



# Work Programme 2018–

Programme  
International relations, foreign and security policy and Norwegian interests – UTENRIKS



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'Protect, survive, and thrive. Norway, interdependence, and international  
relations in a changing world'

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International relations, foreign and security policy and  
Norwegian interests - UTENRIKS

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Attachment: Program logic model

# 1 Introduction

UTENRIKS (Research on international relations, foreign and security policy and Norwegian interests) is a Research programme under the auspices of the Research Council of Norway.

In a recent White Paper for the Storting on this topic, *Setting the course for Norwegian foreign and security policy* (White Paper for the Storting No 36, 2016–17), the Government stated that the security situation facing Norway is more serious than it has been for a long time. The White Paper emphasized how important research-based knowledge is in order to make informed decisions, not least in areas of particular strategic importance to Norway.

In the Long-term plan for research and higher education 2019-2028 (White paper for the Storting No 4, 2018-2019) the need for knowledge about the global changes in politics, economy, in the societies and the development and use of technology is highlighted. Drivers, internationally and nationally, that influence the Norwegian society, our sustainability and our security is of importance to understand.

The *Research Strategy for the Foreign Service and NORAD 2017–2024* also elaborated on and set goals for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' research work and emphasized the importance of communicating the results of research to ensure that it reaches users in a timely manner. The strategy goes on to state that: "Strong Norwegian research communities are both a goal in themselves and a means of producing research. Even though a lot of relevant research is available from foreign sources, it is important to ensure that we have research that is grounded in a Norwegian context. The R&D efforts must contribute to strengthening our national contingency knowledge, which means that the premises for the research must not be limited to addressing topical issues and topics. We can never know for certain what challenges lie ahead. Strong Norwegian expert communities ensure that we have the contingency knowledge required to meet unforeseen knowledge needs."

The *Strategy for Research and Development in the Defense Sector* (2013) of the Ministry of Defence refers to the Long-term Plan for the Armed Forces, and the thematic research and knowledge areas defined there. The first theme is security policy, which is "the aspects of foreign policy that are seen as relevant to the security of the state and its inhabitants, and to defense policy, including international trends, developments in nearby areas, and security policy interests of Norway and its allies."

The primary objective of UTENRIKS is thus to promote strategic and long-term research that combines scholarship with user relevance. High-quality research and an exchange of opinions should contribute to informed public debate and policy-making in Norway. It is obviously essential to ensure that Norway has robust and multi-faceted knowledge in areas of major strategic importance. It is, however, also important to stimulate new research on topics that currently might appear less relevant, but that may prove to be key to identifying and addressing significant new trends.

Thematically the UTENRIKS research field is wide. A number of issue areas falling within the scope of the programme are also dealt with in the context of other Research Council programmes, including programmes sponsoring research on the environment, energy, oceans, extremism, migration and protective security, as well as development research. Therefore, there should be no watertight dividing lines between UTENRIKS and other programmes dealing with related or overlapping issues. Because of this, the programme will pursue joint calls with other programmes whenever helpful to the broader research effort.

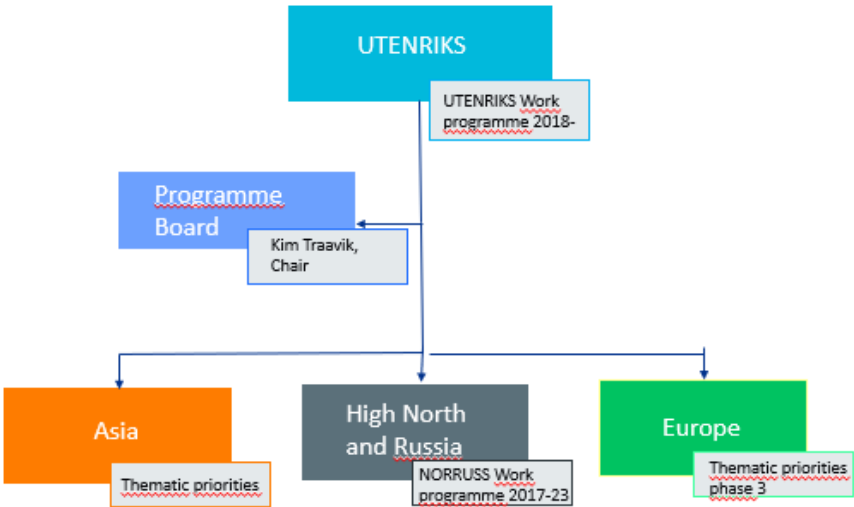
Following a period of steadily increasing global cooperation and relative stability, most indicators now point towards a more turbulent and unpredictable world. Although the world from an overall point of view is more prosperous and peaceful than it used to be, global challenges that relate to structural and political changes in the international sphere; to the climate and environment; technology; migration; and inequality may generate intra-state and inter-state conflicts. In a world that is increasingly interconnected, it is imperative to ensure that we have a sound basis from which to study global trends, conduct comparative studies and do research on transnational networks and phenomena.

Obviously, some countries stand out as particularly significant and deserving of attention from a Norwegian point of view. These countries may be important for Norway’s foreign relations or may be global drivers as a result of their economic and military strength and/or their technological impact. At the same time, however, it is essential to carry out research on themes, countries and areas other than those that appear most immediately important, both because this helps us to understand new developments and changes in international relations, and also because it gives us access to knowledge that may be useful in contingency situations. In practical terms this means that the focus of research cannot be exclusively on areas such as the Nordic countries and Europe, the USA, Russia and the High North. UTENRIKS must also support research on issues related to the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Latin America and to new international institutions – from the UN Development Programme on Sustainable Government to China’s One-Belt-One-Road initiative.

From Januar 2019 the UTENRIKS programme will have three sub-activities, that do not exclude research as highlighted above, but reflect a special attention to these areas from the funding ministries.

- **NORRUSS Pluss**– Research on the High North and Russia
- **EUROPA** – Europe in Transition
- **ASIA** – Asia in a Time of Change

Each of these activities have a separate document describing its rationale and areas of thematic priority in greater detail than in the UTENRIKS work programme, and should be taken into account when call for proposals are announced for these specific focus areas.



## 2 Summary (in Norwegian)

UTENRIKS (Forskning på internasjonale relasjoner, utenriks- og sikkerhetspolitikk basert på norske interesser) er et forskningsprogram under Norges forskningsråd.

Verden er i dag et sted der endringer skjer stadig hurtigere og stater og samfunn er så tett på hverandre at en endring et sted har konsekvenser helt andre steder. Den globale sammenvevdheten og avhengigheten har bidratt til velstand, stabilitet, tillit og orden, men det kan også skape utfordringer når endringer skjer, fordi det påvirker så mange områder.

