



Work programme

2012–2016

Programme
Russia and the High North/Arctic – NORRUSS



NORUSS

Russia and the High North/Arctic

Programme document

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Introduction

The NORRUSS programme aims to broaden, reinforce and renew the wide-ranging research being conducted by Norway on a large number of issues related to Russia and to the High North – in a period where the attention of research communities and governments in a growing number of countries moves in the direction of the Arctic.

For Norway, the Russian Federation, with the longest coastline to the Arctic Sea of any state, has been a neighbour in the High North for centuries, and an occasional partner in research. As communication across the Norwegian - Russian border in the north rapidly increases, the interest in further research and cooperation naturally grows.

In addition to its role in the High North, Russia continues to be a very important European power for Norway, with the largest population in Europe and its huge potential for economic development. For that reason, it is of great importance for Norway to widen and deepen its understanding of Russia today, and to be able to develop a picture of the future. The NORRUSS programme introduces new resources for research on Russia and its national challenges and opportunities, as well as on mainstream issues for Russian society. The development of elements of democracy, of an economic system suitable for international cooperation, and of a genuine rule of law are issues of central importance to the future shape of Russia – as a European power and as a neighbour to Norway.

Furthermore, the NORRUSS programme introduces means for research on the attitude of important Asian countries regarding Arctic issues, for which they are showing a growing interest.

The Report no. 7 to the Storting (2011-2012), which contains the government's White Paper entitled *The High North*.

Visions and strategies, and the Research

Council of Norway's *Research Strategy for the Arctic and Northern Areas - Revision 1* (*forskning.nord.to*) 2011-2016, as well as the draft resolution and bill *Prop. 1 S* (2010 - 2011), constitute the policy framework for this programme.



The NORRUSS programme will run from 2012 – 2016 with support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and comprises two thematic dimensions, both with views to Norwegian interests:

1. Challenges and Opportunities in the High North. Russia`s Relations with the Outside World
2. Developments in Russia - Politics, Economy and Society

The NORRUSS programme will fill the grey holes in our knowledge of Russia and of the High North/Arctic. The research programme will contribute to knowledge building in Norway and thus be applicable to Norwegian research institutions.





Strategic perspectives

The High North (including the Arctic) is Norway's number one foreign policy priority, as set out in the government's first and second policy platforms. The government launched its High North Strategy in 2006, following up with the report *New Building Blocks in the North* in 2009. In its Report no. 7 to the Storting (2011-2012), which contains the White Paper entitled *The High North: Visions and strategies*, the government presents a coherent, long-term Norwegian policy for dealing with the challenges and opportunities in the High North. The government seeks to ensure that Norway is a leader in the field of knowledge in and about the High North, and that it will strengthen and develop further cooperation with Russia.

In its *Research Strategy for the Arctic and Northern Areas - Revision 1* (*forskning.nord.to*) 2011-2016, the Research Council of Norway takes account of changes in national and international frameworks for the Arctic and the High North. The Arctic and the High North are of great strategic importance, both globally and to Norway. There is an increasing need for research and new knowledge to ensure the sustainable management of the area's abundant natural resources and to respond to the challenges and opportunities arising from climate change and an emerging new political framework. The International and Arctic Dimension is stated as one of six thematic priority areas in the Research Strategy (pages 12-14).

Russia is an integral part of the High North policy, and the Research Strategy for the Arctic and Northern Areas thus stresses the importance of knowledge building about Russia. However, Russia's importance to Norway as a neighbour and global actor also expands the framework of the High North policy. The research programme should therefore not be limited to the study of Russia as an actor in the High North. According to agreements between the Research Council of Norway and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the relevant draft resolution and bill (Prop. 1 S 2010 – 2011), Chapter 118, Post 70 on "*High North Initiatives and project cooperation with Russia*", the NORRUSS programme receives grants for the period 2011 – 2016 for the following purposes:

