

Action Plan for the Research Programme on Latin America

Action Plan for 2009-2011

***Vision:** To enhance knowledge about Latin America in Norway by supporting high-quality research and national and international collaborations*

Foreword

This is the first action plan for the Latin American Programme and it builds from the Work Programme published in 2008. It sets the vision and objectives for the period 2009-2011, including the following tasks for 2010:

- a. Two general calls for researcher projects (deadline 25 November 2009 and 1 September 2010).
- b. A call for personal doctoral fellowships (November 25, 2009) and another for personal post-doctoral fellowships for outstanding young researchers (1 September 2010).
- c. A call for conferences organized jointly by Norwegian and Latin American institutions (deadline in 1 September 2010).
- d. Report on the potential convenience of targeted calls and collaboration with other programmes within the Research Council.

Oslo, September 2009

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1. Summary and background

In 2008 the Research Council began implementing an ambitious new strategy for Norwegian research on Latin America. The objective is to promote research and enhance knowledge about and expertise relating to Latin America in Norway.

To achieve this objective, a new research programme was launched. A draft submitted by a planning committee was formally adopted by the Board of the Division for Strategic Priorities as a Work Programme for the Latin America programme in June 2008.

The programme has as overall goal to enhance knowledge about Latin America in Norway by supporting high-quality research. It encompasses research on society, culture, the environment and the economy, and is intended to serve as a foundation for developing Norway's capacity for collaboration with Latin-America in these areas.

The Latin America Programme is financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and will have an annual budget of NOK 15-20 million during the programme period, which is expected to be 10 years. Funding will be used for research projects that promote national and international collaboration as well as doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships. Most of the new activities will be launched during the first part of the programme.

The Work Programme constitutes the basis for the Action Plan and for the work of the International Board. This version of the Action Plan sets the vision and objectives for the period 2009-2011, with a special focus on the calls to be made for and in 2010. It will be updated annually.

For 2010 it is expected that approximately NOK 33 mill will be made available for new projects, while NOK 31 mill is expected to be announced for 2011.

2. Programme objectives

The primary objective of the Research Programme on Latin America is *to enhance knowledge about Latin America in Norway by supporting high-quality research*. This objective is to be achieved by improving the quality and viability of Norwegian research communities working on Latin American issues.

The secondary objectives of the programme are:

- To undertake research of high international quality.
- To ensure a wider scope and longer-term perspectives in research on Latin America.
- To enhance knowledge on issues relevant to Norwegian user groups.
- To contribute to the internationalisation of Norwegian research on Latin America.
- To ensure the communication of research findings and the development of meeting places and cooperation between researchers and users.

The programme is expected to provide an improved knowledge base for relations between Norwegian and Latin American actors, including political, cultural, commercial and industrial actors, NGOs and research communities. **The Programme thus welcomes work that enhances knowledge of Latin America and not simply uses Latin America as a site.**

3. Analysis of status and challenges

After the launch of the Research Programme on Latin America in May 2008, the first call for pre-proposals and pilot projects took place in June 2008. The Board first met in September 2008 and spent its first year launching the programme, disseminating information and building links with the Norwegian Latin America Research Network (NorLARNet), funded through the programme.

The first full call was launched in October 2008, with deadline 26 November 2008 and had two components:

- 1) **Pre-projects** for developing a main project, supporting preliminary research/studies and other initiatives (a total of NOK 2 mill, up to NOK 350,000 per project).
- 2) **Researcher Projects** for projects generating new knowledge on Latin America through high-quality research, with a maximum of approximately NOK 35 mill and an allocation for each project of around NOK 5 mill.

The first full call constituted a successful experience with 61 applications for researcher projects from a variety of academic institutions and a significant diversity

of topics. After individual evaluations by international experts and a meeting of the Board in April 2009, seven researcher projects were funded (see appendix 1 for their description).