De endrede maktforhold der vi i mindre grad er en verden dominert av USA og Europa, og skillet mellom nord og sør blir mindre tydelig, gjør at drivkreftene for endring i blant annet den globale økonomi flyttes mot Asia, og i særlig grad mot Kina. Men man skal heller ikke glemme at den økonomiske veksten i mange utviklingsland er mer en to ganger høyere enn hos tradisjonelle industriland. Vi ser videre endringer i maktstrukturer kan utfordre etablerte og komplekse styrings- og verdisystemer, og ikke minst felles institusjoner.

Et raskt blikk på noen av de drivkreftene som påvirker utviklingen (se kapittel 3.1) viser at de er så sammensatte at forskningen vil tjene på at man går sammen fra flere disipliner og dekker et bredere tematisk og geografisk område for å kunne forstå hva som foregår til fulle.

Hovedformålet med UTENRIKS er derfor å fremme strategisk og langsiktig forskning, som kombinerer forskning med bruker relevans. Forskning av høy kvalitet skal engasjere til meningsutveksling og bidra til et informert offentlig ordskifte og politikk utforming i Norge.

Det er åpenbart essensielt å sikre at Norge har et robust og flerfaglig kunnskapsmiljø i fag og politikkområder som er strategisk viktig for nasjonen. Det er imidlertid også viktig å stimulere til ny forskning på fag og tema som ikke nødvendigvis er aktuelle i et dagsbilde, men som vil kunne være med å bygge kunnskapsmiljø, som kan være med å avsløre nye viktige trender og drivkrefter, samt være en del av kunnskapsberedskapen i forhold til uforutsette hendelser og politikkdreininger.

Tematisk er UTENRIKS et bredt anlagt program. En rekke problemstillinger som naturlig vil falle inn under programmets forskningsfelt, er også dekket gjennom andre programmer i Forskningsrådet. Dette kan være programmer som dekker forskning på blant annet utviklingsforskning som helhet, samfunnssikkerhet, klima- og miljøutfordringer, energi, hav og det blå økonomi og informasjonsteknologi. Det er ingen vanntette skiller mellom UTENRIKS og disse programmene, tvert imot vil man søke samarbeid med disse for å sikre en bredere tilnærming til problemstillingene.

Fra januar 2019 vil UTENRIKS programmet bestå av en overordnet del, beskrevet gjennom denne programplanen, samt tre særskilt definerte aktivitetsområder:

- **NORRUSS Pluss**– Research on the High North and Russia
- **EUROPA** – Europe in Transition
- **ASIA** – Asia in a Time of Change

Hver enkelt av disse aktivitetsområdene har egne dokumenter som beskriver de faglige og tematiske prioriteringer, og vil bli referert til under aktuelle utlysninger.



# 3 Background and challenges

## 3.1 A time of global change

We are currently in a period where the pace of change has dramatically increased, where the world is so interconnected that changes in one place can have consequences in completely different places, and where changes in power structures can challenge established values and cooperative institutions. Global interconnectedness and interdependence have contributed to wealth, stability, trust and order. However, these trends have also created vulnerabilities.

It is essential, hence, to understand the ways in which global change may affect established webs of complex interdependence. For example, there is a shift of power away from the dominance of the USA and Europe. The division between North and South is becoming less clear, thanks to economic growth rates in many developing countries that are more than twice those of traditional industrial countries. The centre of gravity of the global economy appears to be moving to East Asia, and to China in particular.

A quick look at some of the important forces at play suggests that they are often related to each other. This indicates in turn that researchers need to deploy multi-disciplinary, thematic and geographical approaches to appreciate and understand them fully.

New types of actors are gaining salience in international politics, meaning that multilateral cooperation, which small states like Norway see as beneficial, might come under increasing pressure. In particular, multinational companies, global civil society networks, transnational criminal networks and militant organisations contribute to increased international complexity. A country like Norway can find new partners in the private sector or in civil society, yet it can also be threatened by criminal or militant organisations. Failed and vulnerable states may be breeding grounds for these threats. In other words, transnational networks and non-state groups can be both an asset and a challenge to a world order based on sovereign states.

Demographic trends play an important role in any analysis. This applies to both national and global population growth, and population shifts between geographical regions. Demographic trends are causing labour shortages in several European nations. While migration can contribute to filling the gaps, it can also lead to distortions in labour markets and demographic imbalances., which in turn may contribute to increased social and political tension

Technological development, such as artificial intelligence and new IT platforms, is driving change and putting societal values to the test. This can create new opportunities for social engagement, for coordination and for communication. Economically, it is driving up productivity, while at the same time making many jobs superfluous. In the security field, new military technologies are steadily transforming weapons systems. The cyber domain itself is becoming a new arena for manipulation, contestation, conflict and fears about surveillance.

The media landscape is rapidly changing, with new platforms and global delivery systems. There has been a palpable shift of economic and political gravity from producers of media content to the new companies which run the platforms and distribute the content, creating powerful global conglomerates, some of which are approaching the status of quasi-monopolies. While the 20<sup>th</sup>-century nation state could rely on the media to disseminate shared national references and narratives, this is no longer so easy – except where governments exert control over both media

content and delivery systems. The very notion of a public sphere as a shared frame for national deliberation over politics seems to be under challenge.

Democracy as a system of government has been expanding across the globe since the mid-20th century, but its expansion seems to have stagnated in the last decade. In several countries there is increased dissatisfaction with politicians and the representative political system. What people are angry with varies, but antagonism against political elites appears to be a common feature. This often translates into the growth of authoritarianism, and of populist parties that in many cases advocate isolationism.

Inequality is often highlighted as the most important driver of insecurity, populism and anti-globalization. It is a widely held view that, even though the aggregated consequences of globalization are positive, economic inequality increases, and so many people are net losers. Inequality is more than just economic inequality, however, and it is particularly potent when economic inequality is combined with inequality in political influence, and particularly if it is felt that inequalities mirror divisions between identity groups.

Religion and cultural identity can trigger intense public discussion, social mobilization and political conflict. In Western Europe, the rising Muslim presence is clearly an important factor. But Islam it is not the only politically relevant religion. In formerly secularist states such as Israel, Russia, India or Turkey, new forms of religious politics have emerged. Anti-religion has also been on the rise, in response to what is widely considered unreasonable demands from religious groups.

Migration flows have been a part of human development throughout history. The movement of people internally and across national borders reshapes the political, cultural, economic and social spheres of nations throughout the world. International migration also creates new transnational communities and interdependencies between previously disparate peoples and states. Immigration can stimulate economic growth and enrich intellectual, social, and cultural life in receiving areas. But it can also contribute to increased unemployment and inequality, and it can strain the capacity of national and local governments to provide public goods such as education, health and social services. Rising immigration has become a contentious domestic issue in many countries.

