

# Portfolio plan Global Development and International Relations

Publisert 11 sep 2020

Del  | Last ned 

## Gjelder fra 2020

Porteføljeplanen beskriver investeringsmål, tiltak og forventede virkninger og samfunnseffekter av investeringene. Planen beskriver tiltak som skal iverksettes gjennom porteføljestyrets egne investeringer og tiltak som må iverksettes gjennom investeringer gjort av andre styrer. Operasjonaliseringen av porteføljeplanen fremkommer i de treårige investeringsplaner. Grunnlaget for investeringsplanene er i tillegg til porteføljeplanen, årlige porteføljeanalyser, årlige tildelte budsjetter og porteføljestyrets langtidsbudsjett.

Resten av porteføljeplanen er på engelsk.

## Definition of the Portfolio

The definition of the Global Development and International Relations Portfolio is developed on the understanding that foreign, security and development policy are interrelated.

The pace of international change has increased dramatically in recent years. The world is interconnected to the extent that changes in one geographic area can have significant, instant and lasting consequences in places far removed. Relationships between the major political and economic powers are increasingly characterized by rivalry and competition, rules-based global governance is being tested, and global power structures and relations are changing. The world has become a more unpredictable and, in some respects, a more dangerous place. Because of this, ensuring that decision-making and public debate are informed by research of the highest quality and relevance is an objective of national importance. This calls for inter-disciplinary research and research that invite new ways of thinking about risk, uncertainty and how these relate to development, health, security and international relations.

A robust knowledge base that considers geopolitical shifts is a prerequisite for sound management of Norway's international relations. The country's international development agenda aims at promoting implementation of human rights, economic development, democratisation and rules-based governance, and action that will address the needs of the most vulnerable people and help reduce world poverty in line with Norway's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals.

New knowledge is required to understand how climate change, conflict and humanitarian need, health emergencies, poverty and the lack of decent wage employment opportunities, lack of education and poor health are affecting millions of people and all parts of the world both directly and indirectly. There is a need to understand how these global needs and challenges affect foreign, security and development policy, as well as national policy. This Portfolio recognises that these global challenges and developments have political, economic and security ramifications for each individual country as well as for Norway itself.

The Portfolio for Global Development and International Relations is characterised by research in the thematic areas of international relations, foreign and security policy, poverty reduction, climate change, humanitarian assistance, and global health. These thematic areas are inter-related and require a multi-dimensional approach, and it is crucial to understand the interlinkages between these trends in both the 'developed' and 'developing countries'<sup>[1]</sup>. This will help ensure sustainable economic and social development globally and ensure Norway remains a global leader in the area of global development and international relations.

The Global Development and International Relations Portfolio will include research projects that are funded through both targeted and other efforts. The targeted effort consists of the programmes UTENRIKS, NORGLOBAL2, GLOBVAC and VISJON2030, all of which have dedicated work programmes with detailed thematic priority areas.

The realisation of the Portfolio's goals is also dependent on cooperation with other funding schemes including, but not limited to: the EU framework programmes, Nordic Research Cooperation (NordForsk), Belmont Forum, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness (GLOPID-R),

Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) and other international R&D-funding organisations and multi- and bilateral initiatives.

The Portfolio seeks to embrace a variety of disciplines including the social sciences, humanities, medicine and health sciences, agriculture and fisheries, natural sciences, education, technology and jurisprudence. The Portfolio will seek to cover the entire range of research: from basic research to innovation and piloting, although with a strong emphasis on applied and implementation research.

The Portfolio is largely financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education and Research and the Ministry of Health and Care Services with smaller contributions from the Ministry of Justice and Public Security and the Ministry of Defence as well as a few other ministries. It is anticipated that the Portfolio will expand in the coming years and will include additional financial commitments from both the above mentioned and other ministries.

## Referanser

<b>1</b>	The term 'developing countries' is used in this document to encompass low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and least developed countries (LDCs).
----------	--

## Overall goals and priorities

The overall goals for public funding of research via the Research Council are:

Scientific quality	Competitive industries	Grand challenges	A well functioning research system	Knowledge based policy
--------------------	------------------------	------------------	------------------------------------	------------------------

This Portfolio will have a specific responsibility towards the goal of meeting grand challenges. By imposing structural requirements on the applicants for funding, the Portfolio will contribute to developing a well-functioning research system within the relevant areas, and offer highly competent counsel to the ministries on research policy. By applying expert assessments of project proposals, the Portfolio will give significant contributions to the goal of increasing scientific quality. This Portfolio also has a focus on global development through the creation of jobs and industries, and will thus further contribute to the goal of competitive industries.

