

AGRO FUNDING DAY 2024 AU VIBORG



AARHUS UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF AGROECOLOGY

28 NOVEMBER 2024

PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND FUNDRAISERS @ AGRO



WHY AN AGRO FUNDING DAY?

Jørgen E. Olesen *by proxy*



AARHUS UNIVERSITY
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28 NOVEMBER 2024

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RATIONALE



100% EXTERNAL
FUNDING

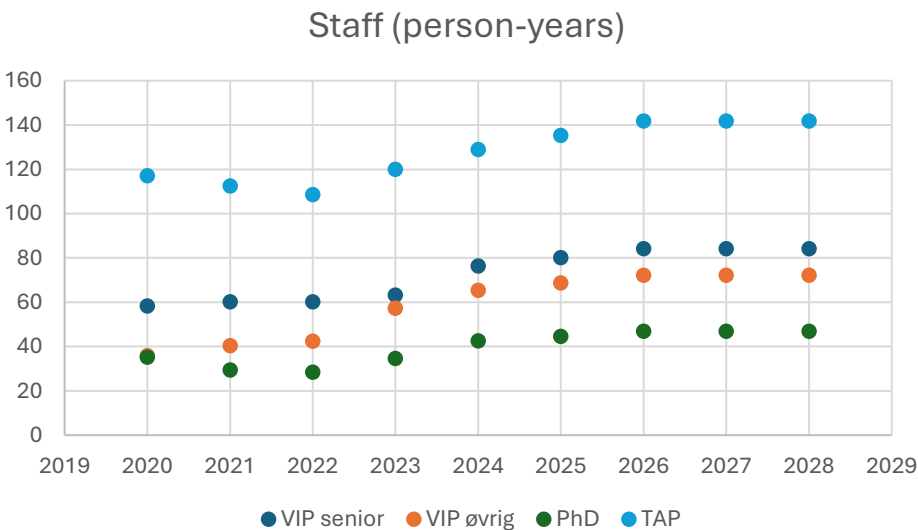
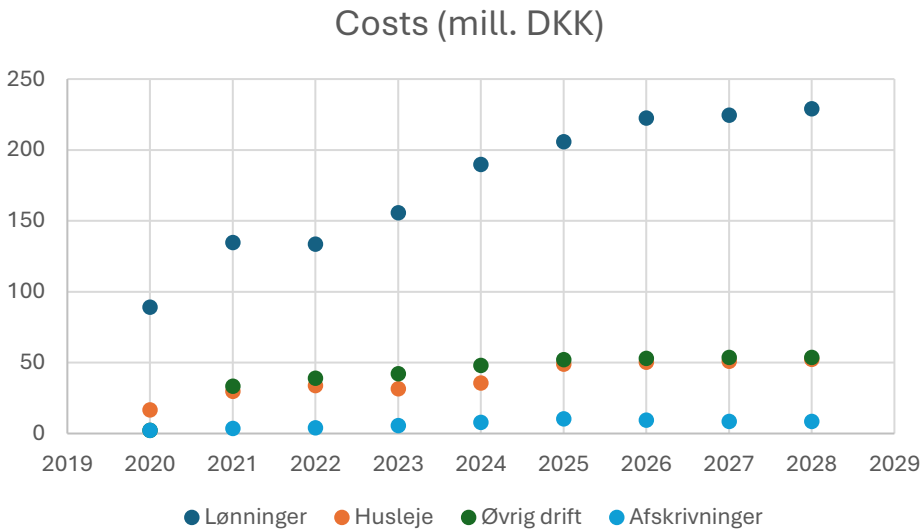
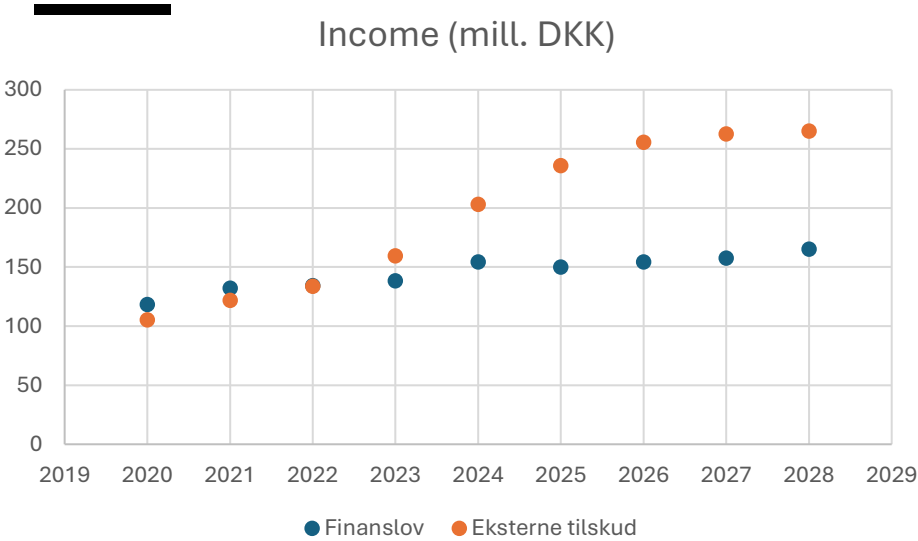


EXPECTED GROWTH

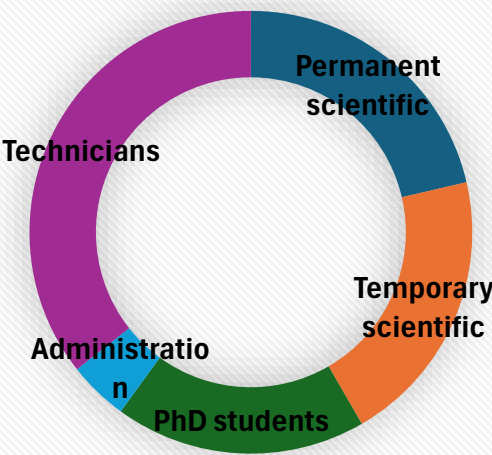


MORE FUNDING?

DEPARTMENT ECONOMY AND STAFFING

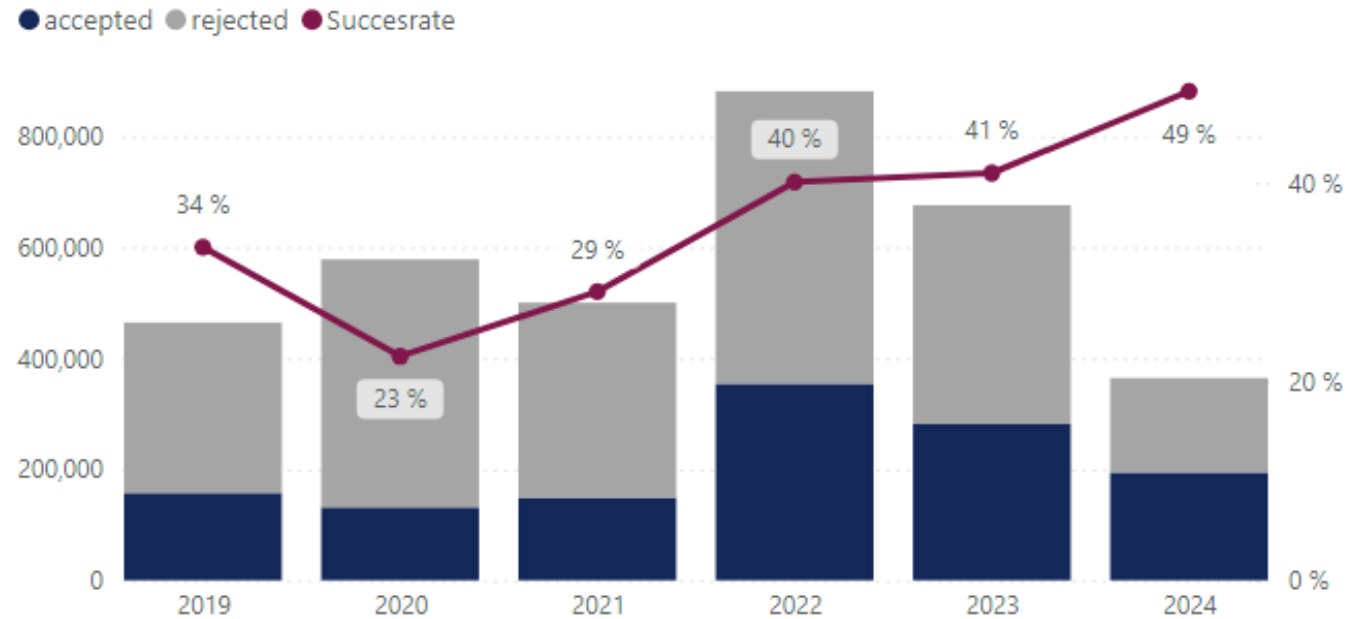


Department of Agroecology has 365 staff

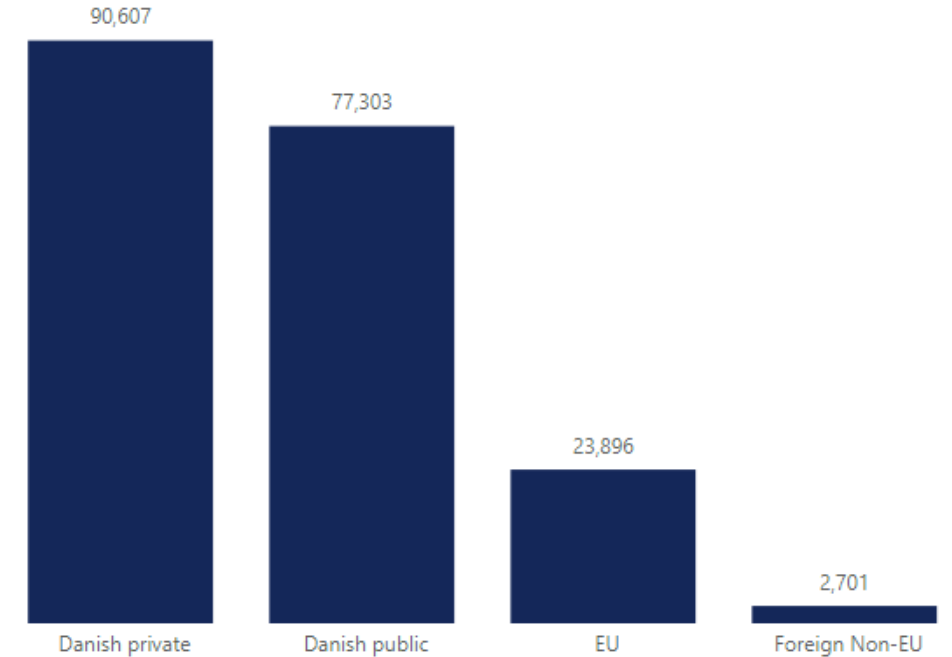


EXTERNAL FUNDING (REAP)

