

Thematic - Overview of rejection codes

Valid from June 2026

		Weaknesses related to content		Weaknesses related to form	
Group	Assessment criterion	A Code	Formulation (a code)	B Code	Formulation (b code)
Potential for originality and breakthrough	The extent to which the project is original and has the potential to advance the research frontier (e.g., theoretically, methodologically or empirically)	Orig10a	that the project is not, to a sufficient extent, original with the potential to move the research frontier, in particular xxx	Orig10b	that the project's originality is not, to a sufficient degree, accounted for with particular reference to xxx
		Orig11a	that the project is not sufficiently original. The committee has assessed that the project's idea does not have sufficient potential to move the research frontier compared to other projects that were awarded funding with particular reference to the project's idea of xxx		
				Orig12b	that the project description does not, to a sufficient degree, contain a clear description of the project's potential contribution to state of the art within the project area for the committee to assess the project's innovative quality.
Scientific quality and approach	The extent to which the research questions and objectives of the project are well chosen	Sci10a	that the project's research questions are not, to a sufficient extent, well chosen, in particular xxx	Sci10b	that the project's research questions are not, to a sufficient degree, accounted for, in particular xxx
		Sci11a	that the objectives of the project are not, to a sufficient extent, well chosen with particular reference to xxx	Sci11b	that the objectives of the project are not, to a sufficient degree, accounted for with particular reference to xxx
	The extent to which the project engages with existing research	Sci20a	that the project does not, to a sufficient extent, engage with existing research, in particular xxx		
		Sci21a	that the project does not, to a sufficient extent, engage with state of the art, in particular xxx	Sci21b	that the project description does not, to a sufficient degree, describe state of the art within the project area, so that it is clear that existing research has been taken into account.
	The extent to which the project's theory, any hypotheses, research design and methods are well chosen	Sci30a	that the project's theory is not, to a sufficient extent, well chosen with particular reference to xxx	Sci30b	that the project's theory is not, to a sufficient degree, accounted for with particular reference to xxx
				Sci31b	that the project description does not, to a sufficient degree, account for the theoretical foundation with particular reference to a lack of clarification of central concepts.
		Sci32a	that the project's hypotheses are not, to a sufficient extent, well chosen with particular reference to xxx	Sci32b	that the project's hypotheses are not, to a sufficient degree, accounted for with particular reference to xxx
		Sci33a	that the project's research design is not, to a sufficient extent, well chosen with particular reference to xxx	Sci33b	that the project's research design is not, to a sufficient degree, accounted for with particular reference to xxx
		Sci34a	that the project's methods are not, to a sufficient extent, well chosen with particular reference to xxx	Sci34b	that the project's methods are not, to a sufficient degree, accounted for with particular reference to xxx
	The extent to which the project's work plan, activities and success criteria are well chosen	Sci40a	that the work plan of the project is not, to a sufficient extent, well chosen, in particular xxx	Sci40b	that the work plan of the project is not, to a sufficient degree, accounted for, in particular xxx
				Sci41b	that the project does not, to a sufficient degree, contain a clear and realistic work plan.
		Sci42a	that the project activities are not, to a sufficient extent, well chosen with particular reference to xxx	Sci42b	that the project activities are not, to a sufficient degree, accounted for with particular reference to xxx
		Sci43a	that the success criteria of the project are not, to a sufficient extent, well chosen with particular reference to xxx	Sci43b	that the success criteria of the project are not, to a sufficient degree, accounted for with particular reference to xxx
				Sci44b	that the project does not, to a sufficient degree, contain clear and realistic success criteria.
	The extent to which the project sufficiently considers ethical issues	Sci50a	that ethical issues are not considered to a sufficient extent, in particular xxx		

