

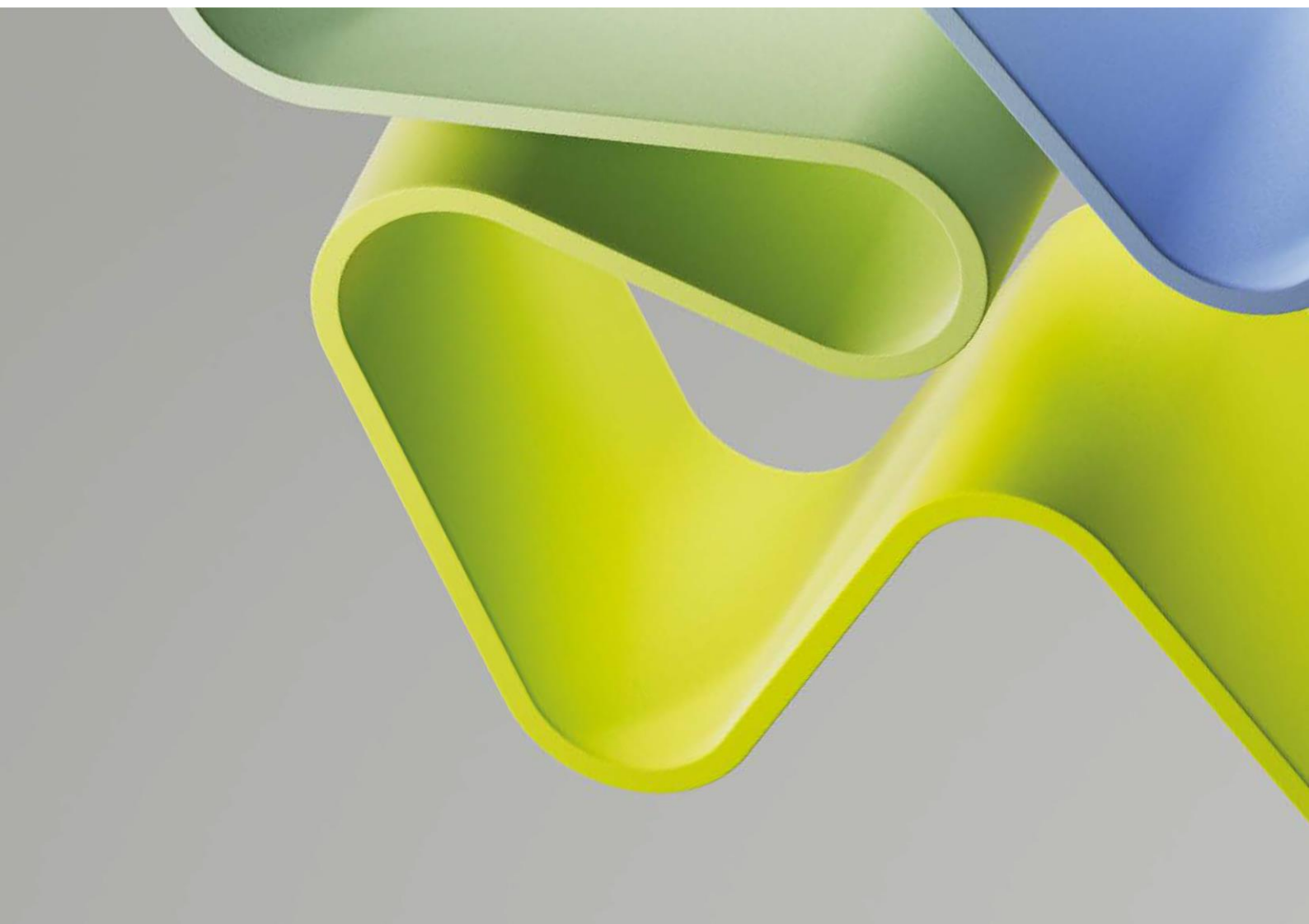
Evaluation of Life Sciences 2022-2024

Evaluation of medicine and health 2023-2024

Evaluation report

ADMIN UNIT: School of Sport Sciences
INSTITUTION: UiT Arctic University of Norway

December 2024



Contents

STATEMENT FROM EVALUATION COMMITTEE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS 2	4
PROFILE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT	6
OVERALL EVALUATION	7
1. STRATEGY, RESOURCES AND ORGANISATION OF RESEARCH	9
1.1 Research strategy	9
1.2 Organisation of research	10
1.3 Research funding	11
1.4 Use of infrastructures	12
1.5 Collaboration	13
1.6 Research staff	14
1.7 Open Science	14
2. RESEARCH PRODUCTION, QUALITY AND INTEGRITY	16
2.1 Research quality and integrity	16
3. DIVERSITY AND EQUALITY	17
4. RELEVANCE TO INSTITUTIONAL AND SECTORIAL PURPOSES	18
4.1 Higher education institutions	18
5. RELEVANCE TO SOCIETY	20
APPENDICES	21

Statement from Evaluation Committee Higher Education Institutions 2

This report is from Evaluation Committee Higher Education Institutions 2 which evaluated the following administrative units representing the higher education sector in the Evaluation of medicine and health 2023-2024:

- Department of Physical Performance, Norwegian School of Sport Sciences (NIH)
- Department of Sports Medicine, Norwegian School of Sport Sciences (NIH)
- Department of Psychology, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)
- Department of Psychology, UiT Arctic University of Norway
- Regional Centre for Child and Youth Mental Health and Child Welfare, UiT Arctic University of Norway
- School of Sport Sciences, UiT Arctic University of Norway
- Faculty of Psychology, University of Bergen (UiB)
- Department of Psychology, University of Oslo (UiO)

The conclusions and recommendations in this report are based on information from the administrative units (self-assessment), digital meetings with representatives from the administrative units, bibliometric analysis and personnel statistics from the Nordic Institute for Studies of Innovation, Research, and Education (NIFU) and Statistics Norway (SSB), and selected data from Studiebarometeret (NOKUT). The digital interviews took place in Autumn 2024.

This report is the consensus view from evaluation committee higher education institutions 2. All members of the committee have agreed with the assessments, conclusions and recommendations presented here.

Evaluation committee higher education institutions 2 consisted of the following members:

Professor Til Wykes (Chair)

King's College London

Professor Mats Børjesson

University of Gothenburg and Sahlgrenska
University Hospital

Professor Louise Mansfield

Brunel University of London

Dr Anja Wittkowski

University of Manchester

Docent Lena Hübner

Stockholm University

Professor Sven Vanneste

Trinity College Dublin

Dr Laura Rennie, Technopolis Group, was the committee secretary.

Oslo, December 2024

Profile of the administrative unit

The School of Sport Sciences is a small administrative unit, with 3 Professors, 6 Associate Professors, 3 Postdoctoral Fellows, and 8 Doctoral Research Fellows per 2022. Most (Post)Doctoral Fellow positions are temporary, but 2 permanent employees were PhD fellows from 2016-2023. Doctoral Fellow positions are gender-balanced, but Postdoctoral and Professor roles are mostly held by men. All academic employees at the administrative unit are member of at least one of the two research groups, while some are members of both groups.

The research at the School of Sport Sciences is currently organised into two research groups; Sport, physical activity, and health and Sociocultural perspectives on sport, Outdoor life (friluftsliv) and health (SOCUL),

The overall goal of the administrative unit is to contribute to the development of evidence-based knowledge regarding physical activity and healthy lifestyles. They aim to advance the understanding of adaptation to exercise training, health and performance among athletes, physical activity epidemiology, methods for measuring physical activity, and sociocultural perspectives on sport and outdoor recreation. The administrative unit centres on addressing the primary challenges experienced by people living in the northern (i.e., Arctic) regions, as well as the general society. This involves investigating factors promoting health, living conditions, and prevention in the Arctic region; considering how societal development in the northern regions affects public health, as well as focusing on health in Sami cultures. Additionally, the administrative unit aims to contribute to eHealth and technology development, utilise research data from northern population surveys, and foster inter-institutional and faculty collaboration.

The administrative unit collaborates both nationally and internationally, with larger projects being national collaborations and/or multicentre studies. According to the administrative unit's self-assessment, this collaboration has clear added value both in addressing topics such as female athletes' health and performance, exercise and atrial fibrillation, gathering the national resources in the field, but also regarding participant recruitment and necessary sample sizes. Other universities and research institutes constitute major collaboration partners, mainly through project collaboration resulting in co-authorships. Hospitals are also important partners and the collaboration with the sport sector is extensive. Collaborations with the public sector include development of new guidelines for physical activity and providing data on physical activity from population-based studies.

According to its self-assessment, in the future, the administrative unit may benefit from its wide range of young and enthusiastic researchers, broad competence in a range of research methods and topics and extensive research data. It can leverage its large professional network, with access to academically strong students to recruit. Funding, however, remains a challenge, as sport and physical activity is not a priority for government research funding, and the decline of internal funding will most likely continue over the coming years, making it difficult to retain highly qualified staff. External funding sources may be found in the health sector, with an exception for pure sports projects, having often been deemed not "clinical enough" when applying to health trusts. Further challenges include insufficient clinical research focus, time consuming bureaucratic requirements, insufficient career development/job opportunities, and geographical divides. Opportunities may be found in future research trends and demographics, enabling the administrative unit to focus on health prevention for an ageing population and contribute to innovative population surveys.

Overall evaluation

The overall assessment of the administrative unit by the evaluation committee is very strong with some areas of excellence.

According to the self-assessment, the administrative unit's strategic goals are to contribute to the development of evidence-based knowledge about physical activity, healthy lifestyles and health challenges across the life course in the northern Arctic regions and wider Norwegian society. The unit prioritises research about physical activity epidemiology and cardiovascular and musculoskeletal health prevention; skills, performance and health especially related to female athletes; outdoor recreation (friluftsliv) and nature-based tourism; and sociological perspectives on sport and health. There are two research groups (i) sport, physical activity and health, and (ii) sociocultural perspectives on sport friluftsliv and health (SOCUL).

The organisational environment is very strong in supporting excellent research through appropriate staffing across career levels, time allocation and resourcing. Publication quality is internationally excellent in terms of originality, significance and rigour. Robust research integrity processes are in place. The research groups play a significant role in the research processes, practice and outcomes. The unit faces challenges to sustainable quality of research related to temporary contracts, high teaching loads, geographical location (split sites), reduced internal funding and competitive external funding, heterogeneous / diffuse research topics, and a short history of development. However, the research contribution to societal development in Norway and internationally is on par with what is expected in the discipline. Non-academic partners have considerable involvement in the research process.

There are opportunities for addressing future societal challenges in public health, sport performance and sociocultural inequality in physical activity by prioritising research about physical activity and health in the high north of Norway and through trends for population level physical activity for health-related evidence. With a strategic focus on growing and retaining excellent research staff and strengthening and expanding effective national and international partnerships (academic and non-academic) greater success in attracting external grant funding should be expected. Future collaborations in public health and clinical health settings will optimise the potential for more clinical and commercially focused research.

Recommendations

The evaluation committee makes the following key recommendations.

- To increase the numbers of research staff across all levels with due attention to excellence, diversity and equity, retention and career development
- To optimise research relevant to population health in the high North of Norway
- To develop and utilise organisational and funding structures (national, international, public, private and 3rd sector) to effectively support research between academic and non-academic collaborations
- To consider future strategies for ensuring open data where appropriate
- Implement targeted strategies for inclusion of a broad range of end users into decision making about research and education objectives.

1. Strategy, resources and organisation of research

1.1 Research strategy

The School of Sport Sciences at UiT Arctic is reported in the ToR as a relatively new administrative unit established in 2013. It includes 3 Professors, 6 Associate Professors, 3 Postdoctoral Fellows, and 8 Doctoral Research Fellows. Doctoral Fellow positions are gender-balanced, but Postdoctoral and Professor roles are mostly held by men. The research at the School of Sport Sciences is organised into two research groups; Sport, Physical Activity, and Health and Sociocultural Perspectives on Sport, Outdoor Life (*friluftsliv*) and Health (SOCUL). The self-assessment document identifies that interdisciplinarity and cross-institutional collaboration is a central feature of the research strategy for ensuring high quality research that is relevant to Norwegian society and has international significance.