1. “Barents 2020” (2011-2014): The objective is to develop long-term and strategic competence in Norway through the building of networks with international research communities. The focus is on relevant High North issues that have not been sufficiently scientifically explored and that are important to Norway, as well as to facilitate increased knowledge, activity and presence in the High North. The projects shall produce knowledge in, about and for the High North, and contribute to the creation of arenas for cooperation between Norwegian and international research communities on relevant High North issues.
2. “Project cooperation with Russia” (2012-2016): The objective is to develop long-term and strategic competence in Norway *on Russia* within the social sciences and humanities, as well as research cooperation *with Russia*. The research will produce knowledge on how political, economic and social factors affect Russian policy and decision-making, and should encompass issues of relevance to the whole of Russia beyond merely the High North.
3. “Barents 2020” (2011-2013): The objective is to develop new knowledge on foreign policy issues of special relevance to the High North/Arctic with a focus on the interests of China, Japan, South Korea and India related to different policy areas: security, energy, polar- and climate research, and new sea routes in the Arctic. The objective is to strengthen international research cooperation with leading Asian research communities.
4. “Barents 2020” (2009-2011): The objective is to develop two projects on Russian policy and social conditions in the High North. These projects will conclude in 2013.
5. “Barents 2020” (2008-2012): The objective is to develop new knowledge on foreign policy issues of special relevance to the High North/Arctic through the Institutional Research Project for security and foreign politics of the North (Geopolitics in the High North, Norwegian Interests). This project will conclude in 2012.



Research perspectives

In the past, financing of this field of research has been marginal and fairly unpredictable, thus allowing potential for increased coordination. Until now, research can be divided into three “levels”:

- a. Bilateral relations between Norway and Russia, with special attention to security and foreign policy, including High North issues
- b. Regional policy-making and cooperation in the High North and Northwest Russia
- c. Sector studies, focusing on the oil and gas industry, fishery, as well as topical studies on issues such as the development of a civil society in Russia

Regional research has been oriented towards assistance and aid, reflecting the triple process of transition in Russia. The research perspective has changed and become more strongly based on Norwegian interests and bilateral cooperation between Norway and Russia, with equal contribution by both countries in terms of resources and capacity. Norwegian competence on regional policy is an asset of international value that should be strengthened to encourage reciprocal use. The tradition for security policy research in Norway is strong and varied, and research on Russian fishery, energy- and environmental policy is of high international standard. However, there is a need for more profound knowledge-building regarding Russian society and the High North. The global and strategic significance of the Arctic and the High

North requires new knowledge on a broad range of issues.

The Research Council's Research Strategy for the Arctic and Northern Areas:

The international and Arctic dimension

- The northern areas as a geopolitical arena
- Questions of international law in the north
- Knowledge about Russia

Environmental issues and biological resources

- Environmental issues related to climate change and pollutants being transported into the region via sea and air currents
- The preservation of the rich biological resources of the area

Energy, petroleum and mineral resources

- Global economic development as a driver of the demand for resources in the region
- Renewable energy and CO2 management
- Petroleum as a source of energy and a potential for industry
- Geological resources
- Management and the environment - development of the framework for resource-based economic activity
- Technology

Social development in the Arctic and northern areas

- Social change in the north
- Infrastructure
- Building on the appeal of the north
- Expertise and labor force
- Powers, interests and actors