Ansøgninger fordelt på år (beløb)



Bevilliget beløb fordelt på kategorier for



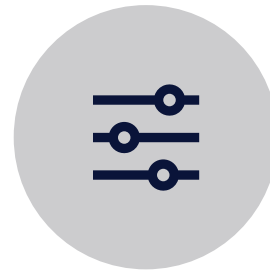
AGENDA



INTERNAL
PROCEDURES



FUNDING
OVERVIEW
2025



IMPACTFUL
APPLICATIONS



TARGETED
SESSIONS



AARHUS
UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF AGROECOLOGY

AGRO FUNDING DAY @FOULUM
28 NOVEMBER 2024

ISABELLA MARIE LEONG
PROJEKTLÉDER



OUTCOMES



KNOWLEDGE OF
FUNDING OPTIONS IN
2025



KNOWLEDGE OF
INTERNAL PROCEDURES



HIGHER SUCCESS RATE

The AGRO Research Funding Team



Isabella Marie Leong



Anne Krog Ingerslev



Anne Sofie Nielsen



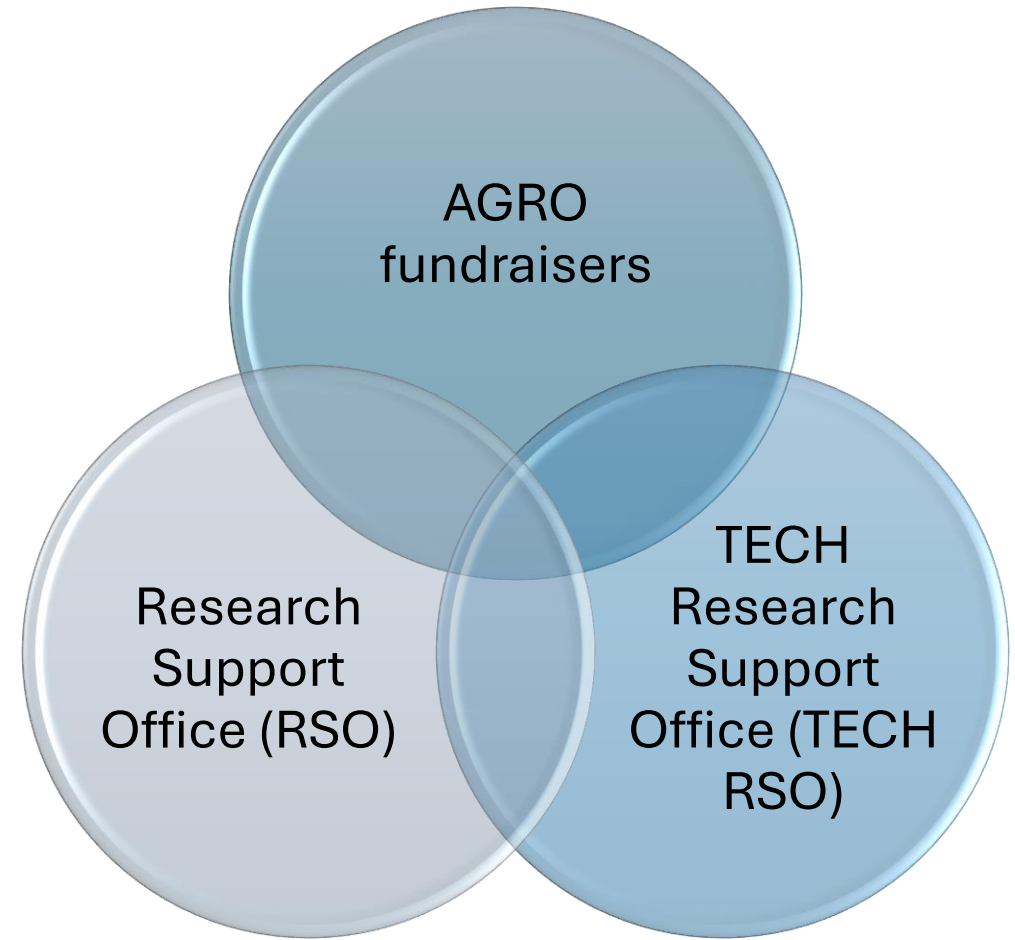
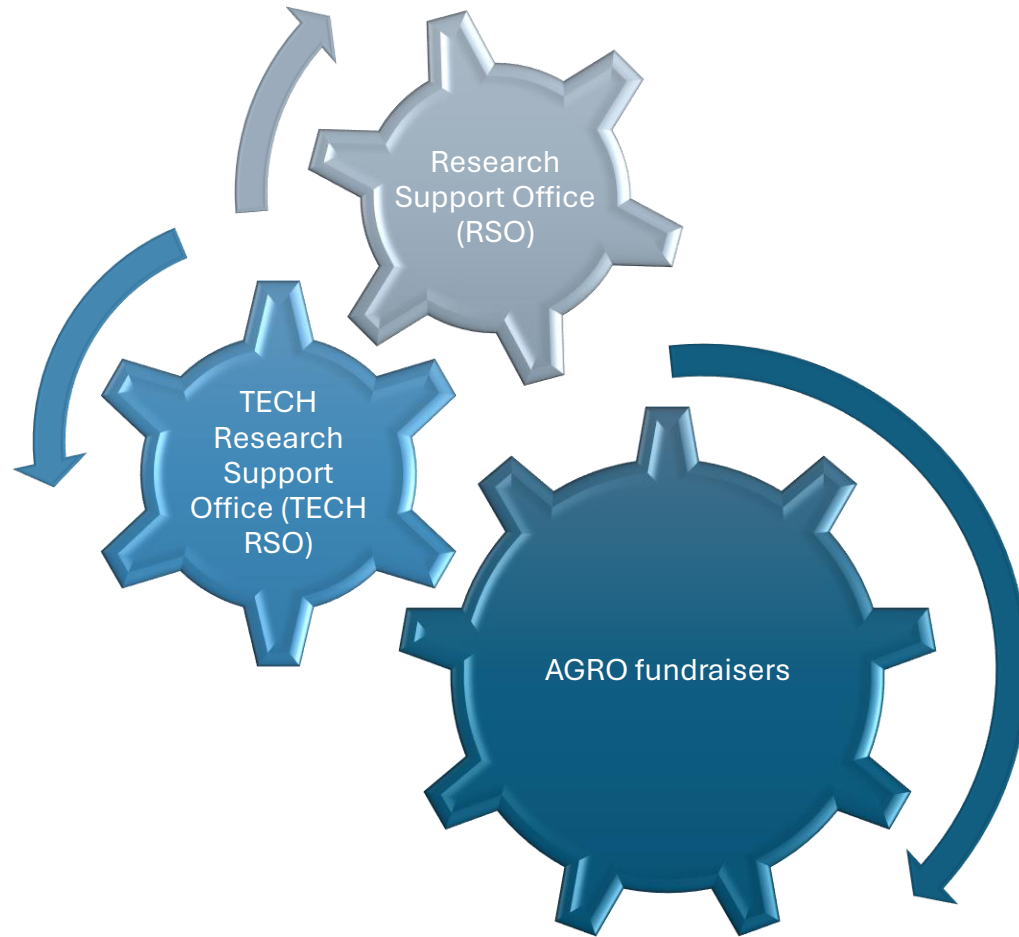
Lea Kjærgaard Eriksen

OBJECTIVES OF THE TEAM

1. To establish a professional research funding support structure for researchers, both early-stage career and more established staff
2. To support the delivery of strategic projects for the department
3. To raise the success rate of submitted applications, through competence acquisition and support



FUNDING SUPPORT AT AU





In 2025, we
will...

- Run support processes for Sapere Aude, DFF 1 and 2, Green Research
- Funding Days in December
- A flurry of events/ webinars/ info sessions over the year
- And setting up internal processes



... Late 2025

- Support to strategic applications (e.g. HEU, Grand solutions)
- Increased number of funds and processes supported
- Support processes in place (e.g., reviewer and applicant pools)
- More targeted information events, and a dynamic information platform on teams



APPLICATION SUPPORT AT TECH

UNIFORM SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH APPLICATION BUDGETS AT TECH

- A collaboration between departments, Nat-Tech Finance, RSO and Tech Research Support

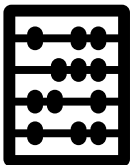
NEW INITIATIVES FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2025



- ☐ Application support at RSO is shared with the faculties – Tech Research Support has taken over part of the portfolio and the support hereof.