Climate change can be considered the ultimate threat multiplier; it has the potential to further exacerbate existing security risks. Climate change can directly affect security through its effect on a state's critical infrastructure. For instance, extreme weather events may devastate essential energy, financial and agricultural assets that sustain a country's economic viability. Rising sea levels may threaten the existence of river deltas, coastal cities and island states. Indirectly, climate change may also affect security by causing increased scarcity of renewable resources, such as freshwater, agricultural products and fish. Such scarcities can devastate livelihoods and cause population displacements, and thus be a source of conflict inside and between states.

Strategic thinking about international development is central to understanding and dealing with the problem of inequality within the international system. How states and international institutions should address and take forward development issues is of cardinal importance.

A brief overview cannot do justice neither to the complexity of the issues involved nor to the contributions research has made to articulating them. It nevertheless provides a backdrop to understanding what types of connections research must now prioritize. The overarching purpose of UTENRIKS is to contribute research of outstanding quality on topics that are relevant to Norway as a society, as a nation state and as an actor in the world.

## 3.2 Research Rationale

In Norway, as in every advanced democracy, research on international relations should inform a knowledge-based foreign and security policy making and public debate.

This means that research must be able to combine depth and range. In areas that are important to Norway, it is crucial to have in-depth knowledge, as well as the ability to view the same topics from multiple perspectives. At the same time, however, it is important to maintain knowledge along a broad horizon. Thus UTENRIKS must connect with other programmes and centres of research to promote a wide range of new insights, facilitate the identification of new trends, and – most difficult of all – foster anticipation of the unexpected.

Research also plays an important role in education. This applies at all levels, but most clearly in higher education. Sound academic research at the national level ensures both that national interests and challenges are reflected in the education system and that the country's own educational institutions – which will provide the policy makers and business communities of the future – can base their teaching upon scholarship of a high international standard. A well-functioning democracy is dependent on a thriving public sphere, open debates and a well-informed public – not least in the foreign policy and security policy context.

Research builds international networks, mutual understanding and cooperation. Recently, there has been growing awareness of the importance of 'science diplomacy', not least because of the EU's calls for proposals in this area.<sup>1</sup> The fundamental idea is that the norms and rules that apply to scientific cooperation make it possible to establish cooperation also with states with whom relations are challenging

Research on international relations and foreign and security policy is important to all countries. Much research that is produced internationally is also relevant to Norwegian policies, government administration and economic initiatives. It is essential that research communities outside Norway also contribute to this research. At the same time, however, it is crucial for a national research project to encourage research that addresses the Norwegian context and Norway's foreign policy and security policy challenges and strengthens domestic institutions of research and education.

### 3.2.1 Status of Norwegian research

Norway has highly qualified research communities, both at the internationally oriented institutes and in university and university college departments. Findings from the evaluation of a total of 22 social science university departments and institutes show that the group of internationally oriented institutes is very strong (Forskningsrådet, 2017a).

Not surprisingly, this report shows that Norwegian research institutes are particularly strong in areas that have great relevance for Norway, including Europe; Russia; the High North; peace and conflict and security policy. The institutes have a clear division of labour, each having their own

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<sup>1</sup> The EU uses a much broader definition of 'science diplomacy' that includes 1) 'science in diplomacy'; 2) 'diplomacy for science' (support for and facilitation of research cooperation) and 3) 'science for diplomacy'. Here, 'science diplomacy' is only used in the latter sense. See, for example, [Moedas, 2015](#).

distinct profile and defined purpose. The report also underscores the strong Norwegian tradition of interdisciplinarity.

The Research Council of Norway in 2018 evaluated the Social Science research in Norway (SAMEVAL) with the aim to review the present state of social science research in Norway as a basis for recommendations on the future development of research. The evaluation committee finds that a large number of institutions and research groups are performing well across the social sciences and above the Nordic and OECD averages in terms of the bibliometric analysis. It also finds that it is possible to get much more out of the social science research, in order to make further international impact, advance theoretical debate and develop critical thinking. The UTENRIKS programme encourages research with potential to strengthen the social sciences in terms of innovative methods, developing theory, comparative studies and international networking and collaboration

## 4 Objectives for the programme

The ambition of UTENRIKS is to promote the understanding of

- the international system and Norway's place therein;
- the challenges, opportunities and alternative options facing Norway in the pursuit of its interests and values, close to home and further afield;
- the foreign and security policies of countries that are particularly significant in terms of their impact on Norwegian interests;
- international cooperation and the institutions in which Norwegian international policies take place.

To that end, it is obviously necessary to build knowledge about the behaviour and relationships of great powers. But it is also necessary to build knowledge about other players in the international arena, particularly countries that are geographically and politically close to Norway, or whose behaviour affects Norwegian interests to a significant extent.

Knowledge about languages, cultures, political structures and economic organisation elsewhere is important to understand, in a comparative perspective, Norway's role in a changing world. The programme aims to acquire contingency knowledge and stimulate novel thinking that will enable the country and its leaders to handle unexpected developments. A general understanding of the world and its workings, its diversity of development paths and the political priorities that must be determined, all depend on a broader approach.

Research on international relations and foreign and security policy is valuable in itself. It is hard to determine with certainty what research may or may not be of relevance to Norwegian interests and values now and in the future. Government funded research can and should contribute to an understanding of the changing international environment and help inform leaders and citizens to make policy choices based on Norwegian interests, norms and values. Evidence-based analysis that can be fully debated and understood by the public is essential.

**The primary objectives** of the programme are:

- To expand academic and public knowledge and build long-term research capacity on international relations and foreign and security policy issues relevant to Norway's interests
- To promote research on the impact of global transformative trends with a bearing on the emergence of international conflict

- To foster analysis through research of the highest quality, where appropriate in collaboration with other research programmes
- To enhance Norwegian policy-making on international and foreign and security policy issues through research-generated knowledge and policy recommendations
- To contribute to a flexible policy approach to future unexpected contingencies.

*The secondary objectives of the programme are:*

- To promote multi-disciplinary approaches
- To encourage the use of state-of-the art, innovative methodological approaches
- To involve, whenever possible, more than one research community in any given project
- To encourage international research cooperation; networking with established research institutions; and consideration of public impact.

## 5 Thematic and scientific priority areas

Protect, survive, and thrive'. These are words that may summarize the core concerns of Norway in today's world. They also indicate the basic rationale for the UTENRIKS research programme. Norway has engagements all over the world. Norwegian interests are increasingly influenced by the behaviour of rising regional powers, and by developments outside of the traditional Western regions.

While it is important to pay attention to Norway's traditional areas of interest in Europe and the north-Atlantic region, it is also necessary to devote academic attention and resources to those extra-Western parts of the globe that are becoming increasingly important for Norwegian political and economic interests. In practical terms this means that the focus of research cannot be exclusively on areas such as the Nordic countries and Europe, the USA, Russia and the High North. UTENRIKS must also support research on issues related to the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Latin America and to new international institutions – from the UN Development Programme on Sustainable Government to China's One-Belt-One-Road initiative.

