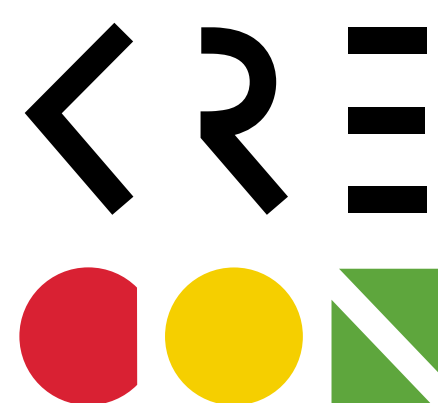




Knowledge
Research
Education
Conference
2024

14.–15. 11. 2024

**Strategic Support for Science: Main directions
and challenges**

Current debates in Norway: Changes in the performance-based funding system and the mix between external and block funding

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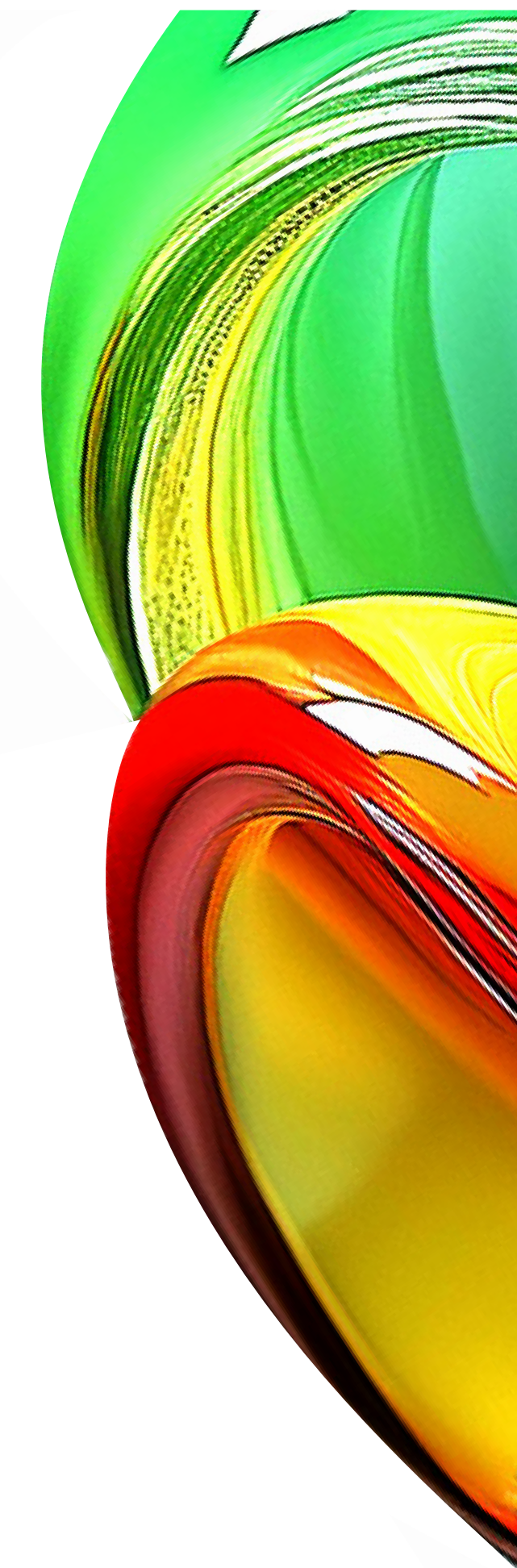
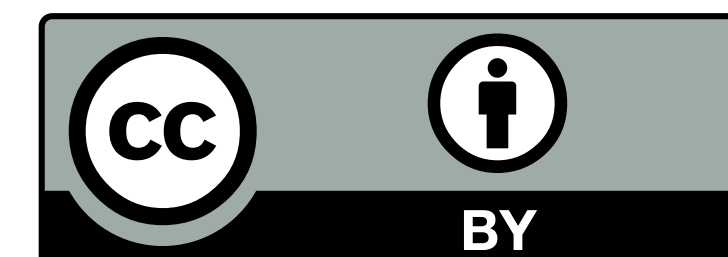
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Národní technická knihovna
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Národní centrum
pro informační podporu výzkumu,
vývoje a inovací



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,
YOUTH AND SPORTS



Current debates in Norway: changes in the performance-based funding system and the mix between external and block funding

