

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Sustainable development Goals Pilot 2022

Q: How do I apply to this call?

A: This is an international call that is being handled by the National Research Foundation South Africa (NRF). All documents (concept note, project description, CVs etc) have to be sent via NRF. The first step is to send a concept note to NRF call secretariat by the deadline of 25th of August. If your concept note is deemed eligible, you will be invited to send in a full proposal by January 20th 2023.

For details on where and how to send in; see the full call for proposals:

<https://www.nrf.ac.za/sustainable-development-goals-sdgs-collaborative-funding-call/>

Q: How do I know if my project is eligible?

A: It has to have been previously funded by the RCN, and you have to find it in the [RCN Project Databank](#) (provide the 6-digit project number in the concept note). It must be completed between January 1st 2017 and 31st December 2022. It has to have lasted for a minimum of two years in order to be eligible.

Projects funded by other organisations, such as EU, Innovation Norway etc. are not eligible.

Q: My project was supposed to be finalized by 31st December 2022, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic it got a no-cost extension. Am I eligible to apply for this call even though my project will be finalized later?

A: Yes, you are eligible to apply with your RCN funded project, as long as the project is completed prior to commencement of projects that get selected for this call.

Please provide the 6-digit project number, so that we can check the reasons for postponement.

Q: Do I have to send a concept note and full proposal to the RCN also?

A: No, all documents relating to the proposal have to be sent to the NRF. If your project is funded, then you will be asked to send in a proposal via My RCN Web.

You only need to send one concept note and eventually one full proposal per consortia.

You must use the provided template for the concept note found on the NRF website.

If your consortia is eligible to apply, you will be asked to submit a full proposal.

Q: I was not the project leader (PI) of the previously funded RCN project that was completed between January 1st 2017 and 31st December 2022, I was a work package leader or one of the project participants. Can I still apply?

A: You do not need to have been the PI or your institution the project owner of the previously funded project, but the institution applying to the call and the PI need to have the right to use the results from previous projects when applying to this call.

Please add a footnote or something similar explaining this in the concept note.

Q: Is this just a good way to get more funding for an old project?

A: No. The call is meant to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs, through the implementation of results from ongoing or recently finalised research and innovation projects to advance knowledge-based achievement of the SDGs, from local to regional scale. The call is about finding concrete and implementable solutions to achieving the SDGs. The research and outcomes of the projects funded should lead to impact on society and improve the livelihoods of people on the ground.

Q: How do I put together the right consortia?

A: You have to have minimum 3 partners from the countries funding the call and these should be a mix of countries from the global North and the global South. You also have to have a plethora of stakeholders outside of the research sector in the consortium (such as local authorities, communities, NGOs, i.e., relevant actors and stakeholders) that are a part of the consortium and are actively engaged in the project. Each country funding the call, has its own requirements listed in the national annex posted on the NRF website. Please consult the national annexes of countries where your partners are from before you send in the concept note.

Countries in the global South which are funding this call are: Chile, China, Tanzania, Kenya, Ivory Coast and South Africa. The remaining (Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands and Turkey) belong to the Global North.

Remember that the consortia have to be based on equitable partnership(s).

Q: My project was completed between 1. January 2017 and 31. December 2022 and was funded by the RCN. It has excellent results that will advance the achievement of the SDGs, but it did not include any partners from countries funding *this* call. Can I still apply, if I find good partners in two of the other countries funding this call?

A: Yes, the RCN will allow this. However, please read the full call text *and* the national annexes for the countries you are considering to partner with. The national annexes will state what the rules are for the institutions they fund.

Q: What does it mean when it says *Each funding agency will provide funds directly to their eligible applicants per consortia*?

A: If your project is funded, then each member of the consortia will receive funding from its own country's research agency. So you will not receive funding for consortia members that are located in any of the other 10 countries funding the call.

The RCN will cover costs for the public sector and other entities that are not research organisations in partner countries that are listed as low- and lower middle income countries as defined by the [OECD DAC list](#) (three first columns of the list). This can include organisations that can be found in one of the countries funding the call as long as they are: i) found in the first three columns of the OECD DAC list ii) cannot receive funding through the research agency in their country. Standard RCN rules for [project budgets](#) and how to include partners in budgets will then apply.

However, you can apply for maximum NOK 4 million and this has to cover your institution's and partner's costs.

Q: How do I know if my project fits the topics for this call?

A: Please read the full call text carefully. Pay special attention to the Global Sustainable Development report "[The Future is Now: Science for Achieving Sustainable Development](#)". The RCN supports projects that fall within any of the six key "entry points" (challenges) described in the report.

Q: The RCN has been in the media a lot due to budget problems. Is this call affected by the budgetary deficits at the RCN?

A: No, the call is not affected and will run as normal. However, due to the budgetary situation, the RCN might delay disbursement of funding to Norwegian institutions until early 2024.

Q: I am a researcher from another country and am interested in finding partners in Norway. How can I do that?

The RCN projects that are eligible to apply for this pilot have to be completed between January 1st 2017 and 31st December 2022.

You can find all funded projects in our project databank here:

<https://prosjektbanken.forskingsradet.no/en>

Here you can search for institutions in Norway, project managers and key words. Start with reading the guidance page on how to use the project databank:

<https://prosjektbanken.forskingsradet.no/en/veiledning>

The RCN is not allowed to give out contact information to project managers, but by using our project databank you will find the names of institutions and project managers (and most importantly, their project periods). Then you can google these and find their contact info – most Norwegian research institutions have updated pages for each of their researchers.

Q: Are you organizing any webinars in relations to this call?

A: Since this is a collaborative call, our partnering research agency in the Netherlands is organizing a webinar *and* matchmaking event on the 28th of June from 10:00 to 12:00 CEST. You are welcome to join for the webinar and the matchmaking event! Find all relevant info here: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/meetings/grc-sdg-call-2022-webinar-and-matchmaking>