

Centre of Excellence Programme 2018-2025

Research and action plan of the Centre of Excellence application, second stage of the call

The research and action plan of the Centre of Excellence (CoE) submitted to the second stage of the CoE call shall be no more than 20 pages in length and it shall be written in English (spacing 1, Times New Roman 12 pt or equivalent). The application shall include the information according to the outline presented below. The information to be added to the application form in the online services and the appendices to the application are not included in the 20-page limit on the length of the research and action plan.

In the research and action plan, describe the objectives and activities of the eight-year CoE term; however, the main focus shall be on the first five-year period. The research and action plan shall be structured according to the outline below, intended for international peer reviewers for purposes of evaluating the application:

- Name of the Centre of Excellence in the form 'Centre of Excellence in xxx'
- Name of the director and the site of research
- Name of the vice director and the site of research
- Names of the team leaders and sites of research

Scientific quality and innovativeness

0.0 Describe the background to the research and any previous research related to the topic.

1.1 Describe the objectives and research questions, innovativeness and expected results of the research.

1.2 Describe the potential for achieving scientifically significant research results, scientific breakthroughs, and for promoting the progress of science and its capacity for renewal. Describe any potential risks involved.

Feasibility of the research plan

2.1 Describe the research methods to be used so that it shows how they will facilitate in answering the research questions, verifying the hypotheses and supporting the chosen approach. Describe any methodological problems and alternative methods. Describe the schedule of the research.

2.2 Describe the structure and management of the CoE and justify the distribution of work. Describe the total budget for eight years and justify the resources applied.

2.3 Describe the ethical issues and research permits or the application for permits, if relevant. Also describe the CoE's policy towards open science and the data management plan (appended).

Competence of the director, vice director and team leaders of the CoEs

3.1 Give a brief description of the publication history and describe the merits and expertise of the director, vice director and team leaders of the CoE insofar as these benefit the project in question (The lists of publications and the curricula vitae shall be appended separately to the application; see separate guidelines.)

3.2 Describe how the expertise of the director, vice director and team leaders complement each other.

3.3 Describe the leadership skills of the proposed CoE director and vice director.

Research environment, cooperation and training

- 4.1 Describe the research infrastructure provided by the research environments and the CoE's role in developing research infrastructures.
- 4.2 Describe major national and international research collaboration that can significantly contribute to the success of the CoE project. (List the partners on the online application form).
- 4.3 Describe the objectives and resources of the CoE to support researcher training and mobility.
- 4.4 Describe the host institutions' research strategies which interlink with the CoE proposal and explain briefly how the CoE will support the development of the relevant strategic priorities of the host institution.

Impact beyond academia

- 5.1 Describe the typical forms of societal impact in the CoE's research field. Describe the CoE's expected contribution to that landscape.

Added value

- 6.1 Describe the added value generated by the CoE activity. Besides in enhanced scientific activities, it can be expressed in e.g. promotion of multidisciplinary research, new researcher training opportunities, more efficient use of research infrastructures, promotion of a creative research environment, or other structural benefits.

International competitiveness

- 7.1 Pinpoint the position of the CoE with regard to world leaders in its field/s. Name 2–3 research units or teams whose research programme and research questions are close to the CoE's programme and research questions and who you consider to be the CoE's major scientific competitors. Justify your views.
- 7.2 Anticipate the position of the CoE with regard to world leaders in its field/s after the CoE funding period.