

Porteføljeanalysen for Global utvikling og internasjonale relasjoner

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Porteføljeanalysen skal være et grunnlag for porteføljeplaner, investeringsplaner og rapportering, samt for rådgivning på tvers av porteføljestyrer, Styret og Forskningsrådet generelt. Analysen gjøres på totalporteføljen som inkluderer alle prosjekter Forskningsrådet har et nasjonalt ansvar for å mobilisere til og som ligger inn under investeringsvirksomheten. Dette inkluderer EU, Skattefunn og Regionale forskingsfond.

Resten av analysen er på engelsk.

Definition of the portfolio

The portfolio for global development is characterised by research in the thematic areas of sustainable development and poverty reduction, global health challenges and international relations, foreign and security policy. It is crucial to understand the relationships between trends in the developed and the developing countries, and thus contribute to more sustainable economic and social development globally and to strengthen and safeguard Norway's security, freedom, economy and welfare in a world of great contradictions and where international cooperation is put under pressure.

The portfolio prioritises thematic research within the areas of development policy, global health policy, foreign policy and security policy. The following aspects are particularly emphasised:

- Order and the International System
- Security policy
- Peace, conflict and development
- Climate, environment and renewable energy
- Global health
- System of government, democracy and human rights

The disciplinary priorities are strongly related to the thematic priorities; mainly the social sciences and medicine and health sciences.

Changes in international politics and global development will profoundly influence and shape Norwegian politics, development and business opportunities and practices. The portfolio targets Norwegian research organisations, but the public sector, business and society at large must benefit from the research results. Research relevant for policy making and public administration, especially the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, The Ministry of Health and Care Services and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) is an important priority. Other ministries, public agencies, business and NGOs will also benefit from the research funded by the portfolio. The portfolio also prioritises research relevant for policy makers, the public sector and business in developing countries, and should aim at underpinning the national STI-priorities in partner countries. Global health research ought to be conducted in close cooperation with relevant local partners and the public health sector to secure relevance and benefits for the users.

The portfolio covers the entire value chain from basic research to innovation and piloting. However, the emphasis is on applied research. The priority application types in call for proposals are Researcher Projects and Collaborative and Knowledge-building Projects. There are also Coordination and Support Activities for minor projects like conferences, research schools and networks. In order to ensure future recruitment to the research field, applications for PhD positions as well as post-doctoral fellowships are normally included in the projects.

Within global health, research and innovation along the entire R&D-value chain can be funded, and interdisciplinary research

that addresses the biggest global health challenges is particularly prioritized. Implementation research is key to the effective deployment and scaling-up of efficacious health interventions and will also be prioritized.

Statistics of relevant projects in the portfolio

The figures in this analysis holds considerable uncertainty as the portfolio is so new that it requires considerable manual effort to estimate different baseline figures, especially in relation to national effort within the portfolio's area.

National R&D-investment

The research within the portfolio is for the most part interdisciplinary and the portfolio's thematic areas are not included in NIFU's annual collection of R&D statistics. Consequently, we do not have an exact knowledge base on the entire national research effort on the portfolio's theme. By combining information from the budget propositions from the Ministry of foreign affairs and the Ministry of defence in addition to other relevant documents we do however get an idea of total available national allocations to foreign, security and development research.

The Ministry of foreign affairs allocated 1,7 billion kroner to R&D in 2019. However, there is some uncertainty about the size of the total research grants, as the Ministry finances activities that do not fall within the R&D concept in the narrow sense. Among other things, NIFU considers the Ministry's assistance to strengthen the capacity for research and higher education in developing countries as R&D. In addition, the Ministry funds research through a wide range of national, international and multinational organisations, both directly from the Ministry and via the foreign service stations.

The corresponding figure for the Ministry of defence is 1,3 billion kroner, although only a minor part of this, appr. 75 million kroner, is related to the thematic areas of the portfolio. In addition, the Ministry of education and research allocated 64 million kroner to basic funding for the research institutes on foreign and development issues. The funding from the Ministry of foreign affairs holds conditions related to specific geographical and/or thematic perspectives aligned with the ministry's internal organisation. The funding from the Ministry of defence holds similar conditions in addition to having very specific operational ends. Most of this research is carried out within the defence sector's own research institutes, most importantly the Institute for Defence Studies.