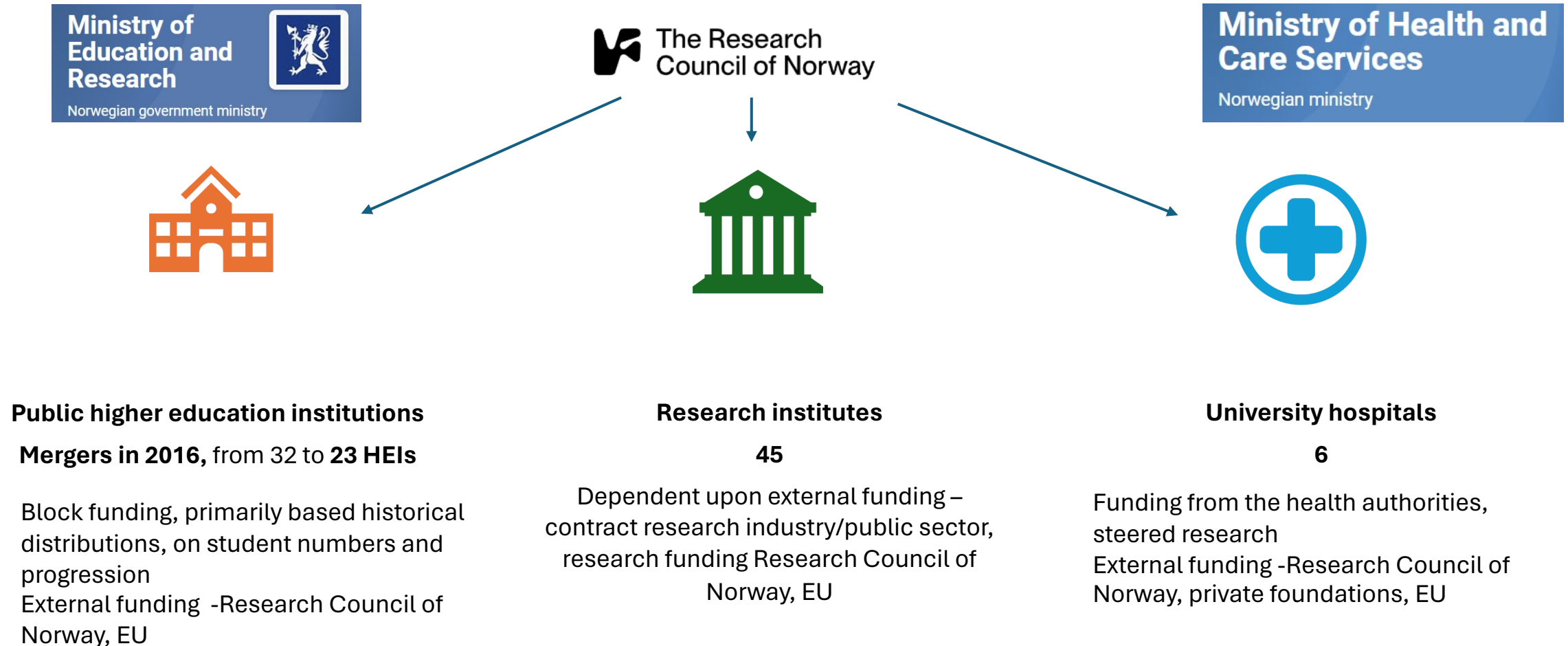
KRECon 2024, Prague

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head of section, Oslo Metropolitan University,
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STORBYUNIVERSITETET
OSLO METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY



