



Development path in the South: Ten years of research

Programme
Development Paths in the South

About the Programme

The Research Programme on Globalisation and Marginalisation – Multi- and interdisciplinary Research on Development Paths in the South (UTISØR)

The research programme allocated close to NOK 170 mill. to Norwegian development research during the period 1998-2007. The programme was the largest single source of funding in the field.

The overall objective of the programme was to promote long-term competence building and critical public debate that would serve as the basis for formulating an integrated policy towards the South and international development

cooperation. The most important secondary objective was to encourage research on key topics in order to ensure a state of readiness in research and to promote free, critical research and a comprehensive understanding of issues related to globalisation and marginalisation. Particular focus was placed on the mechanisms that produce, intensify or mitigate poverty, social welfare and democracy. A total of 61 research projects received funding under the programme, in addition to sub-programmes, seminars and networks.

Contents

Preface	1
Summary	3
1 Introduction	5
2 Impartiality	7
3 Key facts about the programme	8
4 Thematic relevance	10
5 Academic publication	13
6 Development of expertise	17
7 Internationalisation	19
8 Project implementation and achievement of objectives	20
9 Dissemination activity: An analysis using Google Scholar	21
10 Support for networks	25
11 Other implications for research policy	26
Attachments	28

Preface

The Research Programme on Globalisation and Marginalisation – Multi- and interdisciplinary Research on Development Paths in the South (UTISØR) allocated close to NOK 170 million to Norwegian development research during the period 1998-2007. The programme was the largest single source of funding for the field of development. This report is an evaluation of the UTISØR programme conducted by the UTISØR programme board with assistance from the Research Council staff. We would like to thank Karen Lieve Ria Hostens, Karin Rosenberg, Mona Renolen and Ragnhild Ljosland for their extensive efforts in compiling and processing the statistics and background information that we have used in the analysis.

Oslo, 29 February 2008

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Photos: Echo



Summary

The UTISØR programme was the largest source of funding for the field of development in Norway during the period 1998-2007. Of the total funding amount, 51 per cent was allocated to the university and university college sector, 31 per cent to university-affiliated research centres, and 17 per cent to the independent research institute sector. Funding was distributed across a wide range of thematic areas and fields. This report is an evaluation of the programme conducted by the programme board and based on extensive documentation about the programme. The results show that:

- The programme has played a vital role in strengthening research in the field by developing new expertise and by steering existing research activity toward North-South issues. Both the university and university college sector and the independent research institute sector have increased their focus on North-South issues, due in part to the efforts of the UTISØR programme.
- In order to develop new expertise in the field, the programme allocated funding to 34 doctoral projects, of which 17 have been completed so far. Approximately one-half of the doctoral candidates were women. The majority of the doctoral research fellowships were awarded within the university and university college sector. The programme was less successful in achieving its objective of awarding a greater number of post-doctoral research fellowships.
- The competition for funding intensified over time. In some cases over 90 per cent of the applicants were denied funding. A large number of proposals for highly qualified projects had to be rejected.
- Publication activity under the programme has been very high on average, although it has varied greatly among the projects. The number of publications and publication points recorded in the national documentation system for academic publication is relatively high in relation to other comparable statistics.
- Projects have experienced delays fairly often and in some cases have fallen short of their goals and objectives. Delays have a negative impact on publication activity, and an assessment should be made of whether the projects have received adequate follow-up. A few cases involve serious delays and possibly failure.
- The programme has covered a wide range of thematic areas and led to an expansion of development research in several disciplines, including the health sciences. It has also achieved its objective of increasing research on poverty. However, it did not meet its objective of incorporating perspectives on gender, children and urbanisation into more research projects. The midway evaluation of the programme contains further details (referenced in Attachment A). The programme board believes that its practice of allocating funding according to thematic priorities to a limited extent while employing scientific merit as the main assessment criterion, as opposed to implementing stringent quotas for allocations to specific fields, has been the appropriate approach to take.
- Based on an assessment of the content of the projects, the relevance of the research activity for public policy, international institutions and, to some extent, development cooperation¹ has been satisfactory on average. Relevance for trade and industry has been limited. Although the material presented in this evaluation does not provide a basis for drawing definitive conclusions, it does raise the question of whether the programme has met its primary objective of generating research that is relevant for development cooperation. Nevertheless, the research results from the programme have been disseminated extensively, and the development of new expertise has also benefited the users. Moreover, the programme has fulfilled its intention of promoting cross-disciplinary research.

¹ The term “development cooperation” used in this evaluation is synonymous with the term “development aid” used in the work programme for the UTISØR programme.



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- An analysis of citations using Google Scholar shows that many of the researchers have numerous networks and extensive outreach, whereas some of the publications have moderate distribution. The projects vary widely in this regard.
- The majority of the projects have involved a high level of international activity and substantial international collaboration. Internationalisation has bolstered the projects' publication activity and the consequent citations.
- A certain amount of funding has been allocated to support research networks in various areas. These have fostered communication and activities in various research communities. However, they overlap with ordinary dissemination activities, and there is a need to clarify the objectives of such networks. The programme board recommends that priority be given to international rather than national networks.
- The UTISØR programme issued an announcement of additional funding for internationalisation and dissemination activities, and the programme board believes that this has been an effective means of encouraging the communication of research results, learning and the establishment of international networks.

1 Introduction

During the period 1998-2007, the Research Programme on Globalisation and Marginalisation. Multi- and interdisciplinary Research on Development Paths in the South (UTISØR) was the largest source of funding for research in the field of development in Norway, with an overall budget of nearly NOK 170 million. Quality assurance and evaluation of the programme have been a key task and a main responsibility of the programme board. The quality of the research conducted under the programme has been ensured in part by awarding funding on a competitive basis, with scientific merit and relevance as the main assessment criteria. Progress reports and final reports submitted by the projects have also been components of the quality assurance process.

As the programme draws to a close, it is natural to conduct a more thorough assessment of its activities. An extensive evaluation of Norwegian development research conducted under the auspices of the Research Council has recently been completed², and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) has announced that it will undertake its own evaluation of the UTISØR programme in 2008. Consequently, it was essential for the programme board to draw up its final report in a manner that would make an independent contribution without overlapping too much with these other reports. The programme board therefore decided to conduct its evaluation based on an extensive, organised effort to compile and systematise documentation about the programme. The report does not include assessments of research content made by external referees since the broader evaluation of development research has already taken these into account.

This report was to be based primarily on facts and objective criteria. Both the Research Council administration and the programme board have therefore invested considerable effort in compiling and systematising documentation about the programme.

The report is based on the following:

- The basic data for all projects under the programme were compiled and systematised using the Research Council's databases as well as the progress and final reports submitted by the projects.
- The programme board reviewed all applications and final reports from the projects and performed a methodical assessment of the projects based on a variety of criteria.
- The Research Council administration conducted a survey of users and researchers affiliated with the programme, which included questions evaluating the networks.
- In cooperation with the programme board, the Research Council administration conducted a separate survey using Google Scholar for the purpose of analysing dissemination activity under the programme. An explanation of the methodology used is provided in Attachment D.

In addition to input from these objective sources, the programme board's own subjective experience from the programme may also provide valuable input for discussions of research policy in the field of development. In the summary of implications for research policy at the conclusion of the report, the programme board offers some assessments based on its subjective experience.

During the programme period, the UTISØR programme assumed responsibility for several other programmes in the field of development, although these are not included in the analysis. These programmes are:

- The Research Programme on Forced Migration (also abbreviated as TVUMIG), Resource Conflicts and Development (NOK 18.5 million during the period 1998-2003)
- The Magne Lerheim grant scheme (also abbreviated as REKNUFU), with an overall budget of NOK 13 million during the period 2001-2005
- The research programme on women, law and development at the University of Oslo (NOK 6.3 million during the period 2001-2007)

Final reports and evaluations are available for each of these activities, and are listed in Attachment A, along with references to other key documents for the UTISØR programme. These include a midway evaluation report by an external consultant and a comprehensive statement from the

² Research Council of Norway, 2007, Norwegian Development Research – An Evaluation



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Photo: UN Photo/L. Abassi



Photo: Echo/O. Minichetti



Photo: UN Photo/F. Charton

programme board. When relevant, this report refers to the conclusions and material from these reports, which are also available on the programme's website³.

While there is a methodical, well-established practice for evaluating individual research projects (through the application assessment process) and research communities (institutions as well as research fields), there is not an established practice for evaluating research programmes. In the field of development, external consultants have sometimes been commissioned, such as at the conclusion of the Research Programme on the Multilateral System in the Field of Development (MULTI). The UTISØR programme also commissioned an external consultant as part of its midway evaluation (see Attachment A). In other cases, the Research Council, programme boards or specially appointed groups have conducted programme evaluations (e.g. the sub-programmes mentioned above). However, it has not been the Research Council's usual practice to systematically document the results and activities of the research programmes. As a general rule, systematic documentation of publications, doctoral degrees, dissemination activity, etc under the various programmes is not available.

This evaluation represents a step toward establishing such a practice. The ambition of the programme board was to document and evaluate the programme results on a factual basis, but it soon became apparent that this would be a groundbreaking effort. Although reports from the projects are submitted regularly to the Research Council, very little of this information is stored electronically, the quality of the reports varies considerably, and publication lists may be incomplete or spread among a number of documents. Obtaining satisfactory data for all the projects on several criteria proved to be extremely difficult. For instance, mapping the number of person-years or the proportion of women in all the projects was practically impossible despite the large number of reports in existence. One conclusion that emerges from this evaluation is that the system for reporting and documentation within the Research Council needs to be improved.

Since similar evaluations of other programmes do not exist, it was sometimes difficult to make relevant comparisons on the basis of available data. For instance, the number of publications per researcher person-year for projects is not entirely comparable with similar figures from research institutions. To illustrate, if a researcher in a given year devotes half of his or her time to teaching activities and the other half to producing two publications under the UTISØR programme, then the number of publications per person-year will be twice as high for the UTISØR project ($2/0.5=4$) as for the researcher's overall activity ($2/1=2$). Ideally, data for the UTISØR programme would be compared with data from other programmes/projects, but the availability of such data is limited. If more evaluations of this type are conducted, there will be a better basis for assessment in the future.

In this report, the evaluation of the UTISØR programme is based on information about 62 projects with overall allocations of NOK 118 million. Of these, 46 projects have been concluded and have submitted their final reports, providing complete information about their activities and research results. Information is more limited for 16 of the projects, primarily because they have just recently been concluded or will be concluded in 2008, and therefore no final reports are available. Consequently, these projects have been omitted entirely from the analysis of publication activity as this must be based on complete publication data from the projects. However, they have been included in the assessments of thematic relevance and several other criteria (e.g. international cooperation) when it was possible to make an assessment on the basis of applications and progress reports.

The remaining portion the UTISØR programme's overall budget of nearly 170 million was distributed among the networks, which received the largest share at close to NOK 20 million, and the Programme on Forced Migration, Resource Conflicts and Development, which received a comparable amount. Other funding was allocated to seminars and conferences, various pre-projects, additional support and administration costs.

³ See <http://www.rcn.no/global>

2 Impartiality

Although the members of the programme board have not conducted research under the programme, impartiality becomes an issue when a programme evaluates its own activities. Precisely for this reason, the programme board has attached primary importance to conducting this evaluation on the basis of documentable facts rather than on subjective impressions.

The programme board has also followed the Research Council's guidelines on impartiality in its evaluation of individual projects. Consequently, programme board members have not been responsible for evaluating projects affiliated with their home institutions. The assessment of the programme's administrative practices as discussed in several places in this report does, however, represent a problem of impartiality as the programme board is not an unbiased party when judging its own efforts. In these cases this report must be viewed as an effort to systematise experiences from the programme rather than as an evaluation, although it should be emphasised that the programme board has placed great weight on supporting its arguments with objective information, for example, detailed information about the application rounds and the allocation of funding.

