

# INTPART International Partnerships for Excellent Education Research and Innovation

## Programme description for 2020 and onwards

### 1 OBJECTIVE AND TARGET GROUPS

#### 1.1 Programme objective

The objective of the INTPART programme is to develop world-class research and education in Norway through long-term international cooperation. The programme will create a framework for expanding cooperation between research groups considered to be at the international forefront today or that are believed to have the potential to become world leaders in their fields in the future.

The INTPART scheme was established in order to follow up the Long-term plan for research and higher education and efforts to develop world leading research in Norway. The scheme will also follow up the Panorama strategy - Panorama 2021 – 2027 – Norway's strategy for bilateral cooperation on higher education and research with key partner countries outside the EU.

INTPART will lay a foundation that enables such research groups to establish/develop long-term relations with strong academic groups in the priority countries of Brazil, Canada, India, Japan, China, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, the USA, France and Germany. The programme will help to increase the extent and enhance the quality and relevance of scientific cooperation with selected countries, in particular by establishing strong ties between higher education and research cooperation. Cooperation with the business and public sectors is encouraged when relevant. The programme strives to ensure that its portfolio covers all countries, encompasses both new and established partnerships and has a broad scientific scope. This is based on the Panorama Strategy and other strategy documents promoting cooperation on higher education, research and innovation with the priority countries. The portfolio assessment may also take other factors into account. Please refer to the text of the specific call for proposals for more information.

The programme will provide funding for the establishment and further development of formalised international cooperation on research and higher education. In addition to including relevant academic partners, the collaborative activities should also involve both

strategic leadership and administration and be reflected in the strategic plans of the applicant institution.

Educational cooperation must be integrated as far as possible in the institution's other educational programmes and must comprise activities that extend beyond collaboration between individual researchers and doctoral candidates.

## **1.2 Objectives and performance targets**

The overall objective of the INTPART programme is to develop world-class research groups in Norway through long-term international cooperation. The INTPART programme also aims to address the following secondary goals:

- Long-term international partnerships that enhance the quality of higher education and research in Norway;
- Strong links between higher education and research within the frameworks of the partnerships;
- Cooperation with the business and public sectors to enhance quality and relevance within the frameworks of the partnerships, where relevant.

Partners and activities carried out under the international partnerships must be aligned with the needs of and possibilities in research and higher education and target the goals of the specific field and institution within the framework on the INTPART programme.

The projects funded must build on an existing project, centre or cluster at Norwegian institutions.

The application must substantiate that the international partnership will strengthen the ongoing peer-reviewed project. Partners and collaborative activities must be aligned with the needs of and possibilities in research and higher education, and applications must refer to how the activities will contribute to achieving the strategic research and quality of education goals specific to the subject and institution.

The INTPART programme is administered jointly by the Research Council of Norway and the Directorate for Higher Education and Skills.

*Examples of anticipated results from projects:*

- New ground-breaking research that advances the research front, provides added value for the project the INTPART project is building on and enhances the quality of education provided in educational programmes;
- New cooperation agreements that facilitate the mobility of students and researchers and integrate the collaborative activities into the field and institution's regular activities;
- Joint articles and publications between researchers and/or students in the partnerships;
- New research funding applications developed and submitted within the framework of the partnerships;
- Implementation of joint research activities in education and teaching in Norway;

- Establishment of structures for high-quality international learning environments in researcher education and educational programmes within the framework of the partnerships;
- Greater expertise in teaching and education at the partner institutions;
- Research-based and innovative teaching methods and practices developed and implemented within the framework of the partnerships and adopted by other research groups;
- International joint degrees between the partner institutions when a suitable framework for this is in place;
- Collaboration with the business and public sector that contributes to the relevance of research and education, and innovation and value creation within these sectors;
- Other results from collaborative research and education activities.

It is important that projects demonstrate the impact of funding under the INTPART programme.

### **1.3 Target groups**

Funding from the INTPART programme may be sought by Norwegian universities, university colleges, research institutes or other Norwegian research organisations. Applicants must have degree-conferring programmes at the master's and/or doctoral levels or have a Norwegian partner institution with such programmes.

