



# Launch of Evalbiovit 14 March 2024

*Comments from NINA; institute sector*

Norunn S. Myklebust  
CEO, NINA

# I'm asked to answer four questions, - from my perspective as CEO in a private research institute:

- Do you and your institution recognize the findings in the national report?
- Are the findings well known within your sector? Any news? Any surprises? Are there any important aspects that you miss in the report?
- Do you consider the recommendations as relevant for developing the field of biosciences?
- What do you think it is most urgent to do based on the recommendations? What do you think will contribute most in a short term perspective?

# Evaluation of Biosciences in Norway 2011–2021; National report

## Findings

- Substantial societal impact **Well known**
- Long-term datasets in several critical areas **Well known**
- Generous and constant core funding for the HEIs **Well known**
- Low basic funding of the institute sector and the museums **Well known**
- Lack of a strategic approach at all levels in the research system **News**
- A disappointing lack of a sense of urgency associated with the climate and biodiversity crises **Surprise!**

## Two missing aspects

1. Low overall participation from the institute sector
2. The different funding model between public and private research institutes in Norway

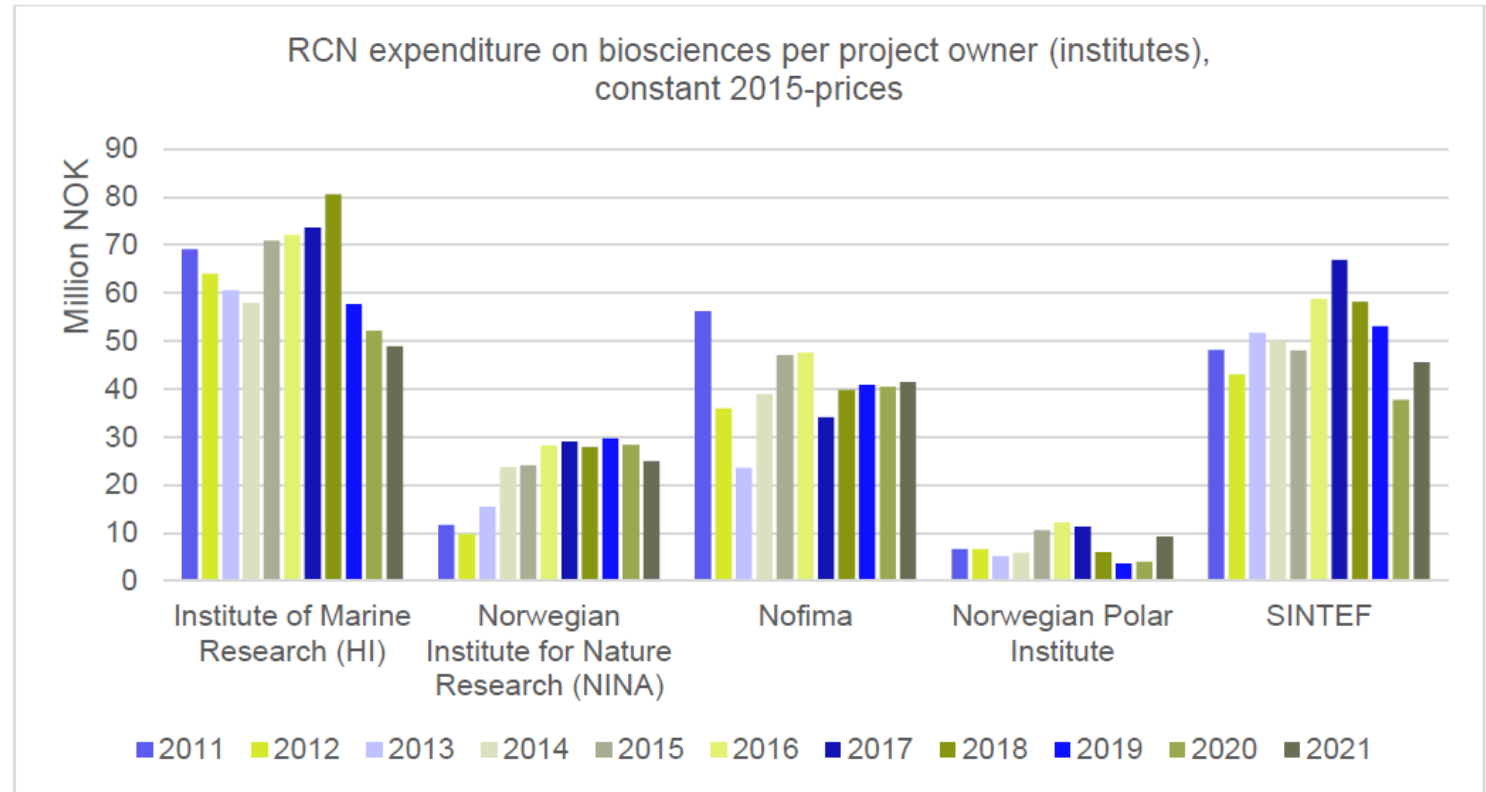


Figure 3.13. Graph shows amount of R&D funding received by relevant institutes (at the main organisational level) to projects in biosciences.

Participation in the EVALBIOVIT evaluation was voluntary, but most research organisations active in the field had their relevant research groups and administrative units evaluated.

