

Terms of reference / Guidelines for the panel

The Danish National Research Foundation is committed to funding unique research. The purpose of the Foundation is to strengthen outstanding Danish curiosity driven research at an international level by supporting groups of scientists who may be able to create innovative and creative research environments of the highest international quality.

The purpose of the evaluations of the centre is first of all to assess the activities carried through so far. Secondly it is the task of the panel to appraise the future research plan of the centre in relation to the objectives of the Foundation by pointing out strengths and weaknesses and by formulating recommendations to be used by the centre as well as the Foundation in case of continuation.

To be more specific, the Foundation would like the evaluation to address the following themes and questions:

1: Research quality, relevance, originality, and focus:

1.1. Progress to date

Please comment on the development of the centre activities in relation to the aims specified in the original research plan and on any substantial changes according to this plan.

Is the research programme coherent and at the 'cutting edge' of research within this field internationally. Please comment on the highlights of findings and the extent of new theoretical and conceptual developments. What is the international status of the group within its fields of research?

Does it comprise a coherent centre with a well-focused approach?

What are the weaknesses of the centre's research activities? How and under which conditions can they be improved?

1.2. The research plan for another 5 year period

Is the research plan for the next period realistic and original? Please outline in which sense the plan takes the results of the research to date further in an original manner. Does the plan comprise new and ambitious activities or is it rather an extrapolation of the ongoing research.

Does the plan reflect an innovative environment?

Please indicate strengths and weaknesses in the proposal for the next period regarding the research plan and strategy, the personnel and organization, and the equipment/instrumentation.

2: Organization, leadership and team members:

The Foundation endorses a simple and effective organization. Please comment on the organization of the centre in light of the research carried through and the aims of the Centre as a whole. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the current organization? Which steps could be taken in order to improve the organization and management of Centre activities?

Other criteria for success are the recognition of the leader of the Centre as an outstanding scientist, a competent leader and an experienced coach and qualified research supervisor. Please assess the competences of the leader of the Centre in light of these criteria. Moreover, please assess the role and scientific qualifications of the other senior scientists.

Please comment on the Centre personnel as a team.

Please pay attention to future aspects of the Centre, e.g. the leaders considerations on future generational change in regard to leadership. Is a gradual succession of staff ensured so that the environment remains vital and includes new generations of scientists?

3: National and international cooperation:

The level and quality of the international cooperation and the “spill-over” effect nationally as well as internationally of the research carried through are important. Please comment on these issues and indicate to which degree national and international collaboration has enhanced the Centre’s work.

Please appraise the cooperation with universities and other research institutes as well as industry where relevant.

4: Recruitment and guests:

Please consider the issue of attracting excellent scientists from outside Denmark and comment on the number of PhD students, post docs, and senior scientists visiting the centre – especially for a longer period of time.

5: Research Training:

Has the training of PhD students been of a reasonable magnitude in relation to the centre’s overall aim and strategy? What is the standard of the PhD training?

6: Publications, disseminations, and patents:

Please comment on the standard of the publication record – in terms of strategy and actual activity. Further, please comment on the dissemination and exploitation of the research results as well as any patent activities.