The call and the first year of operations of the Board provided at least five major lessons:

1. The need to have a better sense of the research capabilities on Latin American in Norway, including the number of researchers, their geographical distribution and their research interests.
2. The need to create different funding instruments to promote large research projects as well as smaller (research) projects that give opportunities for doctoral students and talented junior researchers (post-docs).
3. The importance of treating Latin America as a real object of study and consider the political, social and developmental implications of the findings.
4. The possibility of collaborating with other programmes within the Research Council of Norway.
5. The importance of building stronger links between the board and the NorLARNet.

These lessons constitute a central input in the design of this three year action plan and will influence many of the activities for the period 2009-2011

4. Programme structure, priority research areas, and tactics for achieving good national distribution of tasks and multidisciplinary cooperation

4.1 Programme structure and priority research areas

4.1.1 The five priority areas

The Programme Plan approved in 2008 established five priority areas for research (based on the interests of different stakeholders):

- Politics and governance
- Culture and society
- Economy, industry, business and markets
- Natural resources: management, exploitation and conservation
- Poverty, Inequality and Human Development

The main research areas are necessarily broad, and the boundaries between them are not clear-cut. Research projects may incorporate topics from different areas, and may explore issues that lie on the margins of or in the interface between several areas. Thus, the programme should not explicitly strive to distribute funding equally among

the areas. **It is important, in any case, that the research funded by the programme has a clear focus on Latin America.** A more detailed description of each of these priority areas is contained in the Work Programme.

We have noticed different understandings of sustainable development in the proposals prepared under the natural resources priority line. We would like to note that we understand sustainable development as meeting “the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (Brundtland Commission on Sustainable Development).

4.1.2 Priorities for the three years period 2009-2011

The next two calls will open for research in all 5 main research areas —with special attention to capacity building. The Programme will then explore the convenience of adopting a more targeted agenda, which focuses on encouraging more specific sub-topics in topics that have not been well covered so far or are considered to be of special importance.

The Board aims to implement the following general activities (a more detailed description of activities is discussed in subsequent sections):

- a. Research that enhances high-quality knowledge of Latin America on the five thematic areas will be promoted through two general calls for researcher projects in 2009 and 2010.
- b. Capacity building and research in all themes will be secured through two special calls: one for personal doctoral fellowships in November 2009 and one for personal post-doctoral fellowships in June 2010. Separating the call for doctoral and post-doctoral fellows facilitates the evaluation of projects and helps to promote capacity building of different kinds.
- c. We plan to encourage more decisively collaboration between Norway and Latin America in research and dissemination of results through the organization of conferences. The Programme will use a similar instrument to the one implemented by the Latin American Programme of the British Academy in the United Kingdom to fund collaborative conferences between Latin American and Norwegian partners in 2010 and 2011. This conference grants will be particularly helpful to strengthen collaboration between both regions, which could eventually result in future researcher projects applications.
- d. The Programme will explore the convenience of adopting a more targeted approach that could encourage specific research on major topics. The decision on whether to adopt this type of approach and what specific topics to promote will be based on the following criteria:
 - The content of the 2009 White Paper on Research and other objectives of the Research Council of Norway.

- A detailed analysis of the characteristics of the Norwegian research community working on Latin American issues, which will rely on the database prepared by NorLARNet.
- Analysis of the first three general calls for researcher projects. The aim will be to reinforce general areas where there is a critical mass while simultaneously promoting new thematic and methodological approaches to these topics.

4.2 Grant applications and strategy for allocation of research funding

4.2.1 Application types

We will use the following research instruments selected from the application types used by the Research Council of Norway:

Researcher projects:

Researcher projects are to have a duration of up to three years. They are to be based at a Norwegian institution and must include collaboration with other institutions, national and/or international to be qualified for funding. Projects must be developed by at least two researchers at one or more institutions. The evaluation of the project will consider the extent to which the project will contribute to the internationalisation of Norwegian research on Latin America. In particular, projects are encouraged to meaningful reciprocal collaboration with Latin American institutions.

Projects may apply for funding to cover payroll expenses for Norway-based researchers, guest fellowships to and from Norway, fieldwork (as part of a larger project), and doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships. Project related expenses for partners in Latin America can also be applied for.

