

11th Call for new Centers of Excellence

Professor Søren-Peter Olesen, CEO



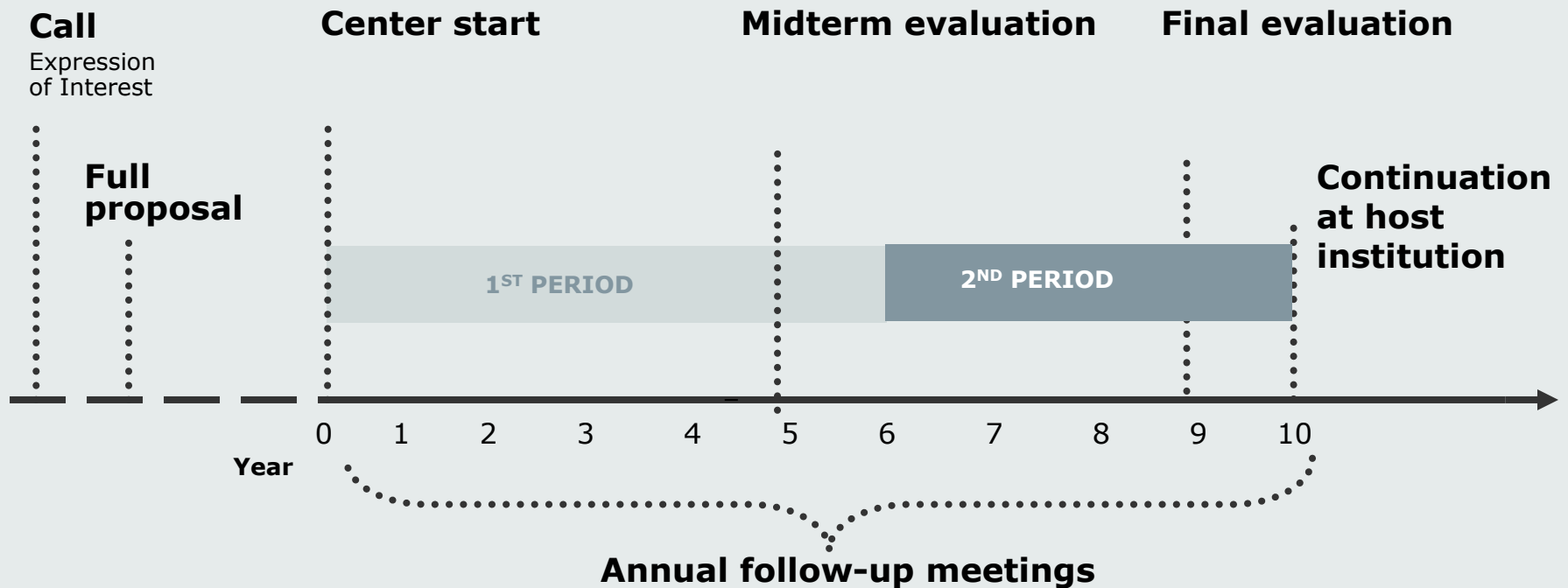


Overview 11th application round

Timeline

Submission of outline proposals	June 1	2021
Decision on outline proposals	September 1-3	2021
Submission of full application	November 22	2021
Interview + decision	May 23-25	2022
New centers may start operating	From fall	2022

Life Cycle of a Center of Excellence



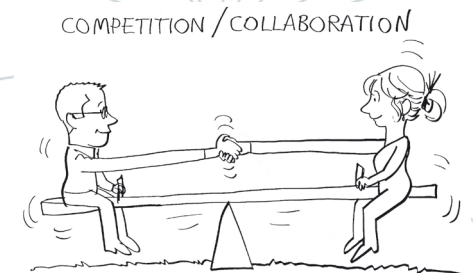
What is a Center of Excellence?

