Attachment on the incorporation of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) in applications for Researcher Projects and Collaborative Projects for Technological Convergence related to Enabling Technologies

What is RRI?

Since enabling technologies have the power to transform society, it is important that these technologies are developed and used in line with Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) principles. RRI entails research being carried out in a socially responsible manner and that emphasis is given to the research contributing to addressing major societal challenges.

RRI involves assessing what kind of future the research project addresses, mapping the project's potential effects, both intended and unintended, and discussing and responding to society's values, needs, concerns and expectations. RRI involves researchers reflecting on their own perceptions and underlying assumptions about societal challenges. It also involves shared learning by involving different stakeholders in the research and innovation process, including other expert environments, different user groups, the business sector and public sector bodies.

How should RRI be included in the grant application?

How RRI should be included in grant applications based on this call for proposals will depend on the individual project context. In general, RRI should be an integral part of the project and involve all project participants. Developing an overall understanding of the project's RRI aspects as early as possible is important, and the RRI activities in the project must also be coordinated. It may be advantageous to organise these activities as a separate work package, but this is not a requirement. Nor is the project required to include researchers from humanities or social science backgrounds to contribute to the RRI work. This should nevertheless be considered, as it may be beneficial for the project. If you do not consider RRI to be relevant to your project, you must explain why in the application.

In conjunction with the technological convergence initiative, the Research Council will establish a learning arena for the projects, to look at, among other things, RRI work in and across the projects. Most projects will have to acquire new knowledge, competence and skills to integrate RRI in projects. In the grant application, you should specify any learning needs you identify relating to RRI work in the project.

Examples for inspiration

The Research Council has contributed to the establishment of the national collaborative platform National Centre for Digital Life (DLN). DLN's website provides useful advice on planning and implementing RRI in projects: https://www.digitallifenorway.org/services/rri/

The Research Council has also contributed to developing the RRI guidelines for the European partnership M-ERA.NET. These guidelines can provide inspiration for incorporating RRI in projects: https://m-era.net/other-joint-activities/responsible-research-and-innovation