The government's priorities for research and higher education are stated in the Long-term plan for research and higher education 2019-2028. This Portfolio will have a particular responsibility towards the priority area "Societal security and social cohesion in a globalised world".

The Portfolio's overall goal is to advance the frontiers of research within the relevant thematic areas, to encourage recruitment and development of leaders in research, to strengthen capacity both in Norway and internationally and to secure increased evidence and actionable knowledge concerning Norway's foreign and security policy, its economic interests as well as its international development agenda. The ambition is to foster excellence in research, to promote knowledge exchange including research informing policymakers and other relevant stakeholders.

The research programmes supported by this Portfolio will contribute to meeting the knowledge needs and knowledge sharing related to global and regional challenges, Norway's role in a globalised world, the established world order and the institutions that underpin it, and trends and developments in other countries that influence Norwegian interests, politically, economically and security-wise, as well as the implementation of its international development agenda.

Key documents which constitute the basis for the Portfolio's priorities are the white papers:

- [Meld. St. 4 \(2018–2019\) Long-term plan for research and higher education 2019–2028](#) (with particular relevance to cross-cutting perspectives related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 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](#)
- [The research strategy for the Ministry of foreign affairs and The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation 2017–2024](#)
- [Strategy for research and development for the defence sector](#) (only available in Norwegian)
- [Health and Care 21-strategy](#) (only available in Norwegian)
- In addition, this Portfolio will implement, and, inform the executive strategy for The Research Council of Norway. This Portfolio will also take into account the annual allotment letters from the ministries.

The Norwegian Research Council will foster cooperation across the Norwegian research community as well as promote international collaboration with research institutions and individual research groups abroad. An important dimension of the

portfolio is fair and equitable partnerships with developing countries to strengthen their research capacity on global challenges. In line with the Government's EU-policy there is a strong emphasis on encouraging and enabling Norwegian researchers to participate in the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

The basic ambition of this Portfolio is to promote research enhancing understanding of:

- the challenges, opportunities and alternative options facing Norway in the pursuit of its international interests and values;
- the foreign, security and international development policies of countries that are particularly significant in terms of their impact on Norwegian interests;
- the international system, international cooperation and conflict, and the global and regional institutions as well as Norway's place therein.

A priority aim for this Portfolio is to oversee and ensure the development and delivery of innovative research programmes, in support of global efforts towards the Sustainable Development Goals, in line with the Research Council's commitment to underpin the Norwegian government's adoption of the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

### **Disciplinary Research Priorities**

The disciplinary priorities of this Portfolio are strongly related to the thematic priorities; mainly the social sciences and medicine and health sciences. There is a new emphasis on the contribution from the humanities within the Portfolio, in accordance with the ambitions in the Government's white paper [Meld. St. 25 \(2016–2017\) The Humanities in Norway](#). A central aim of the white paper is to contribute to greater mutual curiosity, exploration and proximity between the humanities and other subject areas and areas of society.

Interdisciplinary and transformative research is gaining attention both in Norway and globally as the emphasis on tackling complex real-world problems and conducting high quality ground-breaking research means that traditional monodisciplinary approaches are in many cases no longer suitable. In order to be able to address complex challenges, there is a need to ensure a stronger emphasis on innovative inter-disciplinary programmes, across a wide range of disciplines, and this Portfolio will encourage and support researchers intending to adopt interdisciplinary and transformative ways of working.

A new emphasis is placed on methodology using shared data, artificial intelligence and modelling. New communication strategies are needed with better use of innovative technology and approaches to ensure new knowledge learned is shared with all the relevant stakeholders using effective and relevant approaches and strategies.

### **Thematic Priorities**

The Portfolio prioritises thematic research within the areas of international relations, foreign and security policy, development issues with a particular focus on poverty reduction, climate change, humanitarian need and global health. The following areas are considered to be of particular importance;

### **World Order and the International System**

The liberal world order, where democracies of Europe and North America have pursued their national interests through global and regional institutions as well as multi- and bilateral security organisations, has come under increasing pressure in recent years.

New knowledge is needed to understand how rivalry between great powers, particularly between the United States and China, but also between the Russia and the West, may affect international cooperation in the years to come. Major powers, including the US, are increasingly resorting to bilateral or even unilateral rather than multilateral solutions. The rise of China and other emerging powers, politically and economically, have enabled these countries to wield significantly increased multilateral influence. This necessitates research on how liberal norms and values, including human rights, are being challenged.

As a small country with an open economy, Norway has a major stake in a rules-based and stable world order and open and free markets. A functioning multilateral system is also of importance if the Sustainable Development Goals are to be reached. Hence, research is needed on ways to strengthen multilateral cooperation and the institutions in which it takes place, with a view to enhancing the effectiveness and representativity of key organizations, including the UN.