Knowledge-based industrial development

Objectives of the programme

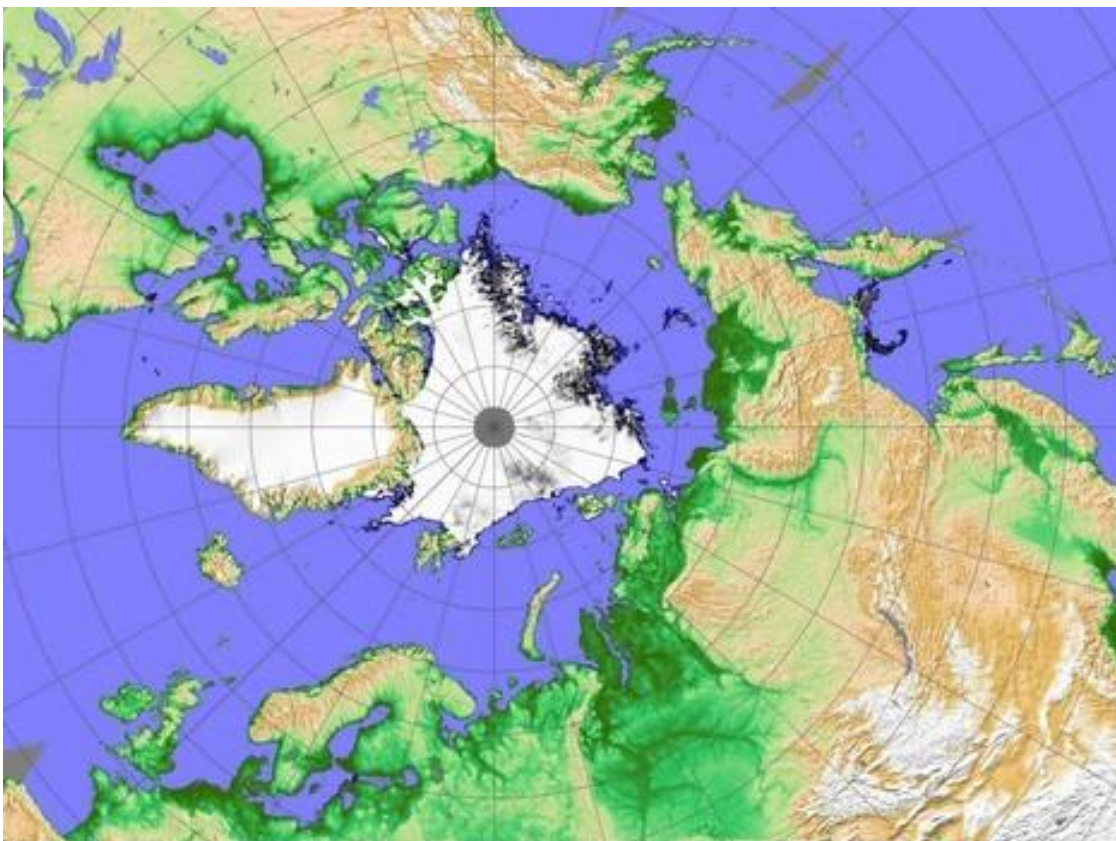
Primary objectives

- To develop long-term and strategic competence in Norway on High North relevant issues that have not been sufficiently scientifically explored and that are important to Norway. The research will produce knowledge in, about and for the High North and contribute to the creation of arenas for cooperation between Norwegian and international research communities on High North relevant issues.

- To develop long-term and strategic competence in Norway on Russia within the social sciences and humanities, as well

as research cooperation with Russia. The research will produce knowledge on how political, economic and social factors affect Russian policy and decision-making, and should encompass issues of relevance to the whole of Russia, beyond merely the High North.

- To develop new knowledge on foreign policy issues of special relevance to the High North/Arctic, with a focus on the interests of China, Japan, South Korea and India in this region, and with the objective to strengthen international research cooperation with leading Asian research institutions.



Secondary objectives

- To improve and strengthen Norwegian research and develop long-term, strategic expertise by strengthening researcher recruitment as well as funding for doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships.
 - To generate knowledge that can provide answers to relevant research questions through applied research and empirical field work.
 - To generate knowledge that can provide answers to profound research questions through systematic, basic research based on solid theoretical work.
 - To actively disseminate research findings to political authorities, public administrations, trade and industry, as well as other groups involved in Norwegian-Russian cooperation and concerned with international issues in the High North.
 - To support projects within different disciplines such as: political science, sociology, economy, law, history, media-studies, and social policy.
 - To promote international research cooperation and networking with established research institutions.
 - To promote links across different types of research, disciplines and sectors.
- Therefore, projects are expected to take a multi-disciplinary approach, where appropriate, and are to encourage innovative methodologies.
- To generate R&D findings of high scientific calibre (publications in scholarly, peer-reviewed journals or books by academic publishers), publications in other scientific or professional media, and papers presented at international conferences.



Priority research tasks

Two thematic priority areas

1. Challenges and Opportunities in the High North. Russia`s Relations with the Outside World
2. Developments in Russia - Politics, Economy and Society

The programme makes a distinction between these two areas, but there are interdependencies between processes in the High North and country-specific developments in Russia. When studying relevant High North issues, it might be necessary to describe national processes in Russia. The perspective should not limit the scope of interesting research topics.



