



**Thematic research infrastructures 2025:  
Local research infrastructures to  
strengthen regional R&D activities**

Spring call 2025

Panel/Name of reviewer:

Application number:

Name of applicant:

Title of proposed project:

**How to review applications: Thematic research infrastructures 2025: Local research infrastructures to strengthen regional R&D activities**

This funding scheme is designed to support the building and updating of regionally significant local research infrastructures in order to promote regional vitality and ambitious research and development (R&D) activities.

The main focus of the review should be on the call objectives: The funded research infrastructures must contribute to achieving regional R&D-related objectives, which have been mapped out, for example, in smart specialisation strategies and other regional strategies. The infrastructures must generate added value for the region in terms of innovation potential and/or other societal impact, and support partnerships and cooperation between R&D actors. They must have operating principles that enable their services to be widely utilised by user groups of the RDI system.

Other important evaluation items are the quality of R&D activities facilitated by the research infrastructure, the implementation of the development project as well as the operational aspects of the research infrastructure.

**Provide both a written review and numerical ratings in section 1 (Wide and versatile impact and project's relevance to call), section 2 (Quality of R&D activities), section 3 (Development project) and section 4 (Operation of research infrastructure), and give an overall rating in section 6. Write evaluative comments rather than descriptive ones. Section 5 (Review panel's summary assessment) is written by the panel during the panel meeting.**

**Use a rating scale ranging from 6 (outstanding) to 1 (insufficient).** The consistency between the numerical rating and the written comments is particularly important.

Rating scale	Description
6 (outstanding)	Has potential to substantially contribute to achieving regional R&D-related objectives; provides highly significant support to economic growth and/or society as well as makes cooperation between R&D actors likely; enables R&D activities with potential for exceptional quality, ambition and innovation as well as impact with crucial relevance; presents a very high-quality plan that may include risks;



	operational aspects are well aligned to reach the objectives of the research infrastructure
5 (excellent)	Has potential to substantially contribute to achieving regional R&D-related objectives; provides significant support to economic growth and/or society as well as makes cooperation between R&D actors likely; enables R&D activities with potential for very high quality, ambition and innovation as well as impact with significant relevance; presents a high-quality plan that may include risks; operational aspects are suitable to reach the objectives of the research infrastructure
4 (good)	Has potential to contribute to achieving regional R&D-related objectives; provides support to economic growth and/or society as well as makes cooperation between R&D actors likely; enables R&D activities with potential for good quality as well as impact with relevance; is in general sound but contains some elements that could be improved
3 (fair)	Has some potential to contribute to achieving regional R&D-related objectives; provides some support to economic growth and/or society as well as makes cooperation between R&D actors likely; is in general sound but contains important elements that should be improved
2 (poor)	Has low potential to contribute to achieving regional R&D-related objectives; has low potential for impact in support of economic growth and/or society or cooperation between R&D actors; contains flaws and needs substantial modification or improvement
1 (insufficient)	Contains severe flaws that are intrinsic to the proposed project or the application

### 1 Wide and versatile impact and project's relevance to call

#### 1.1 Support for regional specialisation, added value for region and cooperation between R&D actors Subrating (1-6)

- Does the research infrastructure support regional specialisation? Is the significance of the research infrastructure in supporting strategic regional R&D goals described in a clear and convincing manner?
- Does the research infrastructure generate added value for the region in terms of innovation potential and/or other societal impact, such as the regeneration or growth of the business sector and/or new knowledge for the benefit of society?
- Does the research infrastructure promote partnerships and cooperation between R&D actors?
- Does the collaborator network of the infrastructure contribute to the objectives of the call?

- [See action plan, especially section 2.](#)



## 2 Quality of R&D activities

2.1 Quality of R&D activities Subrating (1-6)

- Does the research infrastructure have potential to enable and support high-quality and ambitious R&D activities?
  - [See action plan, especially section 1.](#)

## 3 Development project

3.1. Feasibility and risk management plan Subrating (1-6)

- Is the implementation plan of the project credible, including the attainment of the goals within the funding period?  
Does the research infrastructure and the development project have a sufficiently detailed risk management plan?
  - [See action plan, especially section 3](#)

## 4 Operation of research infrastructure

4.1. Ownership, expertise and long-term funding plan Subrating (1-6)

- Is the ownership of the research infrastructure clearly described and appropriate?
- Do the research infrastructure staff have relevant expertise?
- Are the plans for the research infrastructure's funding base sustainable and realistic in general?
  - [See action plan, especially section 4 and long-term budget appendix.](#)

4.2. Services, user profile and utilisation rate Subrating (1-6)

- Are the services well planned?
- Is information available on how to access the research infrastructure?
- Does the research infrastructure provide open access to users (access may require approval of a research plan and/or reasonable user fees)?
- Is the user base of the infrastructure wide and versatile?
- Is the utilisation rate of the research infrastructure at a good level?
- Does the research infrastructure have concrete plans to expand the use and user base of the infrastructure?
  - [See action plan, especially section 4.](#)



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### 4.3. Digitalisation, data intensity and data management policy (no numerical rating)

- Does the research infrastructure take into account the necessary steps related to the increase in digitalisation and data intensity?
- Is the data management policy of the research infrastructure sufficient?
  - If the above-mentioned aspects have **not** been appropriately covered, please provide comments in the text box below. Otherwise, you may leave the box empty.
  - See action plan, especially section 4 and data management policy appendix.

### 4.4. Responsible science (no numerical rating)

- Have good scientific practice and governance, promotion of equality and nondiscrimination within the activities of the research infrastructure been considered appropriately?
- Has the green transition been considered appropriately in the operation of the research infrastructure?
- Have relevant sustainable development goals (other than the green transition) been considered appropriately in the operation of the research infrastructure?
  - If the above-mentioned aspects have **not** been appropriately covered, please provide comments in the text box below. Otherwise, you may leave the box empty.
  - See action plan, especially section 4.

## 5 Review panel's summary assessment of proposal

### 5.1 Main strengths and weaknesses of proposal and their justifications; possible other remarks

#### TO BE COMPLETED ONLY AT THE PANEL MEETING

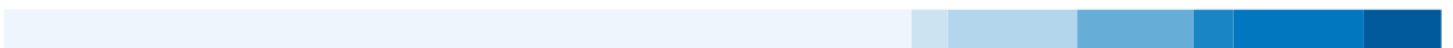
##### 5.1.1 Main strengths and their justifications (no numerical rating)

- Summary assessment of the application's main strengths with justifications
  - Refer to the review criteria in sections 1-4.
  - To be completed only at the panel meeting

##### 5.1.2 Main weaknesses and their justifications (no numerical rating)

- Summary assessment of application's main weaknesses with justifications
  - Refer to the review criteria in sections 1-4.
  - To be completed only at the panel meeting

##### 5.1.3 Other remarks (if any):



**6 Overall rating****Rating (1-6)**

- Please note that the final rating should not be a mathematical average of the subratings. For example, the application should not be penalised if it has a slight weakness in one evaluation item that is later strengthened in another item (e.g. lack of some expertise in a local team but compensated through international collaboration).

