

The Research
Council of Norway



Evaluation of Medicine and Health Research in Norway (2012–2022)

- National Committee Report – Summary of Recommendations
- Chair: Prof. Martin Ingvar, Karolinska Institutet

National Committee Role

- - Independent international review
- - Evaluated 317 research groups across 68 units
- - Based on rigorous data and consensus
- - Recommendations target systemic improvement

National Committee

Professor

Martin Ingvar (chair)

Karolinska Institutet

Professor

Falko Sniehotta

Heidelberg University

Professor Dame

Til Wykes

King's College London

Professor emerita

Ingalill Rahm Hallberg

Lund University

Professor

Anja Krumeich

Maastricht University

Professor

Søren Brunak

University of Copenhagen

Professor

Johan Hellgren

University of Göteborg

Professor

Jørgen Frøkiær

Aarhus University

Geert van der Veen, Managing Partner, Technopolis Group, was secretary to the committee.

General Impressions

- - Quality from good to excellent, with standout groups
- - Strong national collaboration
- - Sparse international visibility
- - Low international and industry funding
- - High potential in registry use and programmatic research
- - Need for improved infrastructure and career systems

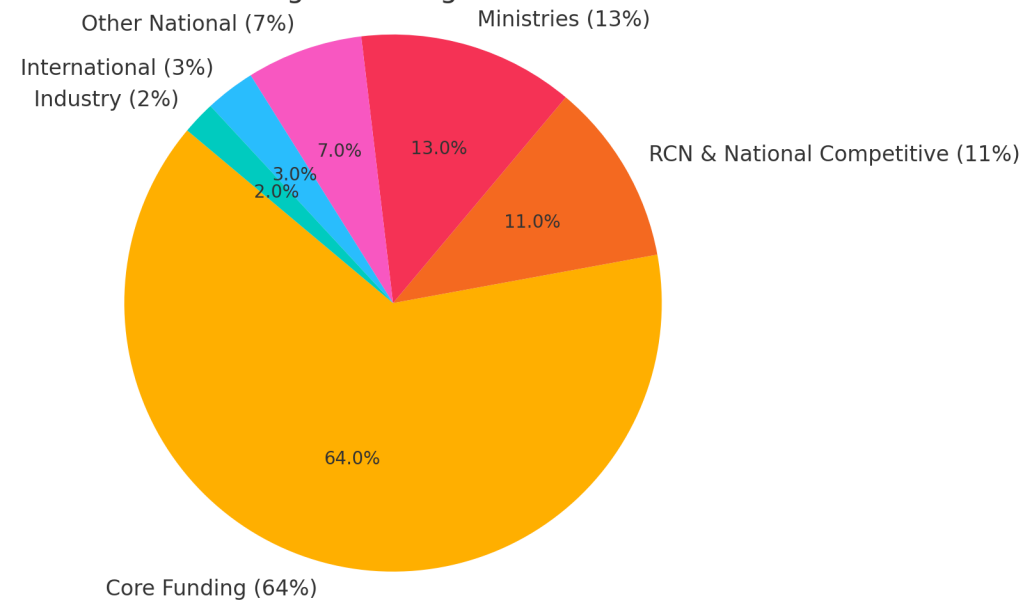
Norway in EU - Programmes, 2021-2027:

- Horizon Europe
- Erasmus+
- European Space Programme
- Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL)
- EU4Health
- Creative Europe
- The EU programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) strand under the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)
- InvestEU

Funding – Key Issues

- - 64% of funding is non-performance-based core funding
- - Low competitive and international funding
- - Limited strategic, long-term program funding
- - Funding fragmentation weakens innovation