The administrative unit's research strategy includes a broad portfolio of work across the disciplines of sport science. According to the self-assessment, the strategic goals have been developed over a decade to align with institutional priorities at UiT. The goals are to address regional and national level health challenges in the northern arctic and Norway. There is a strategic focus on interdisciplinarity and collaborative research and the development of more leading academic environments which can be at the forefront of national and international knowledge across sport science disciplines.

The research priorities guide the plans for the administrative unit to conduct high quality, rigorous research in sport, exercise, physical activity and health. The unit states its commitment to ensuring societal impact from the research. The strategy focuses on specified research themes related to physical activity epidemiology and cardiovascular and musculoskeletal health prevention; skills, performance and health especially with female athletes; outdoor recreation (*friluftsliv*) and nature-based tourism; and sociological perspectives on sport and health. The unit is now organised into two main research groups – reorganised in 2023 (i) Sport, Physical Activity and Health, and (ii) Sociocultural Perspectives on Sport, Friluftsliv and Health (SOCUL)

The School of Sport Sciences includes researchers from across the academic levels working in a broad spectrum of sport science disciplines from epidemiology and health to sports performance and outdoor recreation, and sociocultural perspectives. Research innovation is focused on collaborative and interdisciplinary research and a commitment to advancing knowledge about health in the northern Arctic. There are established and developing collaborations with the Centre for Avalanche Research and Education (CARE) and innovation is evidenced in the use of AI in data analysis in sport performance research. The reorganisation of research groups from three to two alongside the alignment of research goals with the UiT strategy of research excellence, reflects a focus on innovation. The self-assessment identifies that the development of innovation in research is supported through an action plan and access for staff to supporting initiatives e.g. research sabbaticals.

The self-assessment identifies plans for influencing policy and guidelines on population level physical activity and sedentary behaviour through the unit's research evidence on physical activity epidemiology and cardiovascular health. The research strategy is planned to have an impact on optimising performance and health for female athletes and coaches in women's sport. A plan to have societal impact on community sport engagement, healthy lifestyles and the outdoors is included in the self-assessment as a future area for development. Impact is supported through collaborations with national sport organisations in skiing, biathlon, and football and public health sector collaborations have supported evidence-led impact on national guidelines for physical activity.

The research strategy in the School of Sport Sciences is regularly reviewed and resource allocation to support the strategy includes Professorial research leadership, inclusion of range of academics and different career stages including high numbers of PhD students. The self-assessment highlights that researchers in the unit benefit from state-of-the-art laboratories to specifically support research on physical activity epidemiology and cardiovascular and musculoskeletal health research.

The committee's evaluation:

The assessment of the research strategy by the evaluation committee is excellent. There is a clear and cohesive strategy for identifying, prioritising and delivering research activities which reflect the expertise, excellence and staffing resourcing within the administrative unit. The administrative unit is small in terms of numbers of researchers but there are clear and actionable plans for societal impact with related strategic goals for ambitious national and international collaborations. There is excellent societal impact in influencing guidelines on population level physical activity and sedentary behaviour and optimising performance and health for female athletes and coaches in women's sport.

The committee's recommendations:

The evaluation committee makes the following recommendations for development of research strategy:

- To increase the numbers of research staff across all levels with due attention of diversity and equity
- To optimise the research strategy with particular attention to the work in SOCUL where there is considerable potential to develop sociocultural work to guide population health in the high North of Norway
- To identify research priorities and actions for interdisciplinary research
- To produce a clear and coherent action plan for research innovation and potential for commercialisation.

1.2 Organisation of research

The School of Sport Sciences report that research has recently been reorganised into two research groups; *Sport, Physical Activity, and Health* and *Sociocultural Perspectives on Sport, Friluftsliv and Health (SOCUL)*. Academic staff belong to at least one research group and may be a member of both. There appears to be wide-ranging collaboration between researchers in these groups and academics across the institution at UiT and there are some academic members from different Departments associated with the unit's research groups. The research groups have regular meetings for knowledge exchange, organised as internal meetings, or workshops/seminars with external guest lecturers. Research and development are reported as a topic for discussion and action at departmental seminars and seminars at the faculty level. The self-assessment indicates that each research project and each researcher is responsible for disseminating research findings, and larger projects have internal communication plans.

The School of Sport Sciences strives for synergies between education, research and outreach activities. This approach is demonstrated by the inclusion of taught students in research projects, completion of PhDs by academic staff and range of research roles related to education, knowledge exchange, patient treatment and outreach. The administrative unit is small but growing and includes 3 Professors, 6 Associate Professor, 3 Postdoctoral Fellows, and 8 Doctoral Research Fellows. Most of the (Post) Doctoral Fellow positions are temporary. The unit reports 2 of the permanent employees were PhD fellows during the 2016-2023 period. There appears to be an equal split of male and female Doctoral Research Fellows with most Professors being male and working in the area of

physical activity epidemiology and cardiovascular and musculoskeletal health. There is 1 female professor working in the area of sociology and the unit reports a decreasing proportion of female professors since 2013. 3 Professor II appointments are evidence (20%) whose work supports grant applications, new projects and collaborative strategies.

The School of Sport Sciences seeks to balance research time with a range of other academic commitments. Professors and Associate Professors generally have 50:50 distribution of time between research and teaching. Senior lecturers are typically assigned 30% research time and at lecturer level there is 20% research time allocated. The unit reports that it facilitates a reduced teaching load for researchers who are project managers in large-scale projects. Career opportunities are supported by internal processes for appraisal and performance review, career development plans and mentorship for professional and individual development. The self-assessment reports a strategic approach to balancing research, teaching and administrative duties. Academics in the unit with four or more years in a permanent position can apply for sabbatical leave to support the development of personal research strategies including national and international work. Internally funded PhDs, post docs and faculty members can apply for mobility grants at the faculty level once a year and the self-assessment reports success in these schemes although there is no detail about the numbers of successful awards or profiles of those who are successful.

The committee's evaluation:

The assessment of the organisation of research by the evaluation committee is very strong. The organisation of the research into two coherent research groups is recent but provides an appropriate structure for high-quality research activity including income, outputs, collaboration, innovation and impact with very strong prospects. Researchers have a high degree of autonomy in research activity and are supported well through access to resources and balancing workloads between research and education. There is a strong synergy between research education and outreach activity with a focus on career development and an intention for research growth.

The committee's recommendations:

The evaluation committee makes the following recommendations for development of organisation of research:

- To develop a clear and coherent strategy for research growth in staff across all levels of career
- To develop organisational structures focused on knowledge exchange, funding opportunities and partnership working that can effectively support collaboration between researchers in the research groups, academics across the institution at UiT and non-academic partners.

1.3 Research funding

The School of Sport Sciences receives basic funding from the Ministry of Education through UiT of 38,5 MNOK in the period 2018-2022. In addition, the unit reports receiving external funding from the Northern Norway Regional Health Authority Trust (Helse Nord), Tromsø Research Foundation (Tromsø Forskningsstiftelse), Regional Development funds (RDA), Odd Bergs Medisinske Forskningsfond, Simon Hartvig Fougner's Familiefond, Raagholtstiftelsen, Ministry of Health and Care Services, Norsk Monitor, VRI Virkemidler for regional innovasjon, The Norwegian Atrial Fibrillation Research Network, UNIKARD, and Interreg. Norske Kvinners Sanitetsforening mainly fund PhD and post doc positions.

Total research funding 2018-2022 is reported as 64,8 MNOK. Total external grant funding for the same period from national and international funders is reported as 26,2 MNOK which represents a yearly average of 5,2 MNOK. Over the five-year period the unit has been awarded competitive national grants totalling 35, 873 200 MNOK.

The committee's evaluation:

The assessment of the research funding by the evaluation committee is very strong. The administrative unit is small and yet it has a track record of funding success from competitive national grant schemes beyond the basic funding received.

The committee's recommendations:

The evaluation committee makes the following recommendations for development of research funding:

- To develop a strategy for identifying and applying for larger grants and grants from international funding sources.

1.4 Use of infrastructures

The administrative unit participates in national research infrastructures in Medicine and Health for using data managed by helsedata.no, including population data and data held on health registries (e.g. Norwegian Patient Registry). Data from population-based studies such as the Tromsø study and Fit Futures, and high north and other Norway population studies (e.g. SAMINOR, Finnmarksundersøkelsen, the Birkebeiner ageing study and the Trøndelag Health Study - HUNT) are widely used and sometimes combined as well as international data from the US Health and Nutritional status survey (NHANES), and evidence from the Healthy Ageing Initiative. The unit reports that participation in international infrastructures funded by ministries and participation in European ESFRI infrastructures are not relevant.

The unit reports access to local research infrastructures that includes benefits from UiT's collaboration agreement with USIT/UIO giving UiT researchers access to Services for Sensitive Data (TSD) for the storage of sensitive data. Additionally, collaborations with international institutions allows access to a secure cloud storage service for data sharing (*Hessenbox*) and an end-to-end encrypted messenger and secure collaboration tool (*Element*).

The self-assessment highlights that researchers adhere to FAIR principles for research ethics and integrity and data protection, management, processing, storing and publishing. Academics have access to training courses to support the implementation of FAIR principles. The unit benefits from UiT support services that spans the complete life cycle of research including Research data management training / Creating data management plans / Data processing and storage / Data archiving / Agreements and license determination / Information security and privacy management system.

The committee's evaluation:

The assessment of the use of infrastructures by the evaluation committee is excellent. The unit effectively uses national population survey data to produce high quality research that has societal impact. There is excellent expertise and experience in appropriate data sharing systems. Research staff employ the FAIR principles and have access to training to support the use of FAIR.

The committee's recommendations:

The evaluation committee makes the following recommendations for development of use of infrastructures:

- To expand and strengthen the use of local and regional infrastructures to support the research goal of addressing regional and national level health challenges in the northern arctic and Norway.

1.5 Collaboration

Collaboration is a core strategy for high-quality research in the administrative unit and they have a strong track record of successful research with a range of national and international partners across the sport and public health sectors. The larger research projects are multistakeholder and multicentre projects producing extensive data sets and contributing to improving female athlete performance and to primary and secondary health prevention and healthcare services. The unit collaborates with national sport organisations in skiing, biathlon and football, making a difference to decision making about optimising athlete performance and health. It collaborates with a range of other higher education institutions in Norway including the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Nord University, Norwegian School of Sport Sciences, University of Agder, and Norwegian Institute of Public Health. The unit also has high quality international collaborations with the Karolinska Institute, Aarhus University, University of Copenhagen, or Luleå University of Technology, Cambridge University and University of Porto, University of Southern Denmark, University of Sydney, and the University of Exeter. Public health sector collaborations have supported evidence-led impact on national guidelines for physical activity. There are reported links with the University Hospital of North Norway and Baerum Hospital for a small amount of clinical research. Developing collaborations are reported with regional hospital trusts supporting research innovation in health prevention and children, optimising survey designs, developing research in multi-ethnic populations.

The committee's evaluation:

The assessment of collaboration by the evaluation committee is excellent. Collaboration is a core strategy of the administrative unit and a range of established and sustained partnerships with sport organisations and national and international high education institutions support excellent research. The unit has collaborations with regional hospital trusts to support high-quality research in sport, physical activity and public health.

The committee's recommendations:

The evaluation committee makes the following recommendations for development of collaboration:

- To strengthen sustainable relationships with the health care and public health sector to support further high-quality research in the clinical and community aspects of physical activity for health
- To expand and develop relationships with public and private sector sport organisations to support potential commercialisation of research
- To strengthen collaborative relationships with 3rd sector organisations especially to optimise the capacity and expertise in the unit to advance knowledge about health and health improvements of the high-north population in Norway.