1. Challenges and Opportunities in the High North. Russia`s Relations with the Outside World

Challenges and Opportunities in the High North. Russia's Relations with the Outside World

Security interests	The indigenous population
Energy interests	Russia's relations with Europe
Polar and climate research	Russia's relations with the USA
History of relations, law	Asia's interests in the High North
Russia's geopolitical role in the Arctic	New Eurasian Union
Russia's role in international institutions and organizations	Economic and commercial interests and new shipping routes in the Arctic

Themes relevant for research under *Challenges and Opportunities in The High North. Russia's Relations with the Outside World*:

1.

Of key interest to the programme is cross-border cooperation in the High North between Russia and Norway. Of particular interest is Russian policy-thinking and policy behaviour in regard to its role within, and handling of, multi-lateral European institutions and policy-regimes that it belongs to (e.g. BEAR, CBSS, Arctic Council, OSCE, Council of Europe), and of its partnerships with the EU (the Northern Dimension) and NATO. Equally relevant are studies that analyse the significance of international institutions and external relationships to Russia as political arenas, rallying ground for allies, sources of threats or internal distractions.

a. Legal and administrative structures and practical cooperation in different sectors. This includes the analysis of different types of cooperative structures and practices within them; comparisons between different sectors and structures and practices that Russia has with other countries, as well as studies concerned with the development and relevance of Russia's cross-border cooperation at different levels of governance.

b. Effects of cooperation of regions, and mutual learning processes. These include empirical studies concerned with organizational and professional learning gained through cooperation, the challenges

actors are faced with in practical daily encounters, and the reasons for both successes and failures. Regional analyses may focus on the economic, social, cultural and political effects that cross-border cooperation has on Russian and Norwegian actors and institutions.

c. The meaning of regional cooperation for wider European-Russian relations. Studies may evaluate the meaning of cooperation in the High North for general European-Russian political and economic relations. Particularly relevant are studies that examine whether possible success stories of cooperation in this region have affected European or Russian decision or policy making.

d. Russia's relations with larger European countries such as Germany, and lessons for Norway.

2.

Hard and soft security in the High North, and security cooperation with Russia. Of particular interest are studies that deal with the complex military, environmental, human and/or socio-economic security challenges, and the gap between perceptions, rhetoric and realities in the High North.

3.

Russian-Norwegian relations in the Barents Sea. The history of relations between Norway and Soviet Union/Russia (40 years tug-of-war on the Barents Sea), the development of the fishing regime in the Barents Sea, as well as the continuing military importance of the High North after the Cold War are among the relevant research topics.

4.

The role of energy, fisheries, raw materials and resources as well as the Northern Sea Route in the politics and economics of the High North. This wide thematic scope can also include studies concerned with regimes for the conservation and preservation of biological diversity; as well as national and international regulatory regimes for shipping, fisheries activities, oil-spill preparedness, and also energy and raw material extracting industries in the High North.

5.

The interests of Asian countries (China, Japan, South Korea and India) in the High North. The strategic interests of the various actors and the interaction between key actors in the Arctic, including the US and Russia, and Asian countries have implications for Norway's energy policy, foreign policy and security interests, and constitute particularly relevant research areas. With energy being paramount for Asia's economic growth, countries from the region are increasingly interested in the Arctic's potential as a new energy province, an interest which is reflected in Asian investment in polar and climate research in the Arctic as well as the Antarctic.

6.

Economic and commercial interests. The retreat of the Arctic sea ice means that a greater proportion of the most northerly sea areas will be accessible for a longer part of the year than has previously been

the case. The emergence of the Arctic Ocean as a global route for maritime transport between Asia and Europe will affect the geo-political, geo-economic, environmental conditions and social situation in the High North, thus representing an important area of research.

7.

The impact of developments in the High North on the indigenous population. Relevant topics include impact studies that analyse how rights and livelihoods are affected by any new developments and facilities established in connection with offshore and land-based activities, studies dealing with legal issues related to rights to land and grazing areas, or with the development of local communities in the Arctic and the living conditions of the region's indigenous peoples.

8.