Sources of Research Funding in Norwegian Medical & Health Research

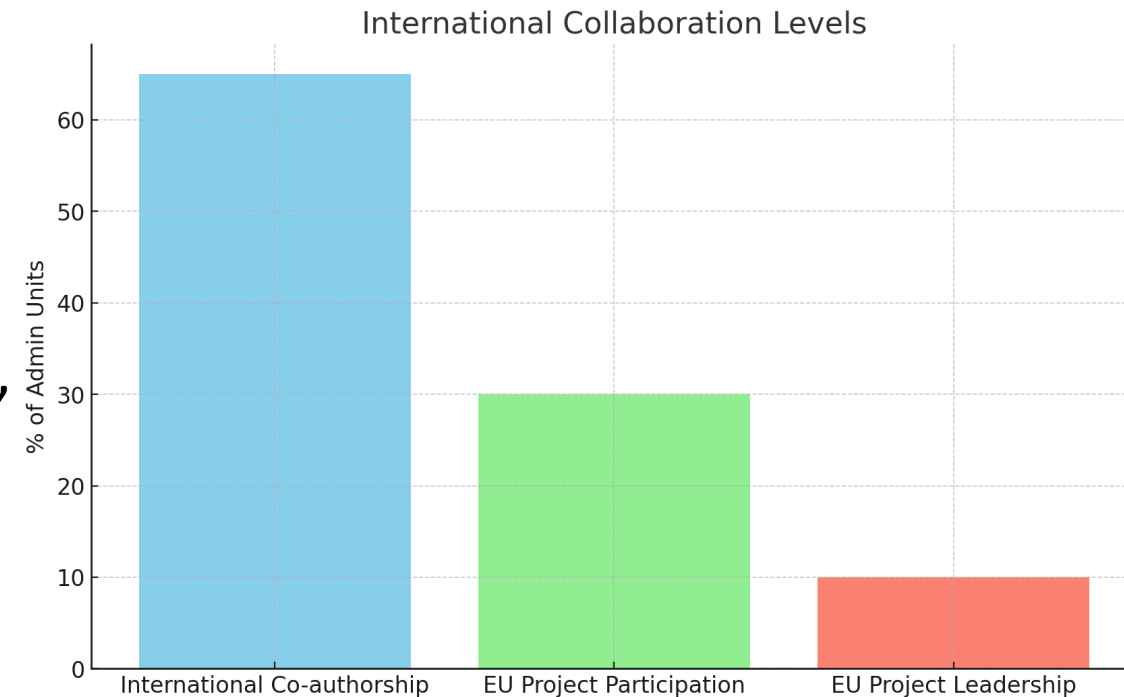


Recommendation 1 – Better Coordination of Funding

- - Pool resources, avoid duplication
- - Increase base funding for smaller HEIs and health trusts
- - Foster virtual networks for collaboration
- - Enable long-term planning with multi-year cycles

Recommendation 2 – Goal-Oriented Programmes

- - Fund long-term, impact-driven programs
- - Encourage cross-sector collaboration
- - Increase international funding (EU, ERC, NIH)
- - Engage industry, especially MedTech



Are we Norwegian health researchers, as a whole, not ambitious enough?

Research Careers – Current Situation

- - Aging academic staff
- - Few postdocs, unclear career paths
- - Recruitment challenges in remote regions
- - Lack of succession planning

Recommendation 3 – Strengthen Research Careers

- - Clear career tracks and postdoc support
- - Reduce language barriers to attract talent
- - Incentivize research in remote regions
- - Improve diversity and leadership succession

Registry System – Opportunity

- - Strong base of national registries
- - Lack of coordination limits potential
- - Key enabler for personalised medicine
- - Requires harmonisation and real-time data access

Recommendation 4 – Registry System Development

- - Harmonise standards across registries
- - Promote semantic, technical, legal interoperability
- - Treat as national infrastructure
- - Drive research and care improvements

Societal Impact – Strengths and Gaps

- - Impact in diagnostics, policy, startups
- - Not systematically tracked or communicated
- - Weak industry collaboration
- - Underdeveloped implementation pipeline

Recommendation 5 – Enhance Societal Impact

- - Support programmatic, need-driven research
 - - Strengthen stakeholder involvement and translation
 - - Communicate research benefits widely
 - - Improve policy and industry integration
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- (* We did not get insight into how the removal of the academicians exemption for IP in 2004 had influenced the ability to leverage innovations to the market by the institutions/universities.)
 - Innovation process support + signal from top of importance + national models for revenue share

Open Science & User Involvement

- - Progress in Open Access publishing
- - Data sharing underdeveloped
- - User involvement is inconsistent
- - Needs embedding in funding and project design

Strategic Priorities

- - Strengthen international leadership
 - Consolidate under shared goals
 - Leverage data assets
 - Build rewarding, inclusive research careers

Final Thoughts from the Chair

- - Move slowly but with clearly communicated goals
- - Norway is positioned to better internationally if bold action is taken
- - Coordination, cooperation, and careers are key
- - Invest in strategic infrastructure and societal relevance

- Concept/Semantic/Standards harmonization across the health registries
- Slowly rebalance to 50/50 competitive funding (over 5-7 years) and harmonize between RCN and Helsefortak/Departementer/Andre Nationale Kilder
- Promote international participation