One area that is being monitored by NIFU is development research, and in 2017 the R&D expenditures for this area was 738 million kroner, of which 407 million kroner was in universities and 331 million in research institutes.

The Research Council's investment

The Research Council's total portfolio in Global development and international relations amounts to 398 million kroner in 2019. The portfolio consist of 241 projects of which 120 projects are from the targeted programmes and 121 from other efforts. The dominant project type is researcher projects. In addition to thematic targeted programmes, there are co-funding mechanisms for research cooperation with India and China whose funds originates from the Ministry of foreign affair's development budget and are being channelled to projects via thematic programmes. There is also a South Africa-Norway Research Cooperation Programme on Blue Economy, Climate Change, the Environment and Sustainable Energy which is funded over the development budget.

Targeted programmes are in their entirety dedicated to thematic priorities within the Portfolio plan for Global Development and International Relations. The portfolio's distribution on targeted programmes for 2019 are as follows:

- NORGLOBAL – Norway – Global Partner – 40 projects for a total amount of 63 million kroner.
- UTENRIKS – Research Programme on International relations, foreign and security policy and Norwegian interests – 20 projects, 22 million kroner.
- GLOBVAC – Programme for Global Health and Vaccination Research – 37 projects, 34 million kroner.
- VISION2030 – Funding mechanism for education and health innovation – 5 projects, 17 million kroner.

Important other efforts, which are not specifically dedicated to thematic priorities for this portfolio, are:

- Funding scheme for independent projects – 43 projects for a total amount of 44 million kroner.
- Basic funding for internationally oriented research institutes – 8 institutions, 78 million kroner.
- Research Programme on Better Health and Quality of Life – 8 projects, 16 million kroner.
- Norwegian Centres of Excellence scheme – 2 projects, 36 million kroner.

The research institutions with the most projects in the portfolio are located in Oslo, followed by the counties Vestland, Viken, Trøndelag and Troms and Finnmark. There are also a few projects in Agder, Rogaland, Nordland, Møre and Romsdal and Innlandet.

The research institutes accounts for 119 projects for a total amount of 230 million kroner. The universities and university colleges accounts for 113 projects for a total amount of 152 million kroner. The regional health authorities account for 5

projects, NGO's 2 projects and business only 1.

International cooperation

With its international thematic orientation, most projects within the portfolio have a formalised cooperation with researchers and/or research institutions in other countries. For projects funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs development budget the NORGLOBAL2 programme encouraged that the research focuses on one of the 16 priority countries for Norwegian development aid. Three funding schemes, INDNOR, CHINOR and SANCOOP, are bilateral cooperation mechanisms requiring research cooperation with respectively India, China and South-Africa.

In total the portfolio's projects have formalised cooperation with 75 different countries over the last three years (2017–2019). The most important partner countries for the projects in the portfolio are United Kingdom, USA, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, India, Malawi and Russia, of which South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, India and Malawi are ODA-eligible partner countries.

Project types

The prevailing application type is Researcher projects (113 projects), however there are Young researcher projects (14 projects), Other support projects (31 projects) in addition to Other institutional projects, Innovation projects and Coordination and support projects. There is a sound balance regarding Research institutes and Universities as contract partners for projects within the portfolio. The Research institutes counts for 91 projects for the total amount of 201 million kroner, whilst the Universities counts for 89 projects for the total amount of 125 million kroner. Business is only contract partner in one project but is partner in several more.

Disciplines

There has been a shift in balance between disciplines over the last few years, as the funding of global health research has declined significantly and at the same time there has been an increase in funding relating to foreign and development research. To a great extent, the topics in the portfolio require interdisciplinary research. More than half of the projects within the portfolio are in the social sciences, mainly interdisciplinary research but also including some monodisciplinary projects within political science, economy and jurisprudence. One fifth of the projects are within health and medicine, about ten percent each within natural sciences and technology and only three percent each within humanities and agriculture and fisheries. The distribution of different disciplines throughout the targeted and other efforts are more or less even, however the natural sciences are dominant within other efforts.

Thematic areas

The portfolio covers a broad range of thematic areas, as both development, foreign, security and international relations cut across many sectors and policy areas. Important topics are health, environment and biodiversity, welfare, climate, development, energy, foreign policy and international relations, culture, food and food security and marine research. Other topics within the portfolio are urban development, agriculture, bioeconomics and polar research.