- ☐ The four engineering departments have not yet received support for application budgets – all departments must have the same level of support.



- ☐ The faculty management wants a uniform support across Tech – this applies to both consultancy and the budget template.

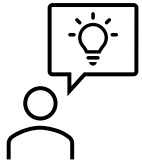
TECH APPLICATION PROCESS – ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- LIKELY TO BE AGREED UPON 4 DECEMBER (FAC.MAN MEETING)

Researcher	Dept. Research Committee	Dept. Research Coordinator	Tech Research Support	Nat-Tech Finance	RSO
• Generates ideas • Decides funding source (in dialogue with RC) • Prepares budget • Writes proposal	• Provides feedback on project ideas • Reviews the grant applications (or designates reviewers)	• Organises pitch sessions • Facilitates review /feedback • Has overview of funding instruments and calls • Checks formalities re: application	• Hosts info meetings • Organises mock interviews • Develop and maintain overview of funding opportunities and specific programme guidelines • Ongoing contact to the foundations • Supports the dept. research coordinators	• Quality assures application budgets in relation to formalities, i.e., overhead percentages, salary rates, etc.	• Supports HEU applications (including budgets) • Supports IFD (Grand Solutions and Innomissions) • Danida • NordForsk • American foundations, e.g. NIH

Support from whom?

Researcher/
Applicant



The Department/Research Coordinator



RSO (full support: budget, application and formalities)

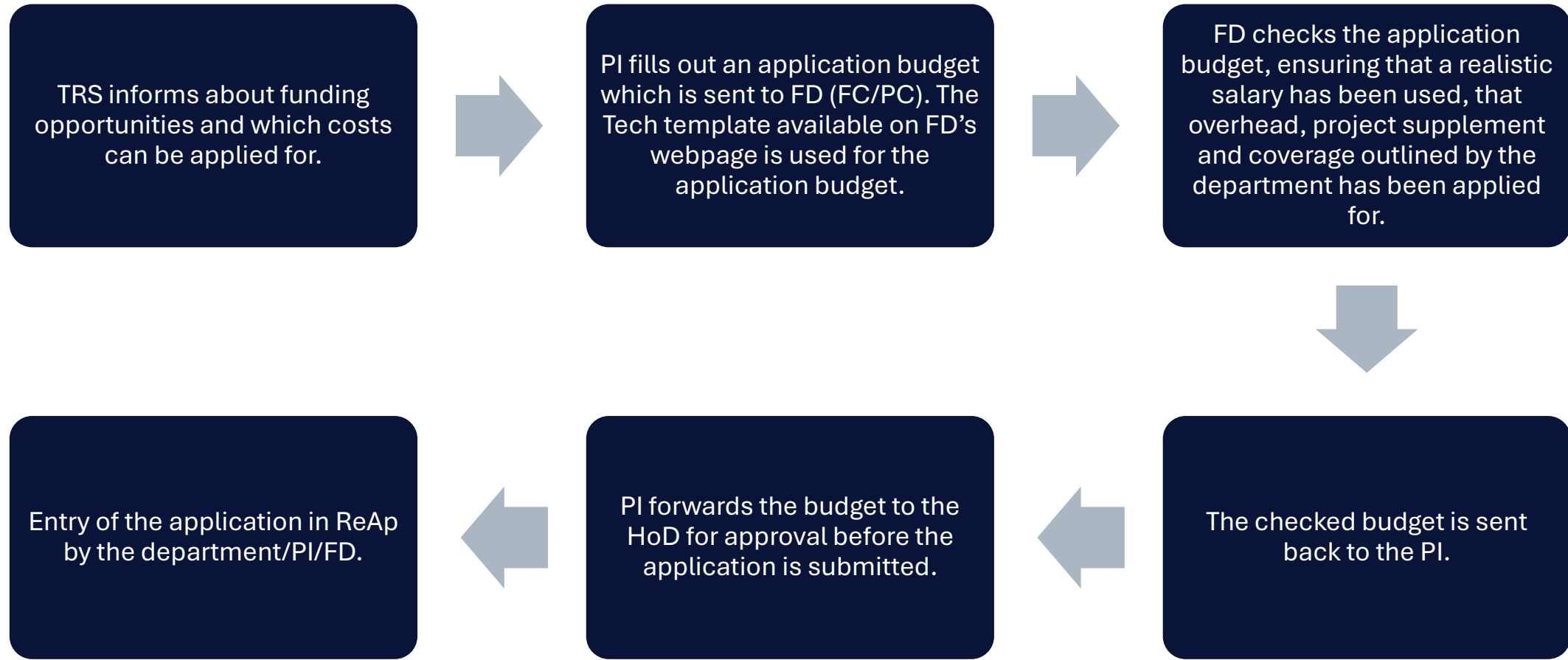
Facilitates check of application, formalities on everything not RSO-supported

Nat-Tech Finance checks all non RSO-supported budgets

Approval from HoD

HEU, IFD, etc.

Work procedure as of February 1, 2025



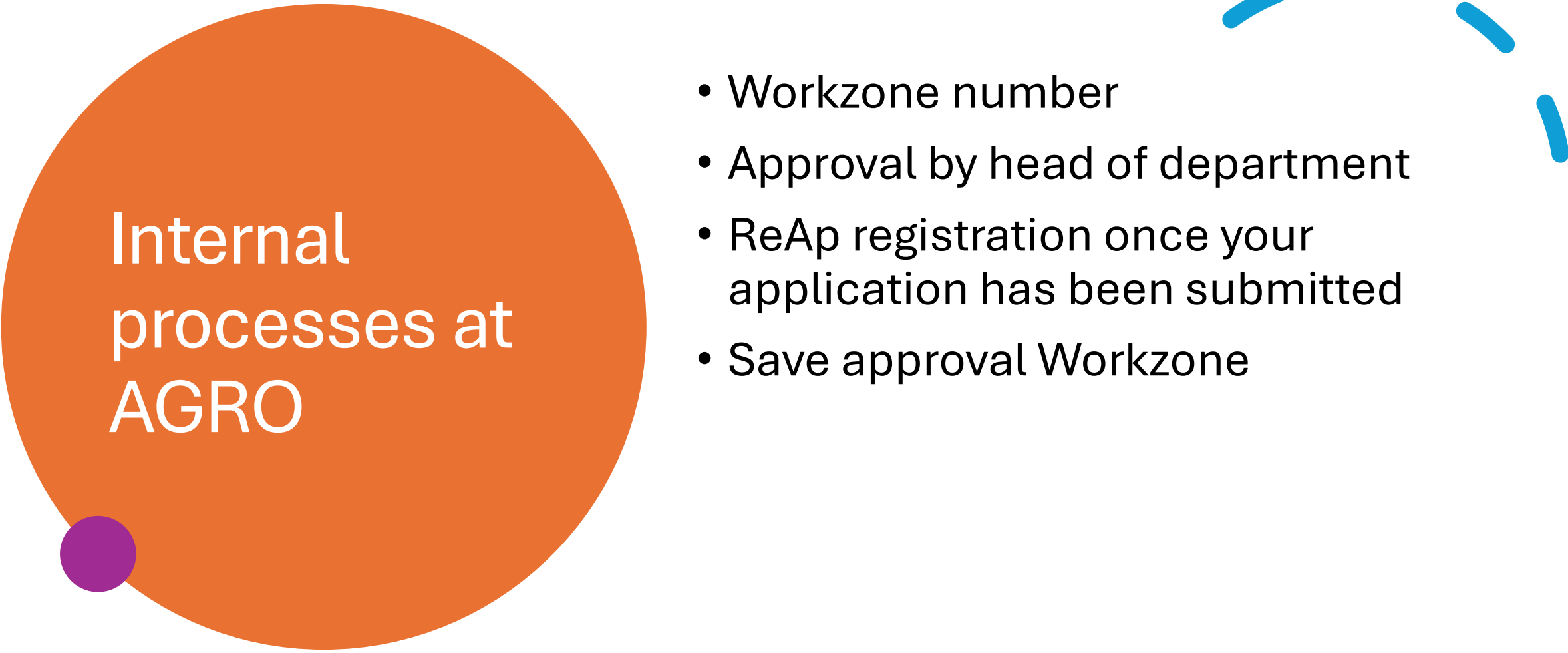
Who do I contact?



- If you have questions about the funding landscape and specific instruments – contact the department’s Research Coordinator.
- If you have questions about the check/validation of the application budget – contact your PC/FC.
- If you have questions about applications within HEU and IFD – contact RSO.

BUDGETS

Betina Sehested Gade
NAT/TECH financial controller



Internal processes at AGRO

- Workzone number
- Approval by head of department
- ReAp registration once your application has been submitted
- Save approval Workzone

Workzone & ReAp

- When you start working in an application – **ask your section coordinator to create a Workzone number** for you
 - For filing budgets, decisions (approval/rejection), and other important communications
 - *Pre-award*: File the final application in WorkZone
 - *Post-award*: Inform the project controller/Project finance administrator and section coordinator
 - File contracts, reports and other relevant material here during the project period
 - *Your responsibility*
- ReAp – your section coordinator will:
 - Register your application in ReAp

Department procedures

- Start early
- Make sure to read the guidelines carefully
- **Budget approval by the financial controller** (Carsten Sødrup)
 - Include internal budget
 - Include funders budget
 - Expect one day for approval
- Send information to head.agro@au.dk at **least three working days** before application deadline (NB: busy calendars...)
 - Approved budget
 - Cover sheet

Best advice: Don't start on the administrative tasks last minute...

