

Annual Report 2009

Norway – A Global Partner (NORGLOBAL) 2009-2013

The year 2009

The research programme Norway – A Global Partner (NORGLOBAL) was launched in 2009. A programme board was appointed comprising members from a wide range of disciplines and including representatives from a number of different countries.

The programme issued its first call for proposals in 2009, with a deadline in June. Funding was announced for four of the activities under the NORGLOBAL programme: Economic Growth, Poverty Reduction, Reproductive Health and Population Dynamics (ECONPOP), Women's Rights and Gender Equality in Development (Women and Gender), the Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research (CGIAR) Fellowship Programme and Globalisation of Environmental, Energy and Climate Research (GLOBMEK). A total of 17 projects were approved for funding, and NOK 52.4 million was allocated for the project period.

The programme board held three meetings in 2009. It approved the work programme and the action plan for 2009 and also held a two-day application review meeting at which funding to the 17 projects was allocated. The programme board also started making plans for the annual dissemination seminar on activities under the former research programme Poverty and Peace Research (POVPEACE) (now incorporated into the NORGLOBAL programme), which was held on 9 March 2010.

Objectives 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 the South. 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 following thematic activities. Each activity has a separate work plan.

1. Poverty and Peace Research (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. The Western Balkans Development Studies will be a part of the programme from 2010.

Overview of finances and projects

Disposable budget available in 2009:

- *ECONPOP: NOK 30,000*
- *GLOBMEK: NOK 22 million (including NOK 11 million carried forward from 2008)*
- *Women and Gender: NOK 28 million (including NOK 14 million carried forward from 2008)*
- *CGIAR: NOK 9.8 million (including NOK 5.8 million carried forward from 2008)*
- *POVPEACE: NOK 24.5 million (including NOK 5.3 carried forward from 2008)*

Funding used in 2009: NOK 34,058,500

Programme's sources of funding in 2009: Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), Ministry of Education and Research, Norwegian Fund for Research and Innovation and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation (ECONPOP).

Number and type of projects in 2009: researcher projects and personal overseas research grants. Funding for conferences and seminars in the South.

Assessment of performance and scientific challenges

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 2009: a programme board was established, calls for proposals were issued and new projects were launched. The new projects approved for funding by the programme board have enabled the programme to enhance cooperation with countries in the South and to strengthen research on development. The projects under the programme provide a means for further developing research capacity in countries in the South, enhancing cooperation with these countries and strengthening Norwegian development research.

During its first year of operation NORGLOBAL issued calls for proposals for four of its key thematic activities and launched several projects under these activities. Most have partners in countries in the South and, in line with the programme's overall strategy, over half of the funds granted under the programme have been allocated to institutions in the South.

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. The programme organises an annual dissemination conference to ensure the dissemination of research results from the projects under this activity. In 2009 the programme started making plans for a larger dissemination conference, which was held on 9 March 2010.

Some difficulties have arisen in connection with follow-up of projects under the POVPEACE activity. Several of the projects have reported delays. During the next reporting period the programme board will monitor developments closely, in cooperation with the programme administration.

Projects under the NORGLOBAL programme must incorporate a wide range of subject areas and a cross-disciplinary approach if they are to adequately meet the challenges associated with development research and research conducted in cooperation with countries in the South. The projects started up in 2009 reflect both these components. The projects have partners from several countries in the South; partner countries include China, India and some countries in Africa.

The NORGLOBAL programme funds research on the globalisation of environmental, energy and climate research and has invited the RENERGI, MILJØ 2015 and NORKLIMA programmes to issue joint funding announcements in this context. The NORGLOBAL programme can provide funding for partners from the South that are taking part in projects under these other Research Council programmes. In response, the MILJØ 2015 and NORKLIMA programmes have in their calls for proposals invited applicants to include partners from the South.

Key figures, 2009

Number of projects, 2009: 25 ongoing researcher projects under the NORGLOBAL programme, as well as 4 post-doctoral research fellowships, 1 doctoral research fellowship and 2 overseas research grants. In 2009 the programme also approved funding for 17 new projects, of which 16 have start-up in 2010. The new projects are distributed between the following activities:

- *Women and Gender* 6 new
- *GLOBMEK* 6 new
- *ECONPOP* 4 new with start-up in 2010
- *CGIAR* 2 new

Doctoral fellows: 8

Postdoctoral fellows: 5

Project managers: 36

Most of the projects that were approved for allocations in 2009 will get underway early in 2010. However, the programme is also responsible for several projects under the POVPEACE activity which have been up and running for several years. Some of these submitted their final reports in 2009.