EU funded projects

Within the portfolio there are 54 projects funded from the EU framework programme Horizon 2020 at the total amount of 133 million kroner in 2019. The EU-funded projects are mainly funded from the framework programme section *Societal Challenges*, but also includes projects funded from the sections *Excellent Science* and *Industrial Leadership*; within the thematic areas of Society, Food, Health, European Research Council – ERC, Marie Skłodowska Curie Action – MSCA and Leadership in Enabling and Industrial Technologies – LEIT. There are further a few projects in the areas Environment, Energy, Advanced Materials, ICT and Security. Research institutes accounts for 24 EU-projects, universities for 21 projects and business for 3 projects. 37 projects are Research and innovation action followed by 4 Starting grants and 4 Innovation action.

Assessment of the portfolio's achievements

Discipline

The thematic priorities for this portfolio entail a strong emphasis on social science research. However, there is an ambition to support more research within the humanities which is not fully realised. This is partly due to few relevant applications from the humanities to call for proposals, but also due to little available overall funding for research within the portfolio. Jurisprudence is another discipline where there is a potential to further strengthen the effort, especially in relation to international law issues. Further the research effort within economics could be increased related to questions regarding the international economic order. However, the earmarkings on funding for the UTENRIKS-programme does not open for research on generic issues other than those related to the more geographic specifications for the programme, i.e. Europe, Asia and Russia/High North. Although health research today is an important part of the portfolio, most of this derives from the GLOBVAC-programme, which has a significant decline in available funding.

Thematic priorities

The portfolio covers a wide range of thematic areas and contributes significantly to other portfolios such as the portfolio for social sciences, for natural science, health, life science, food and bioresources and climate and polar research.

The evaluation of research related to the High North and Russia confirm that the UTENRIKS-programme has achieved its goal of including the universities in the north as well as building capacity and quality across all relevant research groups. The overall quality of proposals has improved over the past few years. Regarding research on European issues, Norwegian researchers are doing very well in calls for proposals within the EU framework programme Horizon 2020.

The overall quality of proposals sent to NORGLOBAL is good. The number of applications over the last three years has remained steady. NORGLOBAL covers several thematic areas. The thematic area, which includes climate and the environment, has so far received the highest proportion of the funds allocated. Thus, to ensure a balanced portfolio, good proposals are being sought in the area of humanitarian issues and global education.

GLOBVAC has been a long-term programme using different funding mechanisms to strengthen capacity and to improve the quality of the research to create sustainable research environments within the field of global health and vaccination research. The applicants to GLOBVAC have used the feedback from the panels and the Board to strengthen their proposals and improve the quality of their research. GLOBVAC has seen a significant improvement in quality of the submitted applications to the Programme over the last programme period. This is measured by the marks given by the expert panels and the funding decisions made by the previous Programme Board. In the first calls of the programme period it was decided not to grant the total sum available due to a lack of qualified applications. The situation now is the opposite: in the last call many applications that were judged to be of very high international level and of great national and international interest (score 6) could not be funded due to limited funding. There is however an unbalance in the distribution of the funded projects on the thematic priorities in that more than half the funding covers the priority on communicable diseases. There are many strong research groups working on communicable diseases and maternal, neonatal and child health in Norway now as a result of funding from the GLOBVAC Programme. For example, the external mid-term evaluation from 2016 pointed out that GLOBVAC has been instrumental in the creation of the Centre for Intervention Science in Maternal and Child Health (CISMAC), a Centre of Excellence in Bergen. A lack of strong applications within the thematic area of health system and innovation has however resulted in few funded projects within these areas. The Research Council has published a call for applications within the framework of global health system and health care services research in 2020. This will increase the funding to this area of research within global health.

Output, outcome and impact

In 2016 the Research Council commissioned an impact assessment of development research – Pathways to global impact. The key findings from this report was that Norwegian development research is widely used and applied in various settings, both in national contexts and not least internationally. However, many users seem unable to absorb and exploit the variety of research performed in the area. Better mechanisms for interaction between users and researchers are needed, both outside and within the funding arenas. Furthermore, there is clear evidence that the Research Council's targeted programmes on development research have made substantial contributions to building research capacity as well as societal impact in the field. On the other hand, many users seem to have little insight and engagement in the programmes. This applies both for policymakers and for practitioners / NGOs.