1.6 Research staff

The administrative unit is small but growing and includes 3 Professors, 6 Associate Professor, 3 Postdoctoral Fellows, and 8 Doctoral Research Fellows. Most of the Postdoctoral Fellow positions are temporary. The unit reports 2 of the permanent employees were PhD fellows during the 2016-2023 period. There appears to be an equal split of male and female Doctoral Research Fellows with most Professors being male and working in physical activity epidemiology and cardiovascular and musculoskeletal health. There is 1 female professor working in sociology and the unit reports a decreasing proportion of female professors between 2013-2022 from 50% to 33%. 3 Professor II appointments are evidence (20%) whose work supports grant applications, new projects and collaborative strategies. Between 2013-2021, the number of Doctoral Research Fellows and Postdoctoral Fellows has increased from zero to 13, and the self-assessment reports this is a result of increased research activity and external funding.

The committee's evaluation:

The assessment of the research staff by the evaluation committee is very strong. The administrative unit has fostered gender equity at the doctoral research fellow level and there is a relatively high number of these researchers. The unit is small in terms of postdoctoral and professorial researchers who are mostly male. The appointment of Professor II appointments supports grant applications.

The committee's recommendations:

The evaluation committee makes the following recommendations for development of research staff:

- To evaluate strategies for appointing permanent researchers with a priority to retain excellent researchers
- To ensure effective mentoring processes are in place to support career development and appointment of female professors.

1.7 Open Science

Through UiT's Open Access Policy, The School of Sport Science strives to ensure that all academic publications are accessible in open access journals or repositories. The self-assessment identifies various mechanisms to support Open Science including advice, guidance and training from information scientists in library services. The unit reports that less than 10% of their published papers are not Open Access. In 2020-2022, one third of the articles were green Open Access, with 53-75% being gold Open Access which reflects discipline differences in funding and journal Open Access offers.

The committee's evaluation:

The assessment of open science by the evaluation committee is very strong. A small percentage of published papers are not Open Access and most are either green or gold open access depending on discipline and journal offer.

The committee's recommendations:

The evaluation committee makes the following recommendations for development of open science:

- To explore mechanisms for ensuring more articles are open access perhaps through publication in a wider range of journals or through pre-print processes
- To consider future strategies for ensuring open data where appropriate.

2. Research production, quality and integrity

The administrative unit strives to develop high quality, rigorous evidence-based knowledge regarding sport, exercise physical activity and health. It is organised into two research groups; 'sport, physical activity, and health' and 'sociocultural perspectives on sport, outdoor life (friluftsliv) and health' (SOCUL). Its research contribution and significance spans athlete performance, physical activity epidemiology and measurement, anti-doping policy, outdoor recreation, education and the natural environment, and sociocultural aspects of sport participation in indigenous cultures. The utilisation of research data from national population surveys, and a focus on fostering inter-institutional and faculty collaboration advances research in the sport sciences which is relevant to policy, elite sport performance and the promotion of physical activity for health.

Research conducted in the administrative unit follows national guidance on research ethics and integrity. It also aligns with UiT policy on scientific integrity and good research supervision.

2.1 Research quality and integrity

This part includes one overall evaluation of each research group that the administrative unit has registered for the evaluation. The overall assessment of the research group has been written by one of the 18 expert panels that have evaluated the registered research groups in EVALMEDHELSE. The expert panels are solely behind the evaluation of the research group(s). The evaluation committee is not responsible for the assessment of the research group(s)"

Research group: School of Sports Sciences

The overall assessment of the research group by the panel is that it is internationally very strong.

The overall objective is to contribute to developing the high north by promoting a healthy lifestyle. More specific, the research is focused on adaptation to exercise training, physical activity epidemiology, and social perspective on recreational sports and outdoor activities. The research groups have good prerequisites for their aims in organisation and a positive trend with increased funding. However, the fundings from RCN and from international funders seems to be very low and there is room for improvement. There is good potential for excellent research output. In order to work for the overall aim at promoting better general health increased focus is needed to further develop interdisciplinary networks and projects with societal impact and implementation of research knowledge.

3. Diversity and equality

The administrative unit adheres to UiT policy and practices to protect against any form of discrimination and strives to promote diversity and equality. The self-assessment identifies the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action plan for UiT as the governing document for policies and practice for diversity and equality. Additionally, the unit reflects the policy on Preventing sexual harassment at UiT in its work. The administrative unit has a specific focus on increasing and sustaining high-quality research addressing women, sport and health and indigenous Sami and northern Norwegian population health.

The committee's evaluation:

The assessment of diversity and equality by the evaluation committee is good. The administrative unit takes a proactive approach to diversity, inclusivity and prevention of sexual harassment in its staffing and research practices. It operates within the rigorous framework for diversity and equity within the wider institution (UiT). There remain gender imbalances at more senior levels where male researchers are in the majority. There do not seem to be data of key diversity metrics such as disability and ethnicity.

The committee's recommendations:

The evaluation committee makes the following recommendations for diversity and equality:

- Review recruitment and retention strategies to attract and retain a broader diversity of candidate
- Implement effective leadership and mentoring programmes to support career development of female researchers
- Monitor and report on broader range of diversity metrics to inform strategies for recruitment, retention and career development.

4. Relevance to institutional and sectorial purposes

The unit's research is directly relevant to the sector goal of Norwegian higher education institutions in terms of achieving high quality in research and education. Research activities and associated research-led education within the administrative unit strive for the highest quality and relevance to expanding the knowledge base in physical activity for public health, sport performance, friluftsliv, and sociocultural evidence and impact in Norway. Applied research supports societal relevance to public health and has a specific intention to focus on benefits for the northern Arctic population. The unit is working towards achieving the sector goal of efficiency, diversity and solidity of the higher education sector and research system. This is achieved through growth and development of high-quality academics and research activities, increased number of PhD candidates and academic staff holding a PhD with an identified focus on increasing and sustaining external funding.

The unit reports that it does not have explicit practices for innovation and commercialisation because it is relatively new and they are developing strategies for such work. However, there appears to be strong motivation for and emerging research opportunities within the commercial and professional sport sector including with the Norwegian Olympic Organisation for athlete testing and performance support. There is a connection between research, education and sustainable development in friluftsliv through an emerging and innovative focus on nature guiding and sustainable development. The administrative unit has an action plan for innovation and commercialisation to support future development for institutional and sectorial purposes.

The committee's evaluation:

The assessment of relevance to institutional and sectorial relevance is very strong. The committee recognises the unit's excellent contribution to national priorities for evidence-led guidance on physical activity for health, the promotion of outdoor recreation and population health in the high North including a focus on indigenous cultures. There is scope for development of innovation in commercialisation of research and the appropriate inclusion of end-user groups throughout the research process.

The committee's recommendations:

The evaluation committee makes the following recommendations for development of relevance to institutional and sectorial relevance.

- Implement targeted strategies for inclusion of a broad range of end users into decision making about research and education objectives
- Review and implement the action plan for developing innovation and commercialisation in priority areas of research strength in the administrative unit
- Ensure appropriate incentives and support mechanism for research staff to engage in innovation and commercialisation in research.

4.1 Higher education institutions

The administrative unit contributes to master's and PhD level education by integrating its research into various education programs within the institution and beyond. In terms of relevance to the educational purpose of UiT, the unit has focused on developing applied master's programmes for educational / training opportunities for students. For example, it is contributing to the development of an experience-based master's program in advanced

football analytics and contributes to a collaborative PhD course “Applied Research & Data Analytics in Football & Futsal: From Theory to Application” (collaborative course with UiT, University of Beira Interior and Portugal Football School).

Master’s students are invited to participate in ongoing research, and to conduct master’s projects within existing research projects of the unit, through yearly presentations and invitation from the unit’s researchers. Many master’s students have conducted their theses in subjects related to the unit’s FENDURA project (“The female endurance athlete: exploring the missing link in exercise physiology”): between 2019 and 2024, a total of 17 master’s theses were conducted in research connected to the FENDURA project.

The committee's evaluation:

The committee evaluated the administrative unit as very strong. The committee recognises that the unit is making a significant contribution to high quality higher education. Research and education align with the goal for welfare and value creation through the prioritisation of research and teaching on physical activity, outdoor recreation and sociocultural aspects of indigenous cultures. The committee recognises the effectiveness of collaborative work in producing high-quality research-led education activities.

The committee’s recommendations:

The evaluation committee makes the following recommendations for development of relevance to higher education institutions:

- Expand the applied master’s programme to enable more students to engage in research-led education with a focus on ensuring engagement from diverse student populations
- Develop mentoring initiatives to support high-quality PhD students to successfully engage in longer-term academic careers.

5. Relevance to society

The administrative unit's research strategy focuses on addressing public health challenges across the life course through building knowledge to support policy and practice of active lifestyles for population health. There is a priority focus on supporting the health of the population in the northern Arctic region. This work contributes to the objectives of the Norwegian long-term plan by (i) tackling major society challenges, (ii) enhancing competitive and innovation capacity, (iii) developing academic and research communities of outstanding quality. The research in the unit is highly relevant to society and contributes to UN SDG 3 - ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages; 5 - achieving gender quality and empowering all women and girls; 10 - reducing inequality; and 11 - making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

The committee's comments on impact case 1 - Informing the physical activity guidelines for public health: Physical activity prevalences, trends, and cardiovascular health in the Arctic population (ACTIHEALTH)

This impact case study focuses on informing national physical activity guidelines for public health in Norway. Research from ACTIHEALTH has informed the revision of national guidelines and increased awareness amongst health authorities of the guidance. The research underpinning the impact case study has also informed guidelines for atrial fibrillation in clinical policy and practice. The impact case study is underpinned by rigorous and significant published research. Data collection, analysis and reporting take place alongside direct involvement of researchers in the national physical activity guidelines working group (Norwegian Directorate of Health). This policy-level involvement provides the pathway to effective and evidenced impact for informing revision of national guidelines claimed in the impact case study. The research is also cited in the development of a position statement for the European Society of Cardiology guidance on participation in physical activity and sport for patients with arrhythmia.

The impact case study provides evidence of sustained and significant national impact founded on rigorous research and the committee's evaluation is that the impact is excellent.

Appendices

Evaluation of Medicine and health 2023-2024

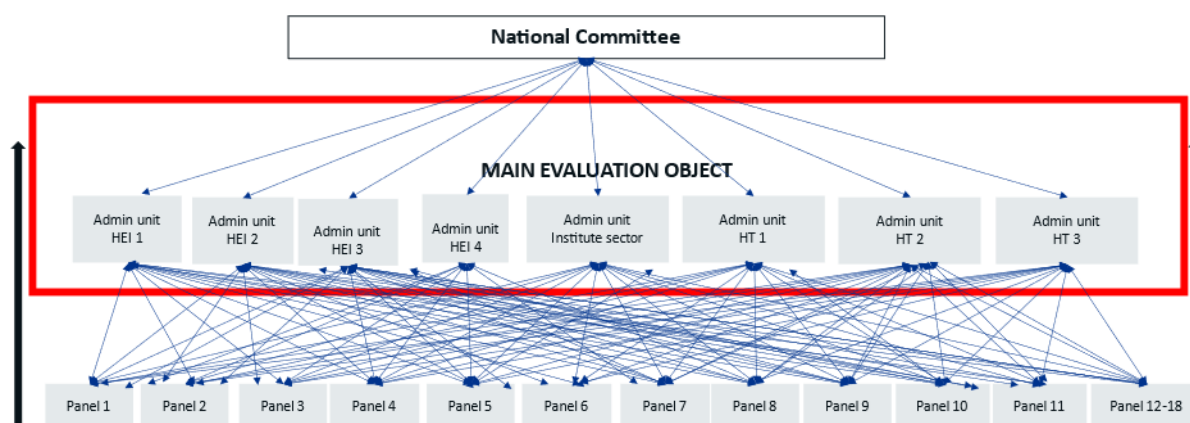
By evaluating Norwegian research and higher education we aim to enhance the quality, relevance, and efficiency. In accordance with the statutes of the Research Council of Norway (RCN), the RCN evaluates Norwegian professional environments to create a solid and up-to-date knowledge base about Norwegian research and higher education in an international perspective.