The Research Council's new guidelines on impartiality adopted in 2003-2004 established stricter parameters that obligate programme board members to stand down during the assessment of applications from competing institutions in addition to those from their home institutions. As a result, all the Norwegian researchers on the programme board were replaced with alternatives during the application assessment process in 2003 and 2004. Also, because the user representatives on the programme board have changed over time⁴, the current user representatives have not participated in any of the main funding rounds. Consequently, only three Nordic, non-Norwegian researchers on the programme board have participated in the assessment of applications. In the final phase of the programme, the programme board's main task has been quality assurance, and the risk that impartiality has been compromised in this evaluation is limited.

⁴ User representatives have been appointed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Norad.

Photo: UN Photo/M. Perret



Photo: Echo/S. Cecchin



3 Key facts about the programme

The programme board's statement in connection with the midway evaluation in 2005 contains detailed statistics on the allocation of funding under the programme. Please see this document (available on the programme's website, referenced in Attachment A) for details on allocations awarded to specific institutions and areas. The following list provides key facts about the programme's activities:

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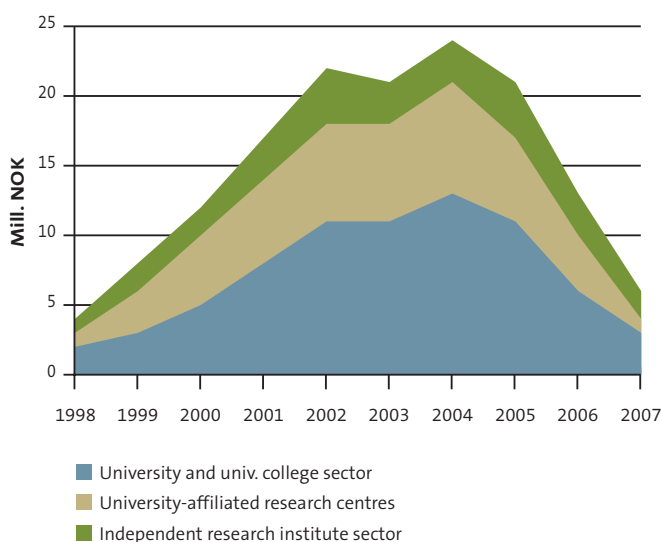
- The overall budget for the entire programme period 1998-2007 was close to NOK 170 million, including funding for the Programme on Forced Migration, Resource Conflicts and Development as well as for various research networks.
- The initiative was deliberately established as a single large-scale, broad-based research programme in the field of development rather than several smaller ones. The UTISØR programme also assumed responsibility for several smaller programmes, as mentioned above. Most of the grants were awarded in funding rounds from 1998 to 2004.
- Due to application and project cycles, a substantial amount of funding was allocated in the period 2002-2005. The years prior and subsequent to this period were dedicated to phasing in and phasing out the programme.
- The final group of projects funded under the programme were concluded at the close of 2007, but some projects will be extended to the end of 2008. The evaluation of allocated funding and thematic content is based on data for the entire programme. The evaluation of results is based on projects that were concluded by the close of 2007.
- The competition for funding intensified over time. About 40 per cent of the applications submitted were awarded funding in the early phase of the programme, but this figure dropped to under 10 per cent in later funding rounds.
- Approximately one-half of the doctoral fellows and one-third of the project managers under the UTISØR programme were women.
- The average UTISØR project had three researcher person-years, a four-year project period and a budget of NOK 1.5-2 million.
- Four-fifths of the programme's funding was awarded within the university and university college sector, including university-affiliated research centres. This share was largest midway through the programme period when a larger proportion of funding was awarded. Figure 1 shows the distribution of funding over time to the university and university college sector, university-affiliated research centres and the independent research institute sector⁵.
- Almost 40 per cent of available funding under the UTISØR programme was allocated in the form of personal research fellowships, and the majority of these were doctoral



Photo: Echo/F. Goemans

Diagram 1: UTISØR – distribution of funding over time

Based on figures in current NOK



research fellowships within the university and university college sector. Only a small proportion of the funding allocated to the independent research institute sector consisted of research fellowships.

- The programme provided funding for a broad range of research activities in various fields. The proportion of funding awarded to the field of economics was largest early in the programme period, whereas the proportion awarded to medical and political/institutional studies

- increased over time. This was due in part to the mobilisation of new research groups and in part to the criteria specified in the various funding announcements.
- A key activity under the programme has been to provide some NOK 20 million in funding to eight research networks in various thematic areas. For further details see section 10, as well as a previous statement issued by the programme board on this topic, which is reproduced in Attachment E.

Photo: UN Photo/F. Noy



⁵ The university-affiliated research centres referred to in this report include the Centre for Development and the Environment (SUM), the Center for International Climate and Environmental Research – Oslo (CICERO), the Ragnar Frisch Centre for Economic Research and the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights at the University of Oslo, the Comparative Research Programme on Poverty (CROP) and the Centre for Development Studies at the University of Bergen, the Institute for Research in Economics and Business Administration (NSF) affiliated with the Norwegian School of Economics and Business Administration (NHH), the Department of International Environment and Management Studies (Noragric) affiliated with the Norwegian University of Life Sciences in Ås, the Centre for Economic Research affiliated with the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) and Agder Research.

4 Thematic relevance

The UTISØR programme was organised into six thematic priority areas: (i) globalisation and marginalisation, (ii) poverty, (iii) economic policy and commercial and industrial development, (iv) political development: democracy, human rights and conflicts, (v) health, education and population growth, and (vi) the environment and resource management. Globalisation and marginalisation was a cross-cutting thematic priority, while perspectives on gender, children, urbanisation and development cooperation were to be incorporated into projects across all the thematic areas. The six thematic priority areas were represented equally in terms of the number of projects and volume, with the exception of the area of economic policy and commercial and industrial development, which had fewer projects. The midway evaluation showed, however, that few projects had incorporated cross-cutting perspectives on gender, children and urbanisation.

Although the work programme established the framework for the UTISØR programme (see Attachment A), there was a certain amount of flexibility in terms of restricting or adjusting areas of focus in the specific calls for proposals. It is not unusual for members of programmes boards to promote their field by prioritising certain disciplines or thematic areas. Following a success for the field of economics in the first round of grant allocation, this field was excluded from the subsequent funding announcement. The later funding announcements in 2003 and 2004 had a broad thematic scope (which also included the field of economics) but placed greater emphasis on poverty, partially in response to signals from Norad.

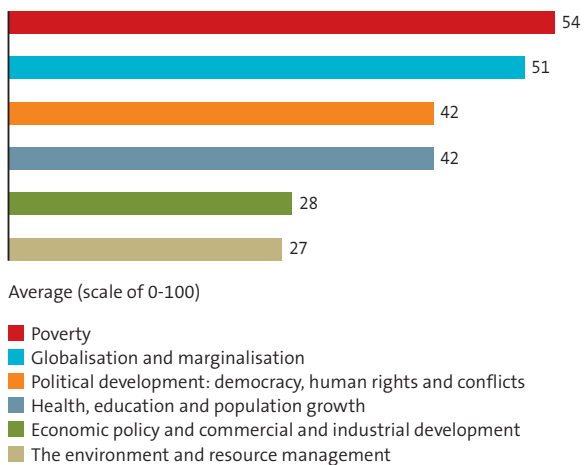
A question of interest in a research policy context is whether project funding should be awarded on the basis of scientific merit or of thematic priorities. The UTISØR programme has allocated funding according to thematic priorities to a limited extent, while implementing scientific merit as the primary assessment criterion. The programme board believes it has taken the correct approach. In its opinion, quality-related criteria should be of major importance in a programme of such broad thematic scope, and moderate focus on thematic areas is preferable to a more stringent approach that sets project quotas for thematic sub-areas. Representatives for users of the UTISØR programme have also supported this approach. The programme has had to strike a balance between user and researcher needs. While users

often prefer to see funding allocated according to thematic priorities, researchers tend to support open competition and fewer thematic restrictions. Due to the wide scope of the programme, competition was relatively open.

The earlier statement that five of the six thematic areas under the UTISØR programme were equally represented with regard to allocations is based on the Research Council administration’s classification of the projects. However, the boundaries between the thematic areas are not clear-cut, and a single project may touch on several different areas. To gain a more accurate picture of whether the content of the programme achieved the objectives set out in the work programme, the relevance of the projects for the six thematic areas was ranked on a scale of 1-5. Diagram 2 shows the average for all the projects converted to a scale of 0-100. The distribution of the various response alternatives are presented in Table B2 in Attachment B.

Diagram 2: Thematic relevance of the projects

Based on data on 61 projects



As expected, the cross-cutting thematic area “globalisation and marginalisation” had a high score, ranking second. However, the thematic area “poverty” ranks the highest, which is in keeping with the programme’s objectives. The focus on poverty increased especially during the latter half of

the programme period, and as mentioned above, it was given priority in the funding announcements of 2003 and 2004. The programme's relevance for research on poverty is an indication that the programme has achieved thematic relevance without implementing narrow thematic restrictions. Giving priority to projects that address poverty-related research questions is also in keeping with the work programme of 1998, which states that the programme in particular "should stimulate research which focuses upon processes which produce, increase or reduce poverty, welfare and democracy". (English translation of the UTISØR work programme, p. 9; see attachment A)

The thematic areas "economic policy and commercial and industrial development" and "the environment and resource management" rank the lowest. It should be pointed out that it was never the intention to distribute the allocations equally among the six thematic areas. The difference in rankings among the various thematic priority areas may be due to the fact that "globalisation and marginalisation" and "poverty" are broader areas. Many projects may therefore touch on these areas although they are not the central focus. Table B2 in Attachment B shows that the projects on political development or the environment are more concentrated in their focus as these thematic areas are highly relevant for just a few projects. The distribution of responses on a scale of 1-5 is therefore U-shaped rather than gradually descending or evenly distributed.

In addition to thematic relevance, another important objective of the UTISØR programme has been to conduct research that is relevant for users. In its budget proposal to establish the UTISØR programme, the Research Council stated that the primary objective of the programme would be to build expertise and improve the decision-making basis for Norwegian foreign and development cooperation policy. To what extent has the UTISØR programme supplied knowledge of relevance to development cooperation and foreign policy? As discussed above, the programme responded to user needs regarding thematic priorities by enhancing the focus on poverty. The programme board has also reviewed the projects and ranked them according to their relevance to various policy areas. Diagram 3 illustrates that project relevance has been quite high in key policy areas, with the exception of trade and industry.

Diagram 3: Relevance of the projects to policy

Based on data on 61 projects



Average (scale of 0-100)



It should be emphasised that the task of ranking the projects was not easy and required a good deal of discretion. For example, a project on land use in Africa has specific relevance to national policy regarding land reform and land ownership rights. This project may be classified as highly relevant for national policy (land reform) but less relevant for development cooperation, (Norwegian) trade and industry, and international policy. In some cases, however, knowledge about national land reform may be crucial for development cooperation and international policy, and the boundaries between these areas are not clear-cut. It is important to note that due to such ambiguities the project rankings contain an element of uncertainty.

The diagram shows that while research conducted under the UTISØR programme has had little relevance to trade and industry, it has had greater relevance to public policy in general, as well as to international policy and international institutions, and development cooperation. The programme board has not placed priority on analysing the differences between the three areas with the highest ranking, but it notes that development cooperation scores the lowest despite the fact that a focus on development cooperation policy was one of the programme's objectives. It should also be pointed out that relevance to trade and industry was not identified as a main focus of the programme, so the low ranking here should not be seen as a failure to achieve programme objectives, although arguments may be made for greater relevance to trade and industry.

The programme board has ranked the projects solely on the basis of their content, and the statistics do not reveal whether the researchers actually had contact with development cooperation agencies in connection with the projects or whether the projects produced knowledge that is relevant to development cooperation or other fields of policy⁶. Therefore, the diagram above is not an adequate foundation on which to draw firm conclusions about the programme's user relevance. This will likely be the focus of Norad's evaluation of the UTISØR programme to be conducted in 2008. This report may provide a more secure basis for assessing the relevance of the research relative to society. The following section presents results of dissemination activity under the projects, which is of interest in this context.

Users often point out that they benefit most from having access to resource persons who can answer their questions on a need-to-know basis rather than being given information about specific research content. Importantly, the UTISØR programme has made a substantial contribution to developing experts in the field (see section 6), and has been instrumental in steering research activity at various institutions toward North-South issues.