The analysis of scientific publication data shows a particularly strong growth in Norwegian researchers' collaboration with developing countries during the last twenty-year period. The Research Council's development research programmes have made substantial contributions to this development. The citation rate shows a slightly increasing trend during the last twenty years. Overall, the articles in development research that can be traced to RCN-funding have been cited slightly below or in line with the average for Norwegian research in the same period, which again is well above world average. Interviews with various users in policy and public administration shows that development researchers are frequently used as experts and advisers by politicians and public officials. On the other hand, their scientific articles and reports are less mentioned as a direct source for decisions and policy processes. Another general conclusion is that research in this area is mainly linked to evaluations, overviews and insight in topics that emerge on the policy agenda. There are fewer references to more strategic use of research for shaping future strategies and priorities in the area. In other words, there is an emphasis on research for "policy readiness" instead of research as a "strategic and corrective factor".

In general, development research seems well represented among the impact cases submitted from institutions and research groups within humanities and especially social science research. The majority of these cases also include references to support from the Research Council. Among the social science impact cases related to development issues, human rights stands out as the topic that most cases can be related to. Compared with a similar although larger set of British impact cases, we observe that Norwegian cases more frequently highlight impacts related to faith/culture and crime/justice. Most striking is the high frequency of Norwegian impact cases related to gender issues, as this aspect seems to have little importance in the British cases.

The Research Council emphasizes communication between the researchers and the users of the research. Every year, a kick-off conference presenting new NORGLOBAL-projects is organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Norad. In addition, dissemination and communication events are being organised in relation to the individual during the

project period, including establishing regular dialogue with users of research, and presenting results from the projects.

After some time not having been able to fund new projects, GLOBVAC organised a start-up seminar in 2019 where the research projects that were funded the previous year were presented to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norad and the Ministry of Health and Care Services. The organisation Global Health Norway was hosting the Global Health Conference in Bergen, where many GLOBVAC-funded projects presented their results.

In 2016 an external mid-term evaluation of GLOBVAC was carried out by Technopolis Group. The evaluation concluded that GLOBVAC has made significant achievements in several areas and fills an important gap in the Norwegian funding landscape. The GLOBVAC programme has made some significant achievements in several areas. Overall, it can be considered a reasonably efficient and effective research support mechanism that fills an important gap in the Norwegian funding landscape. It has been particularly successful in boosting the capacity for, and commitment to, global health and vaccination research. Since the beginning of the programme the number of research groups and institutes that are involved in the field has markedly increased. Many Norwegian research institutes have benefited themselves from international collaboration with well-known universities with long track records in global health research. In turn, through North-South collaboration they have contributed to the development of capacity in LLMIC. The programme has already achieved some remarkable scientific successes that will have important impact on the health of target populations. GLOBVAC has been particularly successful in boosting the national capacity for global health and vaccination research. The evaluation highlighted the quality of the research that had been supported, and while the consistency in quality across the project portfolio could be improved, the portfolio was rated as overall good, with some projects having gained significant international recognition. This included a study by the Norwegian company BIONOR Pharma demonstrating promising results in attempts to develop a therapeutic HIV vaccine. Another notable study was the [Ebola ring vaccination trial](#) in Guinea which showed very high efficacy for a vaccine developed against Ebola by Merck, amongst others. Real impact is often not materialized before long after the project has ended. For instance, the ring vaccination method developed in a GLOBVAC-funded trial during the ebola outbreak in Guinea in 2015 was proven so effective it has been used in the fight against the ebola during the recent ebola outbreak in DRC. Another example of impact is a smart, simple and cheap heart-rate monitor for new-borns in developing countries developed by the Norwegian firm Lærdal Global Health. The monitor was developed based on data from a GLOBVAC-funded project. The belt is expected to ease the monitoring of new-born babies in low-resource settings and to increase the survival rate.

R&D value chain

The portfolio covers the entire value chain from basic research to innovation / piloting. There is however a strong emphasis on applied research following that the main purpose of most funding mechanisms relevant for the portfolio is to inform policy making. The GLOBVAC-programme and VISION2030 have a somewhat more operational purpose health services, vaccine-development and education in developing countries. Across the portfolio 65% of the projects are researcher projects, 17% are other support projects (most of which in reality are innovation projects), 8% of the projects are Young Researcher Projects / Ph.D.-scholarships.

