Scientific quality

Project design and originality:

- Scientific background of the project, overview of the research front, state-of-the-art, relevant references / literature
- Description of hypotheses, objectives and milestones
- Description of positions (particularly important if including PhD grants) and roles
- Scientific novelty /originality relative to the research front of the subject area
- Degree of innovation. Does the project challenge current practices (clinical and research), e.g. through innovative use of theory/methods?

Feasibility:

- Realistic, well-reasoned and appropriate project plans (data collection, methods, analyses, statistic strength etc.)
- Identified risks, alternative strategies for conducting the project
- Data available from pilot projects or other preliminary data where relevant
- Realistic budgets

Quality of the applicant and the research environment:

- Expertise, productivity and qualifications
- Skills related to project management and supervision
- Infrastructure, access to equipment and resources, necessary/relevant scientific networks
- Relevant collaborators creating a research environment of capacity
- Cross-disciplinarity if relevant

Impact

Needs justification:

- Needs in the specialist health services
- Target group(s), i.e. patient group(s), carers, other identified users
- Filling knowledge gaps

Potential for implementation:

- Realistic plans for implementation / translation of research into improved practice
- Realistic time line for implementation (short/long term)
- Identified dependencies on development in other areas, alternative strategies

Importance of generating new knowledge and competence building:

- Realistic importance for the health services, possible improvements of existing offers/practices
- Importance of new knowledge / filling knowledge gaps, academic impact
- Impact on society, potential for generalisation / broad use of new knowledge/methods/procedures

Mandatory items of the application

Dissemination and visibility:

- Plan for dissemination; publications, articles, web sites etc.
- Other relevant plans for disseminating new knowledge, nationally and internationally

Plan for user involvement