Performance indicators, 2009

PhDs women: 4 (3.8 man-years)

men: 3 (1.8 man-years)

Post-doctoral fellowships: 2 (1.7 man-years)

Scientific articles, peer-reviewed: 4

Scientific articles, not peer-reviewed: 20

Other publications/communication: 6 books, 39 user-oriented dissemination measures, 56 reports and lectures, 14 articles in the mass media, 5 published lectures from international conferences

2 new models

Comments on the figures: the figures are based on activities carried out under the former POVPEACE programme, which was launched in 2006, and the CGIAR Fellowship Programme. Of the 17 projects approved for funding by the programme board in 2009, 16 will be launched in 2010.

Most important activities in 2009

The NORGLOBAL programme was launched in 2009. It issued its first calls for proposals and 19 projects were started. The programme board held three meetings and got well underway with its work.

Table 1 Calls for proposals, applications and grant allocations for 2010-2012

Call for proposals	Application deadline	Total amount sought		Funds allocated to new projects with start-up in 2010	
		Amount (NOK)	Number	Amount (NOK)	Number
ECONPOP	2 September 2009	35,316,000	9	15,085,000	4
Women and Gender	2 September 2009	63,894,000	17	16,617,667	7
GLOBMEK	2 September 2009	73,075,000	14	19,821,000	6
CGIAR	Open-ended 2009	2,464,000	4	607,000	3

Priorities, initiatives and activities in:

- In 2009 the programme drew up and approved an action plan, and issued calls for proposals and processed grant applications under the ECONPOP, GLOBMEK, Women and Gender and CGIAR activities. The networks affiliated with the programme are to be evaluated during 2009-2010, and the programme board will serve as the reference group for these activities. An international group of experts has been appointed to carry out the scientific review of the networks.
- Calls for proposals under the ECONPOP, GLOBMEK, Women and Gender activities and the CGIAR fellowship were new initiatives in 2009.
- The four networks administered by the NORGLOBAL programme, 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) are to be evaluated during the course of 2009 and 2010 by an international group of experts. The expert group's report will be submitted in June 2010. It will include recommendations for future activities and will form the basis for the programme's future policy regarding the networks.
- Funding announcements:
 - o NOK 25 million in funding was announced under the ECONPOP activity. Nine grant applications were received and four projects were granted funding with a combined total of NOK 18 million.
 - o NOK 19 million in funding was announced under the Women and Gender activity. Sixteen grant applications were received and six projects started up.
 - o NOK 22 million in funding was announced under the GLOBMEK activity. Fourteen grant applications were received and six projects were launched. The NORGLOBAL programme (GLOBMEK activity) also issued a joint call for proposals with the MILJØ 2015 and NORKLIMA programmes. One project under the NORKLIMA programme was approved and will receive funding from the NORGLOBAL programme for its partner in South Africa in 2010.
 - o The CGIAR Fellowship Programme reviews proposals under an open-ended deadline. Three projects were awarded funding in 2009.

The NORGLOBAL programme is, by its nature and structure, a research programme in which international cooperation is a key component. Under the GLOBMEK activity funding has been set aside for partners in the South and funding allocated to the CGIAR Fellowship Programme is earmarked for researchers from the Norwegian research community for stays of up to two years at a CGIAR institute. The ECONPOP activity, which has a separate work programme, addresses the question of how reproductive health and population dynamics affect economic development, with particular focus on Africa South of the Sahara. As in other activities under the NORGLOBAL programme there is a requirement that a significant proportion of the funds allocated will go to partners in the South. As expected, the response to the call for proposals was relatively modest, but the quality of the applications was so high that four projects were allocated funding, three of them after minor adjustments had been made and a reassessment by the programme board carried out.

The highest proportion (60%) of the NOK 14 million allocated annually to the Women and Gender activity comes from the state budget allocation for women and gender equality (Section 168.70) and these funds are to be used by partner institutions in the South. The remaining 40% is set aside for the Norwegian institutions participating in the projects. To obtain the best returns on these research funds and to meet the challenges posed by the fact that research costs are higher in Norway than in countries in the South, the Women and Gender activity and the ECONPOP activity work together to administer funds earmarked for institutions in the South.