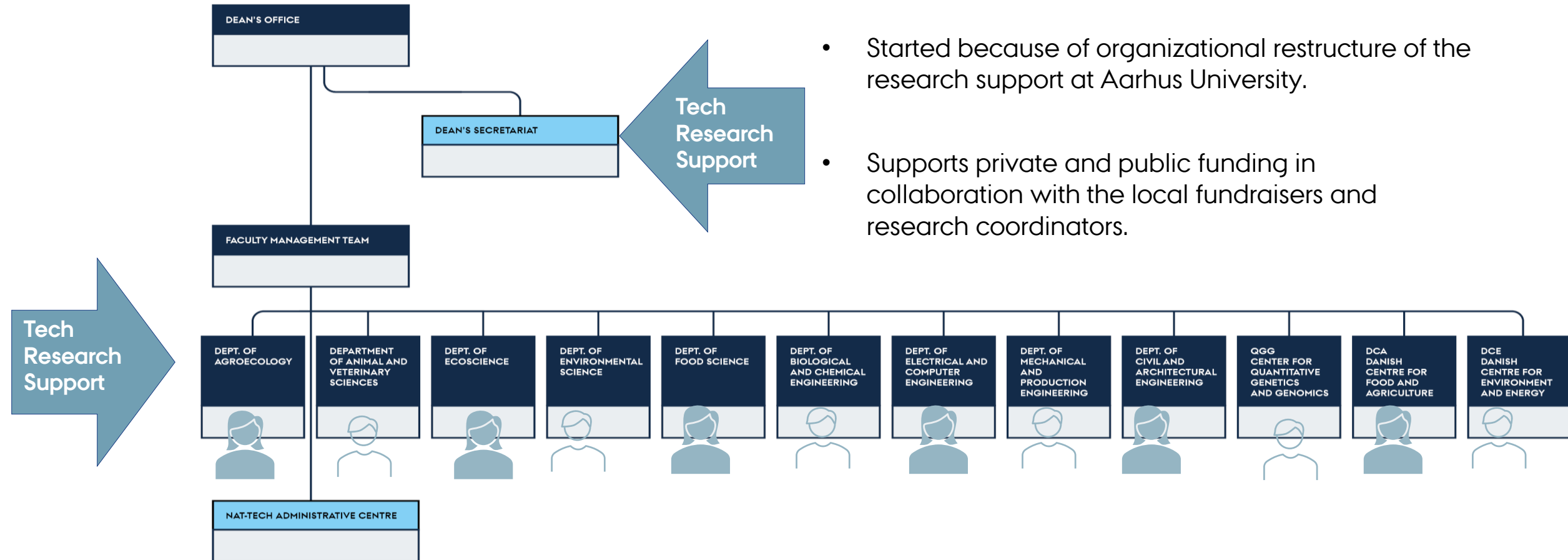
Useful links

- <https://agro.medarbejdere.au.dk/en/project-management> (cover sheet and (new?) budget template)
- https://agro.medarbejdere.au.dk/fileadmin/DJF/Agro/Medarbejderportal_AGRO/Personale/Procedurer/Step-by-step.pdf (
- https://agro.medarbejdere.au.dk/fileadmin/DJF/Agro/Medarbejderportal_AGRO/Ekstern_finansiering/Forretningsgang_i_AGRO_projektarbejdsgang_engelsk_2024.pdf (*Research project – from idea to reporting*)
- <https://medarbejdere.au.dk/en/administration/hr/hr-systemer/workzone/guides> (*Workzone*)

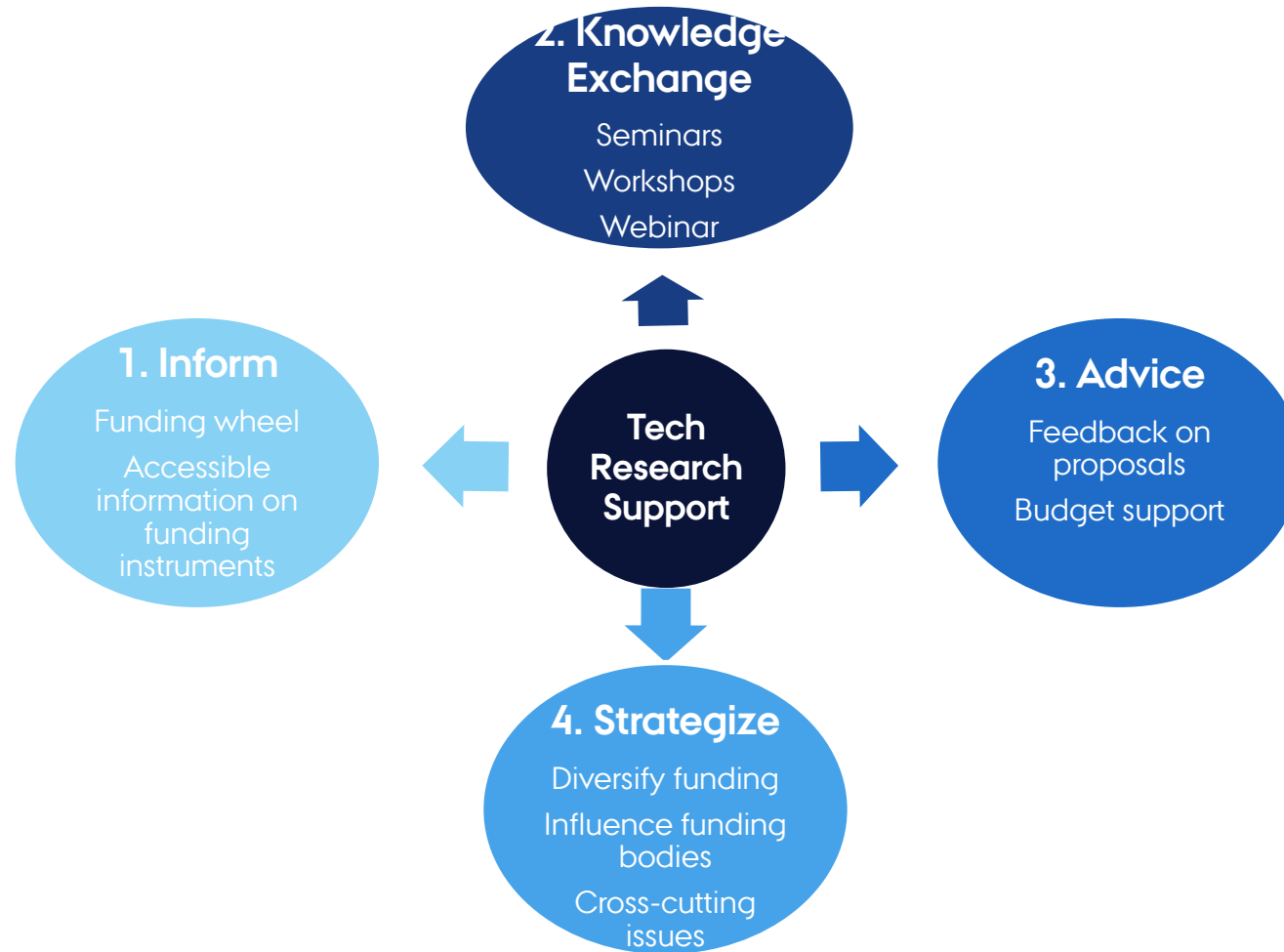
OVERVIEW OF DFF AND PRIVATE FUNDING CALLS 2025

TRS IN THE FACULTY OF TECHNICAL SCIENCES

- Assist coordinating efforts across the Tech departments. Since the 1st of February 2024.
- Started because of organizational restructure of the research support at Aarhus University.
- Supports private and public funding in collaboration with the local fundraisers and research coordinators.