Research and higher education system



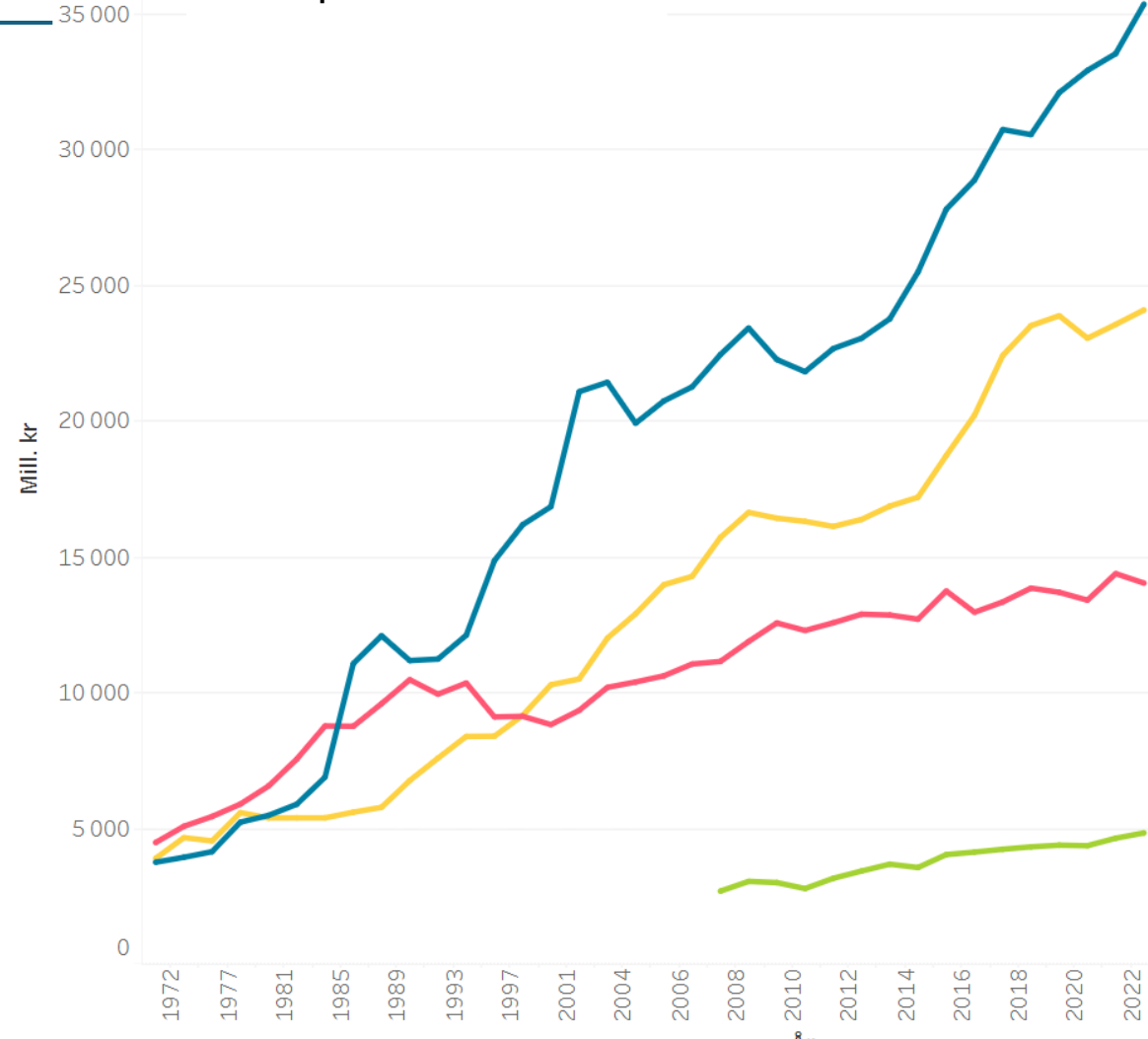
R&D expenditure per sector

- Industry
- Higher education
- Research institutes
- University hospitals

Source: Statistic Norway