The evaluation of life sciences is conducted in 2022-2024. The evaluation of medicine takes place in 2023-2024. The evaluation of biosciences was carried out in 2022-2023. The primary aim of the evaluation of life sciences is to reveal and confirm the quality and the relevance of research performed at Norwegian Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), the institute sector and the health trusts. The evaluation shall result in recommendations to the institutions, the RCN and the ministries.

Evaluation of medicine and health (EVALMEDHELSE) 2023-2024

The evaluation of medicine and health includes sixty-eight administrative units (e.g., faculty, department, institution, center, division) which are assessed by evaluation committees according to sectorial affiliation and other relevant similarities between the units. The administrative units enrolled their research groups (315) to eighteen expert panels organised by research subjects or themes and assessed across institutions and sectors.

Organisation of evaluation of medicine and health 2023-2024



The institutions have been allowed to adapt the evaluation mandate (Terms of Reference) to their own strategic goals. This is to ensure that the results of the evaluation will be useful for the institution's own strategic development. The administrative unit together with the research group(s) selects an appropriate benchmark for each of the research group(s).

The Research Council of Norway has commissioned an external evaluation secretariat at Technopolis Group for the implementation of the evaluation process.

Each institution/administrative unit is responsible for following up the recommendations that apply to their own institution/administrative unit. The Research Council will use the results from the evaluation in the development of funding instruments and as a basis for advice to the Government.

The web page for the evaluation of medicine and health 2023-2024: [Evaluation of medicine and health sciences \(forskingsradet.no\)](https://forskingsradet.no/evaluering-av-medisin-og-helsevitenskap)

Se vedlagte adresseliste

Vår saksbehandler / tlf.	Vår ref.	Deres ref.	Sted
Hilde G. Nielsen/40922260	23/3056	[Ref.]	Lysaker 28.4.2023

Invitasjon til å delta i fagevaluering av medisin og helsefag (EVALMEDHELSE) 2023-2024

Vi viser til varsel om oppstart av nye evalueringer sendt institusjonenes ledelse 9. november 2021 (vedlegg 2).

Porteføljestyret for livsvitenskap har vedtatt å gjennomføre fagevaluering av livsvitenskap 2022-2024 som to evalueringer:

- Evaluering av biovitenskap (EVALBIOVIT) (2022-2023)
- Evaluering av medisin og helsefag (EVALMEDHELSE) (2023-2024)

Hovedmålet med fagevalueringen av livsvitenskap 2022-2024 er å vurdere kvalitet og rammebetingelser for livsvitenskapelig forskning i Norge, samt forskningens relevans for sentrale samfunnsområder. Evalueringen skal resultere i anbefalinger til institusjonene, til Forskningsrådet og til departementene. Den forrige fagevalueringen av biologi, medisin og helsefag ble gjennomført i 2010/2011 (vedlegg 3).

Fagevaluering av livsvitenskap retter seg mot UH-sektor, helseforetak og instituttsektor (vedlegg 4). Forskningsrådet forventer at aktuelle forskningsmiljøer deltar i evalueringene, selv om beslutning om deltagelse gjøres ved den enkelte institusjon. Videre ber vi om at deltakende institusjoner setter av tilstrekkelig med ressurser til å delta i evalueringsprosessen, og at institusjonen oppnevner minst én representant som kontaktperson for Forskningsrådet.

Invitasjon til å delta i fagevaluering av medisin og helsefag (2023-2024)

Fagevaluering av medisin og helsefag er organisert over to nivåer (vedlegg 4, side 11). Internasjonale ekspertpaneler vil evaluere forskergrupper på tvers av fag, disiplin og forskningssektorer (UH, institutt og helseforetak) etter kriteriene beskrevet i kapittel 2 i evalueringsprotokollen (vedlegg 4).

Panelrapporten(e) for forskergruppene vil inngå i bakgrunnsdokumentasjonen til forskergruppen(e)s administrative enhet (hovedevalueringsobjektet i evaluering), og som vil bli evaluert i internasjonale

sektorspesifikke evalueringskomiteer. Evalueringskriteriene for administrative enheter er beskrevet i kapittel 2 i evalueringsprotokollen (vedlegg 4).

Innmelding av administrative enheter og forskergrupper – frist 6. juni 2023

Administrative enheter (hovedevalueringsobjektet i evalueringen) – skjema 1

Forskningsrådet inviterer institusjonene til å melde inn sine administrative enhet/er ved å fylle ut skjema 1. Definisjonen av en administrativ enhet i denne evalueringen er å finne på side 3 (kap 1.1) i evalueringsprotokollen (vedlegg 4). Ved innmelding av administrativ/e enhet/er anbefaler Forskningsrådet institusjonene til å se innmelding av administrativ enhet/er i sammenheng med tilpasning av mandat for den administrative enheten (Appendix A i evalueringsprotokollen).

Forskergrupper – skjema 2

Forskningsrådet ber de administrative enheter om å melde inn forskergrupper i tråd med forskergruppedefinisjonen (kap 1.1) og minimumskravene beskrevet i kapittel 1.2 i evalueringsprotokollen. Hver administrative enhet melder inn sin/e forskergruppe/r ved å fylle ut Skjema 2. Vi ber også om at forskergruppene innplasseres i den tentative fagpanelinndelingen for EVALMEDHELSE (vedlegg 5).

Forskningsrådet vil ferdigstille panelstruktur og avgjøre den endelige fordelingen av forskergruppene på fagpaneler etter at alle forskergrupper er meldt inn. Mer informasjon vil bli sendt i slutten av juni 2023.

Invitasjon til å foreslå eksperter – skjema 3

Forskningsrådet inviterer administrative enheter og forskergrupper til å spille inn forslag til eksperter som kan inngå i evalueringskomitéene og i ekspertpanelene. Hver evalueringskomité vil bestå av 7-9 komitémedlemmer, mens hvert ekspertpanel vil bestå av 5-7 eksperter.

Obs. Det er to faner i regnearket:

- FANE 1 – forslag til medlemmer til evalueringskomitéene. Medlemmene i evalueringskomitéene skal inneha bred vitenskapelig kompetanse, både faglig kompetanse og andre kvalifikasjoner som erfaring med ledelse, strategi- og evalueringsarbeid og kunnskapsutveksling.
- FANE 2 – forslag til medlemmer til ekspertpanelene. Medlemmene i ekspertpanelene skal være internasjonalt ledende eksperter innen medisin og helsefaglig forskning og innovasjon.

Utfylte skjemaer (3 stk):

- innmelding av administrative enhet/er (skjema 1)
- innmelding av forskergruppe/er (skjema 2)
- forslag til eksperter (skjema 3)

sendes på epost til evalmedhelse@forskningsradet.no **innen 6. juni 2023.**

Tilpasning av mandat – frist 30. september 2023

Forskningsrådet ber med dette administrative enheter om å tilpasse mandatet (vedlegg 4) ved å opplyse om egne strategiske mål og andre lokale forhold som er relevant for evalueringen.

Tilpasningen gjøres ved å fylle inn de åpne punktene i malen (Appendix A). Utfylt skjema sendes på epost til evalmedhelse@forskningsradet.no innen 30. september 2023.

Digitalt informasjonsmøte 15. mai 2023, kl. 14.00-15.00.

Forskningsrådet arrangerer et digitalt informasjonsmøte for alle som ønsker å delta i EVALMEDHELSE.

Påmelding til informasjonsmøtet gjøres her: [Fagevaluering av medisin og helsefag \(EVALMEDHELSE\) - Digitalt informasjonsmøte \(pameldingssystem.no\)](#) .

Nettsider

Forskningsrådet vil opprette en nettside på www.forskningsradet.no for EVALMEDHELSE hvor informasjon vil bli publisert fortløpende. [Her](#) kan dere lese om Fagevaluering av biovitenskap (EVALBIOVIT) 2022-2023. Fagevaluering av medisin og helsefag vil bli gjennomført etter samme modell.

Spørsmål vedrørende fagevaluering av medisin og helsefag kan rettes til Hilde G. Nielsen, hgn@forskningsradet.no eller mobil 40 92 22 60.

Med vennlig hilsen
Norges forskningsråd

Ole Johan Borge
avdelingsdirektør
Helse

Hilde G. Nielsen
spesialrådgiver
Helse

Dokumentet er elektronisk godkjent og signert og har derfor ikke håndskrevne signaturer.

Kopi

Helse- og omsorgsdepartementet
Kunnskapsdepartementet

Vedlegg

1. Adresseliste
2. Nye fagevalueringer – varsel om oppstart november 2021
3. Erfaringer med oppfølging av fagevaluering av biologi, medisin og helsefag 2010/2011
4. Fagevaluering av livsvitenskap 2022-2024 – Evalueringsprotokoll
5. Tentativ panelinndeling EVALMEDHELSE mai 2023
6. Skjema 1 – Innmeldingsskjema Administrative enheter
7. Skjema 2 – Innmeldingsskjema Forskergrupper
8. Skjema 3 – Forslag til internasjonale eksperter til evalueringskomiteene og ekspertpanelene
9. Appendix A – word format

Evaluation of life sciences in Norway 2022-2023

LIVSEVAL protocol version 1.0

By decision of the Portfolio board for life sciences April 5., 2022

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Oslo, 5 April 2022

ISBN 978-82-12-Klikk her for å fylle ut (xxxxx-x). (pdf)

1 Introduction

Research assessments based on this protocol serve different aims and have different target groups. The primary aim of the evaluation of life sciences is to reveal and confirm the quality and the relevance of research performed at Norwegian Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), and by the institute sector and regional health authorities and health trusts. These institutions will hereafter be collectively referred to as Research Performing Organisations (RPOs). The assessments should serve a formative purpose by contributing to the development of research quality and relevance at these institutions and at the national level.

1.1 Evaluation units

The assessment will comprise a number of *administrative units* submitted for evaluation by the host institution. By assessing these administrative units in light of the goals and strategies set for them by their host institution, it will be possible to learn more about how public funding is used at the institution(s) to facilitate high-quality research and how this research contributes to society. The administrative units will be assessed by evaluation committees according to sectoral affiliation and/or other relevant similarities between the units.

The administrative units will be invited to submit data on their *research groups* to be assessed by expert panels organised by research subject or theme. See Chapter 3 for details on organisation.

<i>Administrative unit</i>	An administrative unit is any part of an RPO that is recognised as a formal (administrative) unit of that RPO, with a designated budget, strategic goals and dedicated management. It may, for instance, be a university faculty or department, a department of an independent research institute or a hospital.
<i>Research group</i>	Designates groups of researchers within the administrative units that fulfil the minimum requirements set out in section 1.2. Research groups are identified and submitted for evaluation by the administrative unit, which may decide to consider itself a single research group.

1.2 Minimum requirements for research groups

- 1) The research group must be sufficiently large in size, i.e. at least five persons in full-time positions with research obligations. This merely indicates the minimum number, and larger units are preferable. In exceptional cases, the minimum number may include PhD students, postdoctoral fellows and/or non-tenured researchers. *In all cases, a research group must include at least three full-time tenured staff.* Adjunct professors, technical staff and other relevant personnel may be listed as group members but may not be included in the minimum number.