⁶ In autumn 2007 the Research Council's administration sent a questionnaire by e-mail to users who were asked about their experiences with the UTISØR programme. Due to the small number of responses, however, these are not referred to here.

Examples of this are:

- The UTISØR programme promoted more North-South research within economic research groups, particularly in the early phase of the programme.
- In a later phase of the programme, during a period of intense focus on health-related development cooperation, the UTISØR programme enhanced emphasis on development within medical research groups.

Thus, in a time of greater focus on development issues, the UTISØR programme has played a crucial role in building expertise in the field of development by steering the focus of the research activity. This in turn has heightened the relevance of the programme.

The UTISØR programme was also intended to encourage cross-disciplinarity. The programme board has ranked the projects according to their degree of cross-disciplinarity. This assessment is subjective, and cross-disciplinarity may be defined in various ways. A distinction may be made between multidisciplinary, in which several disciplines cooperate, and cross-disciplinarity, in which an attempt is made to establish a common frame of reference. Projects were also considered to have a component of cross-disciplinarity when researchers attempted to cross boundaries within their own discipline, such as economists who analyse democracy or political scientists who study economic policy. The programme board attempted to establish a common approach to the scale, but this was not an easy task, and the rankings must be viewed with some reservation in this case as well.

With this precautionary note concerning methodology and the degree of discretion used in its approach, the programme board found that the projects under the UTISØR programme incorporated a relatively large degree of cross-disciplinarity. The average was 43/100, and about one-third

of the projects scored high on cross-disciplinarity (4 or 5 on a scale of 1-5). Assuming that cross-disciplinarity in general is not particularly widespread, the programme board views this as an indication that the UTISØR programme has achieved the objective of promoting cross-disciplinarity. It is of course impossible to determine whether the researchers who received funding under the programme would have taken a less cross-disciplinary approach if they had received funding from other sources, but it is apparent that the UTISØR programme provided funding for a relatively substantial amount of cross-disciplinary research. This must be regarded as a success for the programme. Cross-disciplinarity is a commonly stated objective that is often difficult to achieve, but the UTISØR programme has managed to do so.

What are the specific features of the cross-disciplinary projects? Subject to the usual reservations regarding data quality and number of observations, the analysis shows that⁷:

- Larger-scale projects were more cross-disciplinary
- Cross-disciplinary projects had a higher level of dissemination activity

On the other hand, the analysis shows that the degree of cross-disciplinarity decreased over time, which might indicate that the demand for disciplinary expertise and specialisation is growing. The projects for which doctoral research fellowships were awarded were also less cross-disciplinary than other research projects, indicating that there is high demand for scientific specialisation and disciplinary expertise in doctoral studies.

⁷ In this evaluation, this type of statement regarding the relationship between variables means that two variables are statistically significant with a P-value lower than 0.1.

Photo: Echo



5 Academic publication

A primary objective of the UTISØR programme has been to strengthen Norwegian research in the field of development. A key measurement of this is the publication activity carried out under the programme. Has the research funded under the UTISØR programme been sufficiently productive and achieved a level of quality that is high enough for publication in leading journals?

Measuring publication activity is a challenge because methods that count the number of publications do not provide accurate measurements of quality. Today, the number of journal articles published plays an important role in funding decisions, which has given rise to a prioritising of research activity that boosts production volume. The publication culture also varies considerably among the disciplines. While some disciplines only prioritise international journals, others put greater emphasis on books/anthologies and national publications. It is important to note that within the UTISØR programme period the publication culture changed over time in the direction of greater emphasis on journal publications. For general social sciences, journal publications increased by 69 per cent from 1995-1996 to 2005-2006. For the field of economics, the increase was 148 per cent⁸. It may therefore be unfair to compare projects from the end of the 1990s with those that concluded in 2007.

Despite these reservations, the programme board has decided to use publication statistics as they provide an objective measurement of results from the projects. To be sure, these measurements may be debated, but they are documentable and are not a result of the programme board's subjective assessment. Alternatively, a complete evaluation of the research content could have been conducted, but as mentioned earlier, this would lie outside the parameters of this evaluation.

In the following overview, the publications are divided into the following categories:

- Journals Levels 1 and 2 follow the system established by the Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions (UHR) for the ranking of journals, with Level 2 being the highest. While there may be considerable heterogeneity within the two categories, the programme board chose to use this system because it is both accessible and an open standard. Despite its limitations, this should give a reasonably representative picture of publication activity while also providing a criterion for excluding more popular publications that should not be counted in the same manner in an academic context.
- Articles in anthologies/books also encompass contributions to conference volumes, which are important in parts of the field of development. This category does not include reports published by researchers' home institutions.
- Monographs are important in certain projects. It must be noted that this category does not include anthologies/books or conference volumes (which are covered by the category above) as they consist of chapters and sometimes introductions. An article published in an anthology does not give the same number of points as a monograph. Doctoral theses have not been included here unless they are published by an external publishing house.
- "Other publications" working papers, reports published by own institution, dissemination materials and other reports. The projects have defined this category differently in their reports. Some reports contain long lists of popular articles while other lists are limited. This category is therefore imprecise, and the programme board has not given it much weight in the analysis although it may also include valuable research results.
- This analysis also contains the number of articles that are planned for publication after the project ends. Publication after project completion may be due to a time lag to publication, or, in the worst case it may indicate poor planning and a failure to achieve the project's objectives.

⁸ See the Research Council of Norway, 2007, Det norske forsknings- og innovasjonssystemet – statistikk og indikatorer 2007 ("Report on Science and Technology – Indicators for Norway 2007"). English-language version available as from March 2008.

In public publication statistics (see <http://dbh.nsd.uib.no/pub/hjelp.jsp>, Norwegian language only), the various publications are weighted differently when publication points are calculated. One possible system of weighting is as follows:

Table 1: Calculation of publication points Number of points per publication		
	Level 1	Level 2
Journal articles	1	3
Articles in anthologies	0.7	1
Monographs	5	8

Statistics are available for the two levels of journal articles, but not for the two levels of articles in anthologies or monographs. Publication points have therefore been calculated using an average of the values above (0.85 for articles in anthologies and 6.5 for monographs). Publication points per project and per researcher person-year are also reported on this basis.

Table 2 gives a preliminary overview of publication activity under the UTISØR programme based on average and median values for the publications. The statistics are based on data on 46 completed projects.

Table 2: Average publication activity per project under the UTISØR programme based on data on 46 projects		
	Average	Median
Number of publications, Level 1 journals	2.80	2
Number of publications, Level 2 journals	0.80	0
Number of publications in anthologies	2.15	1
Number of monographs	0.39	0
Number of other publications	3.54	2
Number of publications planned for publication after project completion	3.98	3
Publication points	9.59	5

The median values for publication activity in Table 2 shows that the typical project published two articles in Level 1 journals, none in Level 2 journals, and a few articles in other publications. The ratio between all Level 1 and Level 2 journals was 129/37, i.e. Level 2 comprised 22 per cent of the total. This may be compared with statistics for the university and university college sector which show that in 2005 the comparable figure for universities was 19 per cent, whereas

the average for the university colleges was 11 per cent (see <http://dbh.nsd.uib.no/pub>, Norwegian language only). In this respect the UTISØR programme lies at roughly the same or slightly over the level of the universities⁹. The general evaluation of Norwegian development research found that the independent research institute sector had a higher proportion of publications in Level 2 journals than the university and university college sector¹⁰. The programme board's data does not show a corresponding, statistically significant relationship.

Overall publication activity carried out under the UTISØR programme is quite good. Table 3 presents average publication figures per researcher person-year.

Table 3: Publication points, the UTISØR programme Based on data on 46 projects, 142 researcher person-years				
	Number of publication	Total publications points	Publication points per person-year	Percentage distribution
Journals, Level 1	129	129	0.91	29
Journals, Level 2	37	111	0.78	25
Articles in anthologies	99	84	0.59	19
Monographs	18	117	0.82	27
Total	283	441	3.11	100

Overall publication activity per researcher person-year under the UTISØR programme may be compared with publication points per university-level person-year, which for the universities in 2004-2006 was 0.7-0.8 (see http://dbh.nsd.uib.no/dbh/analyse.jsp?query=pub_pr_arsverk, Norwegian language only). The figure for publication points per associate professor position/post-doctoral position was 1.4-1.6. On the basis of these statistics, it may be concluded that publication activity under the UTISØR programme has been adequate¹¹.

⁹ The analysis must take into account potential inaccuracies in the statistics, including weighting, which may weaken the basis for comparison.

¹⁰ See Research Council of Norway, 2007, Norwegian Development Research – An Evaluation, p. 64.

¹¹ Based on Table 4.1, page 59, in Research Council of Norway, 2007, Norwegian Development Research – An Evaluation, the figures show that the following publications were registered for 2001-2005: 546 articles in scientific journals, 319 articles in books/anthologies and 68 books. The UTISØR programme encompasses a longer time period, and the figures are therefore not directly comparable. It is clear, however, that publication activity in the projects under the UTISØR programme constitute only a moderate portion of the overall publication activity in Norwegian development research during the period. Based on the same source, the UTISØR programme's contribution to the total funding of development research is estimated at 10-15 per cent.

It is important to note that, as mentioned earlier, publication statistics for projects and institutions cannot be compared directly. It is natural to expect that a research programme whose main objective is publication will have a higher level of publication activity than a programme in which researchers engage in a wide range of activities, including teaching, user-oriented activities and dissemination. The statistics confirm nonetheless that the level of production under the UTISØR programme has been satisfactory, and that the programme has boosted publication activity at the institutions. In the statistics for the university and university college sector, several research communities in the field of development also show good results. In an overview published by NSD¹² of the 40 best academic institutions in the university and university college sector, six of these are represented among the projects analysed in this evaluation.

A typical project under the UTISØR programme included plans for a large number of publications to be published after project completion (an average of 3.98). There is a question as to whether these plans simply reflect a time lag to publication or whether they indicate wishful thinking or an attempt to conceal a failure to meet publication targets. Statistics that would provide a clear answer are not available, but there is probably an element of truth in both scenarios. In any case, the time lag means that the projects' publication activity is actually higher than indicated in the table above.

The figures above are averages, and thus conceal the large variation in the projects' publication activity. Table B1 in Attachment B shows the distribution among the projects. For example, 34 of 46 projects have no journal articles at Level 2, and eight of the 46 projects have no publication points. The figures are strongly influenced by the fact that some projects have more than 20 journal publications. Diagram 4 shows the distribution of publication points among the projects.

¹² http://dbh.nsd.uib.no/dbh/analyse.jsp?query=topprangerte_institutt_pub

The diagram shows considerable variation, from zero to more than 40 publication points. Calculated per person-year, the variation is somewhat less, the highest score being 23 points per person-year.

This raises the question of whether the projects and institutions have special characteristics that lead to better publication activity. Taking into account that the data is limited and a single observation may have a significant impact, a correlation analysis shows that:

- There are no observable economies of scale that would result in more publication points per person-year for larger-scale projects.
- There are no statistically measurable differences among the projects categorised by thematic area or discipline.
- The number of publication points per person-year is higher in the university and university college sector than in the university-affiliated research centres and the independent research institute sector. However, this finding is not robust, see discussion below.
- Delays in project implementation are clearly negative for publication activity. Projects that are well-organised produce more publications.
- The level of publication activity is highest in projects that have a large number of established researcher person-years as opposed to doctoral fellows.
- Unexpectedly, the level of publication activity is high in projects that have high operating costs, when salaries are excluded. A possible explanation is that projects that invest in networks achieve higher production in the end. There is, however, no basis on which to draw a clear conclusion.