3,5 bill Euro

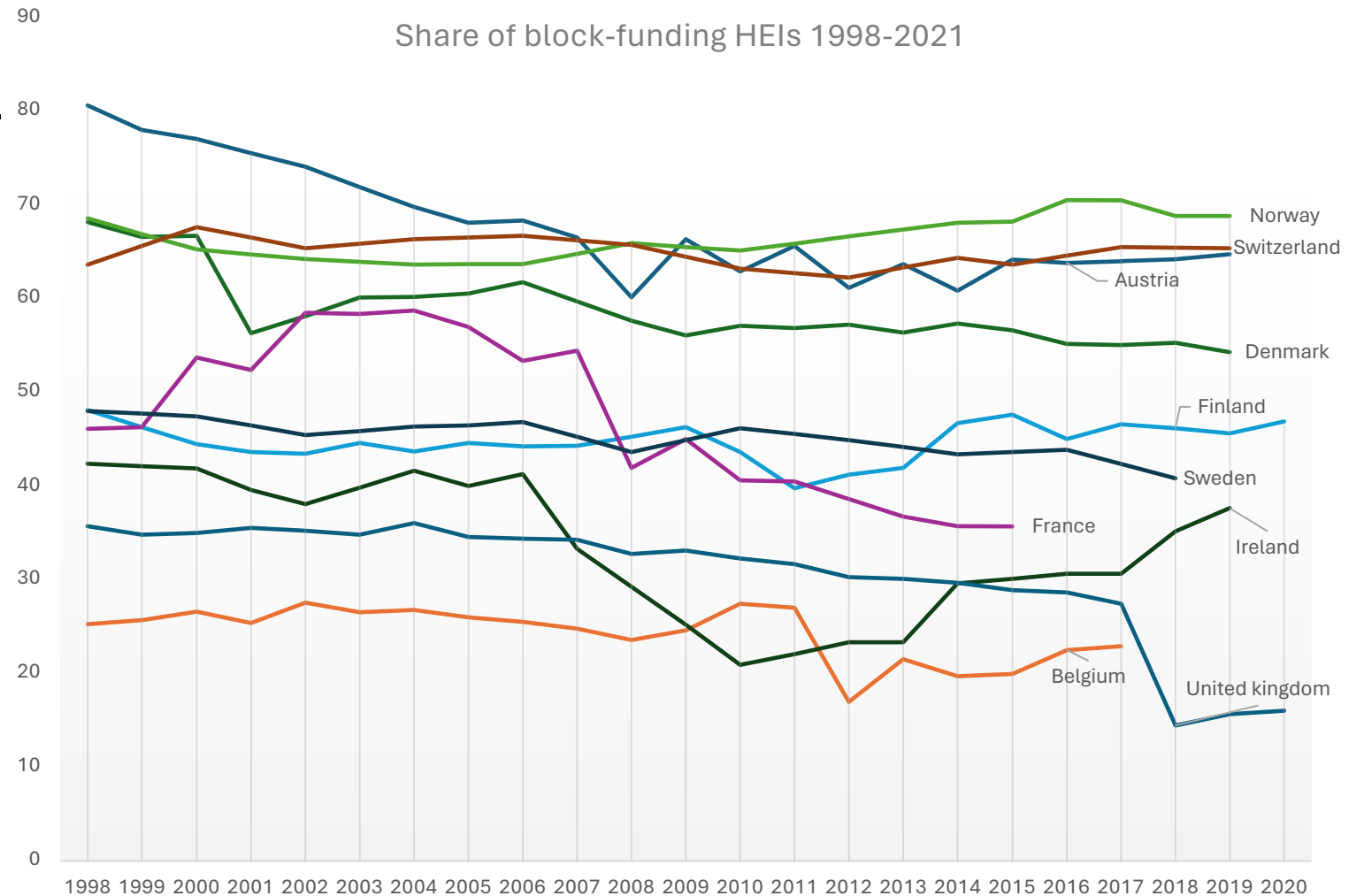
2015 prices



Funding sources – external, performance-based and block-funding

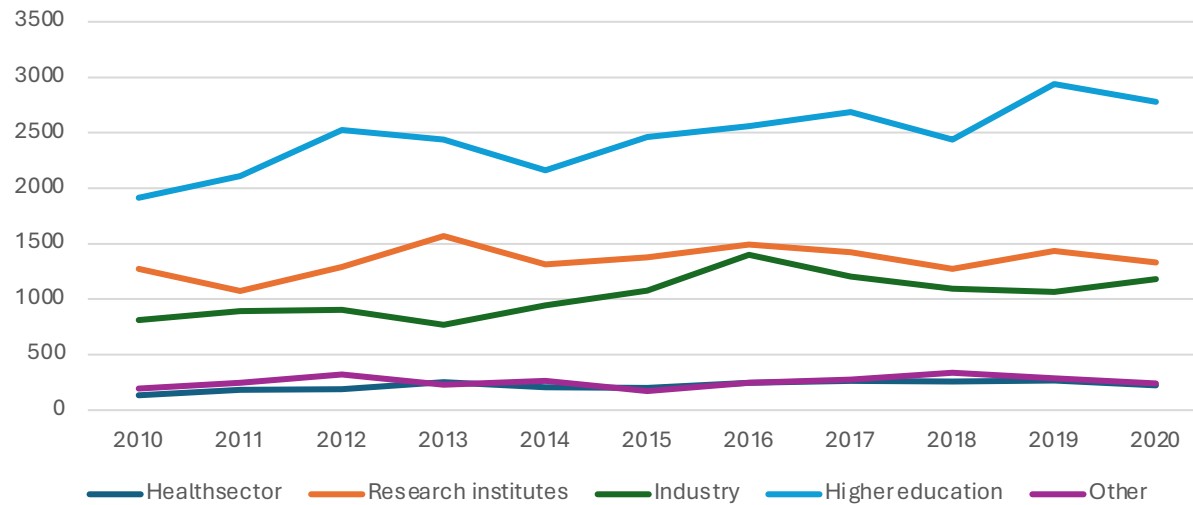
- Share of block -funding HEIs total funding