Research is furthermore needed to understand the implications of China's rapidly growing economic, political and military power, and how this affects international change. The evolution of US-China relations will increasingly dominate the international agenda and is likely to also entail major consequences for Norway and the rest of Europe. The status and influence of other Asian countries are also raising their profiles. India, for its part, is expected to become the third largest economy in the world by 2030. Almost 20 per cent of the assets of Norway's Government Pension Fund Global are invested in Asian securities or companies.

New knowledge is required to understand how heightened competition between major powers is contributing to further challenge the established world order and its institutions, and how this development creates a new, more challenging and less predictable context for international cooperation on matters related to security, trade, commerce and the world economy as well as development issues.

Although not a member of the European Union, Norway has close ties with the EU, politically and economically, and as such, the Norwegian Government and Norwegian business need knowledge about the development within the EU. As part of the European Economic Area (EEA), Norway enjoys full access to the single European market. This is essential since, even after Brexit, half of the Norwegian foreign trade will be with the EU. Norway is also a part of the Schengen travel area, frequently aligns itself with the EU on foreign policy issues, and cooperates closely with the EU in areas such as justice and home affairs.

EEA citizens, under the single European market, have the right to free labour immigration to Norway. Additionally, the immigrant population in Norway consists of refugees and asylum seekers from countries outside of EEA. In the fall of 2015, Norway as many European countries, experienced an increase of refugees due to the conflict in Syria. Norway's ability to handle increased immigration has led to major discussions and debates and posed challenges for the authorities. This is a common problem throughout the EU.

The EU is also facing other challenges. Several member-states have imposed measures that undermine basic rights and freedoms and democratic principles. Following the British departure, only France will possess the military capabilities and the global outlook required to play a significant military role beyond Europe. As a result, the Union's crisis management capabilities have been reduced. And the EU has struggled to find a coordinated and effective response to the Covid-19 crisis. Research is needed to understand the challenges the EU is facing in areas such as these, as well as their implications for Norway, a closely aligned non-member of the Union.

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

Democracy as a system of government has been expanding geographically since the mid-20th century, but 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 globalisation 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 centres. 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 and research is required to understand if, and how, this development can lead to mobilisation 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 against discrimination.

Human rights include the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education, and many more. They are inherent to all, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status. As liberal democratic ideals seem to be ever more challenged, there is a need to monitor closely the global state of human rights.

Severe incidents that are serious threats to society, such as natural disasters, terrorism or pandemics, normally triggers extraordinary measures and regulations by the authorities. There is a need to understand the wider consequences of such measures, like emergency laws and infliction of severe restrictions, on human rights.

Research is needed to understand the implications of the European integration process, which has redistributed power and resources in Europe and made collective action possible in a broad field. Understanding how this process has implications for the well-being of citizens, their interests and values, as well as the ability of European states to secure democracy and the rule of law, is vital. Insight into the multiple challenges faced by the EU, is likewise important, as, in several member states, basic principles of the rule of law and basic human rights are being infringed.

### **Foreign and Security Policy**

A close security relationship with the US, strong transatlantic ties, and NATO's mutual assistance commitment remain the linchpins of Norwegian security. To protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity, Norway relies on assistance from allies, and thus Norway has a strong interest in ensuring that NATO remains strong and united.

Throughout its history, the Alliance has successfully adapted to a changing security landscape. Today's intra-Alliance divisions have led to increased uncertainty about the solidity of NATO's security guarantee, and as such trigger unease in Norway. While pushing for modernisation of the Alliance, Norway is also intensifying its security cooperation with key European allies, notably the UK, Germany, France and the Netherlands, as well as the Nordic non-NATO members Sweden

and Finland.

The bilateral relationship with Russia is a key component of Norway's foreign and security policy. With a common border on land and at sea, Norway and Russia have many shared challenges. Since the fall of the Soviet Union, far-reaching bilateral cooperation has been established across a wide range of areas, at the level of capitals, on a regional basis and – not least – through wide-ranging people-to-people cooperation across the shared border.

New knowledge is needed in order to understand the wider consequences of the deteriorated relations between Russia and the West, including Norway, in the wake of Russia's 2014 annexation of the Crimea. Russia is pursuing a more assertive foreign policy and has invested heavily in upgrading its armed forces, including in areas close to Norwegian territory. Knowledge of the Russian domestic situation, politically, economically and as regards social issues, as well as its approach to foreign relations in Europe and beyond, is obviously of vital importance in the formulation of Norwegian policies governing relations, bilaterally as well as in the alliance and other international contexts. Norway's Russia policy needs to be informed by sound research and analysis as well as experience-based diplomatic knowledge.