National and international efforts

The research effort, especially in connection with targeted efforts, has strengthened the Norwegian research capacity across the portfolio's thematic priorities. Norway had few researchers on global health until the Research Council established a global health research programme.

It is a requirement that Norwegian research institutions must include international partners, also from developing countries in the NORGLOBAL projects. In the 44 funded project there are research partner organisations from 40 different countries cooperate with Norwegian research institutions in NORGLOBAL projects. Most of the projects include more than one international partner, and this contributes to strengthen research capacity in Norway and in the developing countries.

A key element of the GLOBVAC Programme has been the funding of young researchers. Several of those funded have been appointed to higher positions during their research projects. Several of the previously funded young researchers submitted new applications with high quality for the last GLOBVAC call.

The GLOBVAC Programme has used several measures to build and strengthen global health research capacity in Norway. In addition to supporting researcher projects, the Programme has had specific calls for young researchers and personal PhD scholarships for which there has been a mandatory stay abroad for at least a year, as living and working in a low-income country was judged as a critical way of developing a long-term interest and commitment to global health research. In addition, the Programme has also had separate calls for innovation projects in the private sector.

Two active Norwegian Global Health Fora - The Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research and the Norwegian Research School of Global Health - have been actively supported by GLOBVAC, to further develop capacity, and a critical mass of committed researchers working, in global health research. GLOBVAC has for ten years supported the Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research. The Forum has brought researchers from different Norwegian institutions together. The Forum has been an important partner to GLOBVAC when planning the GLOBVAC conferences. GLOBVAC also supported the

establishment of the Norwegian Research School of Global Health Research. The School has over 100 PhD candidates as members and is working actively to build a network among the PhD candidates by arranging courses and annual conferences.

All projects funded by GLOBVAC must have research questions that are clearly relevant to LLMICs. During GLOBVAC2 the Programme has used several means to strengthen the international collaboration and to secure capacity strengthening of partners in LLMICs. For instance, there is no limit on the amount of funding that can go to partners in LLMICs, a maximum of 30% can go to partners in high-income countries. The Programme allows co-project leaders that are from an LLMIC. Also, young researchers from LLMICs have been eligible to apply for the Young Researcher Talent calls. They must collaborate with a Norwegian Institution, but they can (and preferably should) perform the research in their home country. GLOBVAC has funded several. All GLOBVAC-funded projects have international partners, most have partners in low-income countries.

Funding

Research and knowledge development is an integral part of policy development, and is one of several tools for realising the goals of the individual sector or ministry. This means that for the ministries, research is not an end in itself. Research as an instrument for goal attainment is continually being assessed against other instruments and measures that may be of a more short-term nature. In such a balance sheet, it is vitally important that the sector ministries have both a clear understanding of what research can contribute and a certain time horizon for research initiatives. Research-based knowledge is an important basis for academic and political decisions and in the evaluation of measures taken. Furthermore, research-based teaching is a prerequisite for high quality education.

The portfolio is mainly funded by the Ministry of foreign affairs. Most of the research funding comes from budgetary grant items on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' annual budget. Responsibility for grant funding is distributed among the departments in the Ministry and the embassies, a practice that is the origin of numerous earmarkings, and the distribution of the funding for development research is delegated to NORAD. There are furthermore important contributions from the Ministry of Health and Care Services and the Ministry of Education and Research. In addition, there is some funding from the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is a long way in fulfilling its sector responsibility for research. There is still a need to strengthen global health research, following the budgetary cuts for R&D that came in the wake of the migration crisis in 2015. Other ministries, both those already funding the portfolio, and others, should step up their efforts to secure research on international and global conditions relevant to the ministries' various sector responsibilities. This is especially important in light of the Global Sustainability Goals, where every ministry has a responsibility to contribute both on a national and on a global level.

Trends in society, business and professional development that influence investment decisions

Norwegian foreign, security and development policy must be knowledge-based, and ongoing capability to adjust policy in response to significant global change is vital. Norway's values are enduring, but political choices and actions must match the very real challenges that arise. The main objective in [The research strategy for the Ministry of foreign affairs and The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation 2017–2024](#) is that "Norway's research initiatives in the areas of foreign, security and development policy help to overcome global challenges and promote knowledge-based policy-making". This entails the pursuit of the following goals:

1. Intensified production and communication of relevant, high-quality research-based knowledge with potential to help resolve global challenges.
2. Norwegian research institutions have extensive expertise in the fields of foreign, security and development policy, and cooperate with leading international researchers and partners in developing countries.
3. Relevant research-based knowledge is made available to, and used by, decision-makers.
4. Stronger research capacity in developing countries.