Russia's role in Eurasia may have an indirect effect on international policy elsewhere. This perspective pertains to a broader perspective than the High North and is concerned with Russia as a state actor. Relevant research questions are:

- a.** How does Russia understand itself as a Eurasian power and how is this image changing?
- b.** What is shaping Russian policy vis-à-vis Central Asia, the South Caucasus, Europe and China?
- c.** What is Norway's position between the EU and Russia as two geopolitical actors, and what does it mean for Norwegian foreign policy-making?
- d.** What relevance does the New Eurasian Union have?

9.

Russia's accession to the WTO and its possible impact on Russian businesses and legal culture.

10.

The development of Russia's trade diplomacy with regard to Norway, and as exemplified by the customs union between Russian, Kazakhstan and Belarus, and attempts to bring in Central Asian states and the Ukraine.

11.

The economic dynamics in the relationship between Russia and the EU, and between Russia and China (e.g. in the fields of energy and raw resource extraction).



2. Developments in Russia – Politics, Economy and Society

Political Challenges	
Managed democracy	Role of the media
Electoral process	Islam in Russia
Local governance	Nationalism, political identity
The development of Rule of Law	North Caucasus

Social Challenges	
Social exclusion and poverty	Decentralization of welfare provision
Social policy provision	The role of civil society
Supply of skilled labour	Regional social disparities
	Development of a Russian welfare regime

Economic Challenges	
Energy and raw material export	Governance and obstacles for entrepreneurship
Need for development of new sectors	Physical infrastructure
Modernization of Russia's economy	Regional economic disparities
Investment-needs in Siberia, the Caucasus and Arctic regions	Banking system facing debt crisis
	Domestic manufacturing industry and consumption

Themes relevant for research under *Developments in Russia - Politics, Economy and Society*:

1.

Development of democracy, governance, civil society and human rights in Russia.

a. Transparency and governance. Despite the April 2010 presidential announcement of a new strategy to fight corruption, little has been achieved in this area. The increasing distrust towards state officials

on the different levels of governance seems to be eroding the President's and the political system's authority. In-depth studies dealing with good and bad governance in Russia are of particular relevance.

b. Elections. The controversial Duma elections in November 2011 have shown that elections in Russia are not providing citizens with sufficient opportunity to

participate in the country's political decision-making processes and to hold their leaders accountable. With a less favourable Russian economic outlook, and an apparent concern about political and economic stagnation, continuing political control over the electoral process will increasingly become a challenge for the Kremlin.

c. Social media. State media ownership and the Kremlin's ability to politically control key broadcast media and print publications restricts available content. As could be witnessed in the run-up to the Duma elections in 2011, internet traffic to controversial websites was shut down. One relevant research question is whether social media is becoming a driving force of change in Russia, or whether other ways of communication still predominate in Russia.

d. Geographical dimensions of civil and human rights. Good governance needs to be understood in the context of Russian history and compared with the developments of other countries.

e. Non-governmental organisations and their role. Relevant research questions revolve around the development of civil society and the role of non-governmental organisations in Russia.

2.

The development of basic structures of the state. Basic knowledge regarding the development of Russian government institutions is still widely lacking. This knowledge should include historical and comparative outlooks on the development of federal and local government institutions in Russia. The Russian executive administration in particular has received too little empirical attention which could tell us more about either of the institutions, the daily practices of decision making and the evolving administrative culture. Good governance needs to be understood in the context of Russian history and compared with other

national paths of development. Relevant research areas include:

a. Federal and local government structures and practices, and the electoral process.

b. Legal system and legal culture, and the role of the executive branch in the legal process

c. Policy-making at the national and local level of governance, addressing both the official system of policy-making and the wider networks of political influence in Russia. Case studies which analyse different types of networks involved in policy-thinking and policy-making, and the relationship between the legislative and executive sides of decision-making, are of particular relevance.

3.

Cultural and political identity. Studies on cultural and political identity should include a strong component of historical understanding of the subject. Comparisons with other countries might be relevant. Relevant research areas include:

a. Religion. Russia is a multi-ethnic and multi-religious country in which Islam has played a significant historical role. Despite this, Islam is often the cultural 'other' in contemporary Russian discourses.

