

2010 Annual Report Norway – A Global Partner (NORGLOBAL) 2009-2013

The year 2010

The research programme Norway – A Global Partner (NORGLOBAL) was launched in 2009 and a programme board was appointed comprising members from a wide range of disciplines and including representatives from a number of different countries. The NORGLOBAL programme encompasses several activities with their own budgets. The programme promotes cooperation between researchers at Norwegian institutions and researchers at institutions in countries in the South. In 2010 35 countries in the South were involved in projects carried out under the NORGLOBAL programme. One of the programme's key challenges has been to promote research cooperation between institutions in Norway and corresponding institutions in the South. The programme has also sought to establish several activities that support research on countries in the South, carried out in cooperation with the South.

The NORGLOBAL programme held a dissemination seminar on 9 March 2010 focusing on activities carried out under the Poverty and Peace (POVPEACE) activity. The seminar was attended by some 70 participants from the research community and the public administration and thus provided an important meeting place. Results from 21 projects were presented at the seminar, which also served as a discussion forum on Norwegian development research where researchers discussed ongoing activities and proposed potential new research topics. Under the last call for proposals issued under the POVPEACE activity, research groups were invited to submit proposals focusing on the issue of poverty. NOK 24 million in funding was announced in the spring of 2010 and contracts for five new projects were signed in autumn 2010. One of the projects is to be co-financed under the funding scheme for independent basic research projects in the social sciences (FRISAM).

The Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research (CGIAR) Fellowship Programme reviews proposals under an open-ended funding announcement and in 2010 three projects were approved. The CGIAR Fellowship Programme now has an overall portfolio of eight projects for the current programme period. Since the establishment of the CGIAR Fellowship Programme, 25 projects have been approved for funding.

*In 2010 an agreement was signed with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to establish a new activity entitled **Western Balkan Countries Development Studies (WESTERN BALKAN)**, with funding of NOK 24 million for the 2010-2013 period. A call for proposals was issued in the spring of 2010 and in June 2010 the programme board granted funding to six projects. These projects involve the collaboration of researchers from Norwegian institutions and researchers from institutions in seven countries in the Western Balkans.*

*The **ECONPOP** activity (Economic Growth, Poverty Reduction, Reproductive Health and Population Dynamics) is a joint initiative between the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation (the Hewlett Foundation), the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) and the Research Council (donation matching scheme under the Fund for Research and Innovation). In 2010 NOK 7 million in funding was announced under the ECONPOP activity's second call for proposals, and one project was granted funding. All in all, a total of five projects were funded under the ECONPOP activity in 2010. Institutions from six countries in the South are cooperating with Norwegian researchers in projects carried out under the ECONPOP activity.*

*The **GLOBMEK** activity (Globalisation of Environmental, Energy and Climate Research) issued its second call for proposals in spring 2010 and four new projects were launched in the autumn. All in all, the activity had a portfolio comprising a total of 10 projects for 2010. In addition, the GLOBMEK activity cooperates with the Research Council programmes Norwegian Environmental Research Towards 2015 (MILJO2015) and Climate Change and Impacts in Norway (NORKLIMA), providing funding for partners from the South who are involved in projects being carried out under these programmes. Some 13 countries in the South are participating in projects funded under the GLOBMEK activity.*

*The **Women and Gender** activity (Women's Rights and Gender Equality in Development) issued its second call for proposals in 2010 and a further four projects were approved for funding by the programme board. All in all, a total of 10 projects were funded under this activity in 2010. A total of 16 countries in Latin America (2), Asia (8) and Africa (6) are represented among the collaborating partners participating in projects under this activity and research activities are also carried out in several other countries. Some 60% of funds allocated under the Women and Gender activity are earmarked for partners in the South.*

*In 2010 the Research Council signed an agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the allocation of NOK 50 million for research on **Tax havens, capital flows, and the developing countries (TaxCapDev)**. A working group was established to prepare a programme document for the new activity. The programme document was approved by the programme board in the autumn of 2010 and the first call for proposals was issued in January 2011 with a deadline of 14 April 2011. A kick-off conference was organised in connection with the launch of the TaxCapDev activity on 17 January 2011.*

The programme board has administered the four networks the Comparative Research Programme on Poverty (CROP), the Childwatch International Research Network, the Network for Asian Studies, the Network for African Studies (Africa Network Norway), with funding allocated from Norad. At Norad's request, an evaluation/review of the four networks was carried out in 2010 by an external group of international experts. The evaluation was presented to the programme board for discussion before being submitted to Norad for final follow-up in summer 2010. Following a decision taken by Norad no funding will be announced for the networks in 2011.

