



## Norway – Evaluation and monitoring procedure

<b>1. Ex-ante Impact Assessment</b>	
<b>1.1. Methodology and procedures conducted (if applicable)</b>	
Not applicable or no information presently available.	
<b>2. Procedure for selection of the research infrastructures to be included in the roadmap</b>	
<b>2.1. Objectives of the evaluation</b>	
Not applicable or no information presently available.	
<b>2.2. Eligibility conditions</b>	
<p>RI eligible for funding must fit to any of the RI categories defined, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced scientific equipment and large-scale equipment facilities</li> <li>• Electronic infrastructures (e-infrastructures)</li> <li>• Scientific databases and collections</li> </ul>	
<b>2.3. Evaluation criteria for the selection of the RI to be included in the RI national roadmap</b>	
<p>Grant applications for national infrastructures must satisfy the strategic requirements and guidelines set out in the funding announcements. Applications will also be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The infrastructure must be of widespread national interest;</li> <li>• The infrastructure must support strategic priorities specified in national strategies and described in more detail in the funding announcement;</li> <li>• The infrastructure must promote effective task-sharing and coordination between Norwegian research groups within the relevant research areas;</li> <li>• There must be plans in place to make the infrastructure accessible to users outside the host institutions;</li> <li>• The infrastructure must support national industrial priorities (when relevant);</li> <li>• The infrastructure must contribute to long-term competence building in research areas that are expected to be of major importance to Norway;</li> <li>• The infrastructure must reflect and reinforce the host institutions' strategic plans and priorities, and there must be plans in place for funding the operation of the infrastructure once the project period is concluded;</li> <li>• The infrastructure must be of relevance and benefit to Norwegian society.</li> </ul> <p>It is essential that research infrastructure projects exhibit high scientific merit to be deemed worthy of funding. The scientific review is carried out by international referees and serves as important input for the Research Council's strategic review and decision-making process. Grant applications are normally assessed on the basis of the following criteria (The Research Council of Norway, 2012):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality and impact of the proposed research using the infrastructure;</li> <li>• Planned ability of the infrastructure to enhance innovation in existing industries and/or newly established companies as well as the competitiveness of Norwegian industry internationally;</li> <li>• Quality and national standing of the research groups in their particular field, as well as the institution's suitability as a host institution for the infrastructure;</li> <li>• Interaction between new infrastructure and any existing infrastructures;</li> <li>• Position of the infrastructure in the international landscape as well as in planned and existing international cooperation;</li> <li>• Potential to establish international networks, and capacity to carry out high-priority research that Norwegian research groups could not otherwise conduct on their own;</li> <li>• Quality of the project plans and competence of the project management team.</li> </ul>	



## 2.4. Evaluation method and procedures conducted (organisation in charge, timing, selection of reviewers, configuration of panels, indicators, etc.) for the selection of the RI to be included in the RI national roadmap

The application review procedure to be used in connection with the call for proposals for funding for research infrastructure for 2016 is described below. The application review process includes a **scientific review by external referees** and a **strategic-administrative review by the Research Council administration**. The process will culminate in the selection of projects for funding and the selection of projects for inclusion on the Norwegian Roadmap for Research Infrastructure.

The application review process will take place in one phase for all types of research infrastructure. This also applies to applications for funding for large-scale infrastructure. All grant proposals will initially be assessed by committees comprised of external referees (called referee panels), which will determine whether the research infrastructure will facilitate research activities of high **scientific quality**. This scientific assessment serves as important advisory input for the Research Council in further processing of the applications.

Next, the Research Council administration will assess applications with regard to the **strategic relevance** of the research infrastructure and whether or not it fulfils the criteria of being a national research infrastructure. The administration will then prepare a recommendation to be submitted to a steering committee comprised of members of the Executive Board and the division research boards who satisfy the applicable impartiality requirements.

### **Scientific review**

The makeup of the referee panels will be determined in relation to the scientific profile of the grant applications received. Almost all panel members will be international referees to satisfy the applicable impartiality requirements. The referee panels will review each application on the basis of stipulated criteria before the applications are submitted for administrative review.

### **Administrative review and recommendation**

The first segment of this review will be conducted by *administrative review panels* comprised of Research Council staff members who have thorough knowledge of a scientific, thematic and/or technology area as well as of the Norwegian research actors in this area. To the degree possible and appropriate, the makeup of the administrative review panels will mirror that of the referee panels. All grant applications that have received a high mark from the referee panels (5, 6 or 7) will be assessed by the administrative review panels. Applications for infrastructure with high investment costs or infrastructure deemed to be of major national importance ("large-scale infrastructure") will be assessed by the administrative review panels even if these have received a mark lower than 5 from the referee panels. To be eligible to be ranked by the administrative review panels, grant applications must receive a mark of 5 or better for the criteria "Overall assessment of the referee/panel" and "Feasibility".

In the second and final segment of the administrative processing, the Research Council's administration group for research infrastructure will compile the ranked lists from the administration review panels and will prepare a recommendation for a final ranking within the given budget framework, which will then be quality assured by the Research Council's administrative leadership. Finally, this recommendation will be submitted to the steering committee comprised of qualified impartial members of the Executive Board and the division research boards, which will take the final decision regarding grant allocations.



