



Vetenskapsrådet

Beredningsgruppens yttrande

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Beredningsgrupp: FI-BU

Utlysningsnamn: Forskningsinfrastruktur Infrastruktur av nationellt intresse 2017

Bidragsform: Forskningsinfrastruktur

Sökt inriktning: Infrastruktur av nationellt intresse

Projekttitel (svenska): Svensk Nationell Datatjänst

Ethical considerations*

The proposal discusses ethical issues well and the prerequisites for dealing with them are good.

Scientific impact*

7

1 - Poor, 2 - Weak, 3 - Good, 4 - Very good, 5 - Very good to excellent, 6 - Excellent, 7 - Outstanding

The SND 2.0 proposed is a continuation of the existing SND but in a remodelled and enlarged way.

The remodelling concerns a two-level structure within the SND 2.0 consortium with a central 'core services' level of SND 2.0 (office at GU), with DAU's at local university level, while the enlargement concerns the welcome extension of academic domains covered. A DAU represents expertise on a specific domain at university level. In this way, central coordination and meta-expertise is well combined with a broad range of domain expertises at local level.

At their universities DAU's will support and train researchers in data management and related legal issues, provide quality assurance of meta data for sharing data produced by local researchers, create and upload persistent data files for wider sharing, and offer training workshops.

The core services to be provided by SND 2.0 regard managing and developing the Swedish Research Data Repository and the Swedish Research Data Discovery Service, supporting universities' DAU's with meta-expert knowledge and training, and maintaining relations with and contributions to national and international networks in the field of data preservation and access.

The SND 2.0 consortium of universities covers a larger range of domains than existing SND, and strives for the future inclusion of additional domains (i.e. DAU's at universities). (Importantly, data access is not limited to consortium members only).

The 2-level structure is already in operation in e.g. NL, and pilots of SND showed that the DAU model is viable in Sweden as well. It is a good solution for the situation in which Swedish universities are responsible for the storage of data produced by their researchers.

There is no doubt that national infrastructures, as SND and now SND 2.0, that organise and coordinate open access to a broad range of quality data are indispensable. SND 2.0's 2-level structure is a particular strength since it allows to combine the economies of scale and synergies of central coordination and oversight, with the necessary flexibility, preservation and development of specific domain expertise at local level.

This, with the large number of universities in the consortium covering a broad range of domains, creates important added value compared to the existing SND and makes the SND 2.0 an infrastructure of high scientific national interest, which will serve the needs of a broad range of researchers.

Socio-economic impact*

2

1 - Insufficient, 2 - Sufficient, 3 - Excellent

The socio-economic impact could have been explained more clearly, it will not be immediate, but in the longer-term Swedish society will no doubt benefit from ensuring easy open access to a broad range of scientific data of good quality.

Implementation, leadership and organisation* 6

1 - Poor, 2 - Weak, 3 - Good, 4 - Very good, 5 - Very good to excellent, 6 - Excellent, 7 - Outstanding

The SND 2.0 builds on proven expertise and management of SND, and in the domain fields on proven expertise of the collaborating universities. The consortium structure, and the tasks and responsibilities of each of the partners are well-planned and explained. Good confidence in the viability of the modules and their adequate operation seems justified.

SND 2.0 is very well embedded in relevant national and international institutes and networks, which guarantees being at the forefront of developments and initiatives in the field of data storage, management and dissemination.

The potential risks are recognized and counter measures are suggested. Notes:

- the personnel problem may require measures to increase the attractiveness of 'data work'
- the distributed organisation may also be seen as a plus, that is, it may prevent loss of motivation at local levels when central dominance would be felt as too strong and rigid.

Since DAU's will be organized in different ways, with different budgets by universities at their own local level, there may arise imbalances between them as regards their operational strength and significance.

As for governance, the proposal is somewhat unclear about how the partners can influence decision making.

The overall timeplan is ambitious but looks feasible.

E-infrastructure* 2

1 - Insufficient, 2 - Sufficient, 3 - Excellent

From the proposal we take it that in the short-term existing e-infrastructures seem to suffice, but in the longer term new structures are necessary for storage of large data sets. SND is part of a working group with other Swedish infrastructures to develop and pilot a common national long-term storage solution.

Because technical systems for all situations will not be in place from the beginning of SND 2.0, its dissemination service will provide interim processes drawing on existing practices

Prioritization between modules*

We do not see good possibilities for prioritizing between modules, since they all have their own substantive and necessary place in the infrastructure.

Overall grade and final comment* 6

1 - Poor, 2 - Weak, 3 - Good, 4 - Very good, 5 - Very good to excellent, 6 - Excellent, 7 - Outstanding

The SND 2.0 infrastructure as proposed is an enlarged and remodelled version of the existing SND. Its 2-level structure (core services at national level, and DAU's at local university level) seems well-suited to combine central coordination and oversight with local flexibility and expertise.

Its organization and leadership builds on proven expertise of all partners, at all levels involved.

Its national and international connectedness guarantees forefront expertise and development.

It is an important and timely proposal.

The infrastructure is of national interest and meets all the 2017 criteria for this mentioned by VR.