



NORCE

Launch of Evalnat National Report 2022-2024

Comments from NORCE; Institute Sector

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Four key questions given upfront the meeting by RCN

1. Do you and your institution recognize the findings in the national report?
2. Are there any surprises in the report?
3. Do you consider the recommendations as relevant for developing the field of natural sciences? What is the most important thing to do in this respect?
4. Are there any important aspects that you miss in the report?



1. Recognition of key findings

- Natural Sciences will underpin the way Norway tackles challenges such as climate change, the green transition and strategic materials if the research system evolves flexibly to tackle new problems. **WELL KNOWN**
- Overall, the geosciences appear strong (**EXPECTED**), physics has an acceptable level of quality and performance, and the state of chemistry overall is unsatisfactory. **NEWS FOR ME**
- There is a need for a system-wide approach to strategy and funding. Many organisations depend heavily on external research funding. **WELL KNOWN**
- Recent funding cuts appear to have undermined researchers' trust, creating an obstacle to longer-term planning. Low success rates in the funding of researcher-initiated projects also cause uncertainty. **WELL KNOWN**
- Gender inequality is slowly declining, but women publish less than men. The importance of ethnic and cultural diversity is underestimated and requires more attention. **NEWS**



1. Recognition of key findings

- A systematic approach is needed to support PhD students and early-career researchers to become future research leaders. **WELL KNOWN, but problematic for us as institutes**
- National research infrastructure is generally of high quality, underpinning Norwegian researchers' ability to work in international collaborations (**WELL KNOWN**), but there may be opportunities to complement national infrastructure strategies with better coordination of infrastructure use. **HARD TO UNDERSTAND – many ways to interpret this statement!**
- Norwegian natural scientists collaborate well, both nationally and internationally, though participation in international programmes including the EU Framework Programme could usefully increase further. **NEWS**
- Many research groups maintain close relations with industry (**WELL KNOWN**) but there is less outreach to citizens. **UNCLEAR (General public?)**



3. Relevance of the Recommendations

1. Develop a national plan to support evolution (and quality improvement in) Norwegian chemistry **NOT RELEVANT TO US**
2. Reduce uncertainty in overall funding, while maintaining competition in external funding **VERY RELEVANT, but unclear if overall funding also cover basic funding**
3. Remove barriers to evolution in the organisational structure of the natural sciences in Norway, provide incentives to address new needs, and tackle weaknesses in governance, strategy development and human resource management so Norwegian science and industry are not left behind **MORE RELEVANT FOR HEIs**
4. Review and take opportunities to increase gender equality, through measures that encourage women into natural science careers and make their research environment more hospitable **RELEVANT**
5. Launch research and interventions to understand and address women's disadvantages in publication and the degree of diversity in the Norwegian natural sciences research community **RELEVANT**

MISSING RECOMMENDATIONS



1. Increase the level of basic funding for the private institute sector.
2. Consideration to increasing RETUR-EU incentive.
 - *Still falling short of the Barcelona Goal*
 - *Norwegian HEIs are comparatively very well-funded via basic funding.*
 - *The research institutes have very little institutional funding – 6% and 20%. NORCE operates on very thin margins and at a deficit in EU projects, even with RETUR-EU.*

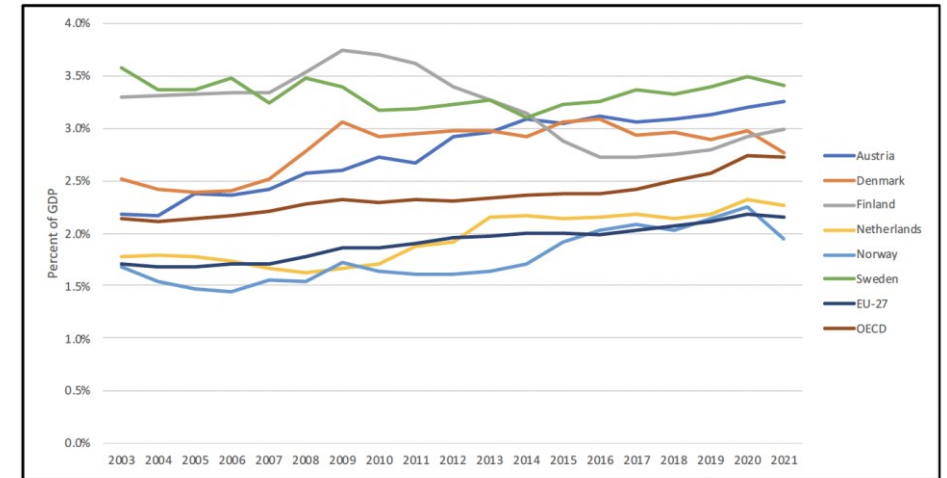


Figure 1 GERD as a percentage of GDP for Norway and comparator countries, 2003-2021

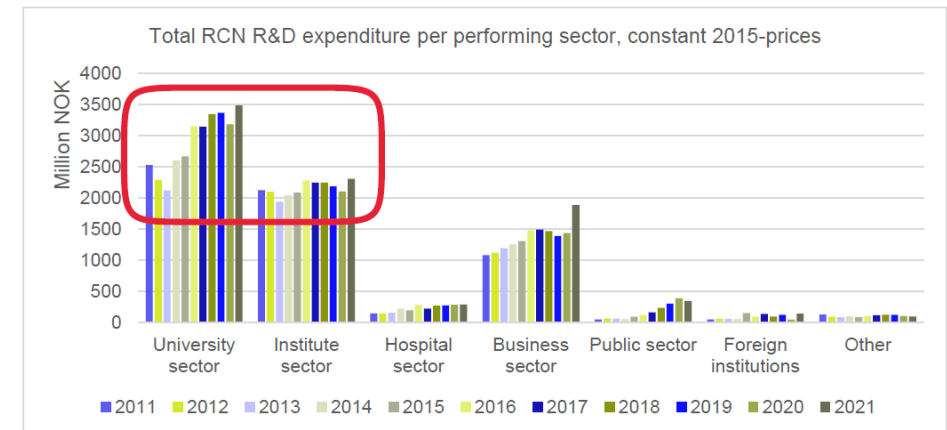


Figure 1.3. The graph shows RCN's total annual R&D expenditure in all areas of research by R&D-performing sector, in constant 2015-prices. Data is based on annual revised budgets per project.

MISSING RECOMMENDATIONS (cont.)



3. Opportunities for better coordination of National RIs:

- Longer term funding stability by ministries in conjunction with support from RCN.
- Not mentioning cross-sectorial support to RCN. Financial support to research from all Ministries

Thank you. Takk.
Merci. Gracias. Obrigado.

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