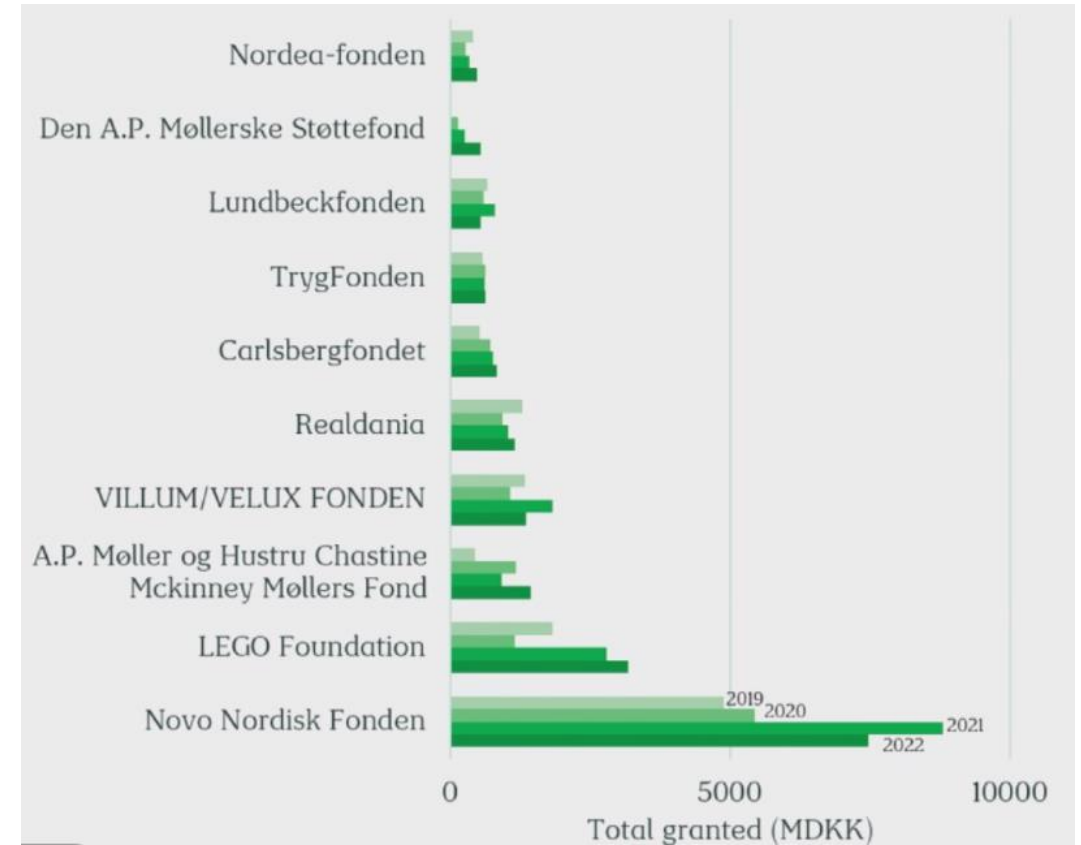


OUR MISSION – SUPPORT THE RESEARCH COORDINATOR



PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS IN DENMARK

- ❑ Comparison between annual awards
- ❑ IFRD 1,7 billion DKK in 2023
- ❑ IFD 1,6 billion DKK in 2023
- ❑ Novo Nordisk, Villum, Carlsberg and Lundbeck biggest on research.
- ❑ Novo Nordisk and Villum are important for the technical sciences and the green transition



HORIZON EUROPE AS A PRISM

Pillar I - Bottom-up	Pillar II - Top-down	Pillar III - Commercialization
▪ Often PI-driven ▪ Curiosity and discovery driven ▪ Lower on TRL ▪ Dissemination to peers important ▪ E.g. ERC, IFRD Sapere Aude, Villum Young Investigator	▪ Often collaboration ▪ Policy-driven ▪ Higher on TRL ▪ Impact very important ▪ E.g. EUDP, GUDP, IFD InnoMissions and many more	▪ Often collaboration with industry ▪ Highest on TRL ▪ Commercialisation & implementation very important ▪ Scale-up ▪ E.g. EIC pathfinder, Market Development Fund

HOW NOVO NORDISK AWARDS GRANTS

Pillar I

Open Competition

- Challenge programme
- Career grants
- Postdoctoral Fellowships
- Interdisciplinary Synergy Programmes
- Project grants

Pillar II

Strategic and mission-driven

- E.g. research centres, academies, own initiatives
- BII, LIFE,
- ReNEW, CORC
- Data Science Academy
- Centre for Digital Technology Understanding

Pillar II

Partnerships

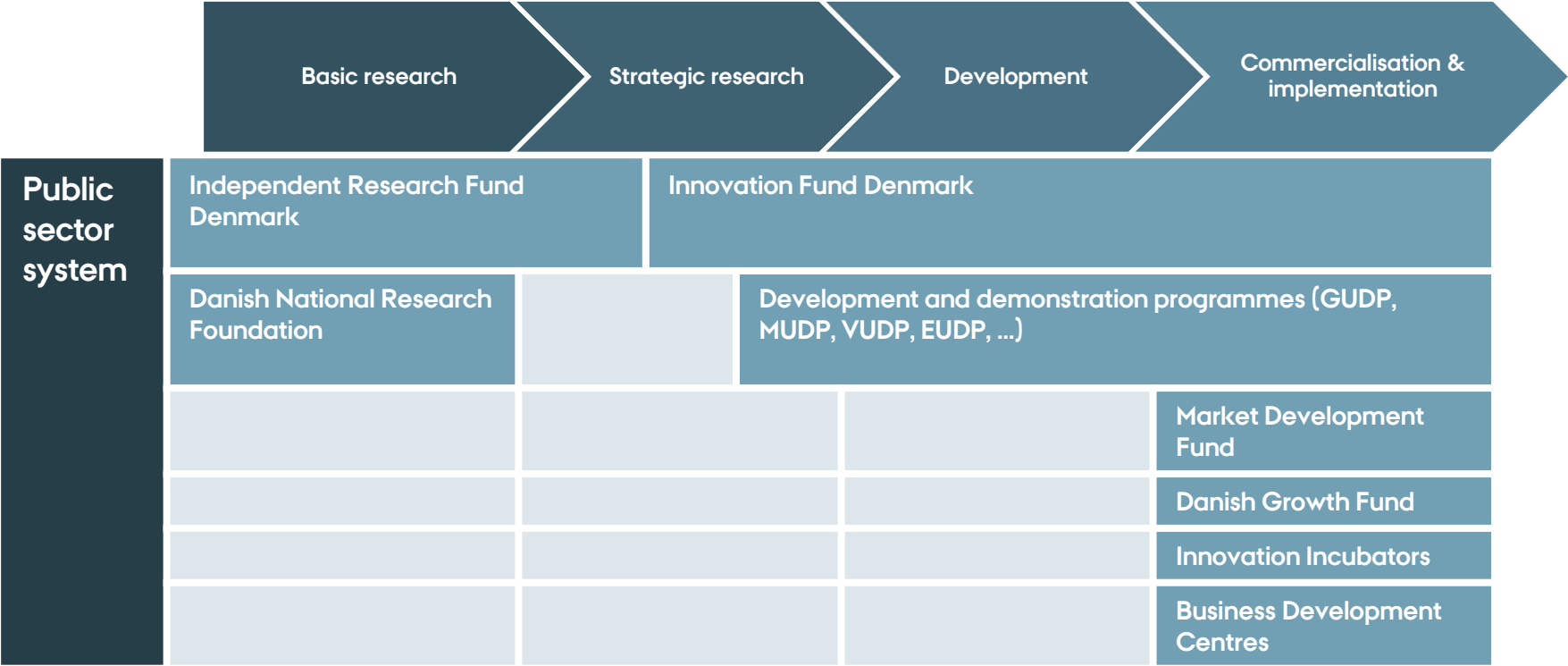
- E.g. public-private, privateprivate, etc
- Steno Diabetes Centres
- Partnerships with: Danish Refugee Council, UNICEF, World Diabetes Foundation
- PAD partnership with Gates Foundation among others

Pillar III

Impact and strategic investments

- E.g. impact bond, equity loans, etc.
- EXAMPLES
- Repair Impact Fund
- AMR Action Fund
- Den Sociale Kapitalfond Invest

DANISH PUBLIC FUNDING LANDSCAPE



ACADEMIC CAREER PATHS – AS A PRISM



FOCUS THIS AFTERNOON

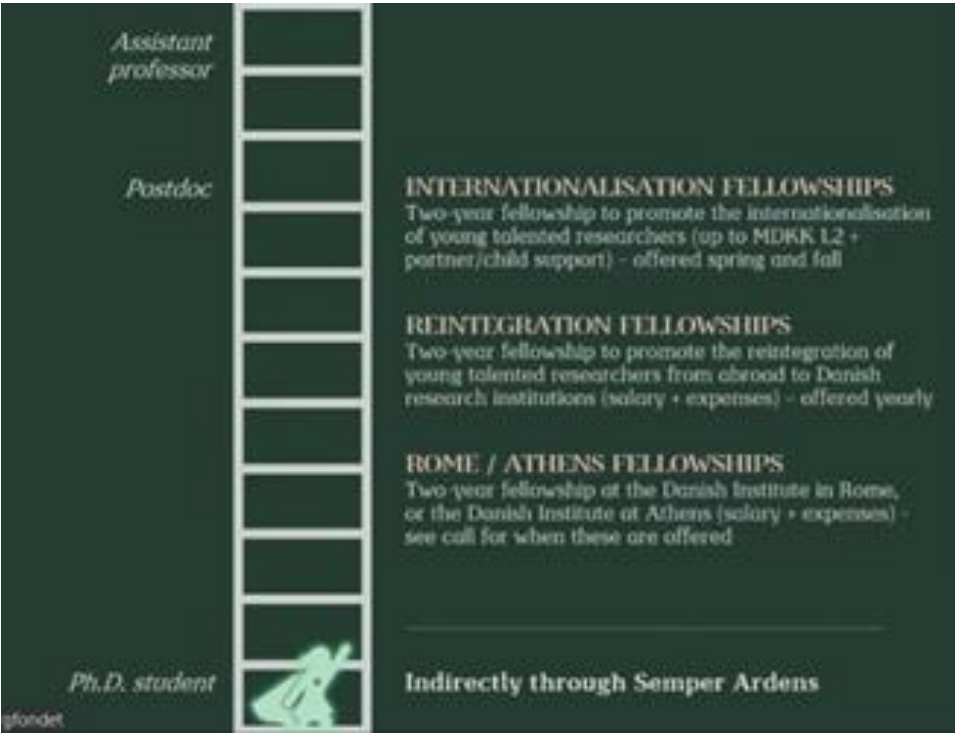
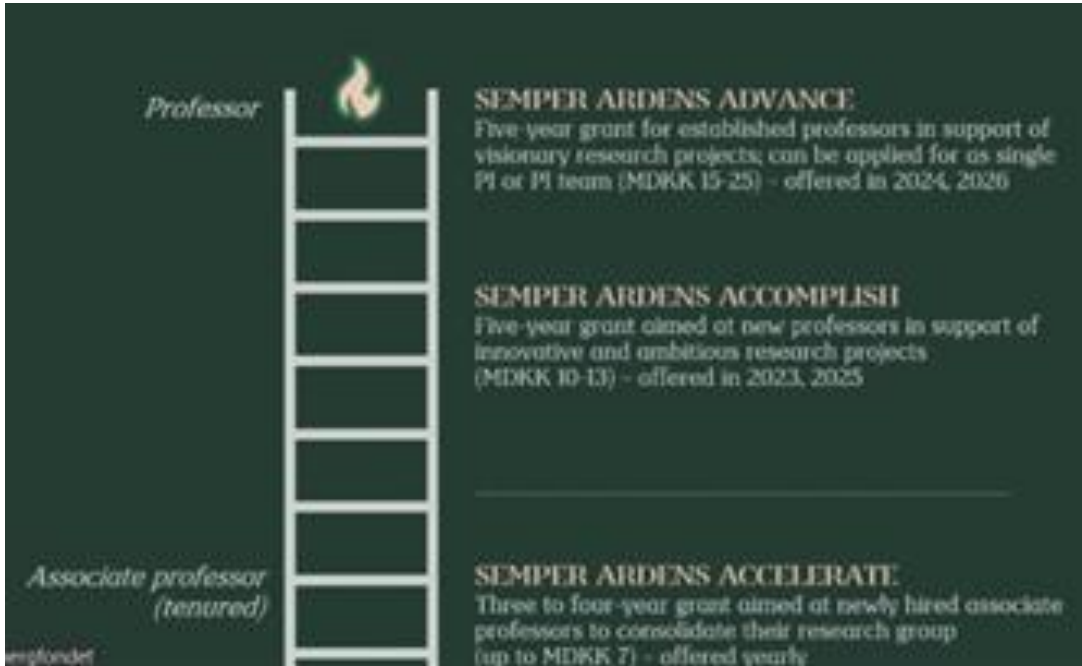
Postdoc

