

Terms of reference

Applications 7th application round

Danmarks Grundforskningsfond
Holbergsgade 14, 1. sal
DK-1057 København K

Tel. +45 3318 1950
Fax. +45 3315 0626
E-mail dg@dg.dk

www.dg.dk

Terms of reference (TOR) for evaluation of proposals for new Centers of Excellence in the 7th application round

Ref. 24-224

The objective of the Danish National Research Foundation (DNRF) is to promote and stimulate outstanding research at the highest international level at the frontiers of all research fields. This is done through the prestigious Center of Excellence (CoE) program. A center grant is large and flexible and runs for up to 10 years with a first granting period of six years and a second granting period of four years. Only top researchers with the most ambitious ideas will be awarded a CoE. More information about the DNRF and the CoE program is available in the [Guide for Applicants](#) and the presentation brochure: [Reaching for the Stars](#).

The foundation takes pride in conducting a very thorough and transparent evaluation when assessing proposals for new centers. The evaluation of each application involves peer reviews from three external, high-level experts. In order to ensure that an assessment is not suspected of bias, a reviewer must not have a conflict of interest (such as close family relationships or friendships with any of the persons involved in the proposed center, joint projects or co-authorship within the past 5 years etc.). Reviewers should be aware that according to Danish legislation they cannot remain anonymous in this process. Applicants will receive a copy of the reviews and be asked to comment on them before the board of the foundation makes its final decision.

Directions for what the review reports must address are given on the following page.

External reviews, 7th application round

The applications:

When invited to submit full applications, applicants have been asked to give:

- A visionary presentation expanding the overall research idea, including:
 - A description of its dimension of novelty and potential for groundbreaking results and an argument for its scientific or investigative relevance and expected impact.
 - A strategy for addressing the challenges. How will the center be organized? Which competencies/capacities will be involved? How will a strong, creative, and dynamic research environment be established? With which institution(s) will it be affiliated? What are the qualifications of the proposed center leader (scientific as well as managerial skills)? Will specific initiatives be made to attract young and talented researchers? How do the applicants plan to attract international researchers? What sort of international collaboration is envisaged? How will the research activities relate to existing Danish research in this area?
- A description of the planned research program

The reviews:

The reviews should consist of a 3- to 5-page report addressing the following four focal points corresponding to the assessment criteria listed in the call for proposals.

1. The research

Is the research idea considered to be ambitious and original? Does it possess scientific or investigative relevance? And does it have the potential for reaching real scientific breakthroughs and making an impact?

2. The center leader

Does the proposed center leader have a high standing in the international research community, or would you expect the PI to obtain that status within the proposed 6-year period? Is (s)he well qualified for leading an initiative of this size?

3. The team

Does the center include high-quality personnel with the right competencies/capacities to ensure the establishment of a creative and dynamic international research environment? Is the center an attractive unit for recruitment and training of students and young researchers from abroad as well as from Denmark?

4. The structure

Are the focus, structure, and size of the proposed center such that it sets the stage for scientific ventures? Do the host department and the institutions involved have the required scientific and technical expertise to support the group?

Concluding remarks

Please include some concluding remarks summing up the overall assessment. Reviewers are asked *not* to grade the application.