- 2) The research group subject to assessment must have been established for at least three years. Groups of more recent date may be accepted if they have come into existence as a consequence of major organisational changes within their host institution.
- 3) The research group should be known as such both within and outside the institution (e.g. have a separate website). It should be able to document common activities and results in the form of co-publications, research databases and infrastructure, software, or shared responsibilities for delivering education, health services or research-based solutions to designated markets.
- 4) In its self-assessment, the administrative unit should propose a suitable benchmark for the research group. The benchmark will be considered by the expert panels as a reference in their assessment of the performance of the group. The benchmark can be grounded in both academic and extra-academic standards and targets, depending on the purpose of the group and its host institution.

1.3 The evaluation in a nutshell

The assessment concerns:

- research that the administrative unit and its research groups have conducted in the previous 10 years
- the research strategy that the administrative units under evaluation intend to pursue going forward
- the capacity and quality of research in life sciences at the national level

The Research Council of Norway (RCN) will:

- provide a template for the Terms of Reference¹ for the assessment of RPOs and a national-level assessment in life sciences
- appoint members to evaluation committees and expert panels
- provide secretarial services
- commission reports on research personnel and publications based on data in national registries
- take responsibility for following up assessments and recommendations at the national level.

RPOs conducting research in life sciences are expected to take part in the evaluation. The board of each RPO under evaluation is responsible for tailoring the assessment to its own strategies and specific needs and for following them up within their own institution. Each participating RPO will carry out the following steps:

- 1) Identify the administrative unit(s) to be included as the main unit(s) of assessment
- 2) Specify the Terms of Reference by including information on specific tasks and/or strategic goals of relevance to the administrative unit(s)

¹ The terms of reference (ToR) document defines all aspects of how the evaluation committees and expert panels will conduct the [research area] evaluation. It defines the objectives and the scope of the evaluation, outlines the responsibilities of the involved parties, and provides a description of the resources available to carry out the evaluation.

- 3) The administrative unit will, in turn, be invited to register a set of research groups that fulfil the minimum criteria specified above (see section 1.2). The administrative unit may decide to consider itself a single research group.
- 4) For each research group, the administrative unit should select an appropriate benchmark in consultation with the group in question. This benchmark can be a reference to an academic level of performance or to the group's contributions to other institutional or sectoral purposes (see section 2.4). The benchmark will be used as a reference in the assessment of the unit by the expert panel.
- 5) The administrative units subject to assessment must provide information about each of their research groups, and about the administrative unit as a whole, by preparing self-assessments and by providing additional documentation in support of the self-assessment.

1.4 Target groups

- Administrative units represented by institutional management and boards
- Research groups represented by researchers and research group leaders
- Research funders
- Government

The evaluation will result in recommendations to the institutions, the RCN and the ministries. The results of the evaluation will also be disseminated for the benefit of potential students, users of research and society at large.

This protocol is intended for all participants in the evaluation. It provides the information required to organise and carry out the research assessments. Questions about the interpretation or implementation of the protocol should be addressed to the RCN.

2 Assessment criteria

The administrative units are to be assessed on the basis of five assessment criteria. The five criteria are applied in accordance with international standards. Finally, the evaluation committee passes judgement on the administrative units as a whole in qualitative terms. In this overall assessment, the committee should relate the assessment of the specific tasks to the strategic goals that the administrative unit has set for itself in the Terms of Reference.

When assessing administrative units, the committees will build on a separate assessment by expert panels of the research groups within the administrative units. See Chapter 3 'Evaluation process and organisation' for a description of the division of tasks.

2.1 Strategy, resources and organisation

The evaluation committee assesses the framework conditions for research in terms of funding, personnel, recruitment and research infrastructure in relation to the strategic aims set for the administrative unit. The administrative unit should address at least the following five specific aspects in its self-assessment: 1) funding sources, 2) national and international cooperation, 3) cross-sector and interdisciplinary cooperation, 4) research careers and mobility, and 5) Open Science. These five aspects relate to how the unit organises and actually performs its research, its composition in terms of leadership and personnel, and how the unit is run on a day-to-day basis.

To contribute to understanding what the administrative unit can or should change to improve its ability to perform, the evaluation committee is invited to focus on factors that may affect performance.

Further, the evaluation committee assesses the extent to which the administrative unit's goals for the future remain scientifically and societally relevant. It is also assessed whether its aims and strategy, as well as the foresight of its leadership and its overall management, are optimal in relation to attaining these goals. Finally, it is assessed whether the plans and resources are adequate to implement this strategy.

2.2 Research production, quality and integrity

The evaluation committee assesses the profile and quality of the administrative unit's research and the contribution the research makes to the body of scholarly knowledge and the knowledge base for other relevant sectors of society. The committee also assesses the scale of the unit's research results (scholarly publications, research infrastructure developed by the unit, and other contributions to the field) and its contribution to Open Science (early knowledge and sharing of data and other relevant digital objects, as well as science communication and collaboration with societal partners, where appropriate).

The evaluation committee considers the administrative unit's policy for research integrity and how violations of such integrity are prevented. It is interested in how the unit deals with research data, data management, confidentiality (GDPR) and integrity, and the extent to which independent and critical pursuit of research is made possible within the unit. Research integrity relates to both the scientific integrity of conducted research and the professional integrity of researchers.

2.3 Diversity and equality

The evaluation committee considers the diversity of the administrative unit, including gender equality. The presence of differences can be a powerful incentive for creativity and talent development in a diverse administrative unit. Diversity is not an end in itself in that regard, but a tool for bringing together different perspectives and opinions.

The evaluation committee considers the strategy and practices of the administrative unit to prevent discrimination on the grounds of gender, age, disability, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or other personal characteristics.

2.4 Relevance to institutional and sectoral purposes

The evaluation committee compares the relevance of the administrative unit's activities and results to the specific aspects detailed in the Terms of Reference for each institution and to the relevant sectoral goals (see below).

Higher Education Institutions

There are 36 Higher Education Institutions in Norway that receive public funding from the Ministry for Education and Research. Twenty-one of the 36 institutions are owned by the ministry, whereas the last 15 are privately owned. The HEIs are regulated under the Act relating to universities and university colleges of 1 August 2005.

The purposes of Norwegian HEIs are defined as follows in the Act relating to universities and university colleges²

- provide higher education at a high international level;
- conduct research and academic and artistic development work at a high international level;
- disseminate knowledge of the institution's activities and promote an understanding of the principle of academic freedom and application of scientific and artistic methods and results in the teaching of students, in the institution's own general activity as well as in public administration, in cultural life and in business and industry.

In line with these purposes, the Ministry for Research and Education has defined four overall goals for HEIs that receive public funding. These goals have been applied since 2015:

- 1) High quality in research and education
- 2) Research and education for welfare, value creation and innovation
- 3) Access to education (esp. capacity in health and teacher education)
- 4) Efficiency, diversity and solidity of the higher education sector and research system

The committee is invited to assess to what extent the research activities and results of each administrative unit have contributed to sectoral purposes as defined above. In particular, the committee is invited to take the share of resources spent on education at the administrative units into account and to assess the relevance and contributions of research to education, focusing on the master's and PhD levels. This assessment should be distinguished from an

² <https://lovdata.no/dokument/NLE/lov/2005-04-01-15?q=universities>

assessment of the quality of education in itself, and it is limited to the role of research in fostering high-quality education.

Research institutes (the institute sector)

Norway's large institute sector reflects a practical orientation of state R&D funding that has long historical roots. The Government's strategy for the institute sector³ applies to the 33 independent research institutes that receive public basic funding through the RCN, in addition to 12 institutes outside the public basic funding system.

The institute sector plays an important and specific role in attaining the overall goal of the national research system, i.e. to increase competitiveness and innovation power to address major societal challenges. The research institutes' contributions to achieving these objectives should therefore form the basis for the evaluation. The main purpose of the sector is to conduct independent applied research for present and future use in the private and public sector. However, some institutes primarily focus on developing a research platform for public policy decisions, others on fulfilling their public responsibilities.

The institutes should:

- maintain a sound academic level, documented through scientific publications in recognised journals
- obtain competitive national and/or international research funding grants
- conduct contract research for private and/or public clients
- demonstrate robustness by having a reasonable number of researchers allocated to each research field

The committee is invited to assess the extent to which the research activities and results of each administrative unit contribute to sectoral purposes and overall goals as defined above. In particular, the committee is invited to assess the level of collaboration between the administrative unit(s) and partners in their own or other sectors.

The hospital sector

There are four regional health authorities (RHF) in Norway. They are responsible for the specialist health service in their respective regions. The RHF are regulated through the Health Enterprises Act of 15 June 2001 and are bound by requirements that apply to specialist and other health services, the Health Personnel Act and the Patient Rights Act. Under each of the regional health authorities, there are several health trusts (HF), which can consist of one or more hospitals. A health trust (HF) is wholly owned by an RHF.

Research is one of the four main tasks of hospital trusts.⁴ The three other main tasks are to ensure good treatment, education and training of patients and relatives. Research is important if the health service is to keep abreast of stay up-to-date with medical developments and carry out critical assessments of established and new diagnostic methods,

³ [Strategy for a holistic institute policy \(Kunnskapsdepartementet 2020\)](#)

⁴ Cf. the Specialist Health Services Act § 3-8 and the Health Enterprises Act §§ 1 and 2

treatment options and technology, and work on quality development and patient safety while caring for and guiding patients.

The committee is invited to assess the extent to which the research activities and results of each administrative unit have contributed to sectoral purposes as described above. The assessment does not include an evaluation of the health services performed by the services.

2.5 Relevance to society

The committee assesses the quality, scale and relevance of contributions targeting specific economic, social or cultural target groups, of advisory reports on policy, of contributions to public debates, and so on. The documentation provided as the basis for the assessment of societal relevance should make it possible to assess relevance to various sectors of society (i.e. business, the public sector, non-governmental organisations and civil society).

When relevant, the administrative units will be asked to link their contributions to national and international goals set for research, including the Norwegian Long-term Plan for Research and Higher Education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Sector-specific objectives, e.g. those described in the Development Agreements for the HEIs and other national guidelines for the different sectors, will be assessed as part of criterion 2.4.

The committee is also invited to assess the societal impact of research based on case studies submitted by the administrative units and/or other relevant data presented to the committee. Academic impact will be assessed as part of criterion 2.2.

3 Evaluation process and organisation

The RCN will organise the assessment process as follows:

- Commission a professional secretariat to support the assessment process in the committees and panels, as well as the production of self-assessments within each RPO
- Commission reports on research personnel and publications within life sciences based on data in national registries
- Appoint one or more evaluation committees for the assessment of administrative units.
- Divide the administrative units between the appointed evaluation committees according to sectoral affiliation and/or other relevant similarities between the units.
- Appoint a number of expert panels for the assessment of research groups submitted by the administrative units.
- Divide research groups between expert panels according to similarity of research subjects or themes.
- Task the chairs of the evaluation committees with producing a national-level report building on the assessments of administrative units and a national-level assessments produced by the expert panels.

Committee members and members of the expert panels will be international, have sufficient competence and be able, as a body, to pass judgement based on all relevant assessment criteria. The RCN will facilitate the connection between the assessment levels of panels and committees by appointing committee members as panel chairs.

3.1 Division of tasks between the committee and panel levels

The expert panels will assess research groups across institutions and sectors, focusing on the first two criteria specified in Chapter 2: 'Strategy, resources and organisation' and 'Research production and quality' The assessments from the expert panels will also be used as part of the evidence base for a report on Norwegian research within life sciences (see section 3.3).

The evaluation committees will assess the administrative units based on all the criteria specified in Chapter 2. The assessment of research groups delivered by the expert panels will be a part of the evidence base for the committees' assessments of administrative units. See figure 1 below.

The evaluation committee has sole responsibility for the assessments and any recommendations in the report. The evaluation committee reaches a judgement on the research based on the administrative units and research groups' self-assessments provided by the RPOs, any additional documents provided by the RCN, and interviews with representatives of the administrative units. The additional documents will include a standardised analysis of research personnel and publications provided by the RCN.