Moreover, there is continuing conflict coalescing around the attempts for the reassertion of long-suppressed Islamic identities in Russia against a backdrop of a Russian majority developing a national identity. Linked to the challenge of negotiating Islam in Russian society is the successful negotiation of a resolution of the conflict in the North Caucasus.

b. Nationalism. There has been a rise in Russian nationalism. Dealing with the social and political fall-out from this rise in nationalism is an important political challenge.

4.

Welfare state and social stratification.

Despite some achievements in the social domain, social problems need to be further addressed. Relevant research areas include:

a. State services and basic economic choices (including the role of third sector, non-governmental and non-profit organizations). Studies analysing the evolution of basic services, their structures, practices, financial mechanisms; or dealing with questions of how the state's provision of social services is perceived by the population, how the changing role of the state is influencing the third sector, existing welfare provision, or the emergence of new welfare service providers; and comparisons between institutions and regions, are encouraged.

b. The realities of the social contract in contemporary Russian society, including the study of living conditions.

c. The development of the public sector and budgetary processes.

d. Changing demography and migration as social and economic challenges.

e. Gender issues in contemporary Russia.

5.

The developing relationship between the state and the market in contemporary Russia.

6.

Macro-economic trends and (im)balances in the Russian economy. Relevant topics include budgetary trends; spending patterns; military spending; industrial modernization; resource economy; defence economics; structure of exports and imports.



Strategic priorities

The NORRUSS programme will contribute to the knowledge-building in Norway on Russia and on the High North. The programme, which is applicable to Norwegian research institutions, seeks to promote cooperation with leading researchers and institutions at an international level and thus contribute to the internationalisation of research. The programme should develop expertise within the Norwegian research community and contribute to the recruitment and strengthening of research communities in Norway, as well as the building of research networks. The programme will encourage interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research where appropriate. Both basic research and applied research will be important and combined macro and micro-level studies can be useful.

The programme will develop understanding of and knowledge about

- Key actors, institutions and processes in Russia, and the inter-relationship between authorities at the local, regional and national level of governance, supervisory authorities and courts
- Policies of key actors and institutions with regard to the High North, including strategies and interests, as well as attitudes towards international agreements, conventions and treaties
- Scope of Russian policy discourses
- Evolution of different foreign policy discourses
- Policy choices and the process-oriented character of policy-making
- Different policy arenas and sectors

The following project types are relevant

- Research projects
- Research institution-based strategic projects
- Partial funding of EU projects and other international projects
- Fellowships (integrated into projects)
- Doctoral fellowships
- Post-doctoral fellowships
- Visiting researcher grants
- Grants for overseas research
- Support for events (conferences)
- Support for networks

International cooperation

The Report no. 30 to the Storting (2008-2009): the government's White Paper entitled *Climate for Research*, set out the guiding principles for international cooperation and defines Russia as one of the prioritised countries. The Research Council's strategy for international cooperation, approved on 18th November 2010, states that all research programmes shall set goals and plans for international cooperation.

This implies that the Research Council will work on developing cooperation within ERA.Net RUS as well as the bilateral cooperation with Russian research

financing institutions such as the Russian Foundation for Humanities (RFH). A share of the funding for the NORRUSS programme may be subject to joint calls within this framework of cooperation upon the decision of the NORRUSS programme board, supporting the Norwegian participants.

The Programme would like to see a normalisation of research collaboration between Norwegian and Russian researchers in line with collaboration with other countries within the social sciences and humanities. In this respect one could make use of comparative case-study approaches.

The programme will:

- Promote research cooperation internationally, with Arctic nations, Nordic countries, Europe and others
- Increase the emphasis on international cooperation and mobility in the grant application assessment process
- Open to joint funding announcements in cooperation with Russian research funding institutions, in order to strengthen bilateral research cooperation.
- Promote multilateral cooperation with Russia through European research networks.
- Design measures to enhance the qualifications of Norwegian researchers in international and competitive arenas, not least within the EU



Communication and dissemination activities of the programme

The programme will seek to ensure good communication with the programme's target groups (society, trade and industry and the political authorities), with effective dissemination of results and other relevant information as the publishing of projects results in international peer reviewed journals and international publishing houses. This is crucial both for quality assuring of the research and to promote further development of the research community. All projects should publish their results on dedicated webpages as e.g. the on-going project Geopolitics in the High North: www.geopoliticsnorth.org. The homepage of the NORRUSS programme will link to all projects.