One possible reason that some projects have a higher publication rate may be that their activities are supported by other projects or that publications which have been reported may have been produced under another project in reality. If

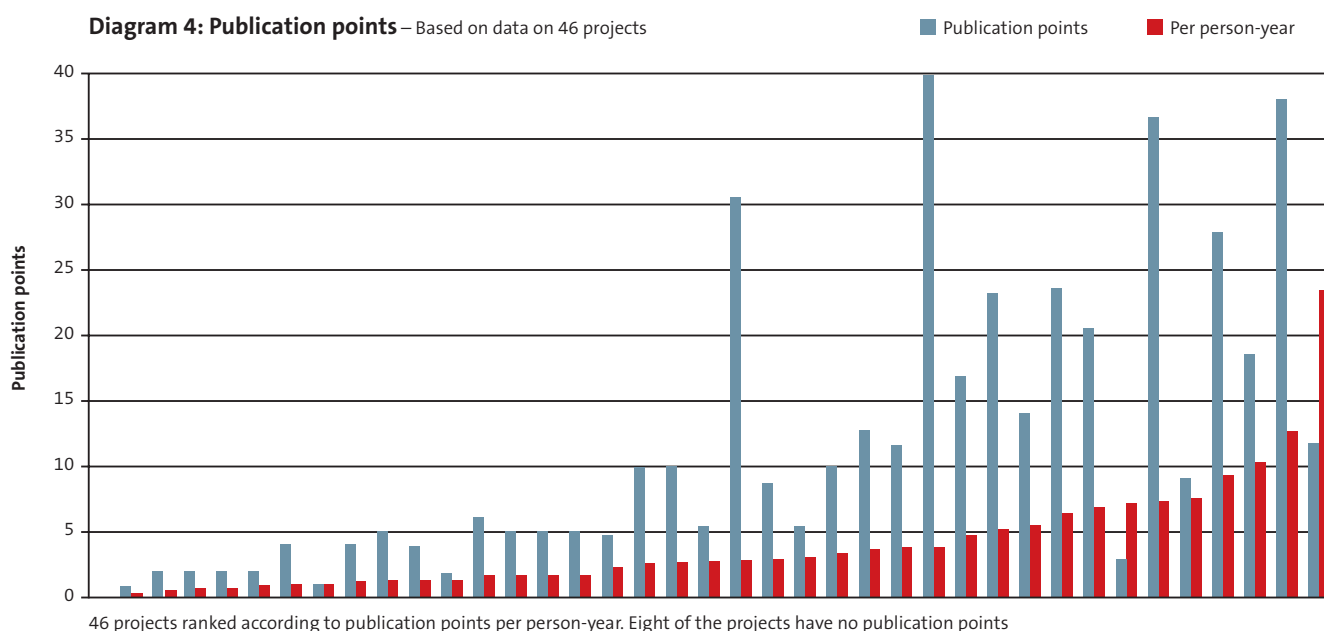




Photo: UN Photo

a research group is involved in several related projects, the boundaries between them may be unclear, making it difficult to identify the project under which a publication was produced. The programme board is not commenting on the legitimacy of this practice; it only notes that it may occur. The figures on person-years as reported by the projects indicate that this situation may represent a problem. While the average cost per person-year is NOK 606,000, some projects claim to have funded more than 10 person-years with an allocation of roughly NOK 1 million. As this corresponds to a cost per person-year of NOK 100,000, this figure is obviously wrong and indicates that the activities under the project have been supported by other projects.

In order to gain a broader overview of this phenomenon, the projects were ranked on a scale from 1-5 according to the level of this type of additional support. Table B2 shows the distribution. Eight of 46 projects had a score of 4 or 5, i.e. a high level of additional support. The analysis also shows that this variable is correlated with publication volume, which means that such additional support results in more publications. The programme board does not view this as a problem, but notes that it may contribute to the large number of publication points under the programme. However, the amount of

additional support has decreased over time, which may be related to a variety of factors. Ever-increasing competition for project funding, for example, may have contributed to more streamlined and result-oriented projects over time.

One problem with the programme board's statistics on publication points per person-year is that the statistics on the number of person-years under the projects are inaccurate. The example above illustrates this problem. As a means of verification, productivity may also be measured in terms of the number of publications per NOK 1 million allocated.

A measurement error may arise in this case from poor statistics on the projects' salary costs versus other operating costs. However, this error is less significant than inaccurate reporting of person-years, and consequently, this is more likely to be an accurate measurement.

Using this measure of productivity, the results of the analysis are confirmed with a couple of important exceptions. The university and university college sector no longer shows higher productivity. Also, the number of publications per NOK 1 million indicates that large-scale projects have a higher publication volume, which may be due to benefits from economies of scale. Thus, the results regarding these two issues should be considered uncertain.

6 Development of expertise

Developing expertise has been a primary objective of the UTISØR programme. This objective was achieved chiefly through the funding of a large number of doctoral degrees. It is worth mentioning, however, that the work programme explicitly stated that the programme would focus on granting research fellowships at the post-doctoral or second-degree level (“hovedfag”) while it de-emphasised the need for doctoral research fellowships: “In recent years, there has been fairly good recruitment to studies on development, not least through the Research Council’s [doctoral fellowships]. In many disciplines, we are beginning to acquire a fairly large group of researchers with doctorates”. (English translation of the UTISØR work programme, p. 54; see Attachment A) Nevertheless, doctoral research fellowships have without a doubt played a major role in the programme’s efforts to build expertise. The UTISØR programme has funded 23 doctoral research fellowships, each comprising three years of funding, which corresponds to 69 researcher person-years. However, these fellowships are distributed among more than 23 candidates, and some are partially funded with ordinary project funding, bringing the total number of doctoral candidates funded wholly or partially under the UTISØR programme to 34. For post-doctoral research fellowships, only 11 person-years have been funded (distributed among four projects)¹³.

The number of research grants at the second-degree level under the projects is estimated to be around 20, but this figure is not certain as detailed statistics were not kept.

Of the 34 doctoral candidates, 17 have defended their theses and received their degree by 1 January 2008. These are shown on the left-hand side of Diagram 5, ranked according to the amount of time that passed from the completion date of the project to the date of the public defence of the thesis. The right-hand side of the diagram shows the 17 incomplete doctoral degrees, ranked according to the completion date of the project to the close of January 2008. In the three non-completed cases the project-period was not yet completed and this is indicated as negative values. An overview of the doctoral candidates and topics of the completed doctoral

¹³ Grants and fellowships were also awarded under the Magne Lerheim grant scheme. These encompassed five student grants, 14 doctoral degree projects and two post-doctoral research fellowships, but are not included in this evaluation. See the reference for an evaluation of this grant scheme in Attachment A. Four doctoral degrees were also completed under the Programme on Forced Migration, Resource Conflicts and Development, which was administered by the UTISØR programme. If these 18 are added to the total, the UTISØR programme has funded over 50 doctoral degree students.

Diagram 5: Complete and incomplete doctorate degree projects awarded funding under the UTISØR programme

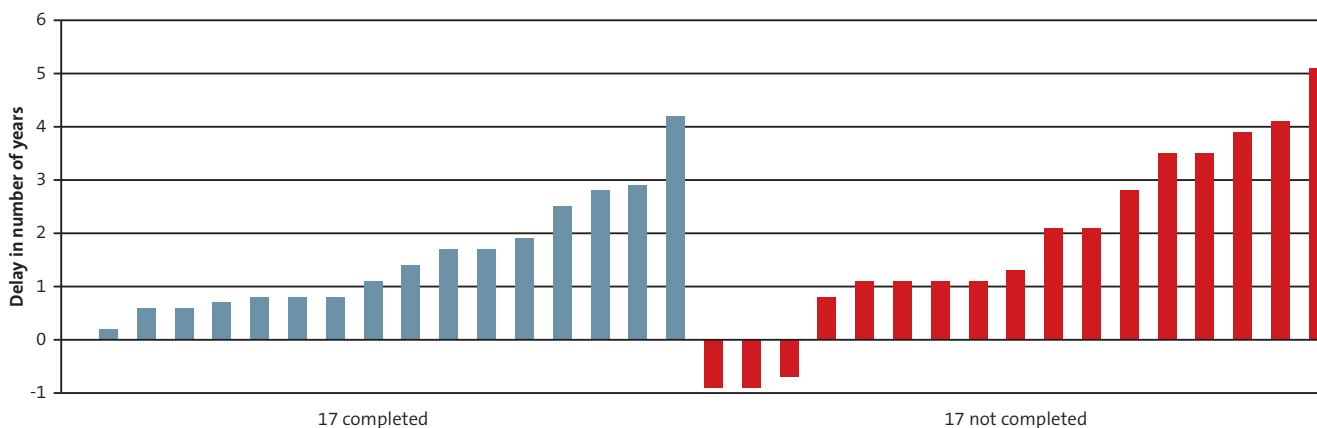




Photo: UN Photo/S. Tickner



Photo: Echo/Y. Horent

degrees is provided in Attachment C. Sixteen of these 34 doctoral candidates, or 47 per cent, were women, while 32 per cent of the project managers were women.

The public defence took place before the project completion date in only one of 17 cases. A certain amount of delay is therefore normal and not necessarily unreasonable given the waiting period between the submission of the thesis and the public defence. Delays may also be due to completely legitimate reasons such as illness, maternity leave, a change in project plans, etc. For example, in one case, a candidate who has had a highly successful career in research following the public defence in 2004 and who tops the list of publications among the UTISØR projects had the longest delay recorded for the completed degrees. At the time of this writing (February 2008), information is available indicating that some of the remaining doctoral degrees will be completed in the near future.

The fact that 17 doctoral degrees have not yet been completed, as shown on the right-hand side of the diagram, does not necessarily indicate a failure to achieve project objectives. In three of these cases, the degrees are not actually delayed because the project runs through the end of 2008. For

six other candidates, there is a delay of about one year, which is relatively normal given the waiting period from submission to defence. Five projects, however, show delays lasting from 3.5 to 5.1 years. Although the details of all the projects have not been analysed, it is believed that some of these delays involve an actual failure to achieve objectives while others have arisen due to unfortunate albeit legitimate reasons.

In spite of this, it is clear that the UTISØR programme has promoted the development of new expertise in the field through the funding of a large number of doctoral research fellowships. Of the 33 doctoral candidates for whom data on their disciplines was available in the database, 16 of these were in the social sciences, six in the health sciences (including community medicine), five in the humanities, three in economics, one in law and one in the natural sciences. 21 of the 33 doctoral candidates were in the university and university college sector, eight were involved in projects at university-affiliated research centres, and three were in the independent research institute sector (information for one project was not available). As this analysis shows, the doctoral research fellowships were concentrated in the university and university college sector.

7 Internationalisation

For development research, contact with international research communities is vital both for knowledge exchange and for the dissemination of results. In the university and university college sector, research that incorporates North-South cooperation is also funded over the National Programme for Development, Research and Education (NUFU). As mentioned earlier, a separate programme known as the Magne Lerheim grant scheme (abbreviated as REKNUFU) was established under NUFU. The UTISØR programme allocated funding and evaluated the results from this scheme (see Attachment A), which succeeded in promoting more international cooperation in the field. In the following section, the question of whether the UTISØR programme's ordinary activities also enhanced international cooperation is examined.

The projects were ranked according to three criteria:

- The involvement in project-related international activity of participants based in Norway
- Significance for the project of cooperative partners in industrialised countries (except for Norway)
- Significance for the project of cooperative partners in developing countries

Diagram 6 shows the average results. The distribution of responses is presented in Table B2 in Attachment B.

Diagram 6: International cooperation



Average for 57 projects (on a scale of 0-100)

- International activity
- Partners in developing countries
- Partners in industrial countries

The diagram shows that the projects incorporated extensive international activity as well as cooperation with partners in developing countries. For some projects, cooperation with industrial countries was also important although the average was lower. The distribution presented in the attachment shows that international activity and cooperation with devel-

oping countries were significant for a majority of the projects (only a few projects had a score of 1-2, or 0-20 on a scale of 0-100). For cooperation with industrialised countries, however, many projects had low scores. International activity under the projects also resulted in certain amount of international co-authorship. This has not been counted, however, because institutional affiliations are often not given in publication lists. The analysis also identifies a substantial number of stays abroad (in both directions) and extensive participation in international conferences.

