Structure of research plan – second stage of Centre of Excellence call

The maximum length of the research plan is 20 pages. The font is Times New Roman (font size 12 pt, line spacing 1.15 and margins 20 mm). All bibliographic references must be added directly into the text: (Author(s) Year) or [number]. You cannot use footnotes. The bibliography (no more than 2 pages) does not count towards the length of the research plan. Fill in the research plan in the Academy’s online services on the tab ‘Research plan’.

Read the call text carefully before you start writing the research plan.

Fill in the sections of the research plan where applicable and according the practices of your own discipline.

See the How-to guides for the online services on our website for the technical process.

Research project = Centre of Excellence:

1. Aim and objectives of research project

1.1. Significance of the research project in relation to current knowledge and the research-based starting points:
   - How the project is linked to previous international or national research (state of the art)
   - Research premise, aims and objectives

1.2. Research questions and/or hypotheses

1.3. Expected research results and their anticipated scientific impact, potential for scientific breakthroughs
   - Research impact within the scientific community

1.4. Scientific renewal and added value
   - Potential for renewal, scientific added value

2. Implementation

2.1. Work plan and schedule:
   - Description of the research to be performed in the project, starting from objectives, scientific references and preliminary data (if available)
   - Description of research tasks, their implementation and interconnections
   - If necessary, description of the responsibilities and management related to these tasks
   - Schedule for project implementation, incl. research tasks and work packages, distribution of personnel resources, and project milestones and deliverables

2.2. Research data, materials and methods:
   - Research data to be used, justifications and information on data collection/acquisition and use, taking into account issues such as intellectual property rights
   - Research methods and how they will contribute to answering the research questions or confirming the hypotheses, or how they will support the chosen approach

2.3. Risk assessment and alternative implementation strategies:
- Critical points for success, probability of risks and alternative implementation strategies

2.4. Research environment
- Support from host organisations, incl. resources, infrastructure, etc.
- Description of host organisation’s support to the CoE
- Description of local, national and/or international research environment including research infrastructures; enter the infrastructures to be used also on the tab ‘Affiliations’ in the online services.

3. Applicant, research team and collaborators

3.1. Project personnel and their relevant merits:
- Tasks and roles, key merits and complementary expertise of CoE director, deputy director and team leaders

3.2. Collaborators and their key merits in terms of the project:
- National and international collaborators of key significance to project implementation as well as their merits
- Justifications for choice of collaborators

4. Responsible science

4.1. Research ethics:
- Information on ethical issues (e.g. ethical governance procedures, informed consent, anonymity of subjects and withdrawal from research) that concern the chosen topic, methods and data
- Information on research permits granted or pending
- More information: Ethical guidelines

4.2. Promoting open science:
- Publication plan that supports open access (Academy-funded projects are required to commit to open access publishing)
- Data management plan (as a separate appendix) that supports reuse of data
- More information: Open science
- More information: Data management

4.3. Promoting equality and non-discrimination:
- Information on how the project will promote equality and non-discrimination within itself or in society at large
- More information: Equality

5. Societal effects and impact

5.1. Effects and impact beyond academia:
- Brief description of the appeal, utilisation potential and application areas of the research results beyond the scientific community
- For instance, provide a self-assessment of the expected societal impact of the research in the long or short term. Impact beyond academia may come in many different forms depending on the research field and the project. For example, science is a source of wealth and prosperity, but it also improves our understanding of the world and enhances the level of civilisation, supports the development of good practices and informs decision-making.
5.2. Considering principles of sustainable development:
- Brief description of how the project promotes one or more of the eight goals for sustainable development: equal prospects for wellbeing, a participatory society for citizens, sustainable employment, sustainable society and local communities, a carbon-neutral society, a resource-wise economy, lifestyles respectful of the carrying capacity of nature and decision-making respectful of nature.
- More information: Sustainable development

6. Bibliography
- List of all of the sources used in the research plan
- The list (no more than 2 pages) does not count towards the length of the research plan.
- Please note that the text type, font size, and line spacing of the list are the same as elsewhere in the research plan.