The sections briefly elaborated below, as well as those at Section 3.1 above, outline the overall ambition of the programme. They cover both themes and geographic questions relating to world order; as well as those relating to international economy and to global society. Far-reaching analyses that examine the political and the economic order and deal with theoretical and practical aspects of state and non-state actors, inter-state relations, state-regional relations, and state relations within the international system will be welcomed. Resources and climate related issues are also priority themes for this research programme.

### 5.1 International political order

The study of international order is often conducted on an abstract, macro-historical level of analysis. It tends to identify challenges in terms of changes related to the actors and structures of the world system. Interstate interaction is commonly cast in terms of a shifting balance of power and can be defined in terms of polarity, or by international norms and rules of law. Such

interaction may be analysed by studying the entire interstate system as a single unit or by selecting distinct sub-systems or regions for special analytical attention.

### **5.1.1 Order and the international system**

When the Soviet Union collapsed the global power structures changed. The USA remained the only superpower in a post-Cold-War world. The consequences rippled throughout the world and impacted upon its regional sub-systems. About thirty years on, the global power structures are changing again. The international system is in flux and presents Norway with challenges and opportunities that must be handled wisely.

One such challenge is the relative decline of Norway's major ally, the USA, as well as the perceived reduced interest of the Trump Administration in the security of Europe. Another challenge is the rise of Asia. The power of China has been steadily growing in political, military and economic terms, so some scholars see Asia as a unipolar sub-system. Asian states have been adapting to the growth of their Chinese neighbor in various ways. Some curry favor with China, moving closer to Beijing to form a tributary system under Chinese suzerainty. Others seek closer ties with the West in order to counter-balance Chinese influence. Movements such as these affect established tensions in the region, and also create new strains and new lines of conflict.

Africa, a vast and varied continent with no obviously leading state, an unclear polarity and a low degree of institutionalization, has also felt these strains. Africa has, for centuries, been affected by the colonial powers of the Western Europe, while during the Cold War it was an arena for superpower rivalry. Over the last few decades, China has significantly bolstered its presence there. Some African countries are weary of this; others see in Asia a viable model for economic development and political order and are forging closer relations with China.

Russia, which by some accounts is a region or a sub-system in itself, has also been adapting to the rise of Asia. Russia has shifted away from accommodation with the West and rather sought to expand its ties with the East and with China in particular. As Russia has modernized its armed forces and adopted a more assertive foreign policy, tension between Russia and the West has increased – particularly in the wake of the annexation of Crimea and Russian meddling in Eastern Ukraine. Such tensions have caused Western leaders to pay more attention to issues of national security – both to traditional military threats and to new challenges such as cyber threats towards infrastructure and information systems.

Europe is a region of wealthy, liberal states with a highly institutionalized system of economic and political cooperation. Yet, Europe is facing challenges. Some of these are political; Britain is leaving EU and other countries show signs of dissatisfaction with Europe's common institutions. Other challenges are military; since Britain is a major military power, her departure is bound to reduce EU's military clout. Still other challenges are of a political-economic character.

For example, Europe is dependent upon a smooth supply of reasonably-priced energy from outside sources to keep its productive economy going. Russia, with whom Europe has a strained political relationship, is the biggest supplier of energy, particularly natural gas, to the European market, while Norway is the second-biggest.

Another source of energy is the Middle East – a region which is marked by a low degree of institutionalization, by criss-crossing lines of conflict, by internal tensions, and no stable balance.

When conflicts flare up in the Middle East – as they recently have done in Iraq, Libya and Syria – consequences ripple through other sub-systems. Western states are concerned with the way

such conflicts may affect energy supplies and prices and cause adverse effects on their economies. Also, Western states are concerned about the way Middle-Eastern wars create refugees and apparently unmanageable waves of migration.

In sum, the international order is changing, and Norway must adapt. The changes entail challenges and restraints, but they also offer new opportunities. It is important to identify, understand and elaborate both.

Norway has worked to improve its relations with the rising powers in some of the world's regions – in South America, Norway has cultivated a special relationship with Brazil; in Asia, it has worked to create closer ties with India and China. In the bigger picture, however, Russia and the USA remain dominant centres of gravity in Norway's political universe.

After World War II, when the world system was marked by a bipolar rivalry between the two, Norway joined the liberal world order which the USA successfully supported in the West. After the Soviet collapse, Norway joined US efforts to expand that order beyond the West; with mixed results. Today, the big questions that Norway's policymakers ask are still related to America and Russia, but also to China.

Is the USA declining or not? If the USA is declining, why is it declining? Is the decline relative or absolute? And what are the likely consequences of the decline? Is the US commitment to European security waning? If so, what should Norway and its European allies do in response? And will the liberal order prevail because human rights and democracy are intrinsically noble and good? Or will power ambitions, equilibrium and spheres of influence bring Great-Power politics back? Has the international system become fundamentally different now? Is it different because the world is unified by common threats from nuclear proliferation and climate change? Is the world united by a steadily greater interdependence? Is it unified by digital webs?

### **5.1.2 Foreign and security policy**

Foreign- and security policies concern the behavior of individual countries. These policies are of course affected by systemic impulses that impinge upon the individual country. Security policy, for example, is affected by Great Power relations and behavior, and by alliance memberships. But the foreign and security behavior of states is also a product of domestic factors; the mind-set and ambitions of key decision-makers, the political constellations of the nation, the character of its bureaucracy, economic and military capabilities, and national culture and ambitions. Security policy is about the survival of the nation state and the safety of its citizens. Ultimately, security concerns can trump all other foreign-policy considerations.

Norway is situated in the northwestern corner of Europe, with oceans to the west and the north. It shares a border with Russia, a major power whose security interests in a crisis could deviate from its own. A major part of Russia's strategic nuclear deterrent, as well as significant naval and other conventional forces, are deployed in bases close to Norwegian territory. Hence, the geopolitical importance of Norway's Arctic neighborhood is growing. It is a basic tenet of Norwegian policy that the country's security cannot be maintained without outside assistance. Accordingly, NATO remains a linchpin of Norwegian security.

Against this backdrop, the perception that US commitment to European security may be wavering has caused some unease in Norway. However, analysts also point out that US rhetoric appears to have changed more than its actual behavior. For the time being at least, the Trump administration seems no less interested in military cooperation with Norway than its predecessors. There is also some concern that the attention of the US, the traditional security

guarantor of Western Europe, is pivoting to Asia. And finally, US pressure on European states to increase their military budgets and invest more heavily in their defense is having an effect. However, this pressure is also adding to trans-Atlantic strains.

Are these changes weakening the established institutions of the Atlantic community? This is a question of deep concern for Norway as it is for all Euro-NATO states, especially for the smaller European members, whose defense has traditionally been heavily dependent on a strong, US-supported NATO.