## Recommendation 1–4

1. Make sure all administrative units in this research area have coherent and synergistic strategies and implement mechanisms to coordinate them on the national level. A national strategy on Biosciences could help.
2. Create, through clear strategies, more direction and critical mass in the HEIs and Institute sector as a whole, to achieve excellence in science.
3. Increase incentives to use the core funding to win additional competitive funding.
4. Generate incentives and programs to foster collaboration, both nationally and internationally.

Highly relevant

Relevant

Less relevant

Highly relevant

## Recommendation 5–8

5. Continue the support for research infrastructures and optimise their use
6. Generate incentives and programs to make use of scientific results and increase economic and societal impact
7. Establish measures for a stronger talent pipeline, combining domestic education and hiring of international staff
8. Make use of science advisory boards to provide external review, advice and assistance with developing the strategies

Relevant\*

Highly relevant

Relevant

Less relevant

\*) If long-time bioscience series are included in “infrastructure”, this recommendation is highly relevant for us!

## Three missing recommendations

1. Implement measures and mechanisms to strengthen the institute sector

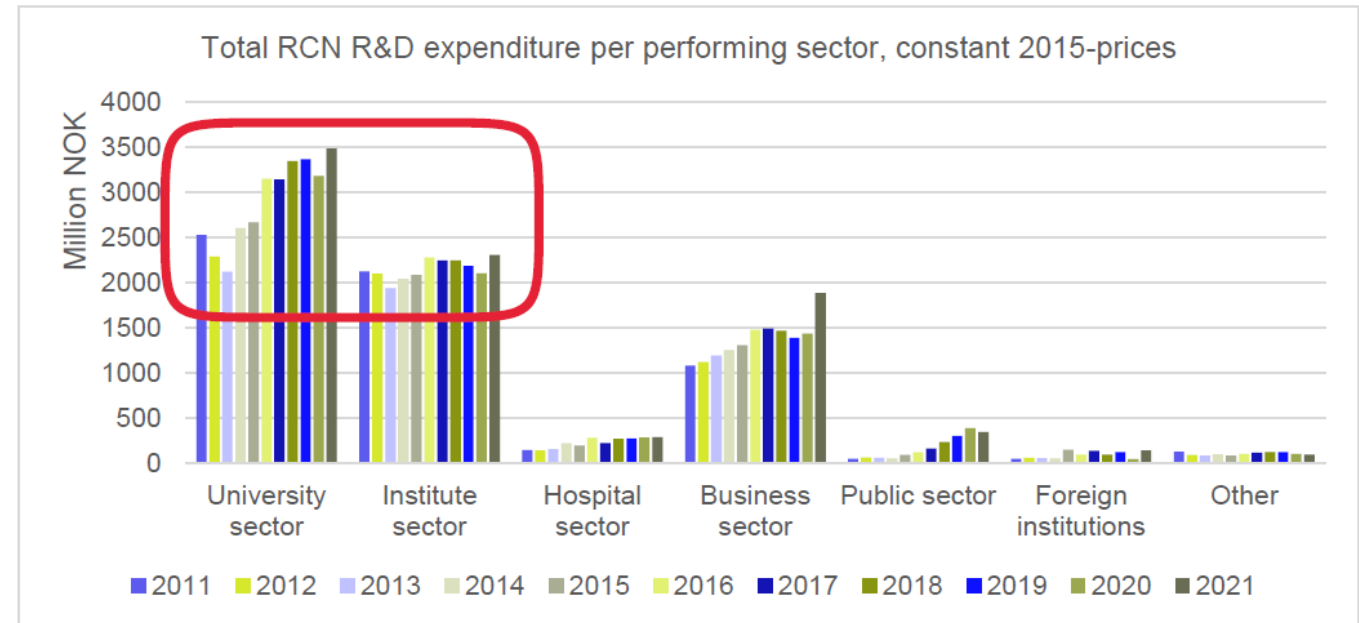


Figure 1.3. The graph shows RCN's total annual R&D expenditure in all areas of research by R&D-performing sector, in constant 2015-prices. Data is based on annual revised budgets per project.

The clearest trend is that the share of R&D funds received by the Institute sector has declined over the period. Some of this effect is due to structural changes in the sector (mergers of Institutes with HEIs), but these do not explain all of the decline.

## Missing recommendations

2. Secure financing to strengthen, and consolidate, the continued collection of data for long-time bioscience series
3. Rise the level of core funding for the private institute sector – the level of core funding in NINA is 10%

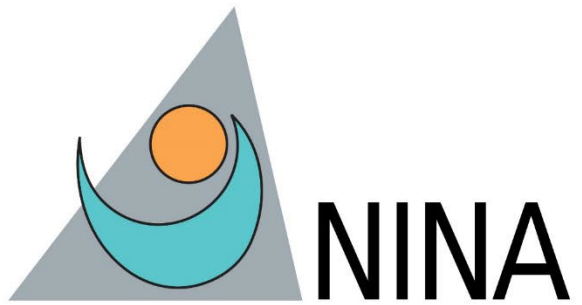


## Most urgent issues to do

- A national strategy on biosciences is highly needed. It may also trigger other recommended activities from this evaluation
- Implement the findings and recommendations in ongoing national processes and coming white papers - (e.g. the Norwegian implementation of the Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework; the Norwegian research system)



NINA and industry partners met the Minister of climate and environment in March 2024, discussing a strategic plan for research and innovation for nature & climate (Natur21). Photo: Torjus Kleiven Kandal , Skift



Norwegian Institute for Nature Research

