

Plan of intent for Centre of Excellence application, first call stage

The plan of intent of the Centre of Excellence (CoE), submitted to the first stage of the CoE call, must be no more than six pages, covering items 1–6 presented below (line spacing 1, Times New Roman 12 pt or equivalent).

The plan of intent must describe the objectives and activity for the eight-year CoE term; however, the main focus should be on the first five-year period. To facilitate international peer review, the structure of the plan must follow the order outlined below.

- CoE director
- Team leaders
- Name of CoE (recommended format: Centre of Excellence in xxx Research)
- Host institutions

1 Research plan

- Describe the background of the research, any previous research related to the topic and the research objectives
- Describe the novel concepts and approaches of the proposal
- Describe the expected results, scientific impact and progress of science in the field
- Describe the scientific added value expected from the CoE activity (justify why the implementation of the research plan requires a CoE instead of normal research collaboration)

2 Scientific merits

- Describe the merits and scientific expertise of the CoE director and team leaders
- Describe the complementary expertise that the team leaders bring to the CoE

3 Research environment

- Describe briefly the CoE's role in the host institutions' research strategies
- Describe the research infrastructure provided by the research environments and the CoE's role in developing research infrastructures.

4 International competitiveness

- 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.
- Anticipate the position of the CoE with regard to world leaders in its field/s **after the CoE funding period**.

5 Impact beyond academia

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

6 Budget

- Give an estimate for the CoE's total budget for 2018–2025. Please include all funding sources.