The programme should distinguish itself in the public debate through media coverage, interviews, feature articles and editorials. In addition, other dissemination activities, such as open seminars, workshops, lectures, meetings with users and publication of books, reports and teaching materials should be actively carried out or presented.

Measures are to be specified in an annual communication plan, which is a mandatory attachment to the action plan and should be

drawn up using the designated template for communication plans. A communication plan will be developed to address new needs and opportunities and ensure its relevance relative to the Research Council's overall strategic communication activities and procedures. The programme has the primary responsibility for communication activities and will draw upon resources within the Division for Society and Health, in particular, and the Research Council in general.



The programme will:

- Publish information on the programme webpages: www.nfr.no/norruss
- Issue newsletters/fact sheets/short films with project findings
- Organise conferences and seminars and participate at national/ international seminars

Budget

In 2008, funding was received for the strategic project Geopolitics in the High North (2008-2012) in accordance with the INOR work plan. The NORRUSS programme was launched in 2010, followed by support for two additional projects in 2011. The programme will run for the period 2011-2016, with new grants from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of NOK 105 million. The programme budget for 2012 is NOK 35 million.

The total budget is based on the following grants:

- Social, economic and political conditions in Russia: NOK 45 million (2012-2016)
- High North relevant issues: NOK 45 million (2011-2014)
- Asia's role in the High North: NOK 15 million (2011-2014)
- Geopolitics in the High North, Norwegian Interests: NOK 28 million (2008-2012)
- Social conditions in Russia: NOK 10 million (2009-2011)
- ERA.NetRUS (BILAT): NOK 4 million (2012-2013) - Ministry of Education and Research



Coordination with other related programmes and instruments at the Research Council

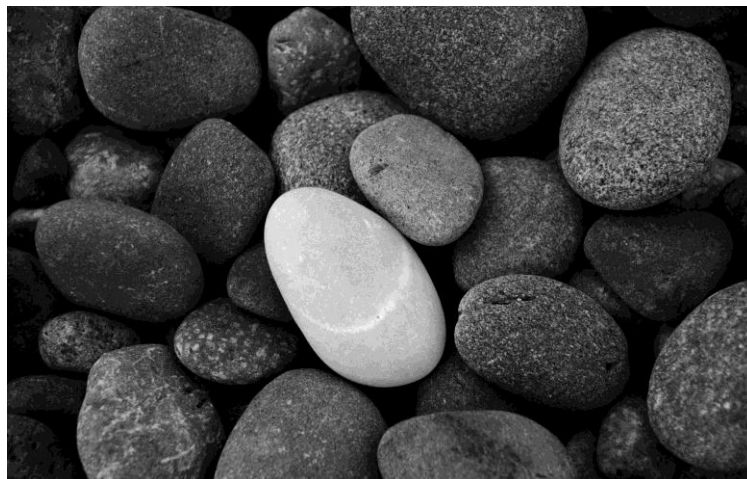
The NORRUSS programme is the only social science and humanities programme in the Research Council that covers issues related to the international challenges and opportunities in the High North and to the social, political and economic developments in Russia.

The delimitation of programme boundaries is clear towards other R&D initiatives at the Research Council, but NORRUSS will produce knowledge that may be of interest for other research programmes in the Research Council such as PETROMAKS, POLARFORSKNING, NORKLIMA, RENERGI, SAMISK and VAM. When suitable, NORRUSS will coordinate its activities with other research programmes. The programme web-page www.nfr.no/norruss is linked to the Research Council's webpage on The Arctic and High North initiative (NORD) www.nfr.no/nord and information from the NORRUSS activities is therefore easily accessible to all relevant programme.