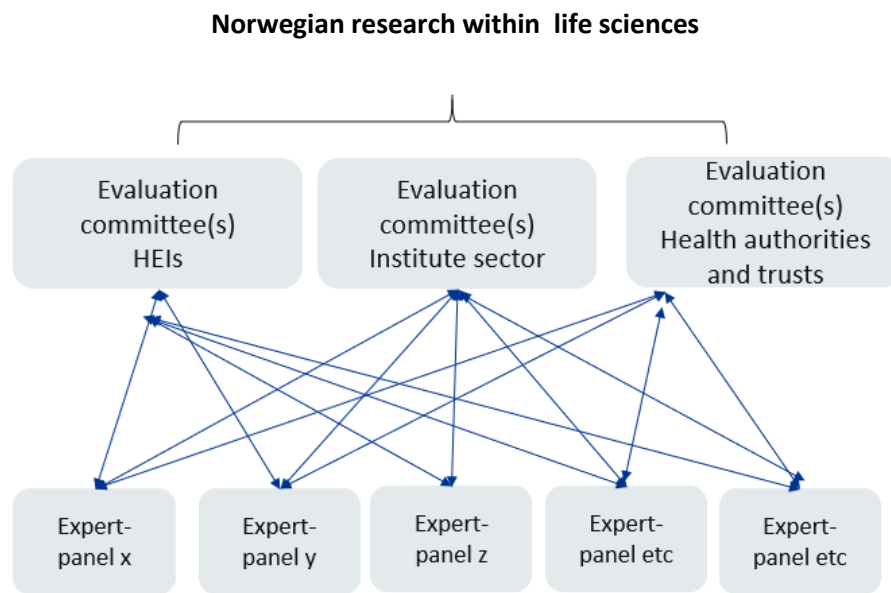


Figure 1. Evaluation committees and expert panels

The evaluation committee takes international trends and developments in science and society into account when forming its judgement. When judging the quality and relevance of the research, the committees shall bear in mind the specific tasks and/or strategic goals that the administrative unit has set for itself including sectoral purposes (see section 2.4 above).

3.2 Accuracy of factual information

The administrative unit under evaluation should be consulted to check the factual information before the final report is delivered to the RCN and the board of the institution hosting the administrative unit.

3.3 National level report

Finally, the RCN will ask the chairs of the evaluation committees to produce a national-level report that builds on the assessments of administrative units and the national-level assessments produced by the expert panels. The committee chairs will present their assessment of Norwegian research in life sciences at the national level in a separate report that pays specific attention to:

- Strengths and weaknesses of the research area in the international context
- The general resource situation regarding funding, personnel and infrastructure
- PhD training, recruitment, mobility and diversity
- Research cooperation nationally and internationally
- Societal impact and the role of research in society, including Open Science

This national-level assessment should be presented to the RCN.

Appendix A: Terms of References (ToR)

[Text in red to be filled in by the Research-performing organisations (RPOs)]

The board of [RPO] mandates the evaluation committee appointed by the Research Council of Norway (RCN) to assess [administrative unit] based on the following Terms of Reference.

Assessment

You are asked to assess the organisation, quality and diversity of research conducted by [administrative unit] as well as its relevance to institutional and sectoral purposes, and to society at large. You should do so by judging the unit's performance based on the following five assessment criteria (a. to e.). Be sure to take current international trends and developments in science and society into account in your analysis.

- a) Strategy, resources and organisation
- b) Research production, quality and integrity
- c) Diversity and equality
- d) Relevance to institutional and sectoral purposes
- e) Relevance to society

For a description of these criteria, see Chapter 2 of the life sciences evaluation protocol. Please provide a written assessment for each of the five criteria. Please also provide recommendations for improvement. We ask you to pay special attention to the following [n] aspects in your assessment:

- 1. ...
- 2. ...
- 3. ...
- 4. ...
- ...

[To be completed by the board: specific aspects that the evaluation committee should focus on – they may be related to a) strategic issues, or b) an administrative unit's specific tasks.]

In addition, we would like your report to provide a qualitative assessment of [administrative unit] as a whole in relation to its strategic targets. The committee assesses the strategy that the administrative unit intends to pursue in the years ahead and the extent to which it will be capable of meeting its targets for research and society during this period based on available resources and competence. The committee is also invited to make recommendations concerning these two subjects.

Documentation

The necessary documentation will be made available by the **life sciences** secretariat at Technopolis Group.

The documents will include the following:

- a report on research personnel and publications within life sciences commissioned by RCN
- a self-assessment based on a template provided by the life sciences secretariat
- **[to be completed by the board]**

Interviews with representatives from the evaluated units

Interviews with the **[administrative unit]** will be organised by the evaluation secretariat. Such interviews can be organised as a site visit, in another specified location in Norway or as a video conference.

Statement on impartiality and confidence

The assessment should be carried out in accordance with the *Regulations on Impartiality and Confidence in the Research Council of Norway*. A statement on the impartiality of the committee members has been recorded by the RCN as a part of the appointment process. The impartiality and confidence of committee and panel members should be confirmed when evaluation data from **[the administrative unit]** are made available to the committee and the panels, and before any assessments are made based on these data. The RCN should be notified if questions concerning impartiality and confidence are raised by committee members during the evaluation process.

Assessment report

We ask you to report your findings in an assessment report drawn up in accordance with a format specified by the life sciences secretariat. The committee may suggest adjustments to this format at its first meeting. A draft report should be sent to the **[administrative unit]** and RCN by [date]. The **[administrative unit]** should be allowed to check the report for factual inaccuracies; if such inaccuracies are found, they should be reported to the life sciences secretariat no later than two weeks after receipt of the draft report. After the committee has made the amendments judged necessary, a corrected version of the assessment report should be sent to the board of **[the RPO]** and the RCN no later than two weeks after all feedback on inaccuracies has been received from **[administrative unit]**.

Appendix B: Data sources

The lists below shows the most relevant data providers and types of data to be included in the evaluation. Data are categorised in two broad categories according to the data source: National registers and self-assessments prepared by the RFOs. The RCN will commission an analysis of data in national registers (R&D-expenditure, personnel, publications etc.) to be used as support for the committees' assessment of administrative units. The analysis will include a set of indicators related to research personnel and publications.

- **National directorates and data providers**
- Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills (HK-dir)
- Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT)
- Norwegian Agency for Shared Services in Education and Research (SIKT)
- Research Council of Norway (RCN)
- Statistics Norway (SSB)

National registers

- 1) R&D-expenditure
 - a. SSB: R&D statistics
 - b. SSB: Key figures for research institutes
 - c. HK-dir: Database for Statistics on Higher Education (DBH)
 - d. RCN: Project funding database (DVH)
 - e. EU-funding: eCorda
- 2) Research personnel
 - a. SSB: The Register of Research personnel
 - b. SSB: The Doctoral Degree Register
 - c. RCN: Key figures for research institutes
 - d. HK-dir: Database for Statistics on Higher Education (DBH)
- 3) Research publications
 - a. SIKT: Cristin - Current research information system in Norway
 - b. SIKT: Norwegian Infrastructure for Bibliometrics
(full bibliometric data incl. citations and co-authors)
- 4) Education
 - a. HK-dir/DBH: Students and study points
 - b. NOKUT: Study barometer
 - c. NOKUT: National Teacher Survey
- 5) Sector-oriented research
 - a. RCN: Key figures for research institutes
- 6) Patient treatments and health care services
 - a. Research & Innovation expenditure in the health trusts
 - b. Measurement of research and innovation activity in the health trusts
 - c. Collaboration between health trusts and HEIs
 - d. Funding of research and innovation in the health trusts
 - e. Classification of medical and health research using HRCS (HO21 monitor)

Self-assessments

1) Administrative units

- a. *Self-assessment covering all assessment criteria*
- b. Administrative data on funding sources
- c. Administrative data on personnel
- d. Administrative data on the division of staff resources between research and other activities (teaching, dissemination etc.)
- e. Administrative data on research infrastructure and other support structures
- f. SWOT analysis
- g. Any supplementary data needed to assess performance related to the strategic goals and specific tasks of the unit

2) Research groups

- a. *Self-assessment covering the first two assessment criteria (see Table 1)*
- b. Administrative data on funding sources
- c. Administrative data on personnel
- d. Administrative data on contribution to sectoral purposes: teaching, commissioned work, clinical work [will be assessed at committee level]
- e. Publication profiles
- f. Example publications and other research results (databases, software etc.)
The examples should be accompanied by an explanation of the groups' specific contributions to the result
- g. Any supplementary data needed to assess performance related to the benchmark defined by the administrative unit

The table below shows how different types of evaluation data may be relevant to different evaluation criteria. Please note that the self-assessment produced by the administrative units in the form of a written account of management, activities, results etc. should cover all criteria. A template for the self-assessment of research groups and administrative units will be commissioned by the RCN from the life sciences secretariat for the evaluation.

Table 1. Types of evaluation data per criterion

Evaluation units Criteria	Research groups	Administrative units
Strategy, resources and organisation	Self-assessment Administrative data	Self-assessment National registers Administrative data SWOT analysis
Research production and quality	Self-assessment Example publications (and other research results)	Self-assessment National registers
Diversity, equality and integrity		Self-assessment National registers Administrative data
Relevance to institutional and sectoral purposes		Self-assessment Administrative data
Relevance to society		Self-assessment National registers Impact cases
Overall assessment	<i>Data related to: Benchmark defined by administrative unit</i>	<i>Data related to: Strategic goals and specific tasks of the admin. unit</i>



Evaluation of Medicine and Health (EVALMEDHELSE) 2023-2024

Self- assessment for administrative units

Date of dispatch: **15 September 2023**
Deadline for submission: **31 January 2024**

Institution (name and short name): _____

Administrative unit (name and short name): _____

Date: _____

Contact person: _____

Contact details (email): _____

Content

Introduction.....	3
Guidelines for completing the self-assessment	4
1. Strategy, resources and organisation.....	5
1.1 Research strategy	5
1.2 Organisation of research	7
1.3 Research staff	7
1.4 Researcher careers opportunities	8
1.5 Research funding.....	8
1.6 Collaboration	9
1.7 Open science policies	11
1.8 SWOT analysis for administrative units.....	11
2. Research production, quality and integrity	12
2.1 Research quality and integrity.....	12
2.2 Research infrastructures	12
3. Diversity and equality	13
4. Relevance to institutional and sectorial purposes	14
4.1 Sector specific impact.....	14
4.2 Research innovation and commercialisation	14
4.3 Higher education institutions.....	15
4.4 Research institutes	15
4.5 Health trusts	15
5. Relevance to society	16
5.1 Impact cases	16

Introduction

The primary aim of the evaluation is to reveal and confirm the quality and the relevance of research performed at Norwegian Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), the institute sector and the health trusts. These institutions will henceforth be collectively referred to as research performing organisations (RPOs). The evaluation report(s) will provide a set of recommendations to the RPOs, the Research Council of Norway (RCN) and the responsible and concerned ministries. The results of the evaluation will also be disseminated for the benefit of potential students, users of research and society at large.

You have been invited to complete this self-assessment as an administrative unit. The self-assessment contains questions regarding the unit's research- and innovation related activities and developments over years 2012-2022. All submitted data will be evaluated by international evaluation committees. The administrative unit's research groups will be assessed by international expert panels who report their assessment to the relevant evaluation committee.

Deadline for submitting self- assessments to the Research Council of Norway – 31 January 2024

As an administrative unit you are responsible for collecting completed self-assessments for each of the research groups that belong to the administrative unit. The research groups need to submit their completed self-assessment to the administrative unit no later than 26 January 2024. The administrative unit will submit the research groups' completed self-assessments and the administrative unit's own completed self-assessment to the Research Council within 31 January 2024.

Please use the following format when naming your document: name of the institution and short name of the administrative unit, e.g. *NTNU_FacMedHealthSci* and send it to evalmedhelse@forskningsradet.no within 31 January 2024.