- Group of researchers who jointly pursue a set of intriguing and overarching research questions
- Headed by a researcher with high international standing
- Research activities are ambitious and original
- A strong and coherent research environment
- Clear center identity
- Attractive research training sites
- Strengthen internationalization
- Spillover to education/host institution



No fixed formula

- The size of centers varies from 15 to +60 persons
- Most centers are interdisciplinary
- The centers are based at Danish research institutions. International institutions can be included
- The size of grants: up to 36 or 60 million DKK for a 6-year period (incl. 44 % OH for universities)



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Changes at the 11th application round for CoE

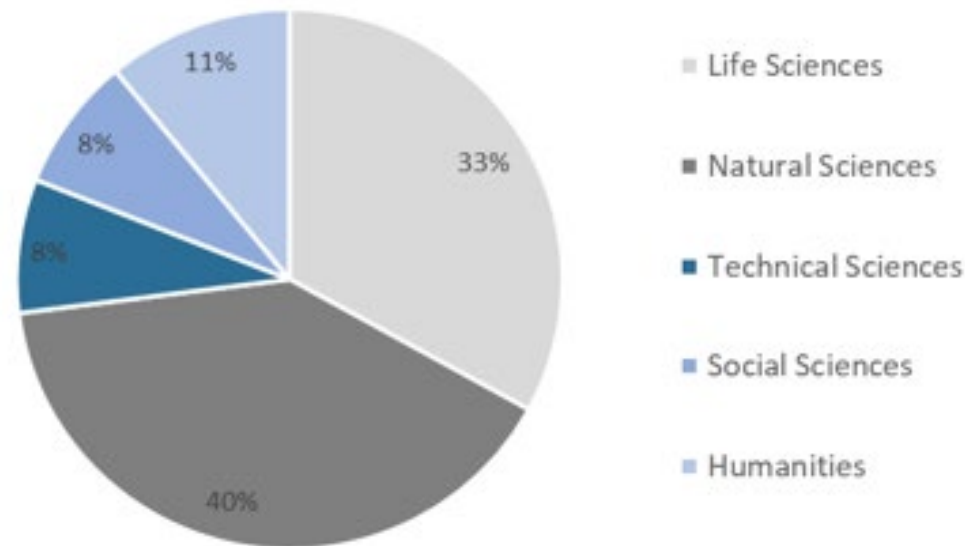
- Possible to apply for up to either 36 or 60 million DKK incl. OH, for a period of six years
- Possible to apply for extra funding for an extraordinary expense on top of 60 million DKK
- Centers granted up to 36 million DKK in the first six-year funding period will be able to apply for up to 60 million DKK in the second four-year funding period and vice versa
- The call is open to all applicants

Excellence is the overall criterion, and all applications will be evaluated on equal terms



Centers distributed among scientific fields

Distribution of 119 Centers of Excellence among scientific fields



The D NRF has so far funded 119 centers.

At the moment 39 centers are active.

Selection and Assessment of New Centers of Excellence



Criteria

Excellence remains the overall criteria. The following dimensions are emphasized when assessing the applications:

- The idea
- The center leader
- The team
- The structure/organization

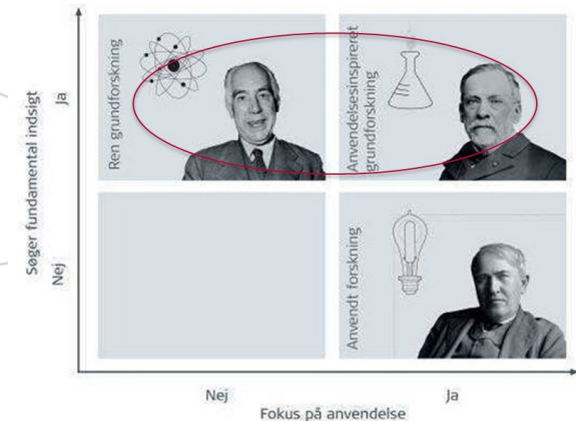


The idea

The research

- must have high scientific quality
- must be ambitious, visionary
- must be original and novel
- potentially ground-breaking research within all fields

DNRF wants to support bottom-up driven 'dream projects'



(Fra: Donald E. Stokes, Pasteur's Quadrant, Basic Science and Technological Innovation, 1997)

The center leader



- An excellent and outstanding scientist with high international standing
- A visionary leader capable of fostering a creative and dynamic research environment
- Someone who can build the right team and inspire others to deliver their best performance

Leadership is essential !