Source: OECD

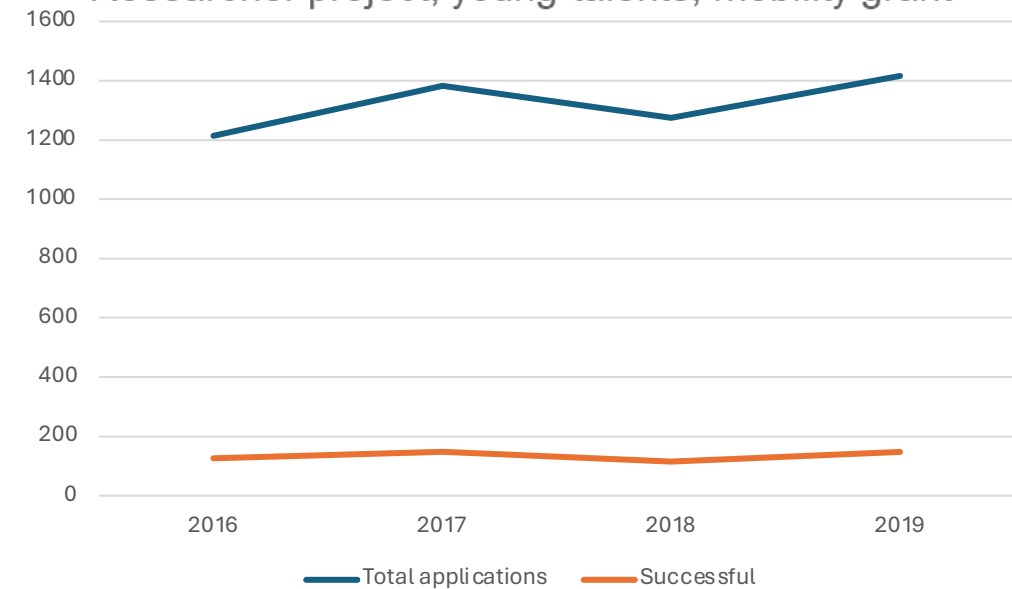


Increased competition for external funding

Number of grant applications



Researcher project, young talents, mobility grant



Success rate: ca 10%

Source: Research Council of Norway

Performance-based funding 2023

- Three different systems for HEIs, research institutes, university hospitals

	HEIs	Research Institutes	University hospitals
Phd candidates	x	x	x
Funding from national research council	x		x
Funding from EU	x		x
Scientific publications	x	x	x
Commissioned research		x	
International commissioned research		x	
Funding from industry/public sector	x		

Performance-based funding 2024

	HEIs	Research Institutes	University hospitals
Phd candidates	x	x	x
Funding from national research council			x
Funding from EU			x
Scientific publications		x	x
Commissioned research		x	
International commissioned research		x	
Funding from industry/public sector			

Why these changes?

- Too much attention from the HEIs and researchers on getting external funding - high competition
- Incentives for research has «had is function» in HEIs
 - Some HEIs have made their own adaptations – e.g. kept the incentives in their own internal funding models
- HEIs had become similar, less diversification in the system
- ➔ Increased dialogue orientated steering - Development agreements since 2018
 - Ministry and the individual HEIs

Changes in evaluation of research

- Research evaluation is the responsibility of the Research Council of Norway
 - Previous
 - Now emphasis on the impact of research and the role of research in development
- > Making research more visible and aware of their role in development

DEVELOPMENT

Centres of Excellence

Excellence initiatives - CoE

- Almost two decades of excellence-funding in Norway (and Denmark and Netherlands)
 - Resources spread out – CoE a legitimate way of concentrating resources
 - Who is against excellence?
- Established in 2002, 44 centres, 4300 researchers, post docs and phds
- Flexible and long-term funding is granted for a period of 10 years through highly competitive calls for proposals.
- Centres vary in size, are found in different fields and are hosted by different types of institutions, herein universities, research institutes and university hospitals.