Personal doctoral fellowships:

It is important to give opportunities for individual students who may develop interesting research projects. The grants will have a duration of up-to three years and will cover expenses during the fellowship period based on the rates established by the Research Council of Norway. Extra running expenses, like field work, can be applied for.

Applications have to be presented by a Norwegian research institution. This type of instrument may not be used to apply for grants/fellowships for more than one individual or for grants/fellowships to unspecified candidates.

Personal post-doctoral fellowships for outstanding young researchers:

This instrument aims to fund outstanding younger researchers in the early stages of their career and will last two years. Project funding of this type is intended to give candidates a sound basis for achieving international excellence and acquiring good research management skills. Applications will have to demonstrate how the

fellowship will develop to create cutting-edge expertise on Latin America in the long run. To be eligible, the applicant must have completed a doctoral degree and demonstrates his or her potential to conduct research of high international calibre. At the deadline for applications, no more than six years may have passed since the applicant defended his or her doctoral thesis.

Support for Events: the Latin American-Norway Conference Programme:

The aim of this scheme, which has been used by other international research institutions in the past, is to encourage collaboration between Norwegian and Latin American partners in high-quality research through the organization of conferences. All applications should have a Latin American partner and should commit to organize two conferences: one in Norway and one in Latin America. The conferences should involve researchers from Norway and Latin America and will hopefully result in major publication (e.g. special issues in journals or edited volumes). It is expected that two or three of the foreign participants in the conference will stay for a few more days after the conference to undertake various activities, including conferences, research meetings and workshops for graduate students.

4.2.2 Strategy for allocation of research funding

Based on the ten-year budgetary projections, the period 2009-2011 will be one of high expenditure commitments. The programme will have the researcher projects at the heart, but will periodically use some of the other instruments mentioned above: The yearly plan will be as follows:

- a. **The Call in November 2009** (for projects starting in 2010) will consist of
 - A general call for researcher projects. Allocation for this type of application will be up to NOK 5 million and we expect to select around five projects.
 - A call for doctoral research fellowships following the Research Council of Norway's standard rates. We expect to allocate up to three fellowships in total.
- b. **The Call in 2010** (for projects starting in 2011) will consist of
 - A general call for researcher projects. Allocation for this type of application will be up to NOK 5 million and we expect to select around five projects.
 - A call for post-doctoral research fellows following the Research Council of Norway's standard rates. We expect to allocate up to three fellowships in total.
 - A call for Latin American-Norway Conference Grants. Allocation for this type of application will be up to NOK 200,000 per conference and we expect to select up to two projects in this call.
 - During this year the Board will elaborate a report that explores the potential benefit of making more targeted calls and of collaborating with other programmes of the Research Council of Norway. The report will be based on different

information, including the database on researchers on Latin American in Norway prepared by NorLARNet, conversations with other programmes and the analysis of the results of the first five calls.

c. **In 2011**, we will have the following calls:

- A call for researcher projects whose content will be decided based on the recommendations of the report just mentioned. Allocation of this type of application will be up to NOK 5 million and we expect to select up to three projects. As the funding for the overall programme starts to run-out in the following years, we would expect that this becomes the main funding instrument.
- A call for Latin American-Norway Conference Grants. Allocation for this type of application will be up to NOK 200,000 per conference and we expect to select up to two projects in this call.
- Potential collaboration with other programmes of the Research Council of Norway.

4.3 Boundaries in relation to and cooperation with other programmes and instruments

The thematic areas of research outlined above demarcate the boundaries and foci of this programme. However, the programme will also seek to coordinate and collaborate with other relevant research programmes and fields of expertise at the Research Council. Given the broad and international character of the programme, researchers receiving funding under the programme will benefit from close collaboration with researchers under several thematic programmes administered by the Research Council.

During the next three years, we will aim to set specific joint calls with different programmes including among others:

- The Environment 2015 programme – Norwegian Environmental Research Towards the Future
- The RENERGI programme – Clean Energy for the Future
- The PETROMAKS programme – Optimal Management of Petroleum Resources
- The NORKLIMA programme – Climate Change and Impacts in Norway

The programme board will also stay abreast of developments within the NORGLOBAL programme (which encompasses the POVPEACE programme – Poverty and Peace Research) and the VFO programme – The Programme on Welfare Research—and any other new programme that may be created.