*The programme board held four meetings in 2010 at which plans for two new activities were approved and grant applications under six of the core activities of the NORGLOBAL programme were processed. **The NORGLOBAL programme therefore surpassed its objectives for 2010.***

Objectives and purpose of the programme

The NORGLOBAL programme seeks to:

1. strengthen research in Norway on development in developing countries, as well as ensure an effective, flexible, visible and coherent organisation of this research by consolidating much of the effort within the field of development under a single programme, and through cooperation with other programmes;
2. strengthen research for development, through the integration of development perspectives into relevant programmes;
3. strengthen the research capacity of developing countries by enhancing research cooperation between researchers based at institutions in the eligible countries and leading Norwegian research projects.

The NORGLOBAL programme was established to strengthen Norwegian research on and for development in low- and middle-income countries and to strengthen research capacity in these countries. The programme has a special responsibility to generate new knowledge within the

field of development in Norway. The NORGLOBAL programme encompasses a number of thematic areas, including women's issues, health, food production and the impact of development cooperation, as well as issues relating to climate, the environment and clean energy. These topics are being addressed within the various thematic activities under the NORGLOBAL programme. Some of these activities only issue calls for proposals within their own thematic area, while others aim to cooperate with other Research Council programmes, for example on joint funding announcements. Several of the thematic activities under the programme have stipulated that projects are required to incorporate the active participation of researchers from countries in the South. This helps to promote cooperation and strengthen capacity building in these countries. Collaboration on projects with countries in the South is also intended to enhance efforts to generate new knowledge within the field of development research in Norway.

Primary objective

The NORGLOBAL programme was established to strengthen Norwegian research on and for development in low- and middle-income countries and to strengthen research capacity in these countries.

Secondary objectives

The objectives of the NORGLOBAL programme are to be realised through the programme's thematic activities. Each activity has a separate work plan. In 2010 the portfolio of the NORGLOBAL programme consisted of the following activities:

1. Poverty and Peace (POVPEACE);
2. The Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research (CGIAR) Fellowship Programme;
3. The Networks;
4. Globalisation of Environmental, Energy and Climate Research (GLOBMEK);
5. Women's Rights and Gender Equality in Development (Women and Gender);
6. Economic Growth, Poverty Reduction, Reproductive Health and Population Dynamics (ECONPOP);
7. Western Balkan Countries Development Studies (WESTERN BALKAN) (new in 2010);
8. Tax havens, capital flows, and the developing countries (TaxCapDev) (planned in 2010).

Overview of finances and projects

Disposable budget available in 2010: NOK 136 171 928

Funding used in 2010: NOK 38 386 662

Programme's sources of funding in 2010: Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The POVPEACE activity also receives funding from the Ministry of Education and Research

Number and type of projects in 2010:

Researcher Projects: disposable budget

40 Researcher Projects: NOK 26 899 957; 14 Personal Grants: NOK 4 533 905; 2

Institutional Support: NOK 1 700 000 and 4 Other Support: NOK 2 869 541.

Assessment of performance and scientific challenges

The NORGLOBAL programme was established to strengthen Norwegian research on and for development in low- and middle-income countries and to strengthen research capacity in these countries. By consolidating much of the work being done in the field of development under a

single programme, the programme has enhanced the level of efficiency, flexibility, visibility and coherence of the various activities. The programme has incorporated a number of existing programmes and has also provided an important arena for new initiatives. The programme was established to address new global challenges and more specifically to follow up one of the elements of the Government white paper (Report No. 20 (2004 – 2005) to the Storting, Commitment to Research), that states that Norway is to be a global partner in research.