Experiences from the Norwegian CoE-scheme

The upside

- Bottom-up initiatives
- Organisational level
 - Strategic management, internal processes
- Attractive employers
- International and national networks
- Enables interdisciplinarity

Challenges

- Organisational integration
- Field differences
- Molded on one-model based on big science
 - Not ideal for the humanities
- Matthew effect
- Temporal positions

Changing policies....

- Bye excellence - hello relevance?!
- Increased emphasis on the research organisations and their capacity for leadership

A surreal landscape with rolling, dry hills under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. A large, bright sun is visible in the upper left corner. A tall, dark blue ladder stands vertically in the center of the frame, extending from the ground to the top of the image. The text "Future challenges and threats" is overlaid in the center of the image, partially obscuring the ladder and the sky.

Future challenges and threats

Challenge # 1 Budget cuts or no growth

- Higher education institutions experience budget cuts
 - Closing down study programmes
 - Stop in hiring
 - Letting staff off
- Budget cuts in the Research Council of Norway
 - Less funding
 - Continuation, limited renewal
 - ➔ looking for other sources (EU)
- Increase funding to R&D from the industry...



Notions of research quality is context dependent

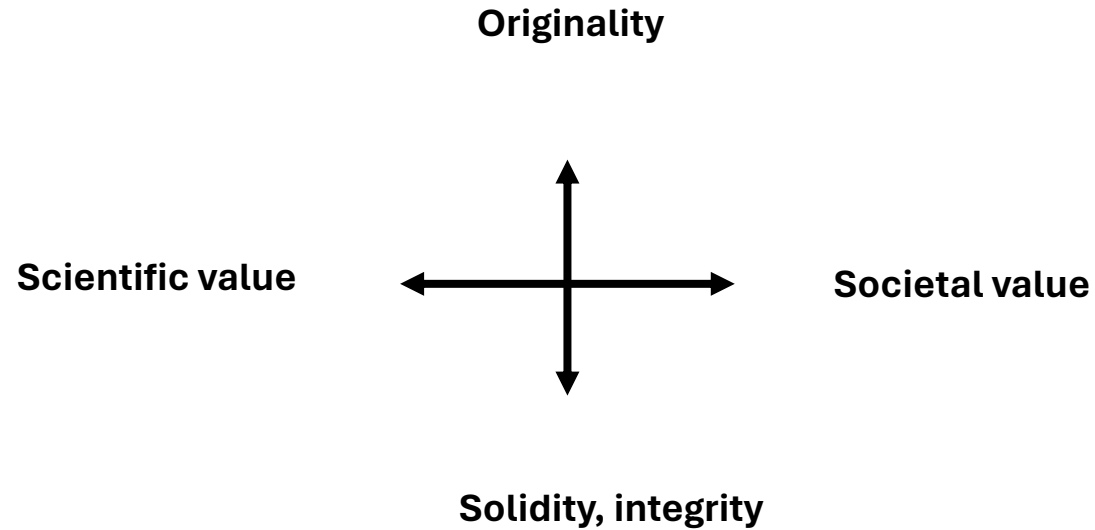
	Field (F-type)	Policy and funding (S (space)-type)
Subjects	Specialised knowledge communities	Knowledgeable lay groups
Judgement anchor	Fields/discipline	Societal concerns
Enforcement	Peer review	Regional, national and local evaluation regimes
Standards/criteria	Substantive judgement	Proxies/indicators

Source: Langfeldt, Nedeva, Sörlin, Thomas. 2019. Co-existing Notions of Research Quality. *Minerva*, 10.1007/s11024-019-09385-2

Policy/funding (S-type): want more unitary notion, measures

F-type: heterogenous notions, depends on field - may be disagreement and uncertainty

Research quality is a multidimensional concept



Challenges – juggling several policies at the same time

- Concentration of resources to build and sustain good research quality is important – but who should prioritise what?
- International forefront and national and regional relevance?
- The scientific modus operandi and applying other criteria/dimensions in contexts where research is evaluated:
 - Grant applications
 - Recruitments, promotions
 - Research evaluation/ evaluation of HEIs
- CoARA – agenda setting policy, but can it be implemented?

Thank you for your attention

Further reading, please see: www.r-request.no

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