Does internationalisation have measurable consequences for the projects? The analysis shows that projects that incorporate more cooperation with industrialised countries publish more often in journals. The projects with a high level of international activity and cooperation with developing countries, however, publish more often in books/anthologies and other publications. Projects with extensive international activity score high on dissemination. With regard to cooperation with developing countries, there is a noticeable difference among the institutions. The university and university college sector cooperates more often with developing countries than does the independent research institute sector. This may be explained by the fact that funding for cooperation with developing countries has usually been channelled to the university and university college sector through NUFU, and the independent research institute sector has not been eligible to receive this funding. Also, through NUFU funding the university and university college sector has been able to fund some research activity conducted by its partners in developing countries, which has naturally encouraged more cooperation.

All in all, the UTISØR programme has achieved its objective of a high level of internationalisation in the projects. The data presented here also gives a clear indication that internationalisation is important for promoting publication activity and quality in research. The programme board believes that cooperation with both developing and industrialised countries is vital for development research, and that this should be taken into account when designing instruments. To further increase internationalisation, the UTISØR programme issued an announcement of additional funding for dissemination and internationalisation in 2005. This helped to boost international activity in the final phase of the programme.

8 Project implementation and achievement of objectives

The analysis of publication activity showed considerable variation in results among the projects. On the basis of grant proposals and final reports, a specific analysis was conducted of the degree to which projects experienced delays or fell short of their goals and objectives.

It must be emphasised once again that the reasons for delays may be completely legitimate and result from illness, pregnancy and the like. Some UTISØR projects have also been delayed due to civil war, denial of visas and similar circumstances. In a number of cases, projects with cooperating partners in developing countries have experienced difficulties with project implementation, data compilation, etc., which have resulted in unavoidable delays. Moreover, when research is funded by external sources, researchers may take on too great a workload and thus be compelled to prolong their projects. As long as the situation is handled in an appropriate manner and the resources are not misused, this does not necessarily present a problem. There is nonetheless good

reason to monitor the projects to ensure that they are being implemented according to plan and that the funding is being used for the purpose for which it was allocated, as there are large sums of public funding involved. It is also apparent that a well-organised approach to project implementation has a positive impact on publication activity, and this may be one reason to encourage sound practices for project implementation.

Diagram 7 shows the distribution of the two indicators (given in percentage of observations).

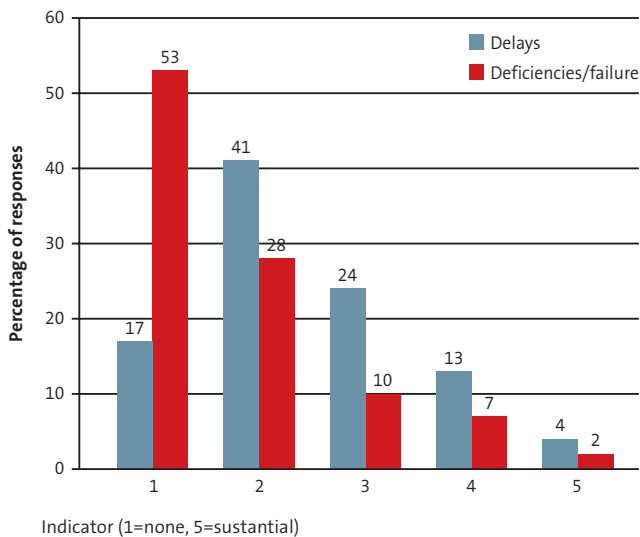
The diagram shows that delays occurred relatively often. Some degree of delay (a score of 2 or 3) occurred in 65 per cent of the projects and significant delay (a score of 4 or 5) occurred in 17 per cent of the projects. The average value was 2.45, which corresponds to 36 on a scale of 0-100. Deficiencies in achieving goals and objectives occurred somewhat less often, with an average value of 1.76 (=19/100), but some negative results can be observed, with four of 46 projects showing substantial failure to achieve goals and objectives.

Delays are less serious than deficiencies. The failure to achieve goals and objectives is much more serious, there is a question as to whether the Research Council has the necessary routines in place to identify failure at a sufficiently early stage. This is crucial in part to put pressure on researchers to achieve their objectives, which is in their own best interest, and also to prevent the waste of public funding on projects that are not implemented according to plan. However, variations in results are natural, and may result from illness (even death in one case) or external circumstances (e.g. one project could not be completed due to civil war). There is nonetheless good reason to discuss more thoroughly whether adequate routines are in place for identifying and addressing substantial deficiencies. In the view of the programme board, this is an issue that deserves more discussion.

It is also interesting to note here that project delays are significant and negatively correlated with the projects' publication activity. Delays are therefore related to less success in achieving the projects' goals and objectives. The analysis also shows that the degree of delay is somewhat lower in the university and university college sector and in projects with more cooperation with industrialised countries.

Diagram 7: Delays and deficiencies/failure in project Implementation

Based on data on 52/46 projects



9 Dissemination activity: An analysis using Google Scholar

Dissemination activity carried out by projects has been identified as crucial for the programme's benefit to society. Users of the research results, including those who have provided funding to the programme, have expressed a desire for dissemination activity that targets both users and the general public. The UTISØR programme encouraged dissemination through an announcement of additional funding for dissemination and internationalisation activities (see the midway evaluation referenced in Attachment A). By allocating funding to networks, the UTISØR programme also sought to increase the programme's dissemination activity (see the discussion below).

For this evaluation the projects were ranked according to their degree of dissemination to users and the general public. Most projects were evenly distributed across the mid-range (with an average of 52/100), with very few projects on the high or low end (see Table B2 in Attachment B). Dissemination to users and the general public was therefore integrated into most of the projects.

Dissemination activity depends not only on the number of dissemination measures but also on their content. If research results are useful and relevant, they will be used and cited. One method of measuring this is through academic citations in journals. A citation analysis is presented in the Research Council's evaluation of Norwegian development research. This report finds that most articles have only a few citations (1-9) or none at all, and that a small number of articles with a large number of citations raises the average. This type of unequal distribution is normal¹⁴.

Citation analysis that is focused on journals can identify some of the far-reaching impacts of Norwegian development research, but not all. A large share of academic dissemination activity takes place outside of journals, and the most active discourse about an article may take place while the article is still in draft form and not yet published. In order to gain a broader overview of academic dissemination activity, the programme board used Google Scholar (hereafter referred to as GS), a search engine that generates lists of references of written works in general, not only of indexed journals.

Results from GS therefore encompass books, reports and pre-prints in addition to journal articles. Early versions of works are often important in the overall dissemination activity of projects, and GS is therefore a useful tool for measuring the total dissemination activity of the projects. In their article, Yang and Meho (2006)¹⁵ compare GS with other citation tools and conclude that the various search engines have different strengths and weaknesses. GS covers a broad range of publication types, but is best suited for smaller amounts of data since processing the results is difficult from a technical standpoint. The use of GS is feasible for the purposes of this evaluation, which involves the analysis of a few dozen projects. At the close of 2007 the Research Council's administration compiled data on 36 of the UTISØR projects. Statistics from GS are highly influenced by the international impact of the research results. A high GS score usually indicates that the researchers have also attracted interest from outside Norway.

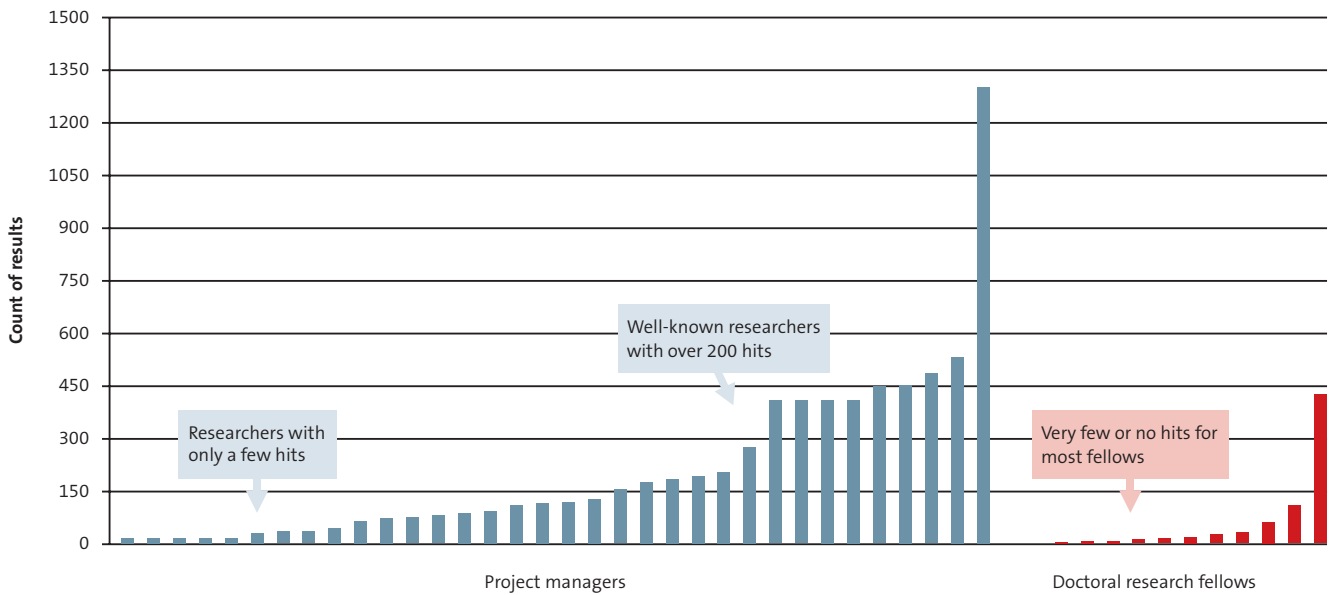
In GS a search may be performed for a person or publication. For this evaluation the search was performed as follows:

- First, a name search was performed for project managers and doctoral research fellows associated with the projects. A count was made of (i) the number of results and (ii) the number of results with citations. These figures show considerable differences as the first count also includes mentions of research works, whereas the second count represents direct citations. Of course, these figures do not only encompass activity under the UTISØR programme, but provide a picture of the researchers' overall scientific dissemination activity.
- Second, the lists of results for the project participants were reviewed to check whether they included citations of publications produced under the UTISØR programme or general hits. Results were found for 28 of the 36 projects, while there were no results for 8 projects, or 22 per cent of the total.

¹⁴ Research Council of Norway, 2007, Norwegian Development Research – An Evaluation, p. 99.

¹⁵ Yang, Kiduk and Meho, Lokman I. (2006) Citation Analysis: A Comparison of Google Scholar, Scopus, and Web of Science. In Grove, Andrew, Eds. Proceedings 69th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Information Science and Technology (ASIST) 43, Austin (USA).

Diagram 8: Google Scholar: Search for results for UTISØR researchers



Attachment D provides a more thorough explanation of the search methods and the data set. It should be emphasised that statistics from GS may contain significant error sources, and statistics must be closely examined to determine which are most reliable. This is most problematic for researchers with English names. For instance, if a search is performed for Jonathan Baker, the results will include many people from around the world with the same name, and will be unusable. The question of which statistics are most reliable is discussed further below.

Do researchers funded under the UTISØR programme work behind closed doors and conduct research only for themselves, or do they enjoy a high profile and maintain contact with the outside world, conducting research that can be used and referred to in Norway and internationally? Figure 8 shows the count of results for project managers in 34 of the projects and for some of the doctoral research fellows¹⁶.

As is usually the case with such statistics, there is considerable variation. For project managers the count of results varies from 15 to 1,300. A top group emerges with a score of 400 or higher. For project managers, the median count is 116 and the average is 211.

For the 16 research fellows included in this analysis, the median is 8 and the average is 44. This average is raised dramatically by a single observation with a score over 400.