Although not a member of the EU, Norway is part of the European Economic Area and enjoys full access to the single European market. It is also a part of the Schengen travel area. Norway has worked closely with the EU across a wide range of areas, including the Common Foreign and Security Policy. For example, Norway has aligned itself with EU sanctions against Russia in the wake of the annexation of the Crimea. Norway cooperates closely with the EU on many issues related to the Middle East and shares the concerns of EU states about unpredictable waves of migration.

However, in contrast to most other European countries, Norway is an energy-exporter; in the field of energy Oslo has interests that differ markedly from those of most other European states. Norway is a small player in the global crude oil market, but it is the world's third largest exporter and the EU's second largest supplier of natural gas (behind Russia).

Norway's high levels of wealth and well-being have evolved within a liberal, rules-based international order, which generally reflects the democratic, free-market principles. This order, established in the wake of World War II, has served Norway well. The basic thrust of Norway's foreign- and security policy has been to preserve and support the institutions that uphold it.

Thus, Norway remains a strong supporter of the UN and other international institutions that sustain its values and principles. Norway is a keen supporter of the United Nations Development Programme on Sustainable Development. Indeed, the Sustainable Development Goals – including equality, climate, peace, justice, strong institutions and economic growth – have galvanized unprecedented efforts to meet the needs of the world's poorest. By mitigating causes of conflict in and between countries, the Sustainable Goals also contribute to international stability, peace and prosperity.

### **5.1.3 Conflict management**

Norway places high priority on diplomatic activities that seek to combat poverty and conflict. The country has long had one of the world's highest rates of development aid – about 1% of gross national income - GNI. After the end of the Cold War, Norway has also adopted a more systematic policy of peace and reconciliation, actively facilitating dialogue and helping parties in conflict reach a negotiated settlement.

Among the key ingredients in this policy are patience, perseverance and discretion, inclusion of all the parties to a conflict, and willingness to invest time and money in support of peace processes. The Norwegian engagement has obviously been motivated by a wish to serve the cause of peace and stability, inside and between states. But it has also had the effect of burnishing Norway's diplomatic credentials and made it a more interesting and sought-after interlocutor in the eyes of others, including great powers and major international institutions.

International peace-keeping is likely to remain a key tool of international conflict management. There is renewed interest in the UN's peace-keeping operations on the part of big powers, for



example China and the USA. International peace keeping is evolving towards the use of a broader spectrum of force, including peace-making operations, new technology and increased emphasis on intelligence. While the key role of the UN is broadly supported, many member states, including Norway, argue that there is an urgent need for reform and strengthening of UN peace-keeping. It is felt that force generation needs to become more efficient, that the quality of personnel needs to be improved, and that more women need to be involved. Many also plead for an increased emphasis on efforts to prevent conflicts from arising in the first place.

#### **5.1.4 New technology and new security threats**

Modern states today are dependent on digital information and IT systems. The digitalization of society has underpinned administrative and productive efficiency. It has contributed to increased comfort and the accumulation of wealth. New digital technologies have furthermore led to greater interdependence, inside and between states. But it has also created greater vulnerabilities that have made individual states more exposed to hostile acts of sabotage, intelligence, theft or terrorism.

Norway, like most other countries, has seen a significant increase in digital attacks and is taking measures to guard against them. The purpose of these attacks, which are becoming steadily more sophisticated, is to hack, compromise, steal, alter or destroy information that is vital to the good functioning of society. Foreign intelligence services have stepped up their activities in Norway, presumably with a view to achieving the capability to bring down or sabotage vital functions of society in the event of a crisis or conflict. Some international criminal networks may have an interest in and be capable of digitally hurting vital national security interests.

Like other developed states, Norway has established cyber-defense as a fourth military service, complementing land, naval and air forces. This is a relatively recent development, and the technical, political and moral issues associated with it are still unclear. It has given rise to issues that are of great importance to all advanced countries, as well as to researchers interested in the nature of change in military innovation.

One of these issues concerns the very definition of security in the digital age. Another concerns the boundaries between domestic and international security, which have become blurred. The distinction between national defense and civil security has become unclear. Even the distinction between peace and war has become hard to establish. As a result, hybrid threats have attracted much attention in recent years. Hybrid threats (or hybrid warfare) became a particular concern after the Russian intervention in Ukraine. NATO and the EU have devoted considerable efforts to developing a better understanding of hybrid warfare and how to defend against it.

Attempts have been made to start a process leading to the establishment of an international regulatory instrument for the cyber domain. However, in view of diverging national interests the establishment of an international regime appears to be an elusive goal. A useful first step might be for groups of like-minded countries to act together to prevent destabilizing activities in cyberspace, with a view to a gradual expansion of such cooperation through negotiation and the creation of appropriate incentives.

#### **5.1.5 Technology and Information challenges**

The threat situation as it relates to conflict management and hard security power has become more complex as technological shifts are taking place. Many countries are investing heavily in

new weapons systems. Long-distance precision missiles, unmanned weapons platforms and autonomous navigation systems appear to give air and land-based power an increasing role, even as the limits to what can be categorized as defense of the nation state are becoming less clear.

Large, open systems improve the information flow in society, increase efficiency and improve services. Yet, at the same time they contribute to greater vulnerability. The state's right to access information also entails a responsibility to ensure that information does not fall into the wrong hands and come into conflict with protection of privacy considerations. The risk of abuse, or slip-ups, is self-evident, with serious potential consequences for people's trust.

New weapons technology is redefining the battlefield at the same time as larger and larger parts of society are becoming possible targets in conflict situations. Research about hybrid warfare and similar developments must keep up with the technological developments themselves.

## **5.2 The International Economic Order**

International relations cannot be reduced to interstate rivalries and power games alone. They are also deeply affected by technical innovation, economic dynamics, judicial reforms and social practices – economic stagnation was a main source of the economic crisis after World War I; technological innovation and reforms in trade and finance stimulated a new dynamism in the West after World War II. During the Cold-War years, nations of the West championed political and economic reforms that opened up trade and investment and led to unprecedented global economic growth and wealth.

Growth, however, has been neither equitable nor smooth. The global financial crisis of 2007/8, the 2010 sovereign debt crisis in Europe as well as the recent trade war between the USA and China, however, make clear that the world economy has entered a new phase in which the liberal international economic order is called into question.

The combined gross domestic product (GDP) of the three biggest economies in Asia – China, Japan and India – is greater than the USA's GDP, and bigger than the EU's combined GDP. In addition, both South Korea and Indonesia have large enough economies to qualify for membership of the G 20. In other words, changes in economic growth in Asian countries are of great significance to the international economy. The differences in economic growth and systems of government in Asia make for interesting studies of the effect of different development models – from market capitalism models to state capitalism models – and evaluations of which models lay the best foundation for economic growth, in both Asia and other regions. Moreover, several countries in Asia are making important contributions to innovation and the development of new solutions to technological, economic and social problems.