The main aims of the Norwegian High North policy are to foster peace and stability, and to protect Norwegian political and economic interests in this resource-rich region. The High North has long been a region of low tension and wide-ranging international cooperation. Jurisdictional issues have largely been settled on the basis of the UN Law of the Sea Convention, which is adhered to by all the Arctic coastal states.

While the conflict potential remains lower in the Arctic than in many other parts of the world, the situation is becoming less predictable. This is partly due to the general deterioration of relations between Russia and the West. On top of this the rich natural resources of the Arctic, and the prospect of opening up a Northern Sea-route between Europe and Asia are attracting increased international interest. Research is needed to monitor and understand the implications of these trends.

And, finally, new knowledge is needed to understand how global security challenges are affecting Norway's security. Transnational crime, international terrorism and cyber threats are placing societies, including Norway, under pressure. Hacking of critical infrastructure, fake news, disinformation campaigns and other external meddling: these are all parts of a complicated new threatening situation and add further complexity to the challenges posed by the traditional threats to the nation's sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence.

## **Peace and Conflict**

The number of armed conflicts characterised by extreme brutality and complexity has increased in recent years. In addition, non-war violence, which is a problem throughout the world, is a particular challenge in developing countries. Combined with natural and other disasters, and partially exacerbated by the consequences of climate change, these create immense challenges for the international community and an unprecedented need for humanitarian assistance. In the absence of sufficient means to prevent or reduce the scale of conflicts or to manage the consequences of disasters, forced migration and internal and external displacement will continue to increase.

In order to resolve issues such as these, the underlying causes and dynamics of conflict must be understood and addressed and even more importantly, knowledge on efficient conflict transformation should be increased. New knowledge is needed in order to help the conflicting parties to create a situation in which differences and conflicts can be addressed in a non-violent and constructive manner. This is essential in preventing violent conflicts from arising or existing conflicts from escalating further. International peacekeeping is likely to remain a key tool of international conflict management. International peacekeeping 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, there is an urgent need for reform and strengthening of UN peacekeeping.

Participation in international peacekeeping operations has been a key part of Norwegian foreign and security policy. In a globalized world, global conflicts are increasingly affecting Norwegian security, and the government has long urged all UN member states to support efforts to strengthen the organisation's ability to deal effectively with crisis and foster stability.

New knowledge is needed to understand how violent conflicts change people's lives, how women and men are affected in different ways, and how conflicts can be prevented. Research must provide knowledge on how conflicts affect development, and vice versa, result in uneven distribution of development benefits, globally, regionally, and locally, and, how this is linked to creating new or extending ongoing conflict, and increased poverty, exclusion and marginalization. Understanding how development can have an impact not only on security, but also on political and economic conditions, health, human rights, and general law and order, is vital. The effect of extractive industries on conflict, and particularly how such industries best can impact conflict levels and development positively rather than negatively, is important to shed light on. The rapidly changing international development landscape and multi-stake-holders perspective has wide implications for global order, the donor communities, as well as the recipient states or organisations, for instance with regard to how to exercise partnership and ownership. Post-conflict rebuilding is a key issue requiring new high-quality, inter-disciplinary research.

## **Poverty reduction**

Poverty remains the state for the majority of the world's people and nations. New knowledge is needed on how to move people out of poverty and to understand how this is interlinked with trends on a local, national and global level. It is further necessary to ensure the development and upscaling of innovative solutions to promote poverty reduction by use of new digital opportunities and new types of partnership. A better understanding of how to effectively engage and include local communities in decision making processes, and how to ensure robust long-term results from the perspective of poverty reduction is important.

Education with good learning outcomes is essential for reducing poverty, creating new jobs, stimulating business, improving health, fulfilling human rights, and achieving peace and democracy. Because of sustained efforts and investment on the part of national governments, communities and development partners, many more children are in school. However, despite significant progress in increasing educational access in recent years, millions of children still have no access to formal education and, where they do, learning levels remain very low. There is therefore a need to reorient education systems away from focusing exclusively on expanding access towards to additionally improving learning outcomes and the overall quality of education for all children.

Research is needed to resolve the urgent need for job creation, particularly for young people in the context of high population growth and increasing urbanisation in parallel to persistent extreme rural deprivation. Covid-19 has, meanwhile, raised awareness of the significance of welfare provision for the poorest and most vulnerable, as well as of new understanding of global macroeconomic instruments of support in such conditions. Widespread discrimination against women and numerous ethnic groups is prevalent in many labour markets. More knowledge is needed about how new jobs with decent working conditions can be created as well as about how increasing globalisation of trade, services, capital and information facilitate and constrain employment and income opportunities. Taxation and the prevention of illicit financial flows go to the core of financing for development, building effective and accountable institutions, poverty-reducing public spending and boosting sustainable economic growth. How tax revenues are raised can be equally important as raising revenue, and a legitimate and efficient tax system can contribute to reducing inequality and building a social contract between state and citizens.