In terms of performance, the programme has achieved what it set out to do in 2010: a dissemination seminar was organised, two new activities were established, calls for proposals were issued and several new projects were launched. The new projects approved for funding by the programme board will enable the programme to enhance cooperation with countries in the South and strengthen research on development. Projects carried out under the programme provide a means for further developing research capacity at institutions in the South and for strengthening Norwegian development research through this cooperation.

The NORGLOBAL programme is in its second year of operation. In 2010 the programme has issued calls for proposals for six of its key thematic activities and launched a total of 23 projects under these activities. The new projects that have started up involve the participation of partners in countries in the South and, in line with the programme's overall strategy, a large proportion of the funds granted under the programme have been earmarked for partners in the South. In addition, the programme has co-financing agreements with the Research Council programmes Norwegian Environmental Research Towards 2015 (MILJO2015) and Climate Change and Impacts in Norway (NORKLIMA). The programme has also entered into a co-financing agreement with the funding scheme for independent basic research projects in the social sciences (FRISAM) regarding a project on microfinance.

The NORGLOBAL programme is also responsible for following up projects launched under the former POVPEACE programme. The programme board attaches importance to close contact with and follow-up of ongoing projects under the current POVPEACE activity, both during the research process and at the final reporting stage. The programme organises an annual dissemination conference to ensure this. It is noted that some difficulties have arisen in connection with follow-up of projects under the POVPEACE activity. Several of the projects have reported delays, arising from problems with research permits, delays in establishing cooperation agreements with institutions in the South, political instability and cultural and linguistic challenges. The programme board and the programme administration strive to ensure that the planned objectives and timetable for the projects are adhered to as far as is possible.

Key figures, 2010

Number of projects: (total number, of which number of new projects in 2010): 60, of which 24 new in 2010

Doctoral fellows: (total man-years, as well as number of man-years for women and men) 2.55 women + 5.13 men

Post-doctoral fellows: (total man-years, as well as number of man-years for women and men) 2.3 women + 2.57 men

Project managers: (total number as well as numbers of women and men) 56, of which 24 women + 32 men

Performance indicators, 2010

Scientific articles, peer-reviewed: 31

Scientific articles, not peer-reviewed: 9

Other publications/communication: public-oriented measures: 12; user-oriented measures: 50; number of books: 11.

Most important activities in 2010

- *The programme board held four meetings in 2010 and approved plans for two new activities.*
 - Western Balkan Countries Development Studies (WESTERN BALKAN)
 - Tax havens, capital flows and the developing countries (TaxCapDev)
- *Grant applications were processed under six activities: POVPEACE, CGIAR, GLOBMEK, Women and Gender, ECONPOP and WESTERN BALKAN.*
- *Seminar held at Voksenåsen Hotel in Oslo on 9 March 2010. A total of 21 projects were presented and representatives of the research community and the public administration were present.*

Research-related activities

- In 2010 priority was given to announcing and allocating the remaining funds available under the POVPEACE activity.
- The programme board also gave priority to the establishment of the WESTERN BALKAN activity and the subsequent call for proposals. Project funding was allocated during the course of the year, and several of the projects were launched.
- As a follow-up to the report from the Norwegian Commission on Capital Flight from Developing Countries, Tax havens and development. Status, analyses and measures. (NOU 2009:19) the programme board and the programme administration worked together with Norad/the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the preparation and approval of a programme document for a research activity on tax havens, capital flows and development. The call for proposals and the new activity were presented at a kick-off seminar in January 2011 and the deadline for applications was 14 April 2011.
- The agreement with Norad on the CGIAR Fellowship Programme for the period 2006-2010 has now come to an end, and the last funds have been announced.
- At the request of Norad, the Research Council has also administered the four networks the Childwatch International Research Network, the Network for Asian Studies, the Network for African Studies (Africa Network Norway) and the Comparative Research Programme on Poverty (CROP). In 2010 the Research Council was asked to carry out an evaluation of the networks. An international group of experts was appointed to carry out the review. The recommendations of the evaluation panel were presented at a meeting of the programme board in June 2010. Representatives of the networks were invited to the meeting to discuss the content of the report. A decision was taken to set 31 December 2010 as the date of termination for all the four existing networks, because Norad wished to issue an open call for proposals for network funding in 2010. However, no funds were made available in the Norad budget for 2011, so no open call was issued. The agreement with the networks was therefore not renewed.
- The programme issued six calls for proposals in 2010 and funding was allocated to 23 projects. The response to the calls was reasonably good.
- International cooperation is an integral aspect of all the projects funded under the NORGLOBAL programme. As of 2010 35 countries are involved in collaborative projects funded by the programme. The NORGLOBAL programme also provides funding for the participation of partners from the South in activities carried out under the NORKLIMA and MILJO2015 programmes.