For questions concerning the self-assessment or EVALMEDHELSE in general, please contact RCN at evalmedhelse@forskningsradet.no.

Thank you!

Guidelines for completing the self-assessment

- Please read the entire self-assessment document before answering.
- The evaluation language is English.
- Please be sure that all documents which are linked to in the self- assessment are in English and are accessible.
- The page format must be A4 with 2 cm margins, single spacing and Calibri and 11-point font.
- The self-assessment follows the same structure as the [evaluation protocol](#). In order to be evaluated on all criteria, the administrative unit must answer all questions.
- Information should be provided by link to webpages i.e. strategy and other planning documents.
 - Provide information – provide documents and other relevant data or figures about the administrative unit, for example strategy and other planning documents.
 - Describe – explain and present using contextual information about the administrative unit and inform the reader about the administrative unit.
 - Reflect – comment in a reflective and evaluative manner how the administrative unit operates.
- Data on personnel should refer to reporting to DBH on 1 October 2022 for HEIs and to the yearly reporting for 2022 for the institute sector and the health trusts. Other data should refer to 31 December 2022, if not specified otherwise.
- Questions in 4.3c should **ONLY** be answered by administrative units responsible for the Cand.med. degree programme, cf. [Evaluation of the Professional programme in Medicine \(NOKUT\)](#).
- It is possible to extend the textboxes when filling in the form. **NB!** A completed self- assessment cannot exceed 50 pages (pdf file) excluding question 4.3.c. The evaluation committees are not requested to read more than the maximum of 50 pages. Pages exceeding maximum limit of 50 pages **might not** be evaluated.
- Submit the self- assessment as a pdf (max 50 pages). Before submission, please be sure that all text are readable after the conversion of the document to pdf. The administrative unit is responsible for submitting the self-assessment of the administrative unit together with the self-assessments of the belonging research group(s) to evalmedhelse@forskningsradet.no within **31 January 2024**.

Please note that information you write in the self- assessment and the links to documents/webpages in the self- assessment are the only available information (data material) for the evaluation committee.

In exceptional cases, documents/publications that are not openly available must be submitted as attachment(s) to the self- assessment (pdf file(s)).

1.Strategy, resources and organisation

1.1 Research strategy

Describe the main strategic goals for research and innovation of the administrative unit. You may include the following:

- How are these goals related to institutional strategies and scientific priorities?
- Describe how the administrative unit's strategies and scientific priorities are related to the "specific aspects that the evaluation committee should focus on" indicated in your Terms of Reference (ToR)
- Describe the main fields and focus of research and innovation in the administrative unit
- Describe the planned research-field impact; planned policy impact and planned societal impact
- Describe how the strategy is followed-up in the allocation of resources and other measures
- Describe the most important occasions where priorities are made (i.e., announcement of new positions, applying for external funding, following up on evaluations)
- If there is no research strategy – please explain why

Table 1. Administrative unit's strategies

For each category present up to 5 documents which are most relevant for the administrative unit. Please delete lines which are not in use.

Research strategy		
No.	Title	Link
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
Outreach strategies		
No.	Title	Link
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
Open science policy		
No.	Title	Link
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

1.2 Organisation of research

a) Describe the organisation of research and innovation activities/projects at the administrative unit, including how responsibilities for research and other purposes (education, knowledge exchange, patient treatment, researcher training, outreach activities etc.) are distributed and delegated.

b) Describe how you work to maximise synergies between the different purposes of the administrative unit (education, knowledge exchange, patient treatment, researcher training, outreach activities etc.).

1.3 Research staff

Describe the profile of research personnel at the administrative unit in terms of position and gender. Institutions in the higher education sector should use the categories used in DBH, <https://dbh.hkdir.no/datainnhold/kodeverk/stillingskoder>.

RCN has commissioned reports from Statistics Norway (SSB) on personnel for the administrative units included in the evaluation. These reports will be made available to the units early November 2023.

Only a subset of the administrative units submitted to the evaluation is directly identifiable in the national statistics. Therefore, we ask all administrative units to provide data on their R&D personnel. Institutions that are directly identifiable in the national statistics (mainly higher education) are invited to use the figures provided in the report delivered by Statistics Norway. Please delete lines which are not in use.

Table 2. Research staff

	Position by category	No. of researcher per category	Share of women per category (%)	No. of researchers who are part of multiple (other) research groups at the admin unit	No. of temporary positions
No. of Personell by position	Position A (Fill in)				
	Position B (Fill in)				
	Position C (Fill in)				
	Position D (Fill in)				

1.4 Researcher careers opportunities

- a) Describe the structures and practices to support researcher careers and help early-career researchers to make their way into the profession.
- b) Describe how research time is distributed among staff including criteria for research leave/sabbaticals (forskningstermin/undervisningsfri).
- c) Describe research mobility options.

1.5 Research funding

- a) Describe the funding sources of the administrative unit. Indicate the administrative unit's total yearly budget and the share of the unit's budget dedicated to research.
- b) Give an overview of the administrative unit's competitive national and/or international grants last five years (2018-2022).

Table 3. R&D funding sources

Please indicate R&D funding sources for the administrative unit for the period 2018-2022 (average NOK per year, last five years).

For Higher Education Institutions: Share of basic grant (grunnbevilgning) used for R&D ¹ For Research Institutes and Health Trusts: Direct R&D funding from Ministries (per ministry)	
Name of ministry	NOK

National grants (bidragsinntekter) (NOK)	
From the ministries and underlying directorates	
From industry	
From public sector	
Other national grants	
Total National grants	
National contract research (oppdragsinntekter) ² (NOK)	
From the ministries and underlying directorates	
From industry	

¹ Shares may be calculated based on full time equivalents (FTE) allocated to research compared to total FTE in administrative unit

² For research institutes only research activities should be included from section 1.3 in the yearly reporting

From public sector	
Other national contract research	
Total contract research	
International grants (NOK)	
From the European Union	
From industry	
Other international grants	
Total international grants	
Funding related to public management (forvaltningsoppgaver) or (if applicable) funding related to special hospital tasks, if any	
Total funding related to public management/special hospital tasks	
Total all R&D budget items (except basic grant)	

1.6 Collaboration

Describe the administrative unit's policy towards national and international collaboration partners, the type of the collaborations the administrative unit have with the partners, how the collaboration is put to practice as well as cross-sectorial and interdisciplinary collaborations.

- Reflect of how successful the administrative unit has been in meeting its aspirations for collaborations
- Reflect on the importance of different types of collaboration for the administrative unit: National and international collaborations. Collaborations with different sectors, including public, private and third sector
- Reflect on the added value of these collaborations to the administrative unit and Norwegian research system

Table 4a. The main national collaborative constellations with the administrative unit

Please categorise the collaboration according to the most important national partner(s): 5-10 institutions in the period 2012-2022. Please delete lines which are not in use.

National collaborations

Collaboration with national institutions – 1 -10	
Name of main collaboration or collaborative project with the admin unit	
Name of partner institution(s)	
Sector of partner/institution(s)/sectors involved	
Impacts and relevance of the collaboration	

Table 4b. The main international collaborative constellations with the administrative unit

Please categorise the collaboration according to the most important international partner(s): 5-10 international institutions in the period 2012-2022. Please delete lines which are not in use.

International collaborations

Collaboration with international institutions – 1-10	
Name of main collaboration or collaborative project with the admin unit	
Name of partner institution(s)	
Sector of partner/institution(s)/sectors involved	

Impacts and relevance of the collaboration	
--	--

1.7 Open science policies

a) Describe the institutional policies, approaches, and activities to the Open Science areas which may include the following:

- Open access to publications
- Open access to research data and implementation of FAIR data principles
- Open-source software/tools
- Open access to educational resources
- Open peer review
- Citizen science and/or involvement of stakeholders / user groups
- Skills and training for Open Science

b) Describe the most important contributions and impact of the administrative unit's researchers towards the different Open Science areas cf. 1.7a above.

c) Describe the institutional policy regarding ownership of research data, data management, and confidentiality. Is the use of data management plans implemented at the administrative unit?

1.8 SWOT analysis for administrative units

Instructions: Please complete a SWOT analysis for your administrative unit. Reflect on what are the major internal Strengths and Weaknesses as well as external Threats and Opportunities for your research and innovation activities/projects and research environment. Assess what the present Strengths enable in the future and what kinds of Threats are related to the Weaknesses. Consider your scientific expertise and achievements, funding, facilities, organisation and management.

Internal	Strengths	Weaknesses
External	Opportunities	Threats

2. Research production, quality and integrity

2.1 Research quality and integrity

Please see the bibliometric analysis for the administrative unit developed by NIFU (available by the end of October, 2023).

a) Describe the scientific focus areas of the research conducted at the administrative unit, including the unit's contribution to these areas.

b) Describe the administrative unit's policy for research integrity, including preventative measures when integrity is at risk, or violated.

2.2 Research infrastructures

a) Participation in national infrastructure

Describe the most important participation in the national infrastructures listed in the Norwegian roadmap for research infrastructures (Norsk veikart for forskningsinfrastruktur) including as host institution(s).

Table 5. Participation in national infrastructure

Please present up to 5 participations in the national infrastructures listed in the Norwegian roadmap for research infrastructures (Norsk veikart for forskningsinfrastruktur) for each area that were the most important to your administrative unit.

Areas in roadmap	Name of research infrastructure	Period (from year to year)	Description	Link to website

b) Participation in international infrastructures

Describe the most important participation in the international infrastructures funded by the ministries (Norsk deltakelse i internasjonale forskningsorganisasjoner finansiert av departementene).

Table 6. Participation in international infrastructure

Please describe up to 5 participations in international infrastructures for each area that have been most important to your administrative unit.

Project	Name	Period (from year to year)	Description	Link to infrastructure

c) Participation in European (ESFRI) infrastructures

Describe the most important participation in European (ESFRI) infrastructures (Norske medlemskap i infrastruktur i ESFRI roadmap) including as host institution(s).

Table 7. Participation in infrastructures on the ESFRI Roadmap

Please give a description of up to 5 participations that have been most important to your administrative unit.

Social sciences and the humanities				
Name	ESFRI-project	Summary of participation	Period (from year to year)	Link

d) Access to research infrastructures

Describe access to relevant national and/or international research infrastructures for your researchers. Considering both physical and digital infrastructure.

e) FAIR- principles

Describe what is done at the unit to fulfil the FAIR-principles.

3. Diversity and equality

Describe the policy and practices to protect against any form of discrimination and to promote diversity in the administrative unit.

Table 8. Administrative unit policy against discrimination

Give a description of up to 5 documents that are the most relevant. If the administrative unit uses the strategies, policies, etc. of a larger institution, then these documents should be referred to. Please delete lines which are not in use.

No.	Name	Valid period	Link
1			

4.Relevance to institutional and sectorial purposes

4.1 Sector specific impact

Describe whether the administrative unit has activities aimed at achieving sector-specific objectives or focusing on contributing to the knowledge base in general. Describe activities connected to sector-specific objectives, the rationale for participation and achieved and/or expected impacts. Please refer to chapter 2.4 in the [evaluation protocol](#).

- Alternatively, describe whether the activities of the administrative unit are aimed at contribution to the knowledge base in general. Describe the rationale for this approach and the impacts of the unit's work to the knowledge base.

4.2 Research innovation and commercialisation

- a) Describe the administrative unit's practices for innovation and commercialisation.
- b) Describe the motivation among the research staff in doing innovation and commercialisation activities.
- c) Describe how innovation and commercialisation is supported at the administrative unit.

Table 9. Policies for innovation including IP policies, new patents, licenses, start-up/spin-off guidelines

Describe up to 5 documents of the administrative unit's policies for innovation, including IP policies, new patents, licenses, start-up/spin-off guidelines, etc., that are the most relevant. If the administrative unit uses the strategies, policies, etc. of a larger institution, then present these documents. Please delete lines which are not in use.