5. Budget

The Latin America programme is scheduled to run for a 10 year period, and is expected to have an overall budget of NOK 195 mill . The programme is financed by The Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The actual profile of the yearly funding will be negotiated , according to the development of the programme.

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Amount in NOK million	15	15	20	20	20	20

Expected amounts available for new calls:

Call November 2009, for projects 2010-2012: NOK 33 mill

Call September 2010, for projects 2011-2013: NOK 31 mill

Call December 2009: ERA-net , for projects 2010-2012 : NOK 3 mill (separate call)

6. International cooperation and internationalisation

The Latin America programme naturally has an international focus. The programme must promote international cooperation in order for researchers to better position themselves academically and strategically vis-à-vis international funding sources and policymaking bodies. National research initiatives may be coordinated with international initiatives in which Norway is involved through multi- or bilateral agreements. In September 2009 we will launch a Joint Call with 4 European and 4 Latin American partners through EULANEST, the ERA-net for European-Latin American Network for Science and Technology . Projects are expected to start up in mid-2010.

The Programme is particularly interested in promoting research collaborations with Latin American institutions as this is the only way to really advance knowledge within Norway itself. Applicants to the researcher projects are encouraged to incorporate Latin American partners in a credible way and also invite Latin American researchers for short periods of time. The creation of the Norway-Latin American Conference Grant will also be important to enhance collaboration and promote networks.

The Programme will help spread publicity about other funding opportunities, including participation in the EU Seventh Framework Programme, under which funding is expected to be available for SICAs (Specific International Cooperation Activities) in several of the programme's thematic areas. The Programme also hopes that researchers actively participate in international networks and disseminate their results broadly.

7. Performance targets, milestones and performance indicators

The following table incorporates all the milestones in terms of calls for proposals, announcements and organization of conferences:

Date	Activity / target
2009	
Feb-09	Dissemination of results of second call for pre-projects
Apr-09	Allocation of funds of first call for researcher projects
Sep-09	Approval of Action Plan, 2009-2011
Sep-09	Launching of Joint Call, EULANEST
Oct-09	Publication of second general call for research projects and first call for personal
	doctoral research fellowships
	Submission and approval of progress report for projects
Nov-09	Deadline for second general call and first call for doctoral fellowships
	Presentation and discussion at the Latin American Network conference
Dec-09	Deadline, applications to EULANEST Joint call
2010	
Mar-10	Allocation of funds of second general call and call for doctoral fellowships
	Approval and launch of terms for third call
	Expected results of EULANEST call
	Mid-term evaluation of the Latin American Network
Aug-10	Dissemination seminar , Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Sep-10	Deadline for third general call for researcher projects, first call for
	personal postdoctoral fellowship for outstanding young researchers
	and the first call for conferences
Oct. -10	Submission and approval of progress report for projects
Dec. -10	Allocation of funds for third call for research projects and postdoctoral fellowships
2011	
	Board meeting to decide the content of the fourth call for research projects and
	agreement on joint calls with other RCN programmes based on report
Jun-11	Deadline for the fourth call for research projects (targeted) and for first call on
	Conferences
	Potential deadline on joint call
	Renewal of Programme Board
Oct-11	Allocation of funds for fourth call for research projects (targeted) and for first call
	on conferences
	Evaluation and approval of project progress reports

It is still too early to establish detailed performance targets as the programme is just starting and the period 2009-11 will be used to build up the programme. It may be useful to have the planned mid-term evaluation of the programme in 2012 at a time when the first set of researcher projects has been finished. The evaluation could then contribute to redefine and improve the objectives of the programme for the second

half of its term.. This mid-term evaluation may like to consider the following performance indicators:

The key output indicators for the primary objective of the programme are:

- Percentage of projects successfully completed.
- Number of articles published in international peer-reviewed journals resulting from projects funded by the programme.
- Number of books published by internationally renowned publishing houses resulting from projects funded by the programme.
- Number of doctoral degrees awarded to candidates funded by the programme and percentage of funded students that finished the programme.