Under the ECONPOP activity funds are also set aside for partners in the South. In keeping with this, calls for proposals under the ECONPOP programme encourage applicants to include partners from the South in their projects. A considerable share of the available funding amount is earmarked for project partners from the South.

Communication and dissemination measures:

The ECONPOP activity receives 50 per cent of its funding from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation (the Hewlett Foundation) Population Program, which also provides funding for similar research programmes in France, the Netherlands, the UK and the US. The research councils and researchers that receive funds are also members of a separate contact and dissemination network, the Population and Poverty Research Network (PopPov). The PopPov Network organises an annual conference at which the researchers present their findings. The Research Council participated in the 2009 conference, which took place in Dublin. The network is heavily policy-oriented and works actively to draw up initiatives designed to reach the relevant users. In September a separate dissemination meeting was held at which the various actors involved in the network, other than the researchers, participated. The Research Council also took part. A separate plan for international dissemination activities is currently being drawn up.

The Research Council has also promoted the NORGLOBAL programme and the opportunities it presents externally.

Measures that promote the recruitment of women:

Funds allocated under the NORGLOBAL programme to the Women and Gender activity have also been used to support other initiatives in the South, including for example the SANORD (Southern-African Nordic Centre) conference held in South Africa. The funds are used, among other things, to finance the participation of young women researchers from the South in seminars and conferences.

Women project managers headed over half the new projects launched in November 2009.

Administrative activities:

Three programme board meetings were held in 2009, the first in March. One meeting was devoted to grant application review.

Use of referee panels in the application review process

Four referee panels were established in connection with the application review process, one for the GLOBMEK activity, one for the ECONPOP activity and two for the Women and Gender activity. The panels comprised international researchers with relevant expertise within the respective activities. The use of referee panels in the application review process was discussed and approved by the programme board. Assessment of grant applications by referee panels rather than by individual referees provides a better overall assessment. The respective members of the panel meet and discuss all the grant applications together before making their recommendations to the programme board. The application review process in autumn 2009 was the NORGLOBAL programme's first experience of using referee panels. The programme board and the programme administration were pleased with the outcome and intend to make use of panels in the next round of application processing.

Highlights and findings

- a) *The establishment of the NORGLOBAL programme was an important milestone for research with and about countries in the South. The programme used a large amount of resources on planning and start-up, including funding announcements, grant application processing and final decisions related to the Women and Gender, ECONPOP and GLOBMEK activities.*
- b) *In 2009, 17 new projects were approved for start-up under the NORGLOBAL programme. The research projects have a duration of three years and are expected to be concluded in 2012 and 2013. All the projects involve partners from the South. China, India and South Africa are key partner countries in several of the projects.*
- c) *The first projects under the former POVPEACE programme were launched in 2006/2007. Of the 30 funded projects, five had submitted their final reports by the end of 2009. At the turn of the year the programme board had approved two of these. The project "Poverty, Prices and International Inequality" shows the significance of Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) during the period 1980–2007 for calculations of economic growth and poverty. One of the findings shows that differences in real income have decreased over the past fifteen years. Developments in China have played a crucial part in this convergence, especially in the period up to 2000. The study also indicates that globalisation has not led to international equality in terms of the price of tradable goods but it has led to more equal import price levels. Another result of globalisation is that a country's GDP (gross domestic product) corresponds more closely with income levels. International price levels are therefore assumed to be partly determined by price differences for tradable goods, and not by other goods or services. Regional price calculations are often based on data from individual regions or cities. New methods for analysing geographical price differences within individual countries have been developed. This is highly relevant for large countries such as Russia, China and India. Together with empirical studies, it has shown that taking account of geographical price differences calculated according to established criteria can have a dramatic impact on poverty estimates, for example in China.*

The project “Poverty and marginalization in West and Central Africa: Autochthony and land rights” has shown that rights to land are a significant factor in many of the ongoing African conflicts. Field studies in Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia and the Republic of Mali show that identification papers and written property contracts are rarely available. On the contrary, tales of origin and different social structures based on which population group was first in a given area provide a basis for deciding who has the rights to the land and other resources.