No.	Name	Valid period	Link
1			

Table 10. Administrative description of successful innovation and commercialisation results

Please describe up to 10 successful innovation and commercialisation results at your administrative unit in the period 2012-2022. Please delete lines which are not in use.

No.	Name of innovation and commercial results	Link	Description of successful innovation and commercialisation result.
1			

4.3 Higher education institutions

a) Reflect how research at the administrative unit contributes towards master and PhD-level education provision, at your institutions and beyond.

b) Describe the opportunities for master students to become involved in research activities at the administrative unit.

c) **ONLY** for administrative units responsible for the Cand.med. degree programme, cf. [Evaluation of the Professional programme in Medicine \(NOKUT\)](#).

- Reflect on how research at the administrative unit contributes towards the quality of the Cand.med. degree programme at your institutions and beyond.
- Describe the different opportunities for students on the Cand.med. degree programme to become involved in research activities at the administrative unit, and the extent to which students use those opportunities.

4.4 Research institutes

a) Describe how the research and innovation activities/projects at the administrative unit contribute to the knowledge base for policy development, sustainable development, and societal and industrial transformations more generally.

b) Describe the most important research activities with partners outside of research organisations.

4.5 Health trusts

a) Reflect on how the administrative unit's clinical research, innovation and commercialisation contribute towards development, assessment and implementation of new diagnostic methods, treatment, and healthcare technologies.

b) Reflect on how research at the unit contributes towards the quality of relevant education programme at your institutions or beyond.

c) Describe the different opportunities for students on relevant educational programmes to become involved in research activities at the administrative unit, and the extent to which students use those opportunities.

5.Relevance to society

Reflect on the administrative unit's contribution towards the Norwegian Long-term plan for research and higher education, societal challenges more widely, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

5.1 Impact cases

Please use the attached template for impact cases. Each impact case should be submitted as an attachment (pdf) to the self-assessment.

Impact case guidelines

Each case study should include sufficiently clear and detailed information to enable the evaluation committee to make judgements based on the information it contains, without making inferences, gathering additional material, following up references or relying on members' prior knowledge. References to other sources of information will be used for verification purposes only, not as a means for the evaluation committee to gather further information to inform judgements.

In this evaluation, impact is defined as an effect on, change or benefit to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life, beyond academia.

Timeframes

- The impact must have occurred between 2012 and 2022
- Some of the underpinning research should have been published in 2012 or later
- The administrative units are encouraged to prioritise recent cases

Page limit

Each completed case study template will be limited to **five pages** in length. Within the annotated template below, indicative guidance is provided about the expected maximum length limit of each section, but institutions will have flexibility to exceed these so long as the case study as a whole remains no longer than **five pages** (font Calibri, font size 11). Please write the text into the framed template under the sections 1–5 below. The guiding text that stands there now, can be deleted.

Maximum number of cases permitted per administrative unit

For up to 10 researchers: one case; for 10 to 30 researchers: two cases; for 30-50 researchers: three cases; for 50-100 researchers: four cases, and up to five cases for units exceeding 100 researchers.

Naming and numbering of cases

Please use the standardised short name for the administrative unit, and the case number for the unit (1,2,3, etc) in the headline of the case. Each case should be stored as a separate PDF-document with the file name: [Name of the institution and name of the administrative unit] [case number]

Publication of cases

RCN plans to publish all impact cases in a separate evaluation report. By submitting the case the head of the administrative units consents to the publication of the case. Please indicate below if a case may not be made public for reasons of confidentiality.

If relevant, describe any reason to keep this case confidential:

Please write the text here

[Name of the institution and name of the administrative unit] [case number]

Institution:
Administrative unit:
Title of case study:
Period when the underpinning research was undertaken:
Period when staff involved in the underpinning research were employed by the submitting institution:
Period when the impact occurred:

1. Summary of the impact (indicative maximum 100 words)

This section should briefly state what specific impact is being described in the case study.

2. Underpinning research (indicative maximum 500 words)

This section should outline the key research insights or findings that underpinned the impact, and provide details of what research was undertaken, when, and by whom. This research may be a body of work produced over a number of years or may be the output(s) of a particular project. References to specific research outputs that embody the research described in this section, and evidence of its quality, should be provided in the next section. Details of the following should be provided in this section:

- The nature of the research insights or findings which relate to the impact claimed in the case study.
- An outline of what the underpinning research produced by the submitted unit was (this may relate to one or more research outputs, projects or programmes).
- Dates of when it was carried out.
- Names of the key researchers and what positions they held at the administrative unit at the time of the research (where researchers joined or left the administrative unit during this time, these dates must also be stated).
- Any relevant key contextual information about this area of research.

3. References to the research (indicative maximum of six references)

This section should provide references to key outputs from the research described in the previous section, and evidence about the quality of the research. All forms of output cited as underpinning research will be considered equitably, with no distinction being made between the types of output referenced. Include the following details for each cited output:

- Author(s)
 - Title
 - Year of publication
 - Type of output and other relevant details required to identify the output (for example, DOI, journal title and issue)
 - Details to enable the panel to gain access to the output, if required (for example, a DOI or URL).
- All outputs cited in this section must be capable of being made available to panels. If they are not available in the public domain, the administrative unit must be able to provide them if requested by RCN or the evaluation secretariate.

4. Details of the impact (indicative maximum 750 words)

This section should provide a narrative, with supporting evidence, to explain:

- How the research underpinned (made a distinct and material contribution to) the impact;
- The nature and extent of the impact.

The following should be provided:

- A clear explanation of the process or means through which the research led to, underpinned or made a contribution to the impact (for example, how it was disseminated, how it came to influence users or beneficiaries, or how it came to be exploited, taken up or applied).

- Where the submitted administrative unit's research was part of a wider body of research that contributed to the impact (for example, where there has been research collaboration with other institutions), the case study should specify the particular contribution of the submitted administrative unit's research and acknowledge other key research contributions.
- Details of the beneficiaries – who or what community, constituency or organisation has benefitted, been affected or impacted on.
- Details of the nature of the impact – how they have benefitted, been affected or impacted on.
- Evidence or indicators of the extent of the impact described, as appropriate to the case being made.
- Dates of when these impacts occurred.

5. Sources to corroborate the impact (indicative maximum of ten references)

Institution	Administrative unit	Name of research group	Expert panel
UiT	School of Sport Sciences	School of Sport Sciences	Panel 4b

Scales for research group assessment

Use whole integers only – no fractions!

Organisational dimension

Score	Organisational environment
5	An organisational environment that is outstanding for supporting the production of excellent research.
4	An organisational environment that is very strong for supporting the production of excellent research.
3	An organisational environment that is adequate for supporting the production of excellent research.
2	An organisational environment that is modest for supporting the production of excellent research.
1	An organisational environment that is not supportive for the production of excellent research.

Quality dimension

The quality dimension consists of two judgements: 1) Research and publication quality, and 2) Research group's contribution. The first judgement is defined as follows:

Score	Research and publication quality	Supporting explanation
5	Quality that is outstanding in terms of originality, significance, and rigour.	The quality of the research is world leading in terms of quality, and is comparable to the best work internationally in the same area of research. The publications submitted provide evidence that the work of the group meets the highest international standards in terms of originality, significance, and rigour. Work at this level should be a key international reference in its area.
4	Quality that is internationally excellent in terms of originality, significance and rigour but which falls short of the highest standards of excellence.	The quality of the research is internationally excellent. The research is clearly of an international standard, with a very good level of quality in terms of originality, significance, and rigour. Work at this level can arouse significant interest in the international academic community, and international journals with the most rigorous standards of publication (irrespective of the place or language of publication) could publish work of this level.
3	Quality that is recognised internationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour.	The quality of the research is sufficient to achieve some international recognition. It would be perceived nationally as strong and may occasionally reach an internationally recognised level in terms of originality, significance and rigour. Internationally recognised journals could publish some work of this level.
2	Quality that meets the published definition of research for the purposes of this assessment.	The international academic community would deem the research to be nationally acceptable, but below world standards. Legitimate nationally recognised peer-reviewed journals could publish work of this level.
1	Quality that falls below the published definition of research for the purposes of this assessment ¹ .	The quality of the research is well below international level, and is unpublishable in legitimate peer-reviewed research journals.

¹ A publication has to meet all of the criteria below:

Societal impact dimension

The societal impact dimension is also composed of two judgements, defined as presented in the table below.

Score	Research group's societal contribution, taking into consideration the resources available to the group	Score	User involvement
5	The group has contributed extensively to economic, societal and/or cultural development in Norway and/or internationally.	5	Societal partner involvement is outstanding – partners have had an important role in all parts of the research process, from problem formulation to the publication and/or process or product innovation.
4	The group's contribution to economic, societal and/or cultural development in Norway and/or internationally is very considerable given what is expected from groups in the same research field.	4	Societal partners have very considerable involvement in all parts of the research process, from problem formulation to the publication and/or process or product innovation.
3	The group's contribution to economic, societal and/or cultural development in Norway and/or internationally is on par with what is expected from groups in the same research field.	3	Societal partners have considerable involvement in the research process, from problem formulation to the publication and/or process or product innovation.
2	The group's contribution to economic, societal and/or cultural development in Norway and/or internationally is modest given what is expected from groups in the same research field.	2	Societal partners have a modest part in the research process, from problem formulation to the publication and/or process or product innovation.
1	There is little documentation of contributions from the group to economic, societal and/or cultural development in Norway and/or internationally.	1	There is little documentation of societal partners' participation in the research process, from problem formulation to the publication and/or process or product innovation.

Methods and limitations

Methods

The evaluation is based on documentary evidence and online interviews with the representatives of Administrative Unit.

The documentary inputs to the evaluation were:

- Evaluation Protocol Evaluation of life sciences in Norway 2022-2023
- Administrative Unit's Terms of Reference
- Administrative Unit's self-assessment report
- Administrative Unit's impact cases
- Administrative Unit's research groups evaluation reports
- Panel reports from the Expert panels
- Bibliometric data (*NIFU Nordic Institute for Studies of innovation, research and education*)
- Personnel data (*Statistics Norway (SSB)*)
- Funding data – The Research Council's contribution to biosciences research (*RCN*)
- Extract from the Survey for academic staff and the Student Survey (*Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT)*)

After the documentary review, the Committee held a meeting and discussed an initial assessment against the assessment criteria and defined questions for the interview with the Administrative Unit. The Committee shared the interview questions with the Administrative Unit two weeks before the interview.

Following the documentary review, the Committee interviewed the Administrative Unit in an hour-long virtual meeting to fact-check the Committee's understanding and refine perceptions. The Administrative Unit presented answers to the Committee's questions and addressed other follow-up questions.

After the online interview, the Committee attended the final meeting to review the initial assessment in light of the interview and make any final adjustments.

A one-page summary of the Administrative Unit was developed based on the information from the self-assessment, the research group assessment, and the interview. The Administrative Unit had the opportunity to fact-check this summary. The Administrative Unit approved the summary without adjustments. ***(Adjust the text if the AU asked for corrections. Include the AU request and explain what adjustments were made).***

Limitations

(Choose one of the three options below and delete the others. Feel free to elaborate slightly if necessary. For example, if you choose option 3, explain the missing information. Note that the Committee can provide detailed feedback and suggestions on improving the evaluation in the Memorandum to the RCN. This section has to remain concise and only summarise whether the information was or was not sufficient.)

- (1) The Committee judged the information received through documentary inputs and the interview with the Administrative Unit sufficient to complete the evaluation.

- (2) The Committee judged that the Administrative Unit self-assessment report was insufficient to assess all evaluation criteria fully. However, the interview with the Administrative Unit filled gaps in the Committee's understanding, and the information was sufficient to complete the evaluation.
- (3) The Committee judged that the Administrative Unit's self-assessment report was insufficient to assess all evaluation criteria fully, and some information gaps remained after the interview with the Administrative Unit.

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