As stated in the [Strategy for research and development for the defence sector](#) (only available in Norwegian), the goal of R&D in the defence sector is to provide a solid and timely knowledge base for the development of the defined sector in order to ensure relevant operational capability and long-term sustainability. R&D in security policy shall contribute knowledge and understanding about Norway's foreign and security policy environment. Research in this field focuses on international developments, developments in Norway's neighbouring areas, Norwegian and Allied security interests, various threats to the state and society, international law and international framework conditions for the development and practice of Norwegian security and foreign policy.

It is important to stimulate long-term and valuable knowledge of foreign and security policy, development policy and international issues of an empirical and theoretical nature. These may be related to global, regional, national or local conditions. They must be seen in the context of the government's goals of combating poverty, promoting human rights and democracy, education, contributing to global growth and job creation, sustainable environmental management, mitigate

energy deficiency, climate change and disease control. These are major global challenges affecting millions of people and all parts of the world both directly and indirectly, and the international situation and its development not only have consequences for foreign, security and development policy, but also for national policy. Combined with the complexity of modern society, this global interconnectedness makes Norway vulnerable. Research is needed to strengthen and safeguard Norway's security, freedom, economy and welfare in a world of great contradictions and where international cooperation is put under pressure.

Key documents which constitute the basis for priorities within the portfolio are the white papers [Meld. St. 4 \(2018–2019\) Long-term plan for research and higher education 2019–2028](#) (of particular relevance is the cross cutting perspective related to the Sustainable Development Goals and the priority area *Societal Security and Social Cohesion in a Globalised World*), [Meld. St. 27 \(2018–2019\) Norway's Role and Interests in Multilateral Cooperation](#), [Meld. St. 36 \(2016–2017\) Setting the course for Norwegian foreign and security policy](#), [Meld. St. 24 \(2016–2017\) – Common Responsibility for Common Future, Health and Care 21-strategy](#) (only available in Norwegian) along with the executive strategy for The Research Council of Norway (the new is yet to be finalised), in addition to the annual allotment letters from the ministries.

The ministries' allocations to the Research Council should, in particular, contribute to the achievement of the goals *Improving scientific quality* and *Meeting major societal challenges*. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has a sector responsibility for areas related to foreign and development policy. This entails, among other things, a national responsibility for making available funds that ensure competent Norwegian knowledge environments in the fields that are important for Norwegian foreign and security policy. This includes promoting long-term production of knowledge of foreign policy and international affairs, as well as knowledge that can contribute to poverty reduction and development and to achieving the sustainability goals. The research will also contribute to safeguarding Norwegian foreign policy interests.

Alternative options

The Covid-19 pandemic calls for a better understanding of how it will affect countries and regions and how this in turn will influence development, international relations, globalisation and geopolitics. The role and standing of international organisations may also be changed due to the effects from the pandemic.

There is a need to ensure the continuation of a research effort on global health and vaccination, both to secure Norwegian research competence in these areas, but also to underpin Norwegian development policy on this point. A continued national effort in this area is also a prerequisite for Norwegian researchers to participate in international research collaboration under CEPI, EDCTP etc.

We need a better understanding of how international events and trends affect Norway and make us vulnerable in terms of health, welfare, legal conditions, economy and national security. The centre of gravity of the economy and power in the world is shifting, and so is the relationship between countries and regions. In vulnerable areas, social unrest, conflicts and poor living conditions lead to increased migration, which challenges international cohesion as well as national welfare systems. The development of technology leads to new and larger threats. Thus, there is a need to strengthen multidisciplinary research on foreign and security policy, strengthen international research cooperation and link knowledge of national and international affairs. In addition to the present portfolio's emphasis on Europe, Russia and China, there is a need to secure funds for research on cross-cutting perspectives across countries and regions, i.e. in connection to international organisations etc. and to allow for research on countries and regions that are not prioritised, like the Middle-East and North-America.