Communication and dissemination measures:

In 2010 the NORGLOBAL programme organised a dissemination seminar.

In 2010 the NORGLOBAL programme contracted a journalist to write project presentations about selected projects under the programme. During the course of 2010 seven project presentations were produced. The project presentations are written as popular science articles and have been translated in English. The project presentations have been published on the Research Council's website and on *forskning.no* and have caught the attention of several international forums. The NORGLOBAL programme also has its own webpages, which are updated with relevant information regarding the programme's activities. The programme maintains regular, constructive contact with Norad, in part through Norad's representation on the programme board.

Measures to increase the recruitment of women:

- Please see the Research Council's guidelines for researcher projects in all calls for proposals, which refer specifically to the need to enhance gender balance and the representation of women. Several of the activities carried out under the NORGLOBAL programme, particularly the Women and Gender and ECONPOP activities, receive funding from Norad under an allocation designed to promote the participation of women in the South in research and adhere to the guidelines set out in the white paper On Equal Terms: Women's Rights and Gender Equality in International Development Policy (Report No. 11 (2007-2008) to the Storting).
- The dissemination seminar under the POVPEACE activity involved four speakers and rapporteurs. Two women and two men were selected for this purpose.
- Efforts are made to ensure gender balance in all referee panels, as far as is possible without undermining the level of scientific expertise. In 2010, the referee panels involved in the NORGLOBAL programme have maintained a consistently good gender balance and both genders are also evenly represented among the external experts used by the programme.

Administrative activities:

A dissemination seminar was held in 2010. The programme board held four meetings and members of the programme board participated at seminars held in connection with the establishment of the new activity Tax havens, capital flows, and the developing countries (TaxCapDev).

The ECONPOP activity is also affiliated to the Population and Poverty Research Network (PopPov) for researchers involved in projects co-funded by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation (the Hewlett Foundation) Population Program. Researchers who have received funding under the ECONPOP activity and/or their partners in the South are expected to participate at the PopPov network's annual conference, which in 2010 was held in Cape Town.

The programme secretariat has participated at several national and international meetings, of which the most important are:

- The European Commission's Science Against Poverty Conference in Segovia, Spain, 8-9 April 2010
- The annual conference of the Norwegian Association for Development Research, 25-26 November 2010: "*Rethinking Crises: Vulnerability, Community and State in Development Research*".
- Meetings of the Hewlett Foundation's "Funders' Group", Cape Town, 14-18 January and London, 10 November 2010
- Norad's annual Poverty Conference (Fattigdomskonferanse), 15 October 2010, which in 2010 focused on taxation and development.

Highlights and findings

The NORGLOBAL programme issued six calls for proposals in 2010, and contracts were signed with projects involving partners from the Western Balkans, Latin America, Asia and Africa. The programme also planned the new activity Tax havens, capital flows, and the developing countries (TaxCapDev) and the first call for proposals under this activity was issued at the turn of the year. The programme provides funding for partners from the South involved in activities both within its own portfolio and in projects carried out under other relevant programmes. The programme has helped Norway achieve its aim of becoming a good global partner for research through the inclusion of partners from the South in a greater number of its projects.