The outreach of the UTISØR researchers cannot be compared with Nobel laureates such as Amartya Sen (22,800) and Joseph Stiglitz (12,600). However, the results show that

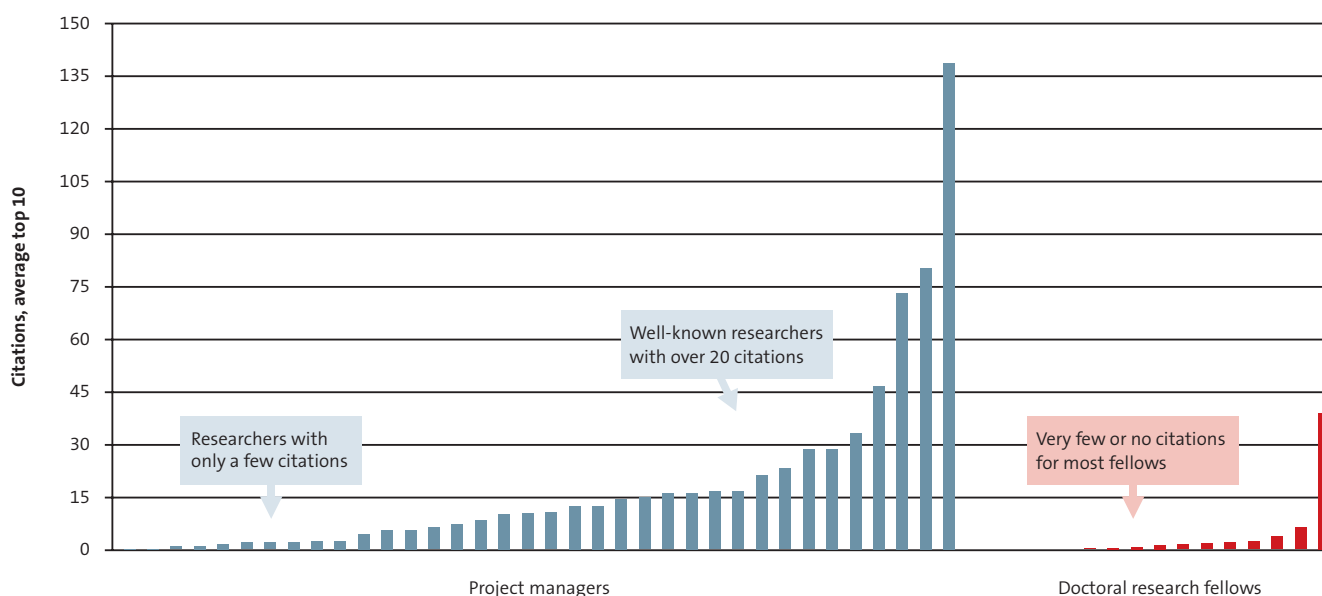
the majority of project managers have extensive international contact when measured in terms of frequency of mentions and citations of their works. For an established senior researcher in Norway, a couple of hundred results on this scale is an indication of good dissemination and outreach.

It must be emphasised that for several reasons a count of results is not necessarily a good measurement of quality. For instance, an article may be frequently referred to because it addresses a popular topic, whereas many fewer references may be made to an article on a narrow, less accessible topic even though the quality is outstanding. Meanwhile, a well-constructed survey may be frequently cited because it appears at the right point in time. Also, if a researcher co-authors a publication with another well-known researcher, the count of search results may rise dramatically, which is the case for two of the exceptionally high scores in this analysis. Despite these reservations, the count of search results in GS does in fact measure whether researchers have been successful in disseminating the results of their research in Norway as well as internationally.

A count of search results includes not only citations of written works but mentions of the works as well. A mention may be, for example, a note of thanks in the preface for the researcher’s comments on the manuscript or a description of a publication on the researcher’s own website¹⁷. A website administrator may purposely increase this count regardless of the quality of or interest in the research results. This represents an error source in the use of search results as

¹⁶ In this analysis, two project managers with English names had to be omitted because the search produced results for several persons with the same name. Searches for names were also performed using quotation marks to avoid persons with the same surname from appearing in the results. See Attachment D for more information about the methodology used.

¹⁷ Results of a search for names may also vary depending on how the name is entered in the search field. Should Per Ivar Moe be entered as Per. I. Moe, P.I. Moe or even P. Moe? For this evaluation the form “Per I. Moe” was mostly used (with quotation marks to avoid retrieving everyone named Per). While this method is most precise, it means that some results will not be retrieved.

Diagram 9: Google Scholar: Average for the 10 search results with the most citations – Based on data on 36 projects

an indicator. As an alternative measurement of a researcher's outreach, an analysis was performed of search results comprising only citations of the researcher's works. The average for the 10 search results with the highest number of citations was calculated, and these 10 observations were closely checked to ensure that they apply to the correct person and that they are citations rather than just mentions. The programme board believes that this measurement is more reliable than the count of search results because, among other things, each search result used in the statistics has been quality controlled, checked for double names, etc. If a researcher has fewer than 10 search results with citations (e.g. only two), the others (eight in this example) are calculated as zero in order to obtain a comparable average. Using this measurement, the ranking in diagram 9 emerges:

The analysis shows even more clearly that many project managers as well as research fellows have very low scores. It is natural that the average score for research fellows would be much lower since this is a count that accumulates over time. The fact that there are several doctoral research fellows with a score of zero is therefore not necessarily a major weakness. It is a problem for established researchers, however, if their outreach is practically zero, as is the case for several of the observations on the left-hand side of the diagram. Therefore, the statistics presented in Diagram 9 suggest that a problem does exist: some of the researchers participating in roughly 10 different projects funded under the UTISØR programme are cited very infrequently.

How much of the measured dissemination activity is a result of participation in the UTISØR programme? Up to now only the researchers' outreach has been measured, but this says little about whether the researchers' activities under the UTISØR programme have been profiled. To measure this, the lists of search results for key persons in the projects

were reviewed, compared with publication lists from final reports submitted by the projects, and then checked for any correspondence. The statistics show whether publications produced by the UTISØR projects are mentioned or cited. If no results were found, this meant that there were no publications. However, data noise must be taken into account here as well. For example, the exact title was used to verify the results, but another version with a different title could have been cited or mentioned, and this would not have been included in the count. There may also be a time lag between the issuance of a publication and later citations or mentions.

Photo: Echo/F. Goemans



For 28 of the 36 projects, there were search results for or citations of at least one publication produced by the project. However, the count of search results for most of these publications is moderate. Eight of 36 projects had no search results or citations for any publications, and six other projects showed only one search result but with no citation. In other words, the outreach of the publications is limited for 14 of 36 projects, or 39 per cent. The diagram also shows that the projects with several search results still have a limited number of citations. This result is rather disappointing in light of the positive publication statistics for the programme. There are exceptions, however. In the categories for both project managers and doctoral research fellows, one extreme observation stands out that indicates highly successful dissemination and internationalisation. Such an extensive outreach for a doctoral candidate so early in his or her career is outstanding.

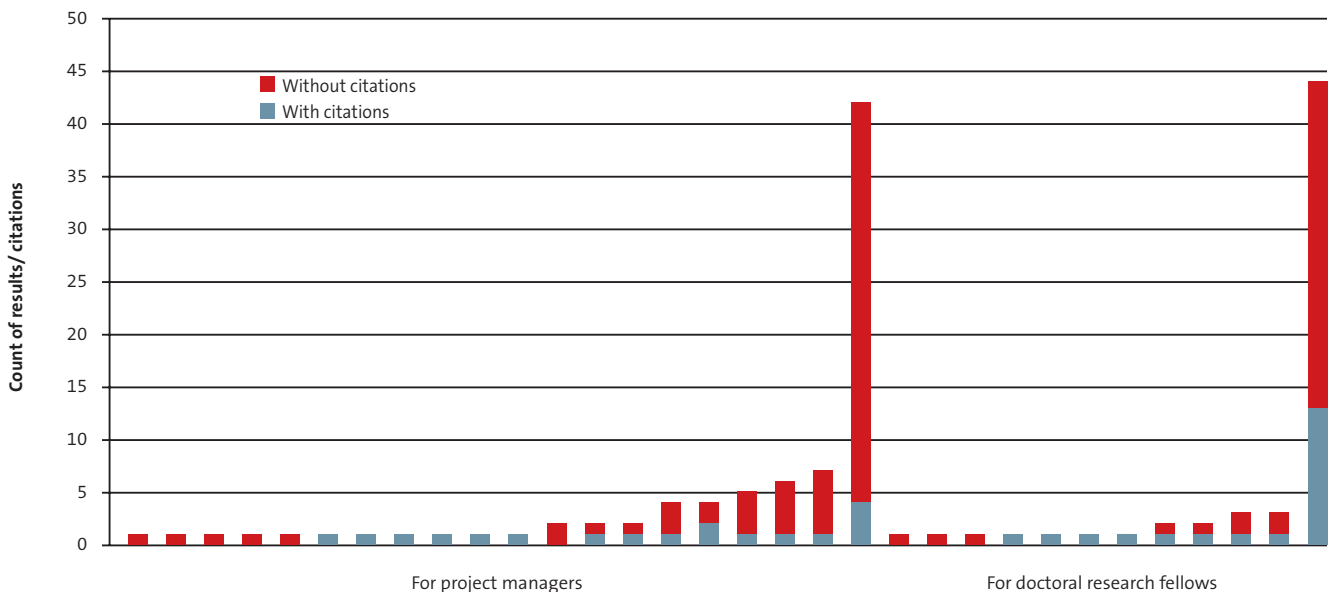
Is dissemination activity measured with GS correlated with other aspects of the projects? In this regard the uneven distribution of all the statistics presents a problem because a small number of projects and authors stand out from the group and strongly influence all the statistical analyses. The results from the data for all 36 projects are therefore unclear. There is a correlation with publication activity, but this is affected by a few extreme observations. For instance, the proportion of publications in Level 2 journals is strongly correlated with the GS statistics, but this may be due to a small number of observations. It appears that cooperation with industrialised countries is positively correlated with the



Photo: Echo

GS score whereas, surprisingly, cooperation with developing countries is negatively correlated. It is also important to consider the possibility of data noise, e.g. publications co-authored with more well-known researchers may raise the figures dramatically.

Diagram 10: Search results and citations in Google Scholar for publications – Based on data on 36 projects



10 Support for networks

Approximately NOK 20 million of the UTISØR programme's overall budget was allocated during the programme period to support the establishment and operation of networks with various focal points. In 2007 the programme board issued a separate statement on these networks, which is reproduced in Attachment E. (Please see the attachment for a

detailed summary and discussion.) The statement concludes that the networks have promoted dissemination of research results under the programme, but that they overlap with the projects' ordinary dissemination activity. It also recommended that greater focus be placed on international networks and less on national networks. .

Photo: Echo



11 Other implications for research policy

In connection with the midway evaluation in 2005 (see Attachment A and the programme's website), the programme board made some key observations that bear on research policy:

- The time dedicated to phasing in and phasing out the UTISØR programme meant that a large portion of the funding was allocated in the middle of the programme period. Given that the UTISØR programme has been an important source of funding for the field of development, this funding distribution pattern should have been avoided. This calls for better long-term planning by the funding bodies and the Research Council.
- The programme board also stressed that clearer guidelines were needed for the allocation of funding to regular research projects, doctoral research fellowships and post-doctoral research fellowships. As noted earlier, it was not an objective of the UTISØR programme to provide funding for so many doctoral degrees, but this occurred because the university and university college sector was awarded funding for a large number of projects which incorporated doctoral research fellowships. The Research Council and programme board must accept the main responsibility for allowing this to happen unintentionally.
- It is not easy to judge what constitutes an adequate supply of funding for development research. The evaluation of Norwegian development research concludes that the field is well funded and adequately staffed¹⁸. Certainly not everyone would have agreed with this conclusion during the periods when the UTISØR programme rejected 90 per cent of the grant applications. One possible explanation for this is that the availability of resources varies over time. The programme board assessed that awarding funding to about one-fifth of the grant proposals submitted would provide a sufficient level of competition without wasting resources unnecessarily on the processing, assessment and rejection of applications. Although a final answer will never be arrived at, the Research Council and allocating authorities must make an ongoing effort to find an appropriate balance.
- The programme board has perceived the situation following the tightening of the Research Council's guidelines on impartiality as paradoxical. As mentioned above, all Norwegian researchers on the programme board were replaced by alternates when decisions were taken regarding the allocation of funding to research projects. There is no simple solution to this problem, but it should be pointed out that this situation is unsatisfactory and efforts must be made to find solutions that safeguard impartiality without excluding Norwegian expertise on research communities and research fields to the extent that this is now occurring. The programme board has complete understanding for the necessity of strict requirements on impartiality and has the utmost confidence in its Nordic colleagues, but it believes that this practice should be reconsidered.
- The UTISØR programme issued an announcement of additional funding for internationalisation and dissemination activities under the projects, and the programme board believes that this has been a cost-effective method of promoting the dissemination of research results and developing international networks.
- In general, researchers tend to prefer funding announcements of broad scope based on quality-related criteria rather than funding announcements with narrow thematic guidelines based on requirements for thematic relevance. Increased use of thematically independent funding as well as funding for elite research groups are trends in this direction. In this context, the UTISØR programme has represented a compromise. It has maintained thematic breadth while following a number of policy guidelines related to content. Although the results have varied, the programme board believes that the UTISØR programme has succeeded for the most part in producing relevant research of good quality.