Together with stakeholders and users we will work on the elaboration of outcome indicators that reflect the degree of success in the dissemination and use of the information generated by the research.

In addition to all these quantifiable criteria, the mid-term evaluation could try to assess whether the programme has achieved a thematic focus on a set of highly relevant issues in its project portfolio. The evaluations should also assess the degree to which the programme is succeeding in creating strong and lasting research communities, defined as involving three or more people working on closely related issues for an extended period of time.

8. Organisation

The Latin America programme started up in 2008 and is organised under the Department for Global Issues in the Research Council's Division for Strategic Priorities. The programme is administered by a secretariat consisting of a senior adviser/programme coordinator and a senior executive officer. The secretariat is responsible for the daily operations of the programme, following up the project portfolio and maintaining the programme's webpages (www.rcn.no/latinamerika)

The programme is governed by a programme board composed of 5 (+ 2 deputy) foreign researchers and 2 user representatives. The board sets the strategy of the programme and decides on the allocation of funding. It reports to the Research Board of the Division for Strategic Priorities,

The annual budget includes up to NOK 1.6 million in funding to the Norwegian Latin America Research Network , NorLARNet , based at Centre for Development and the Environment at University of Oslo .The network will receive allocations for a period of three years, with the possibility of extended funding following a positive evaluation. The board will collaborate closely with the network and is represented in their reference group, which meets regularly.

9. Dissemination activities

The Norwegian Latin American Research Network was started up at the beginning of the Programme with the aim to enhance research communities and promote contact between knowledge communities and users of this knowledge (e.g. trade and industry, public administration, NGOs and students). The Board will work with them in disseminating e academic research to wider communities so that all the goals of the Latin American Programme are met.

The Programme will also pay particular attention to the creation of direct lines of communication with users of this knowledge and hopes to contribute to more fluid and effective dissemination of academic ideas. The Board also hopes to facilitate the exchange of ideas with the academic community in the design of the programme.

The following activities are proposed for the period 2009-2011:

- a. The programme will take active part in the First Annual Conference organized by NorLARNet in November 2009. The programme is built around the 5 main research areas, and researchers funded by the programme is encouraged to present their projects.
- b. The last week of August 2010 the Board will meet with targeted departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including the Norwegian Ambassadors to Latin America, to discuss the programme.
- c. In the fall of 2010 the Board will meet with research leaders of the projects funded by the Programme in its first call to discuss: (a) the progress of the projects; (b) A design of to the optimum strategy for dissemination of project results to different stakeholders.
- d. Based on the information collected at the meeting, small meetings will be organized between research leaders and specific stakeholders during 2011.

Attachments

Attachment 1. Researcher projects funded in the first call, period 2009- 2012

Project title	Institution
Can waste emission from fish farms change the structure of marine food webs?	NTNU, Faculty of Nat. Science and Technology
Confronting Transnationalization:the Economic, Environmental and Political strategies of Central American Economic Groups	Centre for Development and the Environment , UiO
Dealing with the past: Victims' experiences of transitional justice in Argentina	Diakonhjemmet University College
Does a "rights based" approach to development contribute to social inclusion?	NIBR, Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research
The effect of migration and remittances on land use change in rural Guatemala	Centre for Development and the Environment , UiO
How formalization closed the gender gap in Peru and the impact on women's emancipation	NIBR, Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research
Linguistic attitudes in Spanish speaking Latin America	UiB, Department of Foreign Languages

Attachment 2. Programme board

Rickard Lalander, Associate Professor, Institute of Latin American Studies, University of Stockholm (chair)

Emily Boyd, lecturer, School of Earth and Environment, University of Leeds

Helle Munk Ravnborg, senior researcher, Danish Institute of International Studies, Copenhagen

Detlef Nolte, Professor , GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies, Hamburg

Diego Sanchez Ancochea, lecturer, Latin America Centre, University of Oxford

Kristian Ødegård, senior adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oslo

Deputies:

Anthony Bebbington, Professor, School of Environment and Development, University of Manchester

Rebecca Earle, Reader, Department of History, University of Warwick