In the multidisciplinary project “Climate Change Discourse, Rights and the Poor; Scientific Knowledge, International Political Discourse, and Local Voices” researchers from the University of Bergen, Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI) and research groups in South Africa are working together to examine how climate change and narratives of climate change affect the poor and their rights in particular to water and food. South Africa has more competent specialist communities than the other African countries and at the same time there are large differences between rich and poor in South Africa. The population has already experienced the effects of climate change in the form of extreme weather conditions. There is also a great need to increase energy production in South Africa and to reduce CO₂ emissions. What South Africa does to protect the environment and fight poverty is highly significant for the rest of Africa south of the Sahara. The country is currently building the world’s largest coal power plant in the Limpopo area and greenhouse gas emissions from the plant will be surpassed by only one coal power plant in Europe. The power plant will be used as a case study to illustrate the conflict between welfare, economic progress and the environment on the one hand and the need to meet essential energy needs on the other. There is a strong tradition of listening to “local voices” in South Africa, where many small groups of lawyers and researchers, among others, champion the social rights of the poor. Under the project, researchers are examining how scientific knowledge about climate change is incorporated into the work of these activists.

In the project “Biofuels and human rights: Assessing biofuel plantations in Brazil, Indonesia and Tanzania, Applying a Human Rights Impact Assessment” Diakonhjemmet University College is collaborating with the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, University of Oslo and Akershus University College to examine whether human rights (including rights to water, land and work) can be incorporated into the decision-making process concerning the potential establishment of biofuel plantations. Field studies have been carried out in Indonesia, Brazil and Tanzania. In Tanzania the authorities claim to have 55 million hectares of land, some 65% of the country “available for agriculture use”. This highlights the need to define the term “available for agricultural use”. The study outlines the challenges Tanzania will face as it makes itself attractive for biofuel investments, but at the same time lacks the institutional capacity to manage this investment effectively. The study also points out that the Village Land Act of 1999 gives village councils a clear mandate and responsibility for the management of resources. One challenge is that a number of village councils are not acquainted with the content of this act and are therefore not sufficiently informed to be able to use their authority in a responsible manner. In the project “Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) and implications for post-conflict economic recovery” the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs is studying the mechanisms for securing peace in post-conflict areas, and how these mechanisms affect development. Field studies in Afghanistan indicate that former warlords maintain an advantageous position in society in peacetime, posing a potential obstacle for economic recovery focused on alleviating poverty. Specifically it was recorded that warlords become involved in trade activities, gaining control of oil imports, informal taxation systems or financially lucrative business activities. A strong, and at times corrupt, connection between political and economic power was also observed. Field work carried out in Georgia shows that the military and the civil economy operate in parallel with, and apparently independently of, one another.

One of the conclusions of the study is that many demilitarisation strategies do more to maintain the resources and power of former warlords, than to redistribute them in the fight against poverty. Economic systems vary considerably depending on the local context, and reconstruction strategies must be developed on this basis.

In 2010 the University of Oslo concluded the project “Conflict resolution and democratisation in the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami: A comparative study of Aceh and Sri Lanka”. The study of post-tsunami Aceh and Sri Lanka shows that natural disasters do not solve conflicts, but can strengthen processes that are already underway. The tsunami had a completely different impact on political developments in the two conflict areas that were studied. In Aceh a political reform process had already begun, which gained further momentum after the disaster. In Sri Lanka there was no similar peaceful outcome. There was a pause in the conflict following the disaster, but war soon broke out again. In addition, development assistance was used as a means of achieving a peaceful solution both before and after the disaster, something the researchers consider served more to heighten the conflict than resolve it. In the project “Ethics, Rights and Poverty: Global Theory and National Practice” the Centre for Development and the Environment (SUM), University of Oslo has studied the relationship between human rights and poverty. The project has examined the connection between global theories and guidelines, and how these have been put into practice at the international (World Bank, UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)), national and local levels. It became clear that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has had little involvement in efforts to combat poverty at the country level. The study also revealed a gap between rhetoric and practice in these three international organisations. At the national level there was considerable uncertainty in several public bodies about what a human rights-based approach entailed, when and how it was an appropriate approach and what concrete steps could be taken to put such an approach into practice. The picture is complicated further by the fact that the many different donors use divergent terminology.

The legal apparatus remains largely inaccessible to many poor people. The extent to which the right to food and shelter, for example, is considered a legal right at all varies between countries. In political terms, human rights are often viewed as Western norms. When these come into conflict with local values they are often not given priority. Examples show that human rights are promoted in order to receive funding from donors, but are not broadly implemented. This is often the case with emergency relief.