Increased focus on North-South issues has been a trend during the past 10 years and would surely have influenced research activity in the field regardless of the UTISØR programme's efforts. It is nonetheless likely that the programme has stepped up the pace of and encouraged more research on development issues, e.g. research in the health sciences/medicine and economics. As a result, the UTISØR programme

¹⁸ Research Council of Norway, 2007, Norwegian Development Research – An Evaluation, p. 4.



Photo: UN Photo/J. Isaac

succeeded for the most part in striking a balance between requirements related to quality and relevance through both its research results and its efforts to develop new expertise.

As noted in the introduction, this evaluation also represents an attempt to approach programme evaluation from a new angle by placing greater emphasis on facts and objective criteria. In the programme board's experience, the task of compiling the necessary data has required extensive effort, and the process has uncovered obvious weaknesses in routines for reporting and recording data from the projects. In a research policy context this situation indicates that such routines need to be improved. Some improvements have been made in recent years, but much remains to be accomplished.

The programme board believes that remedying this situation entails more than organising the archives. The general administrative culture also needs to be examined when it is impossible to ascertain exactly how many person-years were funded over the programme's budget of nearly NOK 170 million or which individuals have been paid wages from this funding (this is unclear in many of the reports). If an institution receives NOK 1 million and reports 10 person-years, and this figure is accepted without question, it is also perhaps a signal that greater attention should be paid to detail within the administrative culture. The programme board is cautious about encouraging more bureaucracy, but NOK 170 million is a large sum of money and perhaps greater scrutiny of its use is called for.

Attachments

Attachment A: Other documentation about the UTISØR programme

The work programme of 1998, project catalogue, action plans for the period 2001-2004, and documents from the midway evaluation are available on the programme's website: <http://www.rcn.no/global>.

The UTISØR programme was given responsibility for the administration of several other programmes in the field of development. These programmes have conducted evaluations and published final reports. The Research Programme on Forced Migration, Resource Conflicts and Development had a budget of NOK 18.5 million for the period 1998-2003. A final report published by the Research Council in 2004 is also available for this programme:

- *The Research Council of Norway, 2004, Forced migration, resource conflicts and development. Final report.*

Photo: UN Photo/M. Perret



The Magne Lerheim grant scheme (also abbreviated as REKNUFU) was affiliated with the National Programme for Development, Research and Education (NUFU) and had a budget of NOK 13 million for the period 2001-2005. An evaluation of this grant scheme was published in January 2007 under the auspices of the UTISØR programme board.

The research programme on women, law and development had a budget of NOK 6.3 million for the period 2001-2007. The programme put together a final report, which was recently approved by the Research Council. This activity was affiliated with but not funded under the UTISØR programme, and is therefore not included in the analysis conducted for this evaluation of the UTISØR programme.

In 2005 the Research Council conducted a midway evaluation of the UTISØR programme. Material from this evaluation is available on the programme's website. In this connection, a report was prepared by an external consultant:

- *Research Council of Norway, 2005, Assessment: Globalisation and marginalisation. Multi- and interdisciplinary research on development paths in the South, 1998-2007 – Review and assessment of the programme period 1998-2004. Written by Joar Svanemyr, external consultant.*

Also in 2005, the programme board issued a statement that contains, among other things, documentation of the funding allocated under the programme.

- *Forskningspolitikk på utviklingsområdet: Noen erfaringer fra "Utviklingsveier i Sør" (Research policy in the field of development: Experiences from "Development paths in the South"), statement from the UTISØR programme board, 12 December 2005. Norwegian language only.*

Attachment B: Tables

Table B1: Publications produced by the UTISØR projects. Data on 46 projects

Project ranking	Person-years	Level 1 journals	Level 2 journals	Articles in books/anthologies	Mono-graphs	Other pubs.	Planned pubs.	Publication points	Points per person-year
1	0.50	1	3	2	0	0	1	11.7	23.40
2	3.00	20	6	0	0	21	0	38.0	12.67
3	1.80	3	0	3	2	1	3	18.6	10.31
4	3.00	10	0	21	0	6	2	27.9	9.28
5	1.20	0	0	3	1	6	1	9.1	7.54
6	5.00	3	3	6	3	11	1	36.6	7.32
7	0.40	2	0	1	0	0	5	2.9	7.13
8	3.00	1	0	0	3	5	0	20.5	6.83
9	3.67	8	0	3	2	0	2	23.6	6.41
10	2.57	5	0	3	1	9	3	14.1	5.46
11	4.46	2	0	2	3	0	12	23.2	5.21
12	3.60	4	4	1	0	6	4	16.9	4.68
13	10.50	3	10	8	0	2	0	39.8	3.79
14	3.08	0	0	6	1	2	1	11.6	3.76
15	3.50	2	0	5	1	12	12	12.8	3.64
16	3.00	1	3	0	0	0	1	10.0	3.33
17	1.80	2	0	4	0	2	4	5.4	3.00
18	3.00	4	1	2	0	2	2	8.7	2.90
19	10.75	19	3	3	0	11	23	30.6	2.84
20	2.00	2	0	4	0	0	3	5.4	2.70
21	3.75	1	1	7	0	7	6	10.0	2.65
22	3.90	0	0	4	1	0	3	9.9	2.54
23	2.08	3	0	2	0	0	4	4.7	2.26
24	3.00	5	0	0	0	2	11	5.0	1.67
25	3.00	2	1	0	0	0	10	5.0	1.67
26	3.00	2	1	0	0	0	0	5.0	1.67
27	3.75	1	0	6	0	3	7	6.1	1.63
28	1.42	1	0	1	0	1	8	1.9	1.31
29	3.00	3	0	1	0	0	4	3.9	1.28
30	4.00	5	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	1.25
31	3.25	4	0	0	0	14	5	4.0	1.23
32	1.02	1	0	0	0	1	1	1.0	0.98
33	4.21	1	1	0	0	4	1	4.0	0.95
34	2.20	2	0	0	0	12	7	2.0	0.91
35	3.00	2	0	0	0	0	4	2.0	0.67
36	3.00	2	0	0	0	3	1	2.0	0.67
37	4.00	2	0	0	0	0	4	2.0	0.50
38	3.00	0	0	1	0	1	1	0.9	0.28
39	0.75	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.0	0.00
40	1.00	0	0	0	0	2	2	0.0	0.00
41	5.75	0	0	0	0	5	6	0.0	0.00
42	1.00	0	0	0	0	2	1	0.0	0.00
43	4.00	0	0	0	0	7	6	0.0	0.00
44	1.50	0	0	0	0	1	2	0.0	0.00
45	3.00	0	0	0	0	2	3	0.0	0.00
46	0.50	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.0	0.00

Table B2: The UTISØR programme – frequency distribution of indicator variables

	Response values					Average	No. of observations	0-100 Average
	1	2	3	4	5			
Note: If a project was given a value half-way between two whole numbers (e.g. 2.5), 0.5 was added to the count for the whole number values directly below and above the given value.								
Thematic areas*								
Globalisation and marginalisation	6	19	11	6	9	3.05	61	51
Poverty	5	12	20	16	8	3.16	61	54
Economic policy and commercial and industrial development	29	11	9	8	4	2.13	61	28
Political development: democracy, human rights and conflicts	19	11	15	3	13	2.67	61	42
Health, education and population growth	21	14	6	4	16	2.67	61	42
The environment and resource management	32	9	7	9	4	2.08	61	27
Relevance of research relative to society*								
Development cooperation	12	16	20	7.5	5.5	2.65	61	41
Public policy	2	17	20	17.5	4.5	3.09	61	52
International policy and institutions	8	19	15	11	8	2.87	61	47
Trade and industry	35	14	7	5	0	1.70	61	18
Assessments: Rank the project based on the following scale from 1-5 (1=none, 5=extensive)								
Dissemination to users and the general public	1	13	13.5	12	3.5	3.09	43	52
Involvement in project-related international activity of participants based in Norway	4	11	19	13.5	9.5	3.24	57	56
Significance for the project of cooperative partners in industrialised countries (except for Norway)	15	16.5	16.5	6	2	2.35	56	34
Significance for the project of cooperative partners in developing countries	9	10	13.5	18.5	6	3.04	57	51
Degree of cross-disciplinarity	11	17.5	11	13.5	5	2.72	58	43
Delays in project implementation, if any	9	21.5	12.5	7	2	2.45	52	36
Deficiencies/failure in achieving goals and objectives	24.5	13	4.5	3	1	1.76	46	19
Was the project supported by research funded by other projects or sources?	19	15	11	5	3	2.21	53	30

*Criteria for relevance of research for society: Rank the project's relevance on a scale from 1 (=irrelevant) to 5 (=highly relevant) relative to the following thematic areas and key phrases; cf. the work programme

Attachment C: List of doctoral degrees funded under the UTISØR programme completed as of 25 February 2008

Name of employee	Degree	Date of public defence	Title	Institution
Stokke, Hildegunn Ekroll	Dr. polit.	March 04	Intertemporal growth analysis of Thailand: General equilibrium models with endogenous productivity dynamics	Dept. of Economics, NTNU
Portelli, Brian	Dr. polit.	Feb. 06	Foreign Direct Investment, Multinational Enterprises and Industrial Development. Backward Linkages and Knowledge Transfer in Tanzania	Centre for Technology, Innovation and Culture, UiO
Robberstad, Bjarne	Dr. oecon.	June 05	Economic evaluation of health interventions in sub-Saharan Africa. Applied economic evaluations and studies on time preferences for health in Tanzania	Centre for International Health, UiB
Hegre, Håvard	Dr. philos.	Nov. 04	The Limits of Liberal Peace	Dept. of Political Science, UiO
St. Clair, Asunción Lera	Dr. polit.	March 04	Poverty Conceptions in the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank: Knowledge, Politics and Ethics	Dept. of Sociology, UiB
Alao, John David Kisuule	PhD	July 07	The social and cultural context of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in rural areas of Jinja district (Uganda)	Institute of General Practice and Community Medicine, UiO
Attanapola, Chamila Thushari	Dr. polit.	Dec. 05	Unravelling women's stories of health. Female workers' experiences of work, gender roles and empowerment relating to health in Katunayake export-processing zone, Sri Lanka	Dept. of Geography, NTNU
Appoh, Lily Yaa Darlings	PhD	Dec. 04	Consequences of Early Mild-to-Moderate for Later Cognitive, Social and Emotional Development and the Importance of Maternal Nutritional Knowledge for Child Nutritional Outcome in Ghana	Dept. of Psychology, NTNU
Holmarsdottir, Halla Bjørk	Dr. polit.	Dec. 05	From Policy to Practice: A Study of the Implementation of the Language-in-Education Policy in Three South African Primary Schools	Institute for Educational Research, UiO
Orgeret, Kristin Skare	Dr. art.	Sept. 06	Moments of Nationhood. The SABC News in English – the first decade of democracy	Dept. of Media and Communication, UiO
Banik, Dan	Dr. polit.	March 03	Democracy, Drought and Starvation in India: Testing Sen in Theory and Practice	Dept. of Political Science, UiO
Haugen, Hans Morten	Dr. juris.	June 06	The Right to Food and the TRIPS Agreement – With a Particular Emphasis on Developing Countries' Measures for Food Production and distribution	Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, UiO
Stave, Jørn	Dr. scient.	Sept. 05	Forest ecology and management in the Turkwel River floodplain, Kenya	Dept. of Biology, Centre for Ecological and Evolutionary Synthesis, UiO
Engh, Ida Eline	Dr. polit.	Dec. 07	Developing Capacity to Realise Socio-Economic Rights: The Example of the Right to Food in the Context of HIV/AIDS in South Africa and Uganda.	Dept. of Sociology and Human Geography, UiO
Fretheim, Kjetil	Dr. theol.	Dec. 07	Rights and Riches: Exploring the Moral Discourse of Norwegian Development Aid	Faculty of Theology, UiO
Abebe, Tatek Mamo	PhD	Feb. 08	Ethiopian childhoods: a case study of the lives of orphans and working children	Dept. of Geography, NTNU

Attachment D: Methodology for using Google Scholar

Google Scholar is a search engine (<http://scholar.google.no/>) that retrieves mentions and citations of written works. Mentions of written works may also include oral presentations and similar activities.

