

# Project description template

## Researcher Project for Experienced Scientists/Early Career Scientists

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. Excellence

- 1.1 State of the art, knowledge needs and project objectives
- 1.2 Research questions and hypotheses, theoretical approach and methodology
- 1.3 Novelty and ambition

##### 2. Impact

- 2.1 Potential for academic impact of the research project
- 2.2 Potential for societal impact of the research project (optional)
- 2.3 Measures for communication and exploitation

##### 3. Implementation

- 3.1 Project manager and project 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 CVs, the project description will be the basis for the reviewer's assessment. 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 and the call text carefully.

The project description cannot exceed 11 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. Excellence

This chapter should provide a description of the planned project, to enable an assessment of its excellence. This chapter is divided in to three parts that together will be the basis for two separate marks: "Excellence – potential for advancing the state-of-the-art" and "Excellence – quality of R&D activities".

#### 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 Research questions and hypotheses, theoretical approach and methodology

- Describe in detail the research questions and/or hypotheses.
- Describe thoroughly the theoretical approach and/or methodology chosen to address the project objectives, research questions and/or hypotheses. Use a structure of work packages.

*NB Provide enough detail to enable reviewers to understand what you are proposing, how it will be carried out and whether it is feasible.*

- Give a brief account of possible risks that might endanger achievement of project objectives and describe how to manage these risks.
- If relevant, specify why an interdisciplinary approach has been chosen.
- If there are ethical issues to consider, describe how these will be dealt with.
- If relevant, describe how gender perspectives are taken into account in the research content.
- If relevant, describe how potentially undesirable effects from carrying out the project, on human and animal health, climate and the environment and society at large, can be avoided.
- If relevant, describe how stakeholder/user knowledge will be used.

#### Please note:

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.

See more information on [ethical standards in research](#).

#### 1.3 Novelty and ambition

- Describe the potential for development of new knowledge beyond the current state of the art, including significant theoretical, methodological, experimental and/or empirical advancements.
- Highlight any particularly novel, original or ambitious aspects of the project, e.g. in the objectives, research questions/hypotheses, approaches and/or methodology.

## 2. Impact

This chapter should describe the importance of the anticipated results in terms of the potential academic impact and, optionally, the potential societal impact of the research. The potential impact can be in the short or longer term. The chapter should also specify the planned measures for communication and exploitation of the project results.

### 2.1 Potential for academic impact of the research project

- Building on the description of project objectives and novelty in chapter 1, describe clearly why and how the project outputs may address important present and/or future scientific challenges and have an impact on the research area/field, if successful.
- Describe how to ensure reproducibility and the potential to reuse the project outputs through open science practice such as FAIR data, software, models, algorithms etc.

#### **Please note:**

All applications must include a description of the potential for academic impact of the project.

The description of the potential impact should be project-specific and related to the planned research. General elaborations on the benefits of research in a wider context should be avoided.

### 2.2 Potential for societal impact of the research project (optional)

- Building on the description of knowledge needs and challenges in section 1.1., describe why and how the project outputs, if successful, have the potential to meet the mentioned societal challenge(s).
- Describe how new knowledge and project outputs have the potential to address one or more of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

#### **Please note:**

The description of potential societal impact will be assessed as follows:

- The panels will assess potential for societal impact if the applicant has included a description of this in the project description

For applications initiated in the context of a specific societal challenge, you should describe the potential for societal impact. If relevant for the project, this includes describing how the knowledge and outputs generated in the project can contribute to solving challenges and/or shed light on important issues related to one or more of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ([Link](#)).

The description of the potential impact should be project-specific and related to the planned research. General elaborations on the benefits of research in a wider context should be avoided.

### 2.3 Measures for communication and exploitation

- Describe open science practices to ensure early and open sharing and wide distribution of research outputs.
- Describe briefly the target audiences, including stakeholders/users, of the project outputs (in or beyond the scientific community).
- Outline the scope and plan for dissemination, communication and engagement activities.
- Provide a brief description of planned activities that will contribute to the realisation of the potential impacts of the project outputs (in or beyond the scientific sphere).

**Please note:**

This part of the project description will be the basis for the assessment of communication and exploitation. Hence, you may leave the "Communication plan" section in the application form empty.

### **3. Implementation**

This chapter should provide a description of the project team, task allocation, organisation and management.

#### **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.
- Describe briefly the project team, including collaborators, to complement the information in the CVs. In particular, describe the complementarity of the participants in the context of the proposed project.

**Please note:**

Avoid repeating information already contained in the CVs. Focus on the concrete roles and tasks and how the project team, including key collaborators, is suitable and adequate for the research project.

#### **3.2 Project organisation and management**

- Describe the work plan using Gantt chart(s) or other visual representations of the plan.
- Describe the allocation of tasks to the project team members, linking the tasks to specific work packages.
- Provide a brief overview of research infrastructure and other resources that will be essential for carrying out the proposed project.
- Describe the organisation and management structure.

**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.