Organisation

The NORRUSS programme board is administered under the auspices of, and reports to, the Division Research Board for Society and Health via the division executive director and the director of the Department for Cooperation and Development Research. The efforts of the programme board are largely strategic in nature. The programme board will strive to achieve programme objectives by implementing the instruments available to the programme, in accordance with the intentions and objectives of the overall strategy for the Research Council, including its International Strategy and the High North Strategy, as well as using guidelines from the Executive Board of the Research Council, the Research Board of the Division of Society and Health, and the Programme Document.

The Research Council administration established the NORRUSS program on 7th April 2010 and the programme board was appointed on 5th May 2010 for the period May 2010 to April 2013. The programme is headed by a programme coordinator to assist in implementing the decisions of the programme board and carrying out the day-to-day tasks of the research programme. The activities of the programme board and programme administration shall at all times be in compliance with the plans and parameters established for the programme and approved by the division research board, as well as with the overall principles and guidelines for the initiation, administration and termination of research programmes and other activities as set out by the Research Council.



The Programme Board

The programme board gathered for its first meeting on 19th August 2010. The members are:

Nils Morten Udgaard (chair), PhD, former foreign editor of the newspaper Aftenposten. Former Adjunct Professor of Soviet and Russian studies at the University of Bergen (1991-1997). Foreign Policy Adviser to the Norwegian Prime Minister 1984-1986.

Timo Koivurova (member), PhD, Director and Research Professor of the Northern Institute for Environmental and Minority Law, Arctic Centre/University of Lapland; Adjunct Professor of International Law, Faculty of Law, Economics and Business Administration/ University of Joensuu; Adjunct Professor of International Law, Faculty of Law/University of Turku

Anna-Liisa Heusala (member), PhD, Post-doctoral Researcher, D.Sos.Sc. at the Aleksanteri Institute in Helsinki

Rainer-Elk Anders (member), PhD, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts, Media and Design, Staffordshire University, UK; member of the Steering Committee of the I-ACT research institute at Staffordshire University.

Marit Bjerkeng (member), Professor at the Høgskolen i Finnmark, Department for Humanities and Educational Science

Jarle Forbord (member), Managing Director of the Norwegian Russian Chamber of Commerce

Mette Skak (member), PhD, Associate Professor at the Department of Political Science, Aarhus University

Alyson JK Bailes (deputy member), Visiting Professor at the University of Iceland in Reykjavik. Former Director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). In the British Diplomatic Service for 32 years. Served as Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy in Beijing. Head of the FCO Security Policy Department and Political Director of the Brussels-based European defence institution, Western European Union. Ambassador to Finland

Christen A. Mordal (deputy member), self-employed, CA Mordal Consulting

Anne Grete Riise (observer), Assistant Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs/ Department for the High North Project, Energy and Resources

Stephanie Kautzman (observer), Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs/ Department for Russia, Eurasia and regional cooperation).

The Reference Group

A reference group for the strategic project Geopolitics in the High North (Geopolitikk-Nord) was appointed by the Research Council on 10th April 2008 and will function until 31st June 2013. When the NORRUSS programme was established, Geopolitics in the High North was integrated in the programme. The key role of the reference group is to follow and advise the strategic project with whom the group meets annually. The reference group consists of the following members:

Nils Morten Udgaard (Chair), PhD, former foreign editor of the newspaper Aftenposten. Former Adjunct Professor of Soviet and Russian studies at the University of Bergen (1991-1997), Foreign Policy Adviser to the Norwegian Prime Minister 1984-1986.

Alyson JK Bailes (Member), Visiting Professor at the University of Iceland in Reykjavik. Former Director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). In the British Diplomatic Service for 32 years. Served as Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy in Beijing. Head of the FCO Security Policy Department and Political Director of the Brussels-based European defence institution, Western European Union. Ambassador to Finland

Christoph Bertram (Member), former Professor at the Bologna Center, Paul Nitze School for Advanced International Studies, John Hopkins University, Bologna; former Director of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), former Director of the Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, Deutsches Institut für Internationale Politik und Sicherheit (SWP)


Timo Koivurova (Member), Director and Research Professor of the Northern Institute for Environmental and Minority Law, Arctic Centre/University of Lapland; Adjunct Professor of International Law, Faculty of Law, Economics and Business Administration/ University of Joensuu; Adjunct Professor of International Law, Faculty of Law/University of Turku

Anne Grete Riise (Member), Assistant Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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