- IRFD international postdoc
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship
- IFD industrial post.doc.
- Carlsberg Fellowships
- Novo Nordisk Foundation (NNF)

Establishing

- Villum Young Investigator
- IRFD Sapere Aude
- ERC Starting Grant
- NNF Emerging Investigator
- Lundbeck Fellowship
- Carlsberg Semper Ardens - Accelerate
- IRFD – RP 1
- IFRD – Inge Lehmann

CARLSBERG CAREER LADDER



FORSKNINGSRESERVEN 2025

Budget item	2025 mio.kr.	2024 mio.kr.	Relevance	Support	Distributor
1.1 Grønne missioner: PtX, CCUS, landbrug og cirkulær økonomi	320	320	All dep.	RSO	IFD
1.2 Grøn forskning, teknologi og innovation – Danmarks Innovationsfond	360	340	All dep.	RSO	IFD
1.3 Grøn forskning – Danmarks Frie Forskningsfond	150	136	All dep.	RC/TRS	IFRD (DFF)
1.6 EUDP, MUDP, GUDP	468	482,9	All dep.	RC/TRS	UDP
1.8 Styrket udvikling og implementering af klimateknologier i landbruget	500	New	DCE, AGRO, ANIVET, DCA, QGG	RC/TRS	MGT/EM / KEFM
1.9 Forskning i plantebaserede fødevarer – Danmark som foregangsland	75	Newish	FOOD, AGRO, BCE, ANIVET, QGG	RC/TRS	FVM/GUDP
2.1 Kritiske og digitale teknologier – Danmarks Innovationsfond	369	370	ECE	RSO	IFD
2.3 Rumforskning og deltagelse i Den Europæiske Rumorganisation (ESA)	231	New	ECE	RSO /TRS	IFD/ESA
2.7 Bioteknologi og biosolutions	140	54	BCE, AGRO, FOOD, ANIVET, QGG	RC/TRS	GUDP
3.1 Life science, sundhed og velfærdsteknologi	320,5	316,5	DEKANAT, BCE, FOOD, AGRO, QGG, ANIVET	RSO	IFD

Questions



AU RESEARCH SUPPORT OFFICE

Anne Birgitte Lindgren, RSO

RSO FUNDING OVERVIEW 2025

Deadline (some tentative)

Workshop/Masterclass/Webinar

Mock interview

2025														
Funder	Council/Theme	Instrument	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
EU Horizon Europe	Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions	Doctoral Networks											27	
		Postdoctoral Fellowships									11			
	European Research Council (ERC)	Starting Grant				Late	Middle					15		
		Consolidator Grant	14							Middle	Middle			
		Advanced Grant	Middle							28				
		Synergy Grant								Middle			6	
		Proof of Concept Grant	16	6	13						18			
	Global Challenges - Cluster 6	Call 1						Beginning		Middle	17			
		Call 2						Beginning		Middle	4			
		Call 3						Beginning		Middle	24			
	EU Soil Mission							Beginning		Middle		1		
	European Innovation Council	Pathfinder Open	22			Beginning	21							
		Pathfinder Challenges											29	
Innovationfund Denmark	Grand Solutions	Thematic call				Expected								17+18
	Industrial Researcher	Industrial PhD/Postdoc (private) Thematic									12			
		Industrial PhD/Postdoc (public) Thematic									12			
DG		Centre of Excellence												
NordForsk	Thematic Calls	???												
		Sustainable Health and Social Care Systems for Elderly		20										
DANIDA	Development Research (Two-Stage)	Climate Change and the Environment	29								3			
		Global Health	29								3			



AGRO SUPPORT

Anne Sofie Nielsen, AGRO

Lea Kjærgaard Eriksen, AGRO

PROGRAMS UNDER GUDP



GUDP has two ordinary application rounds each year. In addition, special pools for, for example, ecology, climate technology or the like are announced as separate application rounds.



Organic RDD research funds

- A total funding of up to approx. DKK 55 million for Organic RDD 11



FutureFoodS

- The vision of the partnership is to find a direction for environmentally friendly, socially safe and fair, economically viable, healthy and safe food systems in Europe by 2050



Agroecology

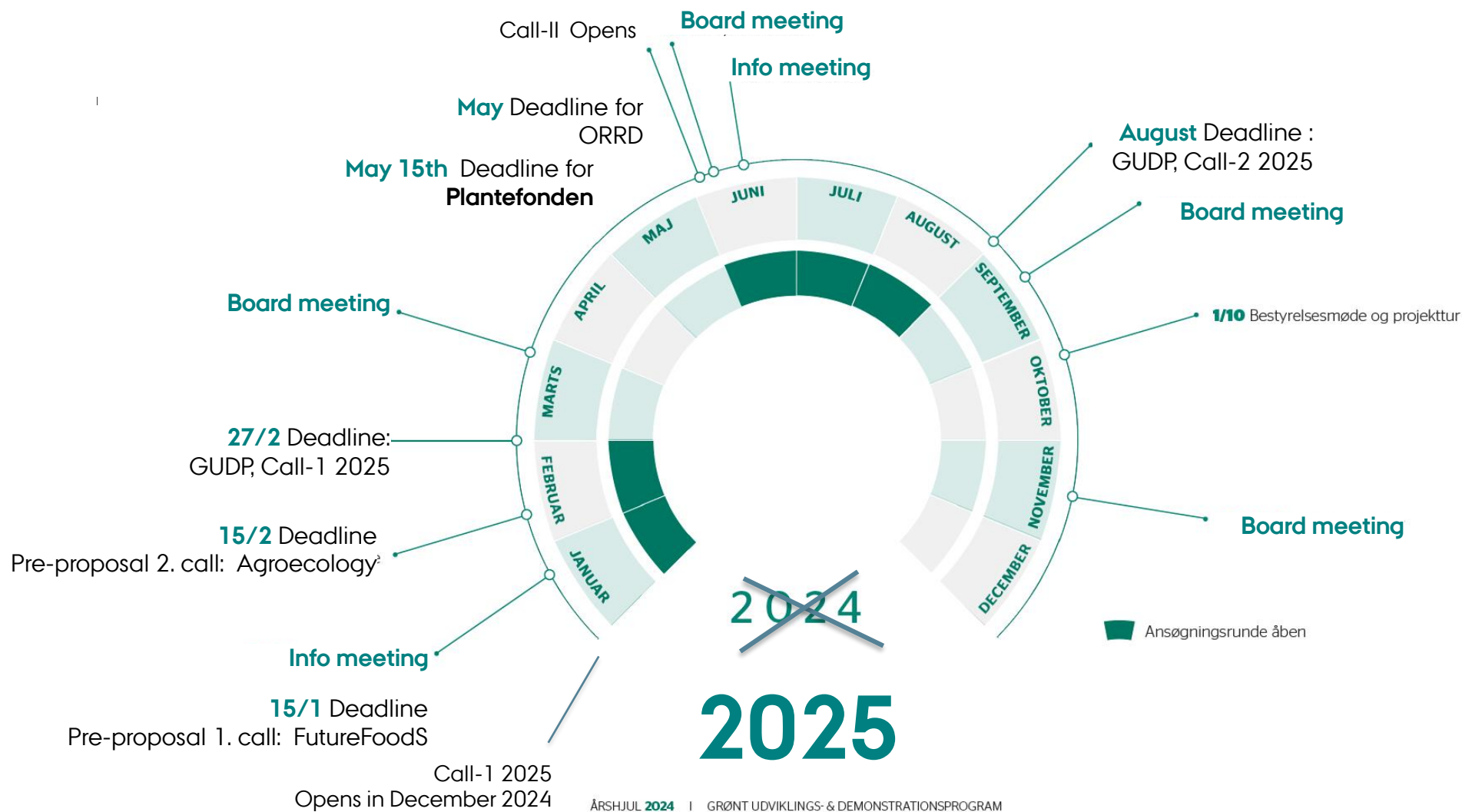
- Fostering Agroecology at Farm and Landscape Levels