Qualifications and organisation	The extent to which the applicant's and Co-PI's competencies, prior contributions and experience make it plausible that they can lead and carry out the project	Qual10a	that your competencies, prior contributions or experience do not, to a sufficient degree, make it plausible that you can lead and carry out the project, in particular xxx		
		Qual11a	that the Co-PI's competencies, prior contributions or experience do not, to a sufficient degree, make it plausible that they can lead and carry out the project, in particular xxx		
		Qual12a	that your scientific qualifications as an applicant are not at a sufficiently high level with particular reference to that you have relatively limited research experience within the project area, and the committee assesses that further experience would be beneficial for the scientifically responsible for		
		Qual13a	that the scientific qualifications of the Co-PI are not at a sufficiently high level with particular reference to that they have relatively limited research experience within the project area, and the committee assesses that further experience would be beneficial for the scientifically responsible for		
		Qual14a	that your qualifications as a research leader are not at a sufficiently high level with particular reference to your research leadership experience.		
		Qual15a	that Co-PI's qualifications as a research leader are not at a sufficiently high level with particular reference to their research leadership experience.		
	The extent to which any participants and collaborators are appropriately selected in relation to the activities they will perform	Qual20a	that the project participants are not, to a sufficient extent, appropriately selected in relation to the activities they will perform, in particular xxx	Qual20b	that the role of the project participants has not, to a sufficient degree, been accounted for, in particular xxx
		Qual21a	that the project collaborators are not, to a sufficient extent, appropriately selected in relation to the activities they will perform, in particular xxx	Qual21b	that the role of the project collaborators has not, to a sufficient degree, been accounted for, in particular xxx
	The extent to which the strategy for organising and managing the project is appropriate and makes it plausible that the applicant and Co-PI will be able to conduct the proposed research while fulfilling other professional obligations	Qual30a	that the strategy for organising the project is not appropriate to a sufficient extent with particular reference to xxx	Qual30b	that the strategy for organising the project has not, to a sufficient degree, been accounted for with particular reference to xxx
		Qual31a	that the strategy for managing the project is not appropriate to a sufficient extent with particular reference to xxx	Qual31b	that the strategy for managing the project has not, to a sufficient degree, been accounted for with particular reference to xxx
		Qual32a	that the strategy for organising and managing the project does not, to a sufficient extent, make it plausible that you will be able to conduct the proposed project while fulfilling other professional obligations with particular reference to xxx	Qual32b	that there is not, to sufficient degree, a clear strategy for organising and managing the project, in particular that it has not sufficiently been accounted for that you scientifically and time-wise will be able to conduct the proposed project while fulfilling other professional obligations.
		Qual33a	that the strategy for organising and managing the project does not, to a sufficient extent, make it plausible that the Co-PI will be able to conduct the proposed project while fulfilling other professional obligations with particular reference to xxx	Qual33b	that there is not, to sufficient degree, a clear strategy for organising and managing the project, in particular that it has not sufficiently been accounted for that the Co-PI scientifically and time-wise will be able to conduct the proposed project while fulfilling other professional obligations.
	The extent to which the project is organised with a clear alignment between budget, timeline and work plan, and an appropriate plan for addressing potential risks that could hinder the execution of the project	Qual40a	that there is not, to a sufficient extent, a clear alignment between the project's budget, timeline and work plan, in particular xxx	Qual40b	that the alignment between the project's budget, timeline and work plan has not, to a sufficient degree, been accounted for, in particular xxx
		Qual41a	that there is not, to a sufficient extent, an appropriate plan for addressing potential risks that could hinder the execution of the project with particular reference to xxx	Qual41b	that a plan for addressing potential risks that could hinder the execution of the project is not, to a sufficient degree, accounted for with particular reference to xxx
		Qual42a	that the embedded PhD candidates do not, to a sufficient extent, have a clear role in the project with particular reference to xxx		
		Qual43a	that the embedded postdoctoral candidates do not, to a sufficient extent, have a clear role in the project with particular reference to xxx		
	The extent to which access to data, facilities, equipment etc. is secured			Qual50b	that the access to data, facilities, equipment, etc. is not accounted for to a sufficient extent, in particular xxx