Figure 16 shows the entire procedure of review for the RI applications:

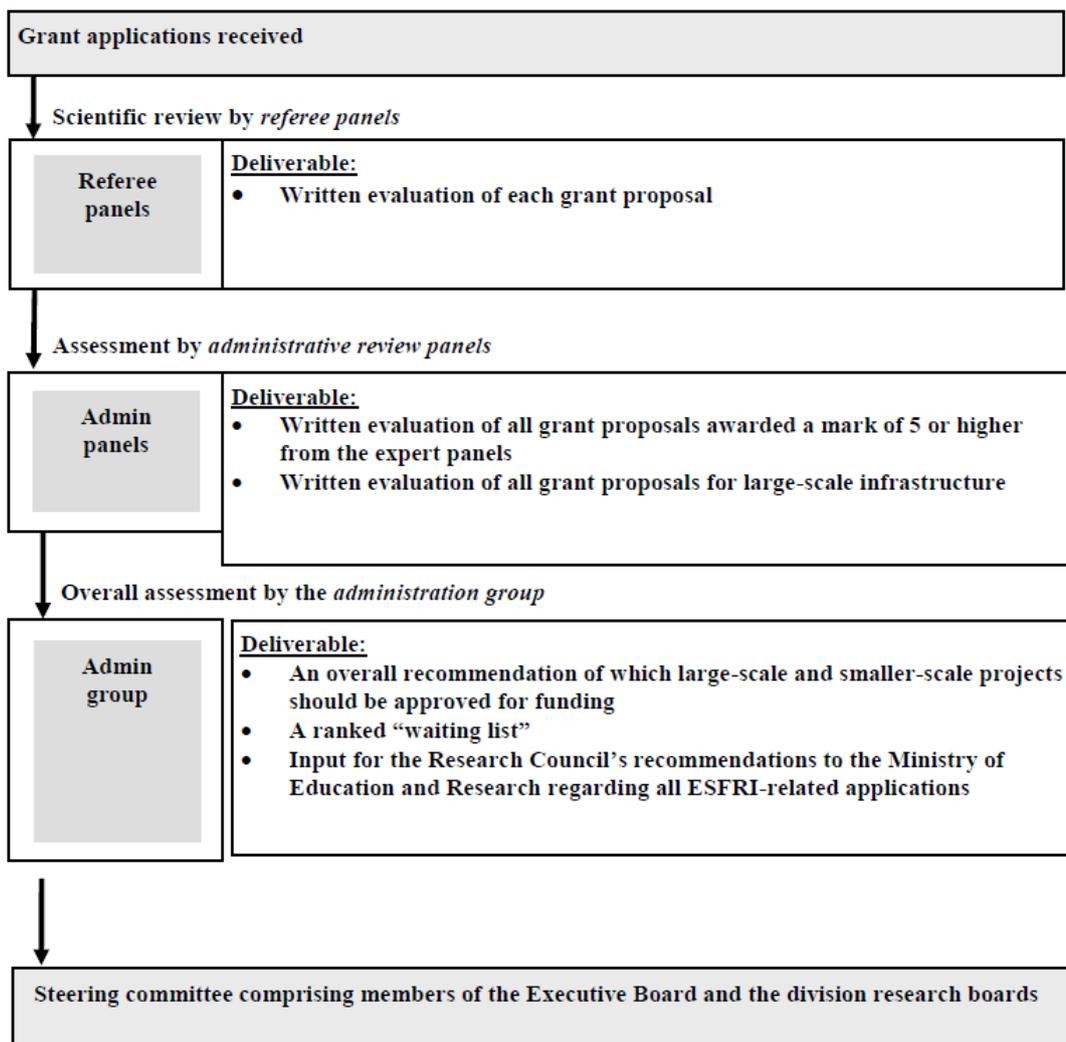


Figure 16: Application review procedure in Norway.

## 2.5. Proposals evaluated and selected (available statistics)

Since the publication of the first version of the Norway’s national strategy for research infrastructure in 2008, A total of over 200 grant applications have been processed, and funding has been awarded to around 40 infrastructure projects. On the other side, the last version of the Norwegian roadmap published in 2016 includes a total of 57 RI projects.

## 3. Update / Monitoring and ex-post Evaluation of RI Roadmap

### 3.1. Objective of the monitoring of the RI national roadmap as a whole

Not applicable or no information presently available.

### 3.2. Periodicity of the RI national roadmap monitoring actions (if applicable)

The roadmap is not meant to be a static document, and it will be revised in the wake of each major funding announcement.

The first version of the Norwegian Roadmap for Research Infrastructure was published in 2010, in line with similar roadmaps drawn up in other countries. The roadmap is revised after each major funding announcement under the National Financing Initiative for Research Infrastructure issued by the Research Council. The first and second revisions were published in 2012 and 2014, respectively. The Norwegian Roadmap for Research Infrastructure 2016 is thereby the third revision of the roadmap (The Research Council of Norway, 2016).



<b>3.3. Methodology and procedures conducted (timing, approach, indicators, etc.) for monitoring the RI national roadmap</b>
Not applicable or no information presently available.
<b>3.4. Methodology and procedures conducted (timing, approach, indicators, etc.) for monitoring the individual RI included in the RI national roadmap</b>
Not applicable or no information presently available.
<b>3.5. Methodology and procedures conducted in the case that an ex-post evaluation of the RI national roadmap is planned or has been implemented</b>
Not applicable or no information presently available.