## **Humanitarian Efforts**

Armed conflict, climate change and persistent poverty in fragile countries and regions are now creating complex crises that last longer and affect more people than before. There are more people displaced in 2020 than at any other time since World War II. There is a growing convergence between the humanitarian and development agendas. The humanitarian caseload is a growing concern for development and has direct impact on the SDGs. The lack of resources and the need for reform in order to respond more adequately to these challenges prompted the first World Humanitarian Summit in 2016, to strengthen the shared principles governing humanitarian aid: 1) political leadership to prevent and end conflicts; 2) uphold the norms that safeguard humanity; 3) leave no one behind; 4) change people's lives – from delivering aid to ending need; and 5) invest in humanity. In order to strengthen the area, research should also contribute to some of these aspects and dimensions with the aim of strengthening humanitarian efforts in Norwegian aid policy, based on careful analysis of and new insights into how best to support interventions and strengthen preventative initiatives in terms of local sustainability.

This Portfolio intends to include and support research programmes which will respond to the knowledge needs set out in [Norway's new Humanitarian Strategy](#). Topics of interest highlighted in this new strategy include innovation, cooperation, compliance with humanitarian law as well as coordinated efforts in addressing needs.

Humanitarian issues are interlinked with conflict and climate changes, which can cause migration, and research is needed to assist the international community in finding promising approaches to linking humanitarian assistance with long-term development and responding to root causes of vulnerability. This includes the roles of local, national and international actors in a humanitarian response and how social and political factors influence root causes of vulnerability and marginalisation processes, as well as accountability to affected populations and reaching the most vulnerable.

## **Global health**

Marginalised populations in developing countries contribute disproportionately highly to the global burden of disease and experience excessive mortality, morbidity and disability due to a range of communicable and non-communicable diseases. Research is needed to support the overall objective of improving health and health care, in line with the agenda set out internationally for SDG3: 'Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages'.

In many countries, weak health systems remain the main obstacle to progress with shortages in coverage of even the most basic and essential healthcare services and lack of preparedness for health emergencies. Achieving universal health coverage means that all people are provided with accessible and affordable quality essential health services that address the most significant causes of death and disease. Knowledge is needed on how health services can deliver high quality care, are responsive to changing population needs, are valued and trusted by all people and can consistently provide care that improves or maintains health.

Epidemics, pandemics, health emergencies and weak health systems not only cost lives but pose some of the greatest risks to the global economy and security faced today. They are an integral part of the security and global health agenda. Improved access to, availability and quality of health care with strengthened health systems is a pre-requisite to providing a high level



of emergency preparedness, monitoring and assessment, and, effective defence against emerging threats, whether natural or man-made.

However, the focus on health emergencies and preparedness must not derail the effort towards eradication of, and fight against infectious diseases that still make up the largest burden of disease in developing countries. Tuberculosis, HIV and malaria are still leading causes of ill health and death in developing countries with Sub-Saharan Africa as the most effected region. Neglected tropical diseases affect billions of lives, while global immunization rates for children below the age of five have stalled. Unvaccinated children live in the poorest and often fragile and conflict-ridden nations. Research on epidemiology, diagnostics, therapeutics, development, evaluation and implementation of medicines and vaccines suited for developing countries is still needed to ensure good health for all.

The use and misuse of antimicrobial drugs accelerates the emergence of drug-resistant strains and stalls progress in fighting infectious diseases. Poor infection control, inadequate sanitary conditions, and inappropriate food handling also encourages the further spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The global challenge to address AMR is not just about new antibiotics and therapies. It is crucial to reduce the demand for new antibiotics as well as having effective diagnosis and surveillance of antibiotic-resistant infections and antibiotic use.

Research aimed at improving and ensuring universal access to reproductive, maternal, new-born, child and adolescent health, including care during and after pregnancy and childbirth, child growth and development, family planning, contraceptive methods to delay and plan pregnancies, and, safe abortion, is considered key to improving health and survival among these groups in developing countries. Additionally, research on information and education and to ensure integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes with increase met-need for family planning with modern methods and reduced adolescent birth rates is needed.