Norway is a small but rich and highly developed North-Atlantic trading state. It has an open economy, state-of-the-art technology and is a major exporter of commodities and a big global investor. The Norwegian economy is dependent on a well-functioning, inclusive economic world order sustained by institutions facilitating smooth exchanges among states – and, ultimately, by a stable balance among the great powers. Accordingly, global changes in trade patterns, investments (FDI and portfolio investment), value chains, major currencies and exchange rates are will impact Norway's economic welfare. It is, however, unclear how the Norwegian economy will respond to and be affected by the challenges to free trade and investment posed by protectionism and nationalism that seem to be gaining ground in many countries.

Research on the international economic order requires the input of social scientific and international development expertise as well as that of more traditional economy/ trade/ investment approaches. Research that incorporates these different areas of expertise should encourage the production of new, innovative research.

### **5.2.1 Trade and investments**

For the last two decades, multilateral negotiations within the realm of the World Trade Organization (WTO) have only produced modest results. As a result, preferential trade agreements (PTAs) - defined as agreements that liberalize trade/investment between two or more countries but without extending this liberalization to all countries (or at least to a majority of countries)- became the most prominent and important governance instrument for regulating trade and investment flows. Countries rely on PTAs to regulate issues ranging from trade in goods and services, to investment, intellectual property rights, competition, standards, and government procurement rules as means to open trading borders, help industries access new markets, lower trade barriers and ultimately benefit customers.

However, with the cancelation of major (and at times controversial) PTAs such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TTP) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and the recent renegotiation of others such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the future of global trade is as yet unclear. Still, a slowdown in global trade that leads to a rise in nationalism and protectionist measures by global economies could hamper global economic growth and exacerbate global economic inequality.

### **5.2.2 A new global political economy**

Europe has long been the centre of gravity of the Norwegian economy, but other regions are becoming more important, especially Asia, whose rise is altering the global political economy. China is establishing Asian-centered alternatives to financial institutions to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund – institutions which have traditionally been dominated the USA and the West. China is also launching a vastly ambitious new 'Silk Road' – an intertwined set of economic integration initiatives which aims to link East and Central Asia. Such initiatives are likely to alter the infrastructure of transport and communication of Eurasia.

The impact of China's Economic interests and investments can be more or less compatible with political values such as human rights, foreign aid and environmental sustainability. In some areas, there is a conflict between security policy and, for example, foreign ownership of and investments in critical infrastructure. In other areas, there are special interests represented by influential organisations that expect the state, and not least the foreign service, to promote their interests.

As priorities change, goals may come into conflict with each other. On a general level, questions will be raised about criteria for rank and priorities. On a practical level, questions will be raised about how Norway handles value conflicts in specific situations. Similarly, questions can be asked about the foreign policy effects of Norway's investments. Some of them concern the Government Pension Fund Global and state-controlled companies.

### **5.2.3 Economic growth, technology and development models**

There are several trends that suggest that globalisation – with increasingly free movement of goods, capital and labour – is slowing down as individual states are becoming more protectionist and introvert. The financial crisis showed that the degree of interconnectedness between the world's financial systems meant that every country was vulnerable to shocks in other countries. This has led to opposition to globalization, but at the same time to renewed the interest in global and regional reform aimed at better regulation that can reduce the systemic risk.

The biggest economies in Asia now have a strategic focus on technological development and digitalization. Both through government research and innovation communities and under the auspices of private companies, we have seen the rapid development in Asia of technology and digital shopping and payment solutions, media platforms and services that are now among the most used in the world. Companies from countries like China and India are important players in telecommunication and digital services, including social and digital media.

The huge technological change and the digitalisation that is taking place in Asia and Western countries has consequences on different levels. These changes can lead to binding ties between new markets and create new arenas for development, but they also affect societies and people. Increasing use of artificial intelligence and more robotisation in production chains changes conditions in and between labour markets. A large workforce and access to cheap labour are no longer such a competitive advantage in relation to economic growth. A situation where labour markets and employment are changing means new requirements for highly educated labour, and technological developments can lead to unequal growth and unequal participation. China and India exemplify how competitive advantages such as cheap labour, technological development and digitalisation can have different consequences in different countries.

The stagnation in the global economy has showed that individual countries cannot automatically rely on trading partners to help them reduce unemployment and increase growth. Imbalances between countries with big trade surpluses and countries with big trade deficits created a market for cheap financial capital that could finance unhealthy financial bubbles.

## **5.3 System of government, democracy and human rights**

Many scholars of international relations perceive the world neither as an interstate system nor a world-economy; they approach it as a vast, self-sustaining social organism. They tend to view states, not as sovereign territories, but as participants in international society. Where others often highlight conflict, they tend to emphasize cooperation. Where others are interested in competition and power, they explore processes of integration and governance. They trend to draw on theories of social dynamics from classical political economy, sociology, social psychology or anthropology. They often lean on insights from history, social philosophy and the humanities to help define and discuss questions of orderly governance and questions concerning equity and justice on a regional or a global scale.

Democracy as a system of government has been expanding geographically since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Now this trend seems to have been reversed or at least stalled. Authoritarian government is on the rise in many parts of the world, including Europe. There are many reasons why people are losing faith in democratic governments. Immigration and globalization are but two examples. But one common feature is a forceful political rhetoric built on antagonism towards existing political elites. This is often expressed in demands for more direct democracy, a

weakening of the rule of law, and the emergence of independent power centers. Democratic principles and individual human rights are thus under strong pressure.

New and inexpensive digital platforms and the social media have enabled extensive and rapid exchange of information and opinions. This can lead to mobilization along new and old dividing lines and new forms of group identification. Change is taking place at varying pace and with varying effect among different countries. New digital technology is being used to prop up effective police states with access to information about their inhabitants. This threatens universal rights relating to elections and freedom of expression, as well as minority rights intended to protect ethnic, sexual, religious and other minorities against discrimination.

### **5.3.1 Social, political and ideological change**

The outcomes of the Brexit referendum as well as the 2016 US presidential election are widely seen as primarily reflecting general frustration over the political state of affairs in those two countries. Problems relating to political participation and wide-spread feelings of political and economic exclusion are important keys to understanding developments in Europe and elsewhere. Who participates in elections and who votes for which parties? To what degree are established party structures representative of public opinion? How do economic and technological changes affect political preferences? When development create winners and losers, what role do economic organisation and distribution policy play in reinforcing or countering such a trend?

Recent waves of migration into Europe have challenged the idea of European cohesion and solidarity. The reintroduction of national border controls and the erection of walls and fences between neighbouring countries are undermining the concept of a border-free Europe. Migration is being given increasing focus in political circles, especially among right-wing, populist parties. At the same time, the migration flows of recent years have also triggered a grassroots solidarity movement in the form of non-governmental organisations and networks that take over welfare tasks that the European states either do not acknowledge as their responsibility or are unable to fulfil vis-à-vis immigrants. More research is needed on the political significance and implications of migration. How does it affect and potentially change people's identity and values, and how does it contribute to social inequality?