Plantefonden

- Support a more plant-based food culture and to make Danish plant-based foods an attractive choice in Denmark and abroad

ÅRSHJUL 2024



ÅRSHJUL 2024 | GRØNT UDVIKLINGS- & DEMONSTRATIONSPROGRAM

NFF GRANTS RELEVANT FOR AGRO

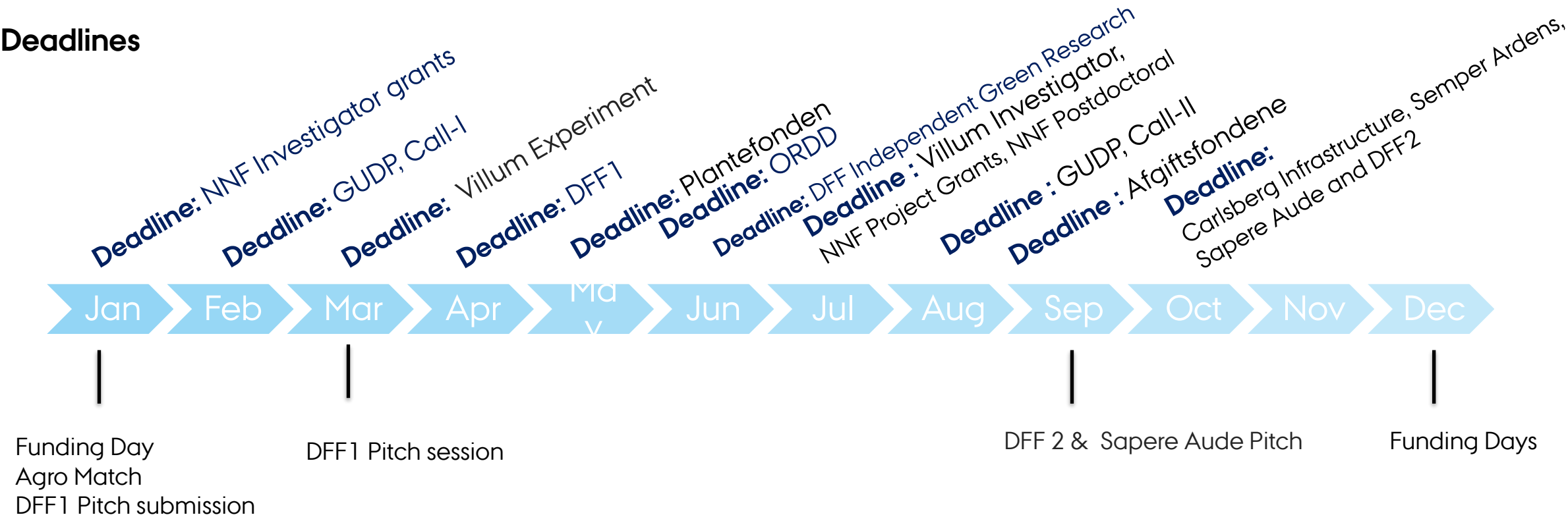
Large collaborative Grants	Data Science Collaborative Research Projects	March 2025
	Challenge Programmes	Expected September 2025
	Interdisciplinary Synergy Programmes	Expected September 2025
Projects Grants	Project Grant - Plant Science, Agriculture and Food Biotechnology (Nordics)	Expected August 2025
Research Career programmes	Investigator Grants (In Plant Science only Emerging and Ascending)	10 January 2025
	Postdoc Fellowships	Expected August 2025
	Start Package Grants	Quarterly (4 per year) - 4 February 2025
	Recruit Grant	Expected March 2025
	Sabbatical Grant	Expected March 2025
Infrastructure Grants	Exploratory Research Instrumentation Programme	9 January 2025
	Large Equipment and Facilities	9 January 2025
	Equipment Upgrade Programme	9 January 2025
Innovation Grants	Distinguished Innovator	March & August
	Pioneer Innovator	March & August
Dissemination	Conferences, Symposia and Workshops	March & October 2025 (biannual)

NNF ANNUAL WHEEL 2025

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Exploratory Research Instrumentation Programme	Start Package Grants Quarterly (4 per year) - 4 February 2025	Data Science Collaborative Research Projects		Start Pack. Grant			Project Grant - Plant Science, Agriculture and Food Biotechnology(Nordics)	Challenge Programmes	Conferences, Symposia and Workshops Marc & October 2025 (biannual)	Start Pack. Grant	
Large Equipment and Facilities		Recruit Grant					Start Pack. Grant	Interdisciplinary Synergy Programmes			
Equipment Upgrade Programme		Sabbatical Grant					Expected September 2025				
		Distinguished Innovator					Distinguished Innovator				
Investigator Grants (In Plant Science only Emerging and Acending)		Pioneer Innovator					Pioneer Innovator				
		Conferences, Symposia and Workshops Marc & October (biannual)					Postdoc Fellowships				

AGRO FUNDING 2025

Deadlines



Events

11:30 – 12.00 WHAT MAKES AN APPLICATION STAND OUT/ THE GOOD APPLICATION

FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH

The Carlsberg Foundation



The Carlsberg Foundation supports basic research within natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities according to the Foundation Charter, Sect. 9.1. “Basic research” is in this context interpreted to mean curiosity-driven experimental or theoretical work undertaken primarily to acquire new knowledge of the underlying foundations of phenomena and observable facts. In this manner, basic research analyzes properties, structures, and relationships with a view to formulating and testing hypotheses, theories, or laws.

Novo Nordisk Fonden

Fundamental research is a prerequisite for development

We have always supported fundamental research because this creates the prerequisites for major breakthroughs. Fundamental research in the natural and technical sciences is also a prerequisite for developing a world-class life science ecosystem and for preparing the basis for new knowledge and groundbreaking discoveries that benefit people and society.

DFF AND FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH

Fundamental research that is primarily concerned with solving a specific development- and application-oriented problem, is covered by DFF | Technology and Production Sciences.

Council-specific conditions

For applications to **DFF | Technical and Production Sciences**, a further special criterion is applicable:
Is the project motivated by a desire to solve a specific problem, or does the project have a clear application-oriented perspective?

GENRE - A NEW WAY OF COMMUNICATING

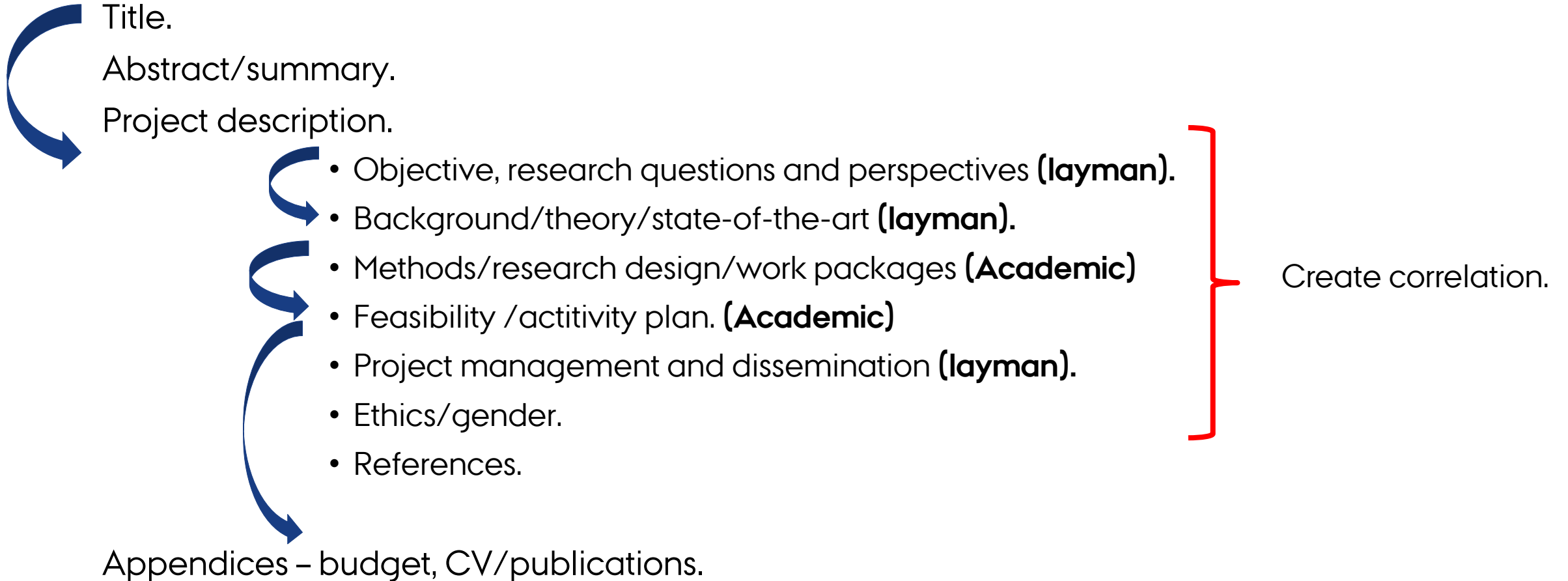
Academic writing	Grant Writing
Explains to the reader	Convinces the reader
Few length constraints	Strict length – brevity rewarded
Specialized terminology and jargon	Laymans writing - easily understood - accessible
Theme-centered (theory and thesis)	Project centered – objective and activities
To peers	To non-specialists (often)
Scholarly pursuit - Individual passion	Sponsor goals- Service attitude