Women and children in developing countries are still dying in childbirth, due to complications of pregnancy and the first months of life. These deaths are preventable with appropriate management and care. Research aimed at improving and ensuring universal access to reproductive, maternal, new-born, child and adolescent health is considered key to improving health and survival among these groups in developing countries. This research includes care during and after pregnancy and childbirth, child growth and development, family planning, contraceptive methods to delay and plan pregnancies, and, safe abortion. Additionally, research on information and education and to ensure integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes with increase met-need for family planning with modern methods and reduced adolescent birth rates is needed.

There is a growing burden of non-communicable diseases in developing countries. The Norwegian government launched the [“Better Health, Better Lives”](#) strategy in 2019 to combat deadly non-communicable diseases (NCDs) as part of its international development assistance.

Innovation and the development of affordable and appropriate technologies for resource constrained settings will make important contributions to solving some of the health systems and health problems in developing countries. Research and innovation for the development and application of new and existing technology and methods will help to meet the needs of patients, healthcare providers and leaders. It can strengthen the delivery as well as support the monitoring and evaluation of the health system.

### **Climate, environment and renewable energy**

All the states inhabit the same biosphere. Human activities that alter its composition and affect changes in the world’s climate are 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. To understand why endeavours to establish a well-functioning global climate regime have failed, we need to understand processes at all levels of analysis. At the national, regional and global level, as well as the dynamic between the different levels.

The understanding of how climate changes poses an important risk on a societal, economic and security dimension has evolved over the last decade, and climate change is increasingly included as a security risk in national security and defence strategies. NATO has stated firmly that climate change is in fact a security risk, and an issue to consider in the context of conflict prevention, peace and stability. The impact of flooding, disease and famine, resulting in migration on an unprecedented scale in areas of already high tension; drought and crop-failure, leading to intensified competition for food, water and energy in regions where resources are already stretched to the limit, could lead to a breakdown in established codes of conduct, and even to outright conflict within and between nations with a potential to escalate further.

In many locations, ecosystem services are threatened by degradation of habitats, loss of biodiversity, pollution and climate change. Small-scale farmers, herders and fishermen in developing countries are often seen as the major victims of environmental degradation, but they are also critical actors in terms of reducing risks. Sustainable natural resource management practices have the potential to secure vital ecosystem services and prevent natural hazards from becoming crises. More research is needed on this. The loss of habitat leading to more contact between wild animals and people may increase risk of infectious diseases with potential to develop into pandemics. More knowledge about the interplay between

environmental, political, historical, social, economic and cultural factors is needed to gain a deeper understanding of how land and natural resources are managed and controlled and how this affects mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Few sectors are more dependent on well-functioning ecosystem services than the food-producing sectors. Access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets the dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life is a prerequisite for all. Food security is under threat from climate change and under- and malnutrition are on the rise globally, where the poorest countries are the hardest hit. [The Norwegian government's action plan on sustainable food systems \(2019-2023\)](#) has been launched in an effort to increase sustainable food production, improve nutrition and enhance job and value creation.

A sustainable management of the oceans, fisheries and aquaculture relies on science-based policy-advice and regulations. The threats facing the oceans are many-faceted, including rising temperatures and sea levels, acidification, bleaching of corals, degradation of mangroves, and marine pollution and littering. Marine plastic waste is mainly caused by lack of waste collection and waste management on land, whereby most of the plastic enters the oceans via rivers. Many developing countries foresee increased economic growth within the blue sectors. Diversification and new economic activities are needed but may compete with existing activities, such as those of small-scale fishing communities. It is therefore important that the social consequences for those who live by and off the sea are considered both in facilitating new economic activity and when implementing conservation measures.

Access to energy is fundamental for improving quality of life and is a key imperative for economic and social development. It is also vital to a country's ability to generate income, provide jobs and stimulate trade and development. In the developing world, energy poverty is still rife. More than 800 million people still have no access to electricity. Understanding the energy needs of societies, energy use, energy sources, technological solutions for energy supply and distribution, their implementation, financing, effects on societies and long-term sustainability is a priority. In particular, knowledge is needed on the effects of renewable energy sources on poverty alleviation, climate and job creation, as well as on the role of the private sector. With strong population growth and a shift away from traditional use of bioenergy, Africa is emerging as a driver for growth in demand for oil, gas and renewables. The transition to a carbon-free energy supply must therefore be fast and affordable enough to be able to serve the growing demand.

### Priority research types

An important task for this portfolio is to promote research with the purpose of informing policymaking. In terms of the Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) the research within this portfolio will mainly find itself on TRLs 1-6, encompassing basic research to prototype system (the latter especially related to health research). The priority application types in call for proposals will be Researcher Projects and Collaborative and Knowledge-building Projects. Implementation research is key to the effective deployment and scaling-up of efficacious health interventions and will also be prioritised. There is also a use of Coordination and Support Activities for minor projects like conferences, research schools and networks. Innovation projects are also part of the Portfolio's funding instruments. In order to ensure future recruitment to the research field, applications for PhD positions as well as post-doctoral fellowships should normally be included in the projects.