And, finally, gender equality is an indispensable ingredient of sustainable development. Accordingly, research on the promotion of women's access to education, health and welfare services, as well as their participation in politics and employment, will be welcomed.

### **5.3.2 Factors behind societal change**

Rising inequality within countries is becoming a concern. Even in traditional egalitarian countries, such as the Nordics, inequality has increased somewhat in recent years. Although the connection is far from absolute, it can be seen that the combination of political and economic exclusion is generating discontent. As noted, it is well documented that the probability of conflict increases significantly in situations where economic and political inequality follows the dividing lines between identity groups. Political discontent reflects the perception of inequality, or of redistributions where individual groups fare relatively less well than expected, rather than inequality increasing in objective terms. This may have significant political implications.

Religion has become an increasingly important element of discussions on identity, inequality, values and integration in present-day Europe. Religion figures both as a source of identity and values and as a source of conflict and division. Perceptions of religion and secularism are undergoing change, and there are examples in various European countries of how these dimensions contrast with one another. In France, in particular, secularism has been held up as a value that is threatened by religion and, more specifically, by the religiosity of Muslim immigrants. More research is needed on how shifting perceptions of religion and secularism influence identity, inequalities, values and integration in Europe today. How can this trend be reconciled with the EU's basic values and the principle of non-discrimination set out in the Treaty of Lisbon? Will this trend also have an effect on the basic values themselves?

## 5.4 Climate, Environment and Resources

All the world's states inhabit the same biosphere. Human activities that alter its composition and affect changes in the world's climate is by nature a global issue. It can only be dealt with through international cooperation, which, in turn, requires knowledge about the conditions for effective cooperation between states. Why have endeavours to establish a well-functioning global climate regime failed? Here, we need to understand processes at all levels of analysis – at the national, the regional and systemic level, as well as the dynamic *between* the different levels. The EU, for example, is both a separate political system geared to handling the problem regionally within Europe and an actor in the global climate negotiations.

### 5.4.1 Climate

While the state-led negotiations have apparently reached an impasse, sub-national actors (such as the state of California) have stepped in, adopting policies and technologies aiming to mitigate the effects of climate change and slow it down. Moreover, international climate policy is closely linked to other policy areas, for example international energy, transport and trade policy. Changes in greenhouse gas emissions are not necessarily the result of climate policy as such but can also be due to developments in other policy areas and to market-related, technological and demographic changes. One key question is how the burdens entailed by climate policy can be divided between the North and South in order to best ensure robust and legitimate solutions.

In the High North ocean warming is having an effect on both the exploration and exploitation of natural resources and marine ecosystems, for example the migration of fish stocks into new areas. While the northward and eastward shift of species will depend on sea-water density, distribution, temperature and food conditions, challenges are already being posed to established resource-management systems as the harvesting industry and trawlers follow the stocks into new areas. International interest in the region is on the rise also for other reasons related to climate change, such as the prospect of ice-free maritime passage between Europe and Asia.

The concern has been expressed that international competition and conflict could come to the Arctic if existing frameworks for cooperation prove inadequate to settle international disputes that may arise in the region. However, this risk should not be exaggerated. Under international law, specifically the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, the majority of the Arctic falls under the undisputed jurisdiction of the littoral states. A well-functioning regional cooperation has been established in the Arctic Council, into which a number of interested parties from outside the region has been admitted as observers.

Climate change is increasingly viewed as a global security risk with potentially far-reaching implications for both humans and ecosystems. While the current academic literature has failed to establish a direct causal relationship between global warming and the outbreak of conflict, this does not mean that such a relationship may not exist. Research needs to focus on the indirect link between climate change and conflict, that is, how climatic changes interact with and/or are conditioned by socio-economic, political, and demographic settings to cause conflict and to provide clear explanations as to *how and why* this could happen.

Climate mitigation and adaptation have been thought to have a potential for fostering and facilitating peace. Yet misguided climate policies such as construction of dams could have the potential to misplace people, fuel grievances and lead to conflict. Thus, rigorous research on the conflict potential of climate change adaptation and mitigation policies at both the national and international levels should be a priority.

### **5.4.2 Resources under pressure**

In many parts of the world, not least Asia and Africa, essential resources are under great pressure because of high population growth, rapid industrialisation, the destruction of natural habitats and the growth of large cities. Scarcity of fresh water as a result of climate change and pollution is a particularly urgent concern in many countries and regions. Contamination of freshwater sources makes water unfit for human consumption, and polluted rivers and lakes lead to fish death. Water consumption is increasing with population growth, economic development and changed consumption patterns. Floods, droughts and erosion have consequences for agriculture, and thereby for the food supply.

Reduced fish stocks in coastal waters and increasing demand for fish are intensifying the struggle for marine resources. China, for example, has the world's biggest fishing fleets. It operates in the territorial waters of other countries, sometimes far removed from the Chinese mainland, or on the open sea. Deforestation in Asia is assumed to be the highest in the world and it is contributing to climate change, but this is a serious problem also in other parts of the world, notably South America and Africa.

Large areas of rain forest in countries like Indonesia, the Congo or Brazil are being felled to produce paper and palm oil, with India and China being big importers. With its limited forestry resources and large import requirements, China is contributing to the destruction of forests in neighbouring countries and to illegal logging. Research is needed on topics relating to scarcity of resources, particularly in Asian and African countries, how this is affecting the region and relations between countries, what potential future conflicts exist and what possibilities there are for cooperation both within and between the countries in the region.

### **5.4.3 Energy and green transition**

Norway is a major exporter of oil and gas, critical commodities that everyone needs but that are controlled by a small number of states. Oil and gas are important geopolitical drivers in general and in high-level politics in particular. If oil and gas become a less important input factor, this will have major geopolitical consequences. A green transition could create new dependencies and international tensions.

Globally, the energy sector is undergoing significant change. Many countries cannot get enough affordable energy. This constrains their ability to achieve economic development and poverty reduction. Others find it difficult to manage large assets earned from oil and gas exports. Too

frequently, petroleum revenues enrich and empower only the privileged few who control the state, create resource dependency, and stand in the way of economic diversification.

There are a number of parallel issues relating to the 'green transition'. The point of departure is that a lot of research and innovation is taking place in the technology field that concerns energy sources, transfer, storage and more energy-efficient solutions. However, we know less about how to move from technological innovation to changing energy consumers' consumption patterns and, not least, about which political initiatives can speed up large-scale behavioural change in an expedient manner. A central dilemma facing Norway is whether or not to leave parts of its remaining petroleum resources untapped in order to limit to the extent possible the country's release of CO<sub>2</sub>.