1. Retrieval of information about the projects

Google Scholar was used to generate a count of search results with citations for the project manager and the main contributors (doctoral and/or post-doctoral research fellows as well as other important contributors; the larger projects may have several contributors). Often the project reports do not state the degree to which individual researchers have been involved in the projects. Therefore, when in doubt, a list of publications was used as background material in order to identify those researchers who contributed most to the projects.

The following information was recorded for each researcher:

- Citations: Search results with citations only; this does not include general search results. The only citations included were those in which the researcher is given credit as the author/co-author. Many search results appear for other reasons, for instance, when a researcher is thanked in the preface of an article, but these are not included here. The count of these are available but are not presented in this report.

- Count of search results (Diagram 8): All search results for a person, including those without citations, are included. To reduce the number of similar names retrieved, searches were performed using quotation marks, e.g. "Hans P. Nilsen". Middle names were sometimes abbreviated or omitted, and the form of the name that retrieved the most results was used. For some English names, it was impossible to avoid an inflated count as there were many persons with the same name. These observations are therefore not included.
- Average for the 10 search results with the most citations (Diagram 9): The 10 search results with the highest count of citations divided by 10. In cases with fewer than 10 search results with citations, the count available is divided by 10. For this analysis, a person search without quotation marks was used in order to retrieve the most results possible, and each observation used was then double-checked for accuracy.

2. Selection of publications

The analysis is based on the lists of search results for the researchers, which were compared with publication lists from the final reports submitted by the projects. Searches were performed to identify the most important contributors for each of the 36 projects.

Attachment E: Statement from the UTISØR programme board on the research networks funded under the UTISØR programme (7 November 2007)

The UTISØR work programme of 1998 calls for active cooperation with key research groups that assume long-term responsibility as national centres of expertise. This should include implementation of measures for information handling, knowledge management and information technology. It goes on to suggest that some of the support should be awarded in the form of framework grants to research groups that are given responsibility for encouraging joint measures such as researcher exchange, seminars, research conferences, and the like.

On this basis, some NOK 20 million of the programme's overall budget of roughly NOK 170 million for the programme period 1998-2007 was allocated to a variety of networks. Some of these networks had been established prior to the UTISØR programme, but others were established as a direct result of funding allocated under the programme. Some networks have also had several sources of funding. In addition to the networks funded under the UTISØR programme, some networks in the field of development are funded directly by Norad. The Research Council's administration recently conducted an evaluation of all these networks. In its statement the UTISØR programme board elaborates on a number of key issues regarding the networks based on its experiences.

First, it is important to stress that the networks have different histories and a wide variety of objectives and approaches. As a result, it is difficult to offer any simplified conclusions or recommendations as to what the networks should entail. Some questions in this context are:

- Are the networks national or international? Some networks are mainly national in scope, whereas others have many members in other countries.
- Are the networks strictly for researchers or do they include users as well?
- Do the networks only involve *joint* measures and infrastructure (websites, major conferences, conference publications and the like) or do they also include *individual* activities (funding for stays abroad, conference participation, publication, etc.)?
- Are the networks characterised by steady, ongoing activity or by bursts of activity at regular intervals?

Since the needs of various fields may vary, it is unclear whether networks should be streamlined to conform to a common approach. The programme board believes, however, that the questions raised here should be considered when the networks' objectives and funding needs are discussed.

In the view of the programme board, *substantial funding should not be allocated to research networks that are unilaterally national*. The development of international networks is crucial for Norwegian research, and the programme board recommends that *internationalisation be applied as an important criterion for awarding funding to networks*. This does

not preclude the networks from having a national component as it is also beneficial to strengthen national networks. However, networks will often benefit from a broader *Scandinavian or Nordic* perspective as opposed to a strictly national one. The primary objective must be to develop networks across national, not county, borders. It should nonetheless be a requirement that the networks also promote research collaboration on a national or Nordic basis. As a general rule, a Norwegian institution seeking to develop an international network should be eligible for funding, but the network's activities should also be required to have a national or Nordic component.

Should funding be awarded to specially designed research networks based on personal invitation or only to networks with an open membership? The programme board believes that there may be room for both types: exclusive, invitation-only networks as well as open thematic networks that anyone can join (on par with national scientific conferences or thematic conferences with a large degree of openness). The main criterion must be that the networks promote research and dissemination in the relevant field in an effective manner.

An international perspective on research networks may potentially conflict with objectives related to national dissemination to users and the general public if such dissemination is not prioritised. In this context, it is important to distinguish between the various objectives: researcher networks or user-researcher networks and general national dissemination. *While strictly national user-researcher networks are also important, the programme board believes that such networks should be funded directly by the users who have identified a need for them and not be combined in the same category as researcher networks*. It is also possible to encourage researcher networks to disseminate information to the general public and users at the national level by giving this priority in the application assessment process. Dissemination to users must also be a key component of the ordinary dissemination activity carried out by the individual research projects. As discussed in the section below, the programme board believes that it is important to make funding available for such dissemination measures.

In an effort to map the networks' benefit to and contact with users, the Research Council administration conducted a survey of users (see the Research Council's evaluation of the networks). However, the response rate was so low that the data on which the programme board could assess dissemination to users was limited. The data available suggests that, contrary to expectations, the networks have not served as an important instrument or effective channel for the dissemination of research results to users. The work programme of 1998 states: "Particular effort should be made with a view to covering the need for measures specifically aimed at imparting research results to users in ..." (English translation of work programme, p. 54).

The UTISØR programme had a relatively long programme period, and this raises the question of whether funding for networks should be viewed as temporary support for the establishment of networks or whether the support should be long-term. Websites and regular seminar activity may entail considerable administrative effort and be dependent on long-term funding. By the same token, experience shows that effective networks often rely on the efforts of a few enthusiastic individuals, and when these persons are no longer involved, financial support may not be enough to sustain the networks. The programme board therefore supports a funding model in which *networks are not given an automatic renewal of funding but rather compete in a broader forum for funding for the best dissemination and network measures*. One possible model would be to establish broader funding schemes that also encompass networks so that the networks would receive funding provided that they are well qualified. If the network can document dynamic, effective activity over a long period of time, it may be funded on a long-term basis. If not, then it should be phased out.

Another argument for broader competition is related to quality assurance. Under the UTISØR programme, competition for ordinary research funding has been intense, with a rejection rate of up to 90 per cent. On the other hand, 18 per cent of the programme's funding has been earmarked for networks, and in some cases certain groups have been practically guaranteed funding. This situation has sometimes been perceived as unfair because applications for outstanding research projects have been rejected while networks with much less detailed plans have received funding. The programme board does not believe that this situation can be remedied entirely, but points out that the imbalance is too great. *Funding for networks and dissemination activities should also be subject to stricter competition in order to ensure the quality of the networks* and to encourage the applicants to employ sound planning.

The UTISØR programme has encompassed a wide variety of thematic areas within the field of development, and it has therefore been natural for the programme to play a role with regard to networks. Nevertheless, the programme board believes that it may be more appropriate for thematically neutral bodies to award funding to networks and dissemination measures, either through thematically independent funding or through separate funding measures for such purposes. The programme board therefore argues that *funding for networks and dissemination activities should not be allocated under thematically oriented programmes but instead through broader funding schemes*. This approach would also avoid the conflict that arises when, as described above, funding priorities are established for research projects and dissemination activities. Strict quotas for certain types of dissemination measures should also be avoided as this sets up a situation in which some types of activities easily receive funding while others are subject to intense competition. Through the approach proposed here, it would therefore not be necessary to earmark a specific amount of funding only for networks.

Although the objective of network support has been to fund joint activities (websites, conferences and the like), some of this funding has been used to support research dissemination by individuals (conference participation, publication costs, etc.). In these cases, the networks have become a kind of local funding source for the individual researcher's dissemination measures. The programme believes it is important to support such dissemination activity, but that this funding should be provided directly from the Research Council rather than indirectly through the networks. *As a general rule, the networks should therefore provide funding only for joint activities and not for individual dissemination measures*.

Individual dissemination of research results is crucial, whether it is targeted at other researchers, users or the general public, and the programme board emphasises that this activity should be encouraged. The UTISØR programme has experimented with new measures in this area by *allocating additional funding for dissemination and internationalisation activities under the projects*. The reasoning behind this includes:

- Dissemination and internationalisation under the projects needed to be enhanced.
- By providing additional funding to established projects, applications could be assessed using a simpler process that would not require extensive referee procedures.
- Plans for dissemination are often developed during the course of a project, and providing additional funding on a continual basis may be preferable to requiring researchers to apply for funding several years in advance on the basis of sometimes vague dissemination plans.

The programme board has not conducted an evaluation of this additional funding because it was awarded fairly recently and the results of some of the measures have not been reported yet. Nonetheless, it appears that this has been a cost-effective means of generating a considerable amount of dissemination activity in relation to the amount of funding allocated. It is not clear whether it is preferable to award additional funding through established programmes or through open, common funding sources, but the programme board tends to favour the second option. Within the field of development this could mean that additional funding for dissemination would be announced in connection with thematically independent funding. Allocations in connection with social science research would also encompass a large portion of development research, but the disadvantage would be that some fields would fall outside the parameters for eligibility unless they were covered by other schemes.

It may therefore be beneficial to incorporate funding for networks into broader funding schemes for dissemination and internationalisation of research activity. How this is organised is largely a question of which approach results in the most cost-effective assessment of applications and the best possible volume and quality of dissemination and network-building. Schemes involving extensive application procedures and high processing costs for small funding amounts should be avoided. For instance, procedures will be simplified if addi-

tional funding is awarded to existing projects whose quality has already been assured in a previous round of application assessment. In the programme board's experience, this type of problem is solvable, and a moderate amount of additional funding can generate substantial dissemination activity, network-building and internationalisation. This in turn will increase the benefit of research to society. Dissemination, network-building and internationalisation also depend largely on researchers who are highly motivated to carry out such activities. Their efforts should be supported while procedures are established to ensure quality control (for example, to ensure that dissemination is research-based), flexibility (to ensure that funding is awarded to various types of activities) and effective application processing (to keep administrative costs under control). Another important consideration is to avoid fragmentation that may arise from the use of too many different funding schemes. This suggests that funding for dissemination activities, publication, networks, internationalisation, etc. should be combined under the fewest possible funding schemes.

What is the overall assessment of the UTISØR programme's own networks based on the principle views presented here? The programme board concludes that:


- The quality and profile of the networks varied considerably. Without giving marks to the individual networks, the overall impression of the programme board is that *the networks have been successful, albeit with great variation.*

- The competition among networks for funding has been too weak. As a result, in some cases good research projects were rejected while networks of lesser quality were awarded funding.
- The criteria used for assessing the quality of applications and reports have been too unclear, and the discussion above should help to establish clearer criteria.
- In some cases, the funding provided to networks has been used too often for support of individual dissemination activities.
- The networks funded under the UTISØR programme have only marginally achieved the objectives related to dissemination to users.

In spite of this, the programme board concludes that the networks funded under the UTISØR programme have made a vital contribution to dissemination, network-building and internationalisation. It is nonetheless recommended that clearer principles be established for the funding of networks, and this statement is a contribution to discussions about this. The programme board encourages the Research Council to further develop a systematic policy for internationalisation, network-building and dissemination, and that future funding for networks be assessed in a more cohesive context that incorporates existing instruments for internationalisation, conferences and the like.







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