The applicant must at the deadline for submitting applications be a host institution or formal partner in a peer-reviewed project that is currently funded under one of the following schemes:

- Norwegian Centres of Excellence (SFF);
- Centres for Environment-friendly Energy Research (FME);
- Centres of Excellence in Higher Education (SFU) financed by the Directorate for Higher Education and Skills;
- Centres for Research-based Innovation (SFI);
- The Norwegian Artistic Research Programme (NARP) financed by the Directorate for Higher Education and Skills;
- Research Centres for Petroleum Activities (PETROSENTER); Norwegian Innovation Clusters;
- Collaborative and Knowledge-building Projects (KSP);
- Researcher Projects funded by the Research Council;
- Researcher projects and centre schemes funded by NordForsk or the Nordic Council of Ministers;
- Researcher projects funded by the EU Framework Programme.
- Researcher projects funded by research programmes under EEA funds.

The INTPART project must be based on such an ongoing project, as described above, which is further enhanced by an international partnership.

To encourage prioritisation of leading research groups, each applicant institution may submit a predetermined maximum number of grant applications, as stated in the call for proposals.

## **2 THE PROGRAMME'S FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK AND ADMINISTRATION**

### **2.1 General**

The INTPART programme is administered jointly by the Research Council of Norway (the Research Council) and the Directorate for Higher Education and Skills. The Research Council's online application system will be used in accordance with the Research Council's rules and guidelines. The programme funds will be disbursed from the Research Council. Information about the INTPART programme is available on the websites of both The Directorate for Higher Education and Skills and the Research Council.

### **2.2 The programme's financial framework**

The programme is funded through an annual allocation from the Ministry of Education and Research to the Directorate for Higher Education and Skills and the Research Council<sup>1</sup>. In addition, the Research Council will contribute funding from other instruments. Some calls for proposals may therefore set special priorities relating to countries and/or thematic areas.

### **2.3 Secretariat**

The Directorate for Higher Education and Skills and the Research Council have established a joint secretariat for administering the INTPART programme. The secretariat consists of administrators from the Directorate for Higher Education and Skills and the Research Council with expertise in international research and educational cooperation. External experts may be consulted when necessary.

*The secretariat's mandate and tasks include the following:*

- Respond to enquiries and questions from applicants and interested parties;
- Submit a recommendation to the steering committee, based on an overarching portfolio assessment building on the expert panel's quality assessment and other portfolio considerations. The steering committee will make the final decision on grant allocations.
- Assess progress reports and final reports from the partnerships;
- Take responsibility for further development of the programme.

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<sup>1</sup> Contingent on allocations made over the national budget decided in allocation letter to the Research Council

## **2.4 Administrative procedure**

The applications will be evaluated by national and international leading experts in research, education and innovation in panels. The panels will give a consensus-based evaluation of each application.

## **2.5 Steering committee**

The Directorate for Higher Education and Skills and the Research Council will jointly appoint six to eight representatives to sit on a steering committee. The committee members may be taken from the governing bodies of the two organisations.

*The steering committee's mandate and tasks are as follows:*

- Assess the ranked list of grant applications and adjust the ranking of projects based on the criteria and an overall portfolio assessment;
- Make the final decision on grant allocations based on the assessment criteria and strategic objectives of the individual call for proposals.

## **2.6 Follow-up and reporting**

The Research Council and The Directorate for Higher Education and Skills have joint responsibility for following up projects funded under the programme, including assessing and approving project reports and disseminating results from the programme. Designated contact persons in both organisations may be consulted by the institutions.

# **3 PROJECT FUNDING AND ACTIVITIES**

Funding is allocated to activities that promote the establishment of or strengthen research and educational cooperation, networks and knowledge sharing between two or more institutions and actors in Norway and at least one partner country. Participants in the networks may be researchers, students, managers and technical/administrative staff, as well as employees in collaborating organisations. Activities eligible for funding must be aligned with the needs of and possibilities in research and higher education and contribute to achieving the overall objectives and secondary goals of the project and the INTPART programme.

*Examples of activities that are eligible for funding:*

- Additional expenses relating to short-term or long-term reciprocal mobility stays by students, researchers, managers and administrative staff;
- Development and implementation of workshops, seminars and conferences for the purpose of strengthening international cooperation;
- Development and implementation of intensive courses, field courses, summer schools etc., cooperation on curriculum development and development of joint courses, educational programmes and/or degree programmes;
- Joint researcher schools and international educational programmes based on research collaborations and institutionalised within the framework of the partnerships;

- Planning and development of research cooperation;
- Guest lectures and joint teaching and supervision of students and doctoral candidates;
- Cooperation with the business and public sectors;
- Development of digital forms of collaboration;
- Other activities that encompass international research and educational cooperation.

