## Project description template

## Radical Research Ideas

This template consists of

**A:** Overview of the chapters and sections to be used as the structure of the project description

**B:** General guidance

**C:** Guidance on the content in each chapter and section

**A: Chapters and sections to be used**

Project title

1. The research idea and state of the art

1.1 State of the art, knowledge needs and project objectives

1.2 Novelty and ambition

1.3 Necessity of the project

2. Research questions and methods

2.1 Research questions and hypotheses

2.2 Theoretical approach and methodology

3. Research organisation and project group

3.1 Project manager and group

3.2 Project organisation and management

**B. General guidance**

The project description will be read by the peer reviewers. Together with the application form and CV/CVs, the project description will be the basis for the reviewers' assessments. The proposed research should be presented clearly, using language that is also understandable to individuals with a general scientific understanding of the field. Please note that the referees in the panel where your application is reviewed, do not necessarily work in precisely the same area as you.

Complete the chapters and sections in the template, following the order of the items as given in part A, and delete the guidance (part B and C). The template is designed to address all the elements of the assessment criteria. Nevertheless, the applicant is strongly advised to read the evaluation criteria, scale of marks and the call text carefully.

The project description cannot exceed 8 pages, including the list of references. It is not possible to upload an attachment that exceeds this page total. The page format must be A4 with 2 cm margins, single spacing and Arial, Calibri, Times New Roman or similar 11-point font. You are permitted to use 9-point font for the list of references and figure captions. Links that are listed in the project description will not be included in the assessment.

**C. Guidance on the content in each chapter and section**

**Project title**

Use same title as in the application form.

**1. The research idea and state of the art**

This chapter should provide a description of the radical new research idea that is the foundation of this project. The chapter should justify the necessity of this smaller project compared with going straight to a larger project. The text must clearly describe which questions must be answered in order to establish an adequate foundation for a larger project. The chapter will be the basis for answering the questions:

* Is the research idea particularly ambitious and unique, and does it challenge the state of the art?
* Is the project necessary to find out if the research idea is worth developing further in a larger research project?

**1.1 State of the art, knowledge needs and project objectives**

* Summarise the state of the art of the research area/field the project aims to contribute to and describe the knowledge needs and challenges that justify the initiation of the project.
* State the overall project objectives and aims in the context of the state of the art and knowledge needs.

**1.2 Novelty and ambition**

* Describe the potential for development of new and exciting knowledge that challenges the current state of the art, including significant theoretical, methodological, experimental and/or empirical advancements.
* Highlight any particularly ambitious and unique aspects of the project.

**1.3 The necessity of this project**

* Describe why this project is necessary. This includes describing why the research idea at this stage is not suitable to be the basis of a larger research project.
* Describe briefly how completing this project will enable you to plan a larger research project (given that it is successful).

**2. Research questions and methods**

This chapter should clearly define the research questions, hypotheses and objectives and describe the chosen approaches and methods. The chapter will be the basis for answering the questions:

* Are the research questions, hypotheses and project objectives clearly and adequately specified?
* Are the research approaches and methods credible and appropriate?

**2.1 Research questions, hypothesis and objectives**

* Describe in detail the research questions, hypotheses and objectives of this project.
  1. **Theoretical approach and methodology**
* Describe thoroughly the theoretical approach and/or methodology chosen to address the project objectives, research questions and/or hypotheses. Make sure that the theoretical approach and/or choice of methods is well accounted for and described in detail, and that it is clear how the methods are adequate for addressing the research questions, hypotheses, and project objectives. *Provide enough detail to enable reviewers to understand what you are proposing, how it will be carried out and whether it is feasible.*
* Describe how any ethical issues will be dealt with.

**Please note**

All applicants are required to provide a brief description on how ethical issues will be dealt with, to ensure the panel that there is an appropriate plan for management of ethical issues. If a more detailed description is needed, this may be included in other sections of the project description.

The responsibility for ensuring that the research ethics standard is followed lies with the individual researcher and research institution (cf. Research Ethics Act). See more information on [ethical standards in research](https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/research-policy-strategy/ethical-standards/).

**3. Research organization and project group**

This chapter should provide a description of the project leader and project participants (if any), task allocation, organisation and management. The description should enable the reviewers to answer the questions:

* Are the project manager and any project participants appropriate to carry out the project?
* Is the project designed in such a way that the research will result in answers to the project’s research questions, hypotheses and objectives?

**3.1 Project manager and project group**

* Describe the expertise and experience of the project manager in the context of the proposed project to complement the information in the CV.
* If applicable, describe briefly the project group, including collaborators, to complement the information in the CVs.
* *Please avoid repeating information already contained in the CVs.*

**3.2 Project organisation and management**

* Describe how each task will result in answers to the project’s research questions, hypotheses and objectives.
* If applicable, describe the allocation of tasks to the project team members, linking the tasks to specific work packages.
* If applicable, provide a brief overview of research infrastructure and other resources that will be essential for carrying out the proposed project.

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**Please note**

The ambitions of the project, described in chapter 1, should be realistic in terms of resources such as personnel, expertise, research infrastructure etc., described in this chapter.