Far-reaching analysis that examine both the political, economic and social order and deals with theoretical and practical aspects of state and non-state actors, inter-state relations, state-regional relations, and state relations within the global international system would be welcomed.

## **6 Priorities for structuring the research effort**

The UTENRIKS programme is organised across a broad platform aimed at achieving policy relevance and impacts beyond academia. The programme will comply with the guidelines stipulated for the Research Council's programmes.

This programme is an open-ended programme, with no set end date. A revision of the programme will be undertaken regularly in order to ensure that the programme remains relevant to society and policy-makers alike.

### *Ethics*

The programme expects all researchers to abide by national, European and international standards of research integrity. Researchers should ensure that their research is conducted according to appropriate ethical, legal and professional frameworks, obligations and standards. This includes seeking ethical approval for research where appropriate. Researchers are also expected to treat colleagues with integrity, honesty and collegiality, including the fair provision of references and peer review.

### *Gender balance*

The programme encourages gender balance in research teams and decision-making bodies in order to reach the target of 40% of the under-represented sex in panels and advisory groups.

### *Type of research*

The research on topics relevant for this programme must be able to combine in-depth knowledge as well as the ability to view the same topics from multiple perspectives with contributions from the humanities, the social sciences as well as international law and understanding of the technological developments and uses. In addition, with increased differences in the society, there is also a need to include knowledge about media, history and culture into the research to be done.



The programme will fund high-quality researcher projects and post-graduate level research. The primary application type to be used will be researcher projects, young research talents, and mobility scholarships. Innovation and competence building projects may be of relevance as well.

Extended financial support to promote network building will be considered. In order to ensure future recruitment to the research field, applications for Ph.D. student positions as well as post-doctoral fellowships may be included in the projects.

#### *Innovation Projects for the Industrial Sector*

Innovation Projects for the Industrial Sector and Cooperation projects with industrial actors may also be used as a funding instrument under the work programme. In the event this type of project is sought, the programme will establish cooperation with relevant Research Council industrial and innovation programmes.

#### *Social dialogue and meeting places*

The UTENRIKS programme will use the established communication channels with the government ministries. The programme seeks direct as well as indirect interaction with policy-makers to ensure the highest possible degree of policy relevance. The programme will take initiative to establish regular meeting places involving policy-makers and researchers.

Calls for proposals will among other things require applicants to include a plan for dialogue with relevant stakeholders, including use of relevant social media platforms and a dedicated, regularly updated project website.

## **7 Cooperation and collaboration**

In order to achieve its objectives, the UTENRIKS programme may seek collaboration with other Research Council programmes and other funding agencies. Such cooperation will help to give projects access to relevant research from other sectors, thereby broadening project perspectives and promoting greater sharing of research findings. It may also add to the amount of funding available under the calls for proposals.

### **7.1 Research Council programmes**

The following Research Council programmes are relevant for coordinated calls with the UTENRIKS programme:

- **Norway – Global Partner (NORGLOBAL)** is a programme that seeks to stimulate innovative high quality and relevant research in support of global efforts towards the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The aim is to develop research-based knowledge of high quality on poverty reduction and sustainable development.
- **Societal Security and Safety (SAMRISK II)** The programme aims at increasing the knowledge about threats, dangers and vulnerability, about how unwanted events can be prevented and crises management be strengthened, whilst respecting basic human rights and privacy.
- **The Large-scale Programme on Climate Research (KLIMAFORSK)** is a broad-based, long-term programme aimed at generating new, future-oriented knowledge of national and international significance. There is long-standing cooperation between Norwegian research groups and Russian researchers.
- **The Norwegian Programme on Polar Research (POLARPROGRAMMET)**

- **The Norwegian Programme for Research Cooperation with China (CHINOR)** facilitates Sino-Norwegian cooperation through collaboration with thematic research programmes at the Research Council.
- **The Norwegian Programme for Research Cooperation with India (INDNOR)** promotes cooperation between India and Norway in the following thematic priority areas: international political issues, climate, the environment, clean energy and social development.
- **The Large-scale Programme on Health, Care and Welfare Services (HELSEVEL)** encompasses health and care services, social and welfare services, and child welfare. Services research and service innovation are the key components of the programme.

## 7.2 International calls

The UTENRIKS programme will also seek to cooperate with international programmes such as Horizon2020 and other relevant Nordic, European, Russian and transatlantic initiatives in order to strengthen ties to leading international expert environments and create added value through co-funding of projects.

# 8 Anticipated results, impacts and societal outcomes

## 8.1 Achieving long-term impact of the research

The UTENRIKS programme seeks to achieve long-term impact by means of the following activities:

- Encouraging and supporting research capacity-building and competency in Norway
- Encouraging and supporting award holders in building sustainable partnerships and networks within Norway and overseas. This relates both to transnational academic partnerships/networks and to transnational cross-sectoral partnerships and networks
- Supporting international collaboration, particularly that involving early career researchers in order to build capacity for opportunities for future collaborative research endeavours
- Facilitating and encouraging knowledge exchange and engagement with public, private and third-sector organisations
- Supporting and encouraging multi-disciplinary approaches to research questions when this is appropriate
- Documenting and articulating the successes and effects of the previous research programme, including the approaches/pathways explored to provide lessons for award holders within this programme
- Capturing programme-level performance indicators to track progress against the programme's objectives (building on the existing indicators)
- Exploring programme-level approaches to:
  - Support greater communication and the dissemination of research. Using two-page policy briefings/recommendations in order to facilitate more communication and dissemination. Where relevant, industry and third-sector focused briefings/recommendations may also prove to be a useful stipulation for projects.

- Facilitate rapid response approaches/short-term projects which offer syntheses of research for a specific policy-led challenge/question
- Theme/issue-led closed workshops with policy-makers to inform them of current research and to encourage greater understanding of pertinent challenges and issues.

While the impact of this programme will be measured through its achievements, the impact of research may also be seen through targeted approaches or serendipitously and can manifest itself over the course of the research project, towards the end of the project or significantly after the completion of the research project or the publication of the outcomes of the research. In order to understand and measure the impact of this programme over the next years in pragmatic terms, the focus will need to be on some of the more immediate likely effects of the programme:

- capacity-building of relevant expertise in Norway
- building collaborative approaches and key networks which are both cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary
- engagement with policy-makers and other relevant stakeholders as part of the research projects
- the dissemination of research within an academic sphere
- the targeted dissemination of research/research outcomes/briefings to public
- private or third-sector organisations/individuals.

## **8.2 Performance indicators**

Performance indicators provide a means of measuring and articulating the impact of the programme. Such indicators are provided in the reporting system of the Research Council. The results of the reporting are presented in annual programme reports and on a more general level within the Research Council.

The performance indicators are linked to:

- Gender diversity (project managers, post-doctoral fellows, Ph.D. students)
- Publications
- Collaborations, partnerships and networks
- Communication and engagement

## Programme logic model - UTENRIKS







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