Source: Why Academics Have a Hard Time Writing Good Grant Proposals
Robert Porter, Ph. D. 2007

TIPS FROM A SUCCESS FULL VILLUM YOUNG INVESTIGATOR

	Lenght	Genre
Motivation • Build up to key goal at the end of this section	~1 page	Layman
▪ State-of-the-art – ▪ How will you use your competitive edge to go beyond state-of-the-art? ▪ Scope out the area where you can compete – and highlight your independence.	~0,5 page	Layman
Methodology	~1 page	Academic
Work packages	~2,5 page	Academic
Project management and dissemination ▪ Stress international collaborators that can be used for exchange stays for PhD students.	~0,5 page	Layman
Impact and perspectives ▪ Not only scientific impact, also think ecosystem impact incl. training students and postdocs. ▪ Show excitement and vision	~0.5 page	Layman

RELATION OF THE ELEMENTS



THE RECIPIENT

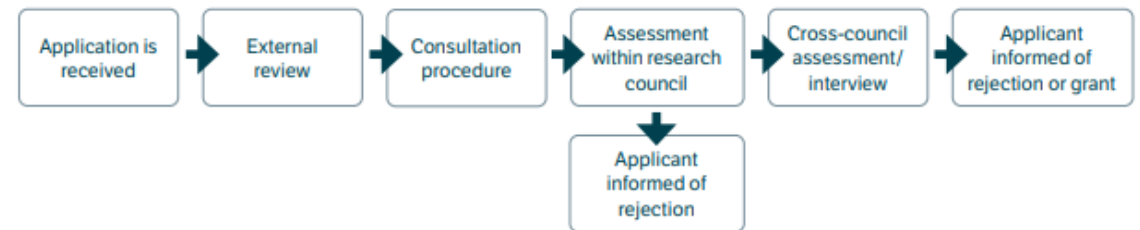
Evaluators:

- Often great researchers themselves.
- Possibly outside your field.
- Limited time to read your proposal (one hour).
- Fulltime jobs as professors.
- The first page is particularly important.
- Help them tick the boxes
- Remember Special requirements

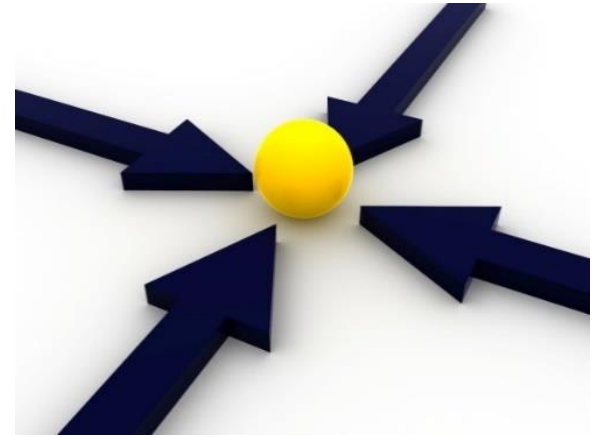
Villum Young Investigator Committee

- Chair Klaus Mølmer, Professor, Niels Bohr Institute, University of Copenhagen
- Catherine Heppell, Professor of Physical Geography, Queen Mary University of London
- Mikael Käll, Professor, Department of Physics, Chalmers University of Technology
- Mårten Ahlquist, Professor, Department of Theoretical Chemistry & Biology, KTH
- Owen Lewis, Professor of Ecology, Department of Zoology, University of Oxford
- Philip John Withers, Professor of Materials Science, The University of Manchester
- Rüdiger Urbanke, Professor, Communication Science Section EPFL
- Stine Helene Falsig Pedersen, Professor, Department of Biology, University of Copenhagen
- Søren Fournais, Professor, Dept. of Mathematical Sciences, University of Copenhagen

Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grant:



OBJECTIVE (AIM)



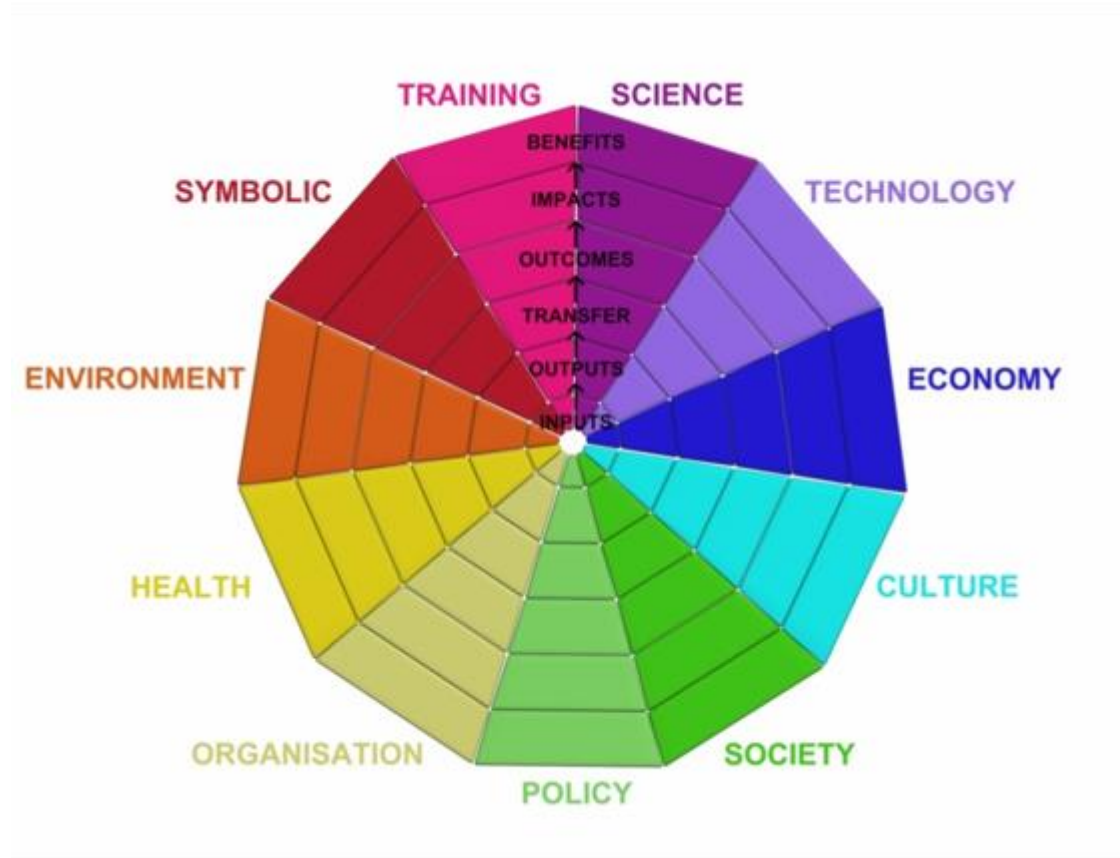
- Begin with an **overall** formulation of the project **aim/objective**.
- Break down into **specific aims/objectives/research questions/hypothesis**.
- Be sharp, precise, clear and show **relevance!**
- Must show **coherence** between the project aim and the **aim of the call/foundation**.

PERSPECTIVES – LONG TERM RELEVANCE

- What are the expected results/outcome of the project?
- Why is the project important?
 - Why the project need to be done now?
 - Who is interested in the project results and why?
- Does the project match the contents of the call?
- Strengthen your argument by using recognised sources, e.g political documents from governments, EU, UN Industrial organisations, NGO's and other interest groups.



TYPES OF IMPACT



Strategic Development Area: DEMAND DRIVE

The Plant Fund will help to support a greater demand for plant-based foods, and to make Danish plant foods an attractive choice in Denmark and abroad. The three specific focus areas are:

- 1) increase the share of plant-based food in public and private commercial kitchens and food services
- 2) Increase the demand for Danish plant-based foods in export markets
- 3) Increase Danes' private consumption of plant foods

WHAT IS IN SCOOP THIS CALL?

HEU operates with these Key Impact Pathways (KIPs), with three storylines each, namely:

1.Scientific Impact: (1) Creating high-quality new knowledge; (2) Strengthening human capital in research and innovation; (3) Fostering diffusion of knowledge and Open source.

2.Societal Impact: (4) Addressing EU policy priorities and global challenges through research and innovation; (5) Delivering benefits and impact through research and innovation missions; (6) Strengthening the uptake of research and innovation in society; and

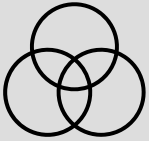
3.Economic / Technological Impact: (7) Generating innovation-based growth; (8) Creating more and better jobs; and (9) Leveraging investments in research and innovation.

<https://enspire.science/how-to-approach-the-horizon-europe-impact-section-for-collaborative-projects/>

KEY TAKE AWAYS: THE GOOD PROPOSAL



- Remember who you are writing to.



- Create correlation between elements.



- Create perspective and frame *why* the project is important.

Questions



Which session to join



Session 1: Auditorium – Junior Researchers	Session 2: M3/ M4 – Senior Researchers
• From Ph.D. to tenure track: Overview of funding opportunities • Starting grants, fellowships, <i>Torben J. Classen, TECH RSO</i> • Experiences from grantees - Sapere Aude, <i>Eusun Han and Carsten Stefan Malisch</i> • World cafe – free questions about NNF, GUDP, and others. <i>Where does my idea fit?</i>	• International collaborations, what, how, when – <i>Anne Birgitte Lindgren</i> • The coordinator role: would you dare? <i>Shubiao Wu</i> • ERC grants: when and how? <i>Mikkel Kongsbak</i>

