure, NOK 2-200 mill.
- Ministries: Investments >NOK 200 mill. and international cooperation

Nationally-oriented infrastructure:

- Broad national interest
- Create the foundations for research of high quality
- Situated at one or few locations in the country
- Accessible for relevant research groups and businesses

Research infrastructure categories

- **Advanced scientific equipment** (*NOK 2-30 mill.*): Advanced scientific equipment in all scientific areas.
- **Great-scale research infrastructure** (*NOK 30 - 200 mill.*): Great national research installations, cooperation on international research infrastructure located in Norway or other countries, and establishment of national nodes in internationally distributed research infrastructure.
- **Databases and scientific collections**: Databases and digital or physical collections (paper documents, objects, mineral and biological material etc.). The category also includes connecting of physical infrastructure, resources and services for national or international securing, and coordination, management, quality assurance and accessibility of important national data and digital information for research.
- **Electronic infrastructure (eInfrastructure)**: Great computing resources, advanced storage systems, grid infrastructure, tools for electronic access, high speed networks and necessary supporting services.

Implementation of the strategy from 2009

The national budget partly comply with the proposition in the strategy:

- a government fund with a start capital of NOK 4 billion will be established and give a yield of approximately NOK 190 million a year from 2010
- The Research council expect annual calls with an investment level of NOK 200 million from 2009
- The Research council will continue to work for an increase in the economic scope for research infrastructure funding

Call for proposals on research infrastructure

- News about the call is available on our website: www.forskningssradet.no
- A complete call will be launched in January/February 2009
- There will be a two-stage application process and the first closing date will be 22th of April
- Closing date for the second stage will be in fall 2009
- Each category will get a separate call for proposals + a call for ESFRI projects

Application demands

- The research institutions shall be the sender of the applications (most likely on faculty level at the universities)
- The institutions shall not make priorities among the projects they apply for. But they are asked to limit the amount of applications, so indirectly all the applications will be prioritized
- The applications shall contain a binding plan describing how the infrastructure will be implemented and how necessary upgrade and administrative costs will be taken care of during the entire project period
- It is expected that several institutions will cooperate on some of the applications, but there has to be one responsible applicant

ESFRI -applications

- Projects that already are involved in preparatory phase
- Will be evaluated administratively and assessed according to the ESFRI roadmap, feasibility and national and strategic prioritization
- The applicants may be invited to a hearing about the project
- More detail and demands will be formulated in the call –
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