Research results and research outputs	The extent to which the project is beneficial to Danish research and strengthens the research environment in Denmark	Out10a	that the project does not, to a sufficient extent, benefit Danish research and strengthen the research environment in Denmark with particular reference to xxx	Out10b	that it has not, to a sufficient degree, been accounted for how the project benefits Danish research and strengthens the research environment in Denmark with particular reference to xxx
	The extent to which the project is expected to result in scientific publications and other outputs, such as datasets, innovation and patents, dissemination or contributions to cultural development, legislation, practical applications, teaching, etc.	Out20a	that the project does not, to a sufficient extent, result in scientific publications or other outputs with particular reference to xxx	Out20b	that the project's scientific publications or other outputs have not, to a sufficient degree, been accounted for with particular reference to xxx
				Out21b	that the project description does not, to a sufficient degree, account for the collective considerations regarding dissemination of the project's results.
	The extent to which the project's results are made openly accessible in a manner that enables reproducibility and/or reuse of research results and data to the greatest possible extent, allowing other researchers to build on the outcomes where relevant	Out30a	that the project results are not made openly accessible to a sufficient extent, in particular xxx	Out30b	that it has not, to a sufficient degree, been accounted for how the project results will be made openly accessible, in particular xxx
Instrument specific criteria	The extent to which the project and the applicant lives up to the objectives and requirements of the funding instrument DFF-Thematic	Instru10a	that the research questions are not sufficiently clear and well-defined with particular reference to xxx		
		Instru11a	that the sub-projects have not, to a sufficient extent, been substantially described with particular reference to xxx		
		Instru12a	that there is not, to a sufficient extent, synergy between the sub-projects, in particular xxx	Instru12b	that the synergy between the sub-projects is not accounted for to a sufficient degree, in particular xxx
				Instru13b	that the internationalisation of the project is not, to a sufficient degree, accounted for, in particular xxx
Theme specific criteria	The extent to which the project and applicant and Co-PI meet the purpose and requirements specified for the theme applied for	Theme10a	that the application does not, to a sufficient extent, live up to the purpose and requirements of the theme applied for, in particular xxx	Theme10b	that the application does not, to a sufficient degree, account for the ways in which the project lives up to the purpose and requirements of the theme applied for, in particular xxx
		Theme11a	that the applicant and the Co-PI do not, to a sufficient extent, live up to the requirements described in the theme applied for, in particular xxx	Theme11b	that the application does not, to a sufficient degree, account for how the applicant and Co-PI live up to the purpose and the requirements described in the theme applied for, in particular xxx
	The extent to which the project accounts for takes the expected or potential societal impact into account	Theme20a	that the expected or potential societal impact of the project is not taken into account to a sufficient extent, in particular, xxx	Theme20b	that the application does not, to a sufficient degree, account for the expected or potential societal impact of the project, in particular xxx
	The extent to which the project is relevant to the specific practice area based on the theme applied for, including the extent to which the project supports or strengthens practice-oriented research	Theme30a	that the project is not relevant to the specific practice area to a sufficient extent with particular reference to xxx	Theme30b	that the application does not, to a sufficient degree, account for the project's relevance to the specific practice area, in particular xxx
		Theme31a	that the project does not support or strengthen practice oriented research to a sufficient extent, in particular xxx	Theme31b	that the application does not, to a sufficient degree, account for the ways in which the project supports or strengthens practice oriented research, in particular xxx
	The extent to which the project's interdisciplinary approach is well chosen and can ensure a sufficient participation and integration of the different research disciplines with the purpose of achieving the joint objective of the project	Theme40a	that the project's interdisciplinary approach is not, to a sufficient extent, well selected with particular reference to xxx	Theme40b	that the application does not, to a sufficient degree, account for the project's interdisciplinarity with particular reference to xxx
		Theme41a	that the project's interdisciplinary approach cannot, to a sufficient extent, ensure sufficient participation and integration of the different research disciplines, in particular xxx	Theme41b	that the application does not, to a sufficient degree, account for how sufficient participation and integration of the different research disciplines will be ensured, in particular xxx

Group	Reason	Code	Formulation
Other	Individual grounds	O99	xxx
	Missing documentation	O10	that the application does not include sufficient documentation, in particular xxx
	Consultation process	O20	The committee noted your comments concerning the scientific foundation for the external review.
		O21	In its assessment, the committee has disregarded the part of your reply to the external review that adds to the project description.
	Other comments	O30	Furthermore, the committee notes that xxx
Division into thirds	Upper third of the pool of applications	EN_A1	In its assessment of your application, the committee has weighted it against the other competing applications. Your application was found to be in the upper (approx.) third of the pool. Moreover, the committee wishes to note that the competition for obtaining a grant from DFF is fierce. The grounds for the rejection should thus be understood in this context.
	Middle third of the pool of applications	EN_A2	In its assessment of your application, the committee has weighted it against the other competing applications. Based on this comparison, the committee assessed that your application is not in the top, but in the middle (approx.) third of the pool.
	Lower third of the pool of applications	EN_A3	In its assessment of your application, the committee has weighted it against the other competing applications. Based on this comparison, the committee assessed that your application is in the bottom (approx.) third of the pool. The committee does not find the application eligible for funding in its current form.
Superlatives	Originality superlative	Super1	the project is original.
	Motivation superlative	Super2	the project is well-motivated.
	Interest superlative	Super3	the project is exciting and interesting.
	Scientific quality superlative	Super4	the project is of high scientific quality.
	Qualifications superlative	Super5	your scientific qualifications are at a high
	Societal relevance superlative	Super6	the project has great societal relevance.
	Commercial relevance superlative	Super7	the project has great commercial relevance.
	Individual superlative	Super8	xxx

Not part of the reasons for rejection