Co-applicants

Co-applicants are to be considered senior/key personnel:

- Must contribute substantially to the science
- Play an active and critical role in the success of the proposed endeavor
- Devote a specified percentage of her/his time to the center throughout the funding period

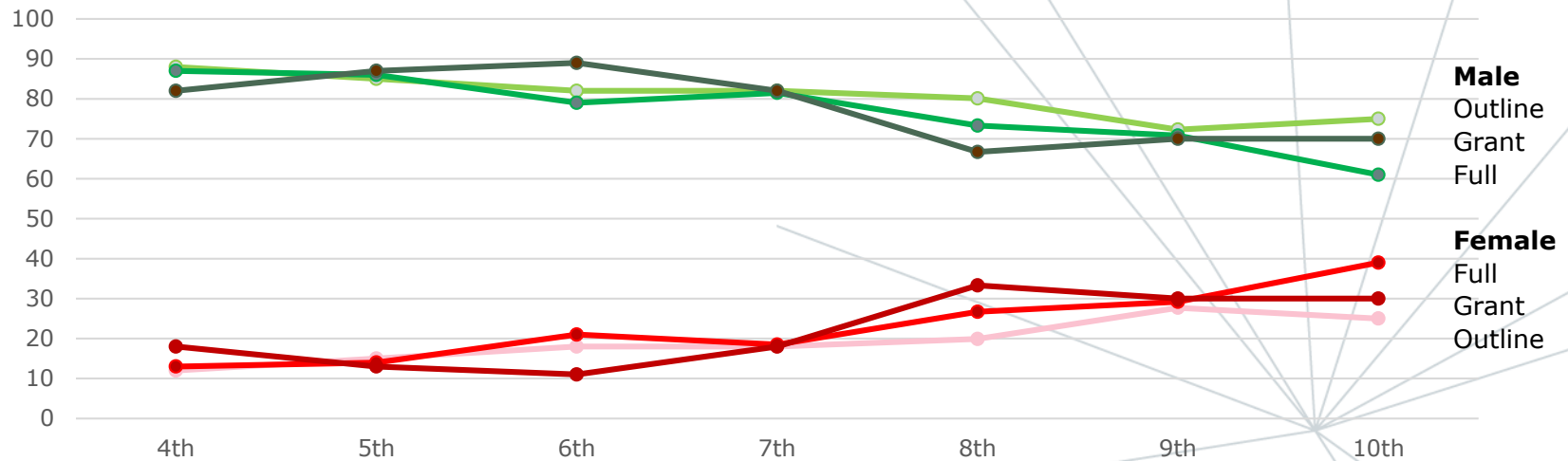
Host institution

Centers should demonstrate a clear center identity in harmony with the host institution

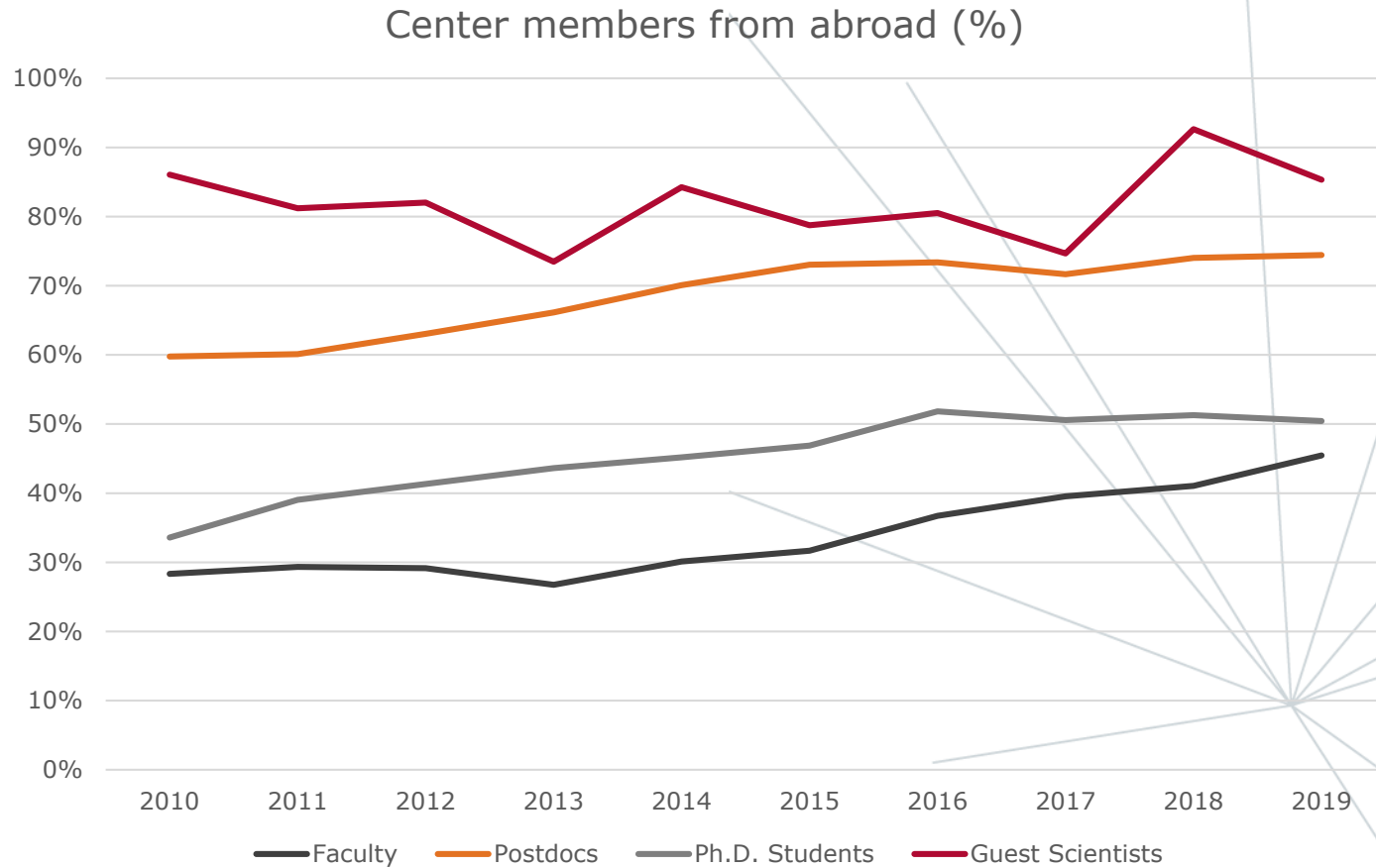
- The foundation expects research and new results from the center to spill over to the host environment
 - educational activities
 - interactions with other research groups
- Commitment from the host institution in terms of
 - high level of financial commitment
 - office and laboratory space