Funding may be awarded to establish new international partnerships as well as to strengthen existing cooperation. The activities must encompass both researchers and students to the greatest extent possible.

The available funding may not be used to cover research activities involved in the collaboration or any investments in research infrastructure. Teaching and education already encompassed by the institution's ordinary educational programmes must be funded by other means. Activities related to the participation of international partners in a partnership may be financed with INTPART funds, but only undertakings with registered Norwegian organisation number may receive funding. Activities related to international research organizations' participation in partnership can be financed by INTPART-funds. Sub-contractors can be utilized. Other partners may be reimbursed as sub-contractors. Investments related to research infrastructure are not covered by the programme. Activities related to the participation of international partners in a partnership may be financed with INTPART funds.

For funding frameworks and project duration, see the text of the call.

## **4 REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

### **4.1 Requirements relating to applicants**

*The following requirements apply to applicants and project partners:*

- The applicant must be a Norwegian university, university college or other Norwegian research organisation with a designated project administrator.
- Applicants must have degree-conferring programmes at master's and/or doctoral level or have a Norwegian partner institution with such programmes.
- The main partner institution(s) must be a comparable institution in the cooperating country with a designated local project manager.
- The project managers of all the partner institutions must have experience of collaborative projects at the national and international level.
- The applicant must at the time of submission of the grant application be a host institution or formal partner in an ongoing peer-reviewed project; see section 1.3.
- Key personnel in INTPART projects must be assigned substantial roles in the ongoing project the INTPART application is based on.

## 4.1 Requirements relating to the application

*The following general requirements apply to the application:*

General requirements:

- The Project Owner and project manager must be within the categories set out in this call.
- The grant application must lie within the scope of this call.
- The amount sought, and any own financing must be in accordance with the requirements set out in this call.
- The budget must be filled in correctly so that it is clear what the amount sought will cover.
- The grant application must be completed in full.
- All attachments must be submitted, using the correct templates.
- The project description must respond to the call.
- The grant application, including all attachments, must be submitted in English.
- All attachments must be uploaded in PDF format.

The grant application must include:

- The completed online application form.
- A project description.
- An attachment giving information about the current project the INPART project is building on. The designated template must be used.
- CVs (using the designated template) and a list of publications for the project manager, the project manager for the partner in the cooperating country, and other key project personnel for both the Norwegian and international participants.
- A formal confirmation from the management of each partner institution, including the host institution, that provides strategy clarification and explains why the project is important to the institution. This account must include information about the institution's specific commitments relating to project implementation.
- Grant applications involving Norwegian Innovation Clusters must be approved by the respective cluster's board.

Please refer to the call for proposals for more information.

### 4.3 Assessment criteria

Grant applications will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- Excellence
  - Relevance
    - The relevance of the project relative to the primary and secondary goals of the call for proposals and the project the INTPART project is building on.
  - Originality
    - The extent to which the concept is well-grounded, credible and innovative.
  - Solidity
    - The extent to which the project objectives are clearly defined and relevant.
    - The quality of the planned deliverables in the project.
- Impact (related to the objectives of the INTPART programme)
  - Potential
    - The extent to which anticipated impacts are clearly specified.
    - The extent to which anticipated societal/system-related impacts are specified.
    - The extent to which the application addresses the goals for the INTPART scheme
  - Knowledge-sharing and exploitation
    - The quality of planned communication and dissemination activities.
    - The extent to which it is plausible that the proposed measures under the project will lead to the specified impacts and outcomes.
- Implementation
  - Project manager and project group
    - The extent to which the project manager and project group are qualified, have the necessary overall expertise and are in a good position to undertake the project.
    - The appropriateness of the management structures and governance.
  - Planning and organisation
    - The effectiveness and clarity of the work plan, including whether the timetable is realistic.
    - The quality of the connection between measures and objectives.
    - The extent to which the project reflects the strategies and objectives of the Project Owner and any partners and incorporates a clearly defined distribution of roles.
    - The extent to which the budget is realistic and adequate and incorporates distribution of resources in a manner that will enable each partner to fulfil its role.
    - The identification and discussion of potential risks.