The Research Council seeks direct as well as indirect interaction with policymakers and other stakeholders to ensure the highest possible degree of policy relevance. We will use the established communication channels with the government ministries and take initiative to establish regular meeting places involving policymakers and researchers. Calls for proposals will 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.

### The EU framework programme Horizon Europe

One important task of the Research Council of Norway is to ensure Norwegian participation in the EU's framework programs. The relevance of the structure of Horizon Europe for the Portfolio on International Relations and Global Development is primarily linked to Pillar 2 – Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness.



### Structure and priorities of the EU framework programme Horizon Europe.

Horizon Europe will incorporate research and innovation missions linked to key societal challenges and relevant to a broad range of stakeholders as well as to citizens to increase the effectiveness of funding by pursuing clearly defined targets.



Missions are a new concept to the EU framework programme and are thereby 'experimental'. They provide a learning lab for policy experimentation with a view to planning and co-creating R&I with all the EU policies concerned but also with concerned stakeholders and citizens. Ultimately, they should deliver European public goods on some of the issues that matter most to people. The five mission areas are:

- Adaptation to climate change including societal transformation
- Cancer
- Healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters
- Climate-neutral and smart cities
- Soil health and food

This Portfolio will closely follow up on the framework programme's more specific priorities as they are developed and will strongly encourage relevant research groups to participate in EU-calls for proposals.

## Investment objectives

The investment objectives provide direction and scope for the Portfolio Board's more concrete goals and priorities, which are laid down in the investment plans – the three-year plans for the Portfolio's call for proposals, and other measures.

Investment objectives for the Portfolio for Global Development and International Relations:

Overall goals and priorities	User goals	Societal goals
<p>Promote research and new knowledge</p> <p>to underpin Norwegian and international efforts in meeting global and regional challenges,</p> <p>to help safeguarding Norway's role in a globalised world and</p> <p>to ensure the integrity of Norwegian politics, economy, legislation, society and business.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Government has a good understanding of the international system, international cooperation and conflict, and the global and regional institutions and Norway's place therein;</li> <li>• The Norwegian foreign administration uses research for framing foreign and security policy and for underpinning Norway's commitment in contributing to achieving the SDGs;</li> <li>• Research institutions and researchers on the areas of development, foreign and security related research are highly competitive and of international standing;</li> <li>• The R&amp;D environment interact with and transfer knowledge to users of research;</li> <li>• Politics and administration, business and civil society utilise a broad knowledge base to deal with global challenges and international cooperation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Norway contributes effectively to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;</li> <li>• Norway is aware of the challenges, opportunities and alternative options it is facing in the pursuit of its interests and values;</li> <li>• The Norwegian society is robust and informed.</li> </ul>

## Anticipated output, outcome and impact

In order to secure that targeted efforts contribute to reaching the goals and objective set for this Portfolio, the desired corresponding outputs, outcomes and impacts are established in the following table:

Output	Outcome	Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better publications, both scientific and more wide-ranging and user-focused;</li> <li>• Strengthened research capacity and increased recruitment;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Norwegian contribution to international agendas within the Portfolio's priorities is based on research;</li> <li>• Sectors within politics, administration,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Norway is providing significant contributions to achieving the SDGs based on best practise and updated knowledge;</li> </ul>

Output	Outcome	Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scientific renewal throughout methodological diversity and theoretical scope;</li> <li>Relevant use of trans- and multidisciplinary;</li> <li>Extensive collaboration across research institutions, both nationally and internationally;</li> <li>User involvement in research and collaboration between researchers and users;</li> <li>Targeted communication and dissemination, including user dialogue;</li> <li>Expanded 'toolbox' with greater variety of research tools and resources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>business and civil society base their decisions on new and updated knowledge;</li> <li>An expanded knowledge base enables policy and management, working life and civil society to better deal with global challenges and issues related to the foreign- and security area;</li> <li>Norwegian researchers and their international partners contribute directly to policy development;</li> <li>Strong, sustainable research institutions and research groups at an international level.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Norwegian development and humanitarian policies, and corresponding efforts, are effective and foster progress and relief in developing countries;</li> <li>Norway makes important contributions to securing a global world order based on the rule of law;</li> <li>Norwegian security, values, interests and sovereignty are safeguarded.</li> </ul>

