# **UiO:Energy and Environment Thematic Research Groups: Background, evaluation process and criteria**

Through UiO:Energy and Environment Thematic Research Groups (TRGs), we aim to foster the development of an interdisciplinary culture as well as partnerships between researchers at UiO within sustainable energy, climate and environment. It is also desirable that the TRGs involves collaborations with international research groups and external stakeholders from the industry, governmental bodies or the society at large. The TRGs should enable the group of researchers to be more competitive when it comes to relevant funding from external sources, and may also be seen as a step towards larger, interdisciplinary projects such as UiO:Energy and Environment Convergence Environments.

We have previously funded 7 TRGs in two rounds, but this call has a wider scope covering energy, climate and environment in accordance with the broadening of UiO:Energy and Environment (compared to the previous UiO:Energy). The new projects shall be in line with the [main research areas and cross cutting themes](https://www.uio.no/english/research/strategic-research-areas/uio-energy-and-environment/research/Main-Research-Areas/index.html) of UiO:Energy and Environment. This time we aim to fund up to a maximum of three TRGs. The call was announced in May 2023, with an application deadline set to October 1st 2023. UiO:Energy and Environment received xx applications spanning a wide range of both topics and disciplines.

Each TRG application will be assessed by minimum three external experts (October-November) within the relevant fields of the given proposal. The evaluations will be compiled and made available to the Board of UiO:Energy and Environment. Based on the applications and these evaluations, the Board will grant funding to two or three TRGs (December).

The evaluation has three main components:

1. **Academic quality and originality** (9-10 excellent; 7-8 very good; 5-6 good; 1-4 not satisfactory for funding)  
     
   Suggested assessment criteria
   1. To what extent is the proposed research ambitious with a potential to achieve novel knowledge?
   2. To what extent does the proposed research address important research challenges and are the objectives beyond the current state-of-the-art (e.g. novel concepts and approaches, development of novel methodology and development across disciplines)?
2. **Feasibility of the proposed TRG** (9-10 excellent approach, timeline, resource allocation, team and organisation; 7-8 very good feasibility; 5-6 good feasibility – but some areas of improvement, please comment if possible; 1-4 insufficient feasibility)  
   Suggested assessment criteria
   1. Are the outlined scientific approaches feasible and the proposed research methodologies appropriate to achieve the described goals of the TRG?
   2. Is the proposed timeline realistic?
   3. Is the proposed use of resources sufficient, appropriate, and well justified?
   4. To what extent is the track record of the project leader/s and team characterized by the ability to conduct this TRG and achieve the ambitions described under point 1?
3. **Added value of the proposed TRG including societal relevance** (9-10 excellent scientific and societal relevance – to the research field, UiO and the society at large; 7-8 very good relevance; 5-6 good relevance, but some areas have room for improvement; 1-4 insufficient relevance)  
     
   Suggested assessment criteria
   1. To what extent does the TRG address a societal challenge that requires a thematic approach, and to what extent is successful accomplishment of the main research objectives dependent on the described research collaboration?
   2. To what extent does the TRG explore the possibilities for increased collaboration across faculties/departments/centres at UiO?
   3. How and to what extent will relevant stakeholders and international partners be involved in the TRG project?
   4. Are there plans for attracting additional external funding?

Please fill out the form on the next page. Each component shall be graded on a scale from 1-10. The reviewers are also asked to provide comments to each assessment criteria, as well as an overall assessment for each application. The overall grade should be given approximately according to a weighting of 50% academic quality and originality, 25% feasibility and 25% added value.

# **Evaluation table**

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| Name of project | | |
| Academic quality and originality of the TRG | Comment­ | Grade  9-10 excellent  7-8 very good  5-6 good  1-4 not satisfactory for funding |
| Feasibility of the proposed TRG | Comment | Grade  9-10 excellent approach, timeline, resource allocation, team and organisation  7-8 very good feasibility  5-6 good feasibility – but some areas of improvement, please comment if possible  1-4 insufficient feasibility |
| Added value of the proposed TRG including societal relevance | Comment | Grade  9-10 excellent scientific and societal relevance – to the research field, UiO and the society at large  7-8 very good relevance  5-6 good relevance, but some areas have room for improvement  1-4 insufficient relevance |
| Overall assessment | Comment | Grade:  The overall grade should be given approximately according to a weighting of 50% academic quality and originality, 25% feasibility and 25% added value. |