Female scientists are very welcome to apply!

Gender of proposed center leader in % at outline proposal, full proposals and grants



International hubs





Outline proposals - 5 pages only

An **argument** (1,500 characters)

- How will the proposed endeavor redefine the research field?
- Which new insights and results may it produce?
- Why this proposed team?

A short **description** (1,500 characters)

- To be used to identify peer reviewers

Presentation of the **research idea** compared with “state of the art” and a **strategy** for how to reach the goals (10,000 characters)

- Organization
- Competences/capacities incl. roles of co-applicants
- Methodologies and approaches
- How to establish a creative and dynamic research environment

Full proposals – 15 pages – peer review

The outline proposal is developed into full proposal – 15 pages

In-depth peer review

3 written peer reviews are collected.

The peers are chosen based on recommendations from external or internal sources.

The applicant is heard on the list of proposed reviewers' professional complementarity and again on the reviews.

Peer review - basic principles

- **Fairness**

- 'Equal treatment' of all proposals
- No overlap in peer reviewers

- **Quality**

- True peers
- Well argued reviews (not reduced to numbers, ranking/grading)

- **Transparency**

- 'Double open'
- Extensive consultation procedure



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Interview with applicants

- 25 minutes
- Center leader gives a presentation (~10 min)
- Discussion with the board –
 - ...

Contract negotiation - inauguration

The DNRF and the center leader negotiate with the host institution.

New centers may be operating starting in the fall of 2022



Tips

- The DNRF board is your target group at first
- Explain how the project will redefine science and why exactly your outline proposal/application should get funded
- Be ambitious, daring and original
- Be concrete – envision daily life in the center
- Ask advice from present and former center leaders
- Do not hesitate to contact the DNRF secretariat for advice

Contact Information

Please contact the D NRF secretariat if you have any questions about the application process.

Questions may be directed to:

- CEO Søren-Peter Olesen, e-mail: spo@dg.dk, tel.:3318 1950
- Senior Adviser Johanne Juhl Ryø, e-mail: jj@dg.dk, tel.:3318 1951
- Senior Adviser Mette Müller, e-mail: mm@dg.dk, tel.:3318 1957

Fortællinger fra Grundforskningens Grænseland

- 25 portraits of some of the researchers who are conducting basic research in Denmark in 2020 and, at the same time, provides insight into what drives them (in Danish)
- A collaboration with the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters.
- Written by Professor Stine Falsig Pedersen





The DNRF Photo Competition 2020