## Interventions and activities

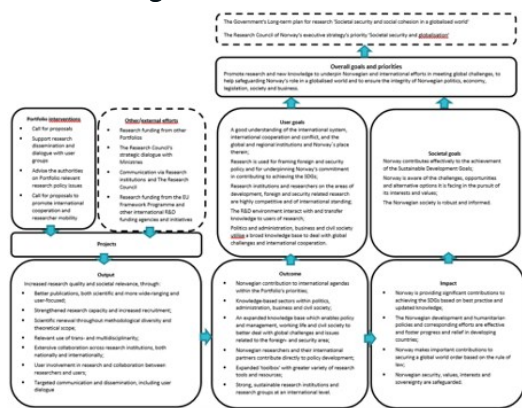
Research on global development should inform a knowledge-based foreign and security policy decision-making and public debate and contribute to development in developing countries. This means that research must be able to combine depth and range. In areas that are important to Norway, it is crucial to 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, the Portfolio for Global Development and International Relations must connect with other Portfolios to promote a wide range of new insights. In order to achieve the goals set for the Portfolio for Global Development and International Relations, there is an obvious need to cooperate with the following Portfolios: Democracy, administration and renewal; Energy, transport and low emissions; Oceans; Health; Climate and polar research; Land-based food, the environment and bioresources; Enabling technologies; Education and competence; Welfare, culture and society.

There is also a need to align the Portfolio's activities with initiatives deriving from the EU framework programme, Nordic Research Cooperation (NordForsk), Belmont Forum, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness (GLOPID-R), Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) and other international R&D-funding organisations and multi- and bilateral initiatives.

User-goals	Portfolio Interventions	External/other interventions
Effective and knowledge-based sectors within the Portfolio's priority areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Call for proposals</li> <li>Support research dissemination and dialogue with user groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research funding from other Portfolios</li> <li>The Research Council's strategic dialogue with Ministries</li> <li>Communication via Research institutions and The Research Council</li> </ul>
Research that is up to date and relevant for politics, administration, business and civil society, and that enables these sectors to prepare and act appropriately in the face of challenges.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Call for proposals</li> <li>Support research dissemination and dialogue with user groups</li> <li>Advise the authorities on Portfolio relevant research policy issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research funding from other Portfolios</li> <li>The Research Council's strategic dialogue with Ministries</li> <li>Communication via Research institutions and The Research Council</li> </ul>
A broad understanding of development traits and societal changes on the Portfolio's areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Call for proposals</li> <li>Support research dissemination and dialogue with user groups</li> <li>Advise the authorities on Portfolio relevant research policy issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research funding from other Portfolios</li> <li>The Research Council's strategic dialogue with Ministries</li> <li>Communication via Research institutions and The Research Council</li> </ul>
The research and its results are debated, utilised and implemented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Call for proposals</li> <li>Support research dissemination and dialogue with user groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communication via Research institutions and The Research Council</li> </ul>
The Portfolio's toolbox ensures that this Portfolio has a wide range of research and ways to communicate results and ensure dialogue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Call for proposals</li> <li>Support research dissemination and dialogue with user groups</li> </ul>	

User-goals	Portfolio Interventions	External/other interventions
The research in this Portfolio is diverse and innovative in regard to perspectives, theories and methods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call for proposals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research funding from other Portfolios</li> </ul>
Excellent researchers and research groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call for proposals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research funding from other Portfolios</li> <li>• Research funding from the EU Framework Programme and other international R&amp;D funding agencies and initiatives</li> </ul>
Competence and capacity are strengthened on research areas that are strategically important, which presently are of weak scientific performance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call for proposals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research funding from other Portfolios</li> <li>• Research funding from the EU Framework Programme and other international R&amp;D funding agencies and initiatives</li> </ul>
The international orientation and cooperation are strengthened.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call for proposals to promote international cooperation and researcher mobility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research funding from the EU Framework Programme and other international R&amp;D funding agencies and initiatives</li> </ul>

## Invention logic model



## Funding and investments

The Portfolio for Global Development and International Relations is funded by nearly all ministries, but mainly by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education and Research and the Ministry of Health and Care Services. The ministries commissions research to underpin their different sector responsibilities, and instructions to the Research Council regarding the knowledge needs of the ministries are given in annual allotment letters. The research programme plans for NORGLOBAL2, UTENRIKS and GLOBVAC are developed in close collaboration with the funding ministries and, UTENRIKS exempt, with NORAD. The work programmes will thus give a more detailed description of priorities and efforts that are aligned with white papers and strategies put forward by the ministries.

Work programmes:

- [UTENRIKS – Research Programme on International relations, foreign and security policy and Norwegian interests](#)
- [NORGLOBAL – Norway – Global Partner](#)
- [GLOBVAC – Programme for Global Health and Vaccination Research](#)