Guidance Notes
on Funding Criteria
National Research Data Infrastructure (NFDI)

The funding criteria below are supplemented with short explanatory notes and aspects to be considered. These notes are not exhaustive. Please also refer to the Key Points for the Second Funding Period for further details.

1 Readiness and Relevance of the Consortium

1.1 Composition of the consortium and its embedding in the community of interest

- *Please evaluate the composition of the consortium with regard to participating users and providers, taking into account the experience/qualification of the consortium members in research data management.*

- *Have the communities of interest been given an active role in the consortium? Please rate the consortium's plans to ensure continuous and consistent interaction with these communities in the future. How do you rate the consortium's strategy for dealing with changing needs? How do you rate the consortium's strategy to address and integrate new users and communities?*

- *Has the consortium implemented specific training programmes (e.g. for researchers in early career phases)? How are these integrated in curricula at the (co)applicant and participating institutions, and how do you rate the consortium's planned activities in this field?*

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1.2   The consortium within the NFDI and the national academic research system

- *How do you rate the consortium's contribution to the building of the NFDI as a whole? How is the consortium collaborating with other (related) NFDI-consortia (past and planned collaborations)?*

- *Is the consortium specifically contributing to cross-cutting topics? How do you rate the consortium's interaction with Base4NFDI? Has the consortium participated in or contributed to the governance structure of the NFDI?*

- *Please rate the consortium's contributions to knowledge transfer within and beyond the NFDI.*

- *Does the consortium interact with relevant national stakeholders in the field of research data management infrastructures?*

1.3   International networking

- *How do you rate the consortium's strategy for embedding its activities in the international context (e.g. the European Open Science Cloud)? What forms of international cooperation does the consortium pursue?*

2   Consortium Structure and Viability

2.1   Organisational structure and viability

- *How do you rate the consortium's organisational structure?*

- *How do you rate the consortium's strategy for the long-term consolidation of services and structures?*

- *How do you rate the consortium's measures to ensure demand-oriented further development of sustainable services and structures?*

2.2   Operating model

- *How do you rate the consortium's operating model with a view to both users and providers?*

- *Is the consortium's finance or cost model adequate? Does the consortium charge user fees, or are there plans to do so in the future?*

- *Does the operating model ensure the continued operation of services relevant to the target groups and pursuit of NFDI-wide activities in the long term?*

3   Research Data Management Strategy

3.1   Scientific relevance and quality of the measures

▪   *How do you rate the consortium's achievements since funding started?*

▪   *Have the measures implemented by the consortium contributed to the further development or professionalisation of the target communities in research data management? How do you rate the consortium's plans for further advancing research data management according to the needs of the communities addressed?*

3.2   Metadata standards

▪   *Does the consortium apply national or international standards?*

▪   *Has the consortium contributed to metadata standards or other standards relevant to RDM in the past? How do you rate the consortium's strategy for increasing the interoperability and (re)use of data and metadata in the future?*

▪   *How do you rate the consortium's contribution to building a common architecture for the NFDI?*

3.3   Implementation of the FAIR principles and data quality assurance

▪   *How do you rate the consortium's implementation of FAIR principles in light of the needs of the relevant community?*

▪   *Has the consortium implemented data quality criteria? How do you rate the consortium's approaches to assessing or measuring data quality?*

▪   *How do you rate the consortium's current and planned procedures and regulations for access to and use of data? Has the consortium implemented protection of personal data?*

3.4   Services provided by the consortium

▪   *How do you rate the consortium's measures to ensure and increase the use of its services? How is the use of the services tracked and measured? How do you rate the consortium's plans to enable expansion or scaling of the services offered?*

▪   *How do you rate the consortium's strategy to ensure sustainable operation of its services? Does the consortium have adequate strategies for terminating a service or transferring a service to another operator?*

4   Funding

- *Is the requested funding amount appropriate considering the consortium's planned measures?*
- *How do you rate the consortium members' own contribution to the required resources?*

Please note: The supplementary data sheet for consortia (Appendix 5) provides quantitative information which supplements the renewal proposals submitted by the NFDI consortia. The data sheet is not intended as a basis for comparing different consortia with one another. Its purpose is to provide a better understanding of the development of a consortium over the course of time. Both the data sheet and the quantitative data it includes are to be considered neither detached from the associated renewal proposal nor, in and of themselves, as indicators of quality.