

### Call for proposals Flagship “Hazardous substances” for year 2020

This is an invitation to submit proposals to the flagship «Hazardous substances- effects on ecosystem and health» for the year 2020. The scientific basis is given by the updated program plan “Scientific program 2016 – 2020“, <http://www.ifram.no/scientific-program.350771.en.html>. The overall objective of the flagship “Hazardous substances- effects on ecosystem and health” is to investigate and understand the exposure and impact of contaminants (POPs, PAHs, heavy metals, radionuclides, mixtures) on Arctic ecosystems and human health in Northern areas. An important aim is to generate knowledge for local and national environmental management and international regulation for pollution control.

The following themes are part of the updated program:

- Theme 1. Human health & society – The effects of contaminants on human health and Arctic communities.
- Theme 2. Animal health and ecosystem – The fate and effects of contaminants in Northern ecosystem in combination with climate change, natural and anthropogenic stressors.
- Theme 3. Industry and urbanization – Impact from industrial development and urbanization in the North – Fate and effects of pollutants on Arctic ecosystem.
- Theme 4. Risk governance – Communicating and applying research results

The flagship has four ongoing projects in year 2020, two projects in Theme 1 and two projects in Theme 2. All ongoing projects need to resubmit the proposal with an updated status and plan for the year 2020.

No new projects will be initiated on the topic of plastics in the flagship. Proposals on this topic should be sent to the new research program ‘Plastic in Arctic’.

#### The proposals have to answer:

- 1) Scientific description and approach for one and preferentially several of the four themes in the program plan. Please, specify in the application form which theme(s) and sub-theme(s) that are addressed.
- 2) Type of proposals and projects. Please, specify in the application form:
  1. **Research project with external evaluation and clear added value for the flagship**  
Additional support to projects that have obtained external evaluation and funding (or excellent evaluation score, but no funding) from external research agencies (e.g. NFR, EU), and where additional support should give a clear added value for the flagship. Benefit for the flagship needs to be described. Attachment of the external evaluation and funding information is required. Expected financing scheme KNOK 500- 1000 per year per project. Duration 1-3 years.
  2. **Research projects with scientific basis, but without external evaluation**  
Projects building upon previous produced data/knowledge without external evaluation and quality assurance. Expected financing scheme KNOK 500- 1000 per year per project. Duration 1-3 years. **Please provide three (3) names for impartial and qualified experts to review the proposal** (for projects without external evaluation).

3. **Pilot projects (new ideas), workshops, proposal writing and outreach and education activities** are also welcome. Financing up to KNOK 250. Duration 1 year.

For all type of proposals: Provide a detailed budget per year and per participating institution.

Projects with a budget above KNOK 250 and without attached external evaluation will be sent to external evaluators prior to the evaluation in the leader group (leader, co-leader and theme leaders).

Funding is valid for one year only. The flagship funding for 2020 is at present not known, but the flagship anticipates funding of a total of approximately NOK 7 million of which approximately 4.5 million will be available for financing new projects. Projects that run for several years need new application each year, including accepted status report and an updated project plan.

The Fram centre flagships were evaluated by an external expert committee in 2019<sup>1</sup>. The evaluation committee stated: "The integration of social sciences and social scientists across all FRAM Flagship programmes and research projects should be supported and strengthened." In addition, there were some recommendations directly to our flagship, see text and list at the end of this document. In response to some of the recommendations, we will in addition to criteria 1-3 have emphasis on the criteria listed in bold font (4-6) below for future proposals.

#### **Evaluation criteria for research and pilot projects:**

- 1) Research relevant for the updated scientific program and the themes 1-4.
- 2) Research relevant for national<sup>2,3</sup> and international environmental management.
- 3) Scientific quality.
- 4) **Strengthened cooperation among the themes (work packages) as well as the institutions.**
- 5) **Inter- and Intradisciplinary approaches where social sciences are one of the main scientific disciplines.**
- 6) **Involvement of national and international experts.**
- 7) Education plan (master, PhD students).
- 8) Outreach activities.
- 9) Publication plan.
- 10) Collaboration between minimum two (2) Fram Centre institutions.

#### **Application form:**

- The application form as word format is available at [www.ifram.no](http://www.ifram.no), click "Flagship and Funding" and "Proposal submission for funding in 2020". All proposals must be submitted through this web portal. Note that an online administration form should also be filled in.
- Resubmission of proposals is possible until the deadline.
- The maximum page numbers for application is six (6) pages (see template).
- Please provide detailed budget per year and per participating institution.

#### **Deadline: November 15<sup>th</sup> 2019**

The flagship's suggestions for 2020 will be sent to the Ministry of Climate and Environment within January 15<sup>th</sup> 2020. Final project plan will be ready as the budget frame is specified by the Ministry of Climate and Environment mid-February.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.forskingsradet.no/contentassets/8695dd49ad9b46b283ab2760de69136c/fram-evaluation-report.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.miljodirektoratet.no/Documents/publikasjoner/M591/M591.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/a1872f19e96c44229dddc810991abd5a/t-1552\\_b.pdf](https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/a1872f19e96c44229dddc810991abd5a/t-1552_b.pdf)

***Text from the evaluation report and recommendations to the flagship “Hazardous substances”:***

**4.5.4 Recommendations to the Flagship**

- This Flagship based in the High North is a unique platform for Arctic monitoring and research on global pollution and ecosystem changes. The Flagship and Norway has a great potential for influencing hazardous substance regulation at an international level. Human health seems to have a too little focus during the last years.
- Further synergy could be brought forward by enhanced cooperation among the work packages as well as the institutions.
- The Evaluation Committee supports enhanced communication with national management and policy stakeholders to strengthen the goal of the Flagship for more tailored science towards specific regulatory needs.
- The Evaluation Committee also recommends the Flagship leadership to focus on enhancing cooperation with international scientists and partners in order to ensure the best international science to take place at the FRAM Centre.
- The Flagship should continue and where relevant increase its engagement with international bodies such as AMAP, Arctic Council, WHO, OSPAR, and ICES.
- Contributions to local management do not seem to be a highly prioritized topic within the Flagship. However, as the MIKON Flagship covers parts of this aspect, an enhanced cooperation with the MIKON Flagship may cover this task.

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