

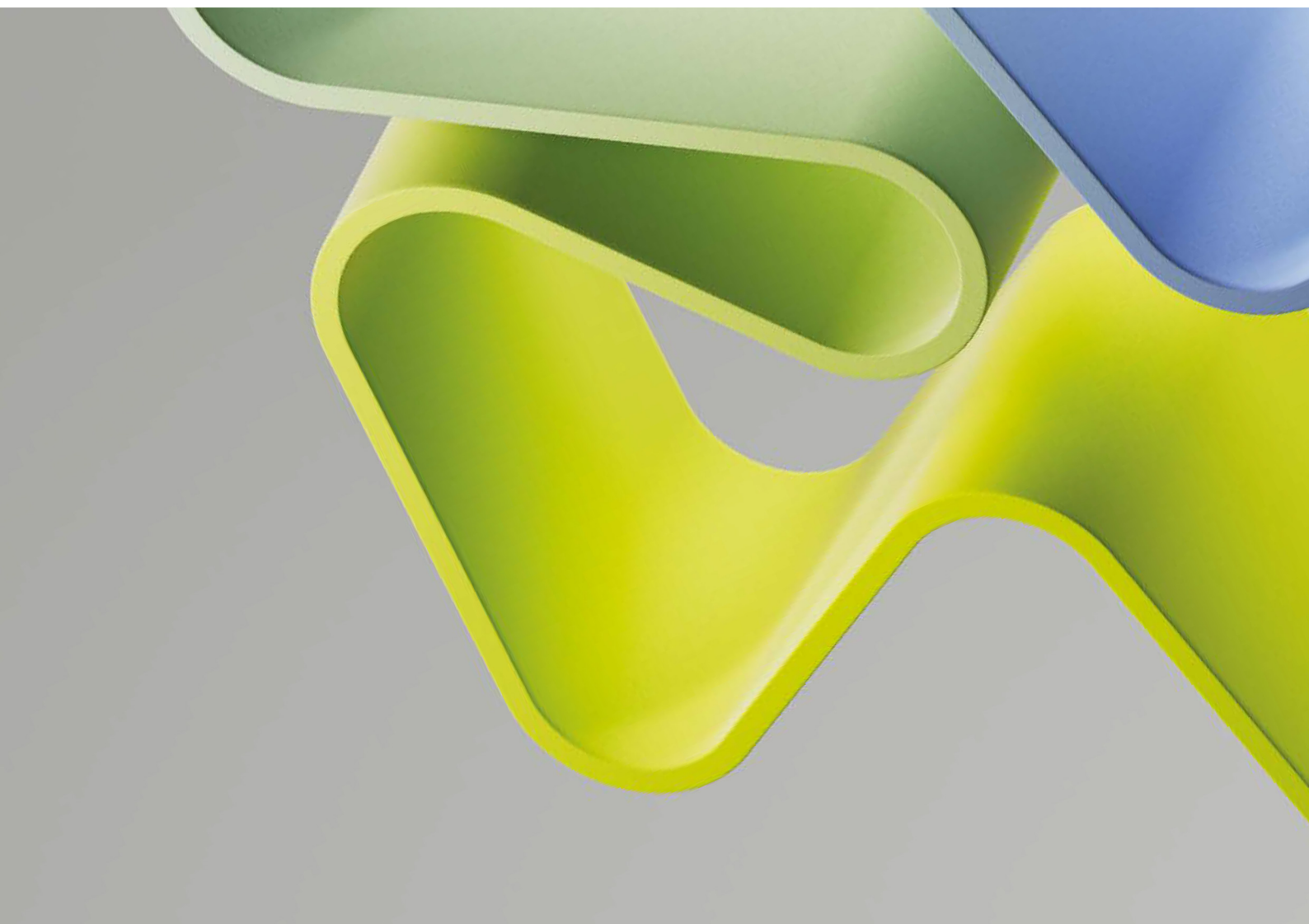
Evaluation of Medicine and Health 2023-2024

Evaluation report – Panel 4c

Research Group: Cluster for Health Services Services

Administrative Unit: Division of Health Services

Institution: Norwegian institute of Public Health



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Preface

The Research Council of Norway (RCN) is given the task by the Ministry of Education and Research to perform subject-specific evaluations. The primary aim of the evaluation of medicine and health (EVALMEDHELSE) 2023-2024 is to reveal and confirm the quality and relevance of research performed at Norwegian Higher Education institutions, research institutions (the institute sector) and the health trusts, in an international perspective. Such knowledge is useful for the institutions that participate in the evaluation, for the Research Council who advise the authorities on how research should be developed further, and for the authorities, who set targets and frameworks for research and higher education. Research groups submitted by their administrative unit will be assessed by 18 expert panels organised by research subjects or themes. The expert panels will assess research groups across institutions and sectors based on research group's self-assessments and examples of scholarly output. These research reports will be part of the evaluation of their belonging administrative units.

Abstract

The Cluster for Health Services Research origin is from a merge of several units into the Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH), division for health services (DHS) between 2017 and 2022: Norwegian Knowledge Center for the Health Services, National Competence Center for Migration and Minority Health (NAKMI), and National Competence Service for Breastfeeding, (NKA). The aim of the research group is to strengthen the knowledge base for decisions in the Norwegian health services. The group collaborates with several national and international universities and research institutions and OECD. The research group has published in top international peer review journals and has remarkable societal contribution producing useful outputs at national and international levels. It was particularly mobilised as a response to the covid-19 crisis.

Overall assessment

The aim of the research group is to strengthen the knowledge base for decisions in the Norwegian health services. The merge of research units has enabled the research group to achieve an appreciable multidisciplinary critical mass needed to conduct high-quality research in this field. One of the group's strengths is its strategy of combining high-level scientific development and decision support. However, the number of PHD students is a bit low in relation to the number of researchers. Although the proportion of external funding has increased over the period, it remains a sparse. The research group has a coherent research approach, combining applied and methodological research and they have been able to promote their results in leading journals. The methodological contributions are useful for the international HSR research community. Integration into the institution is relevant and promotes the transfer of research results into practice and decision-making. The group has a remarkable societal contribution by producing useful outputs at national and international levels. It was particularly mobilised for the response to the covid-19 crisis. The ability to produce and publish successfully on covid-19 shows the responsiveness of the group. The nature of this kind of research raises the question of stakeholder involvement (e.g., involvement of policymakers, healthcare professionals, patients, etc.) in the research process and in governance. The self-assessment provides no such information.

Grading:

Dimensions	Score
Organisational dimension (How adequate the organisational environment is in supporting the production of excellent research).	4
Quality dimension (Research and publication quality/Research group's contribution)	4/3
Societal impact dimension (Research group's societal contribution/User involvement)	3/2

Recommendations

We recommend that the PhD recruitment be further boosted. The group's critical mass of researchers, interdisciplinarity, and existing databases and infrastructures are all assets for training. In addition, we recommend that the research group has a more dynamic grant-seeking strategy (including national and European grants) and base the research programme less on core funding, as it can be vulnerable. The research group's great societal activity could benefit from a stronger international partnership (e.g., to pool PROMS tools databases). It could also be beneficial to explain and highlight how stakeholders are involved in group governance, research design and conduct, and in knowledge transfer.

1. Strategy, resources and organisation

1.1 Research group's organisation and strategy

The Cluster for Health Services Research origin comes from a merge of several units into the Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH), division for health services (DHS) between 2017 and 2022: Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services, National Competence Centre for Migration and Minority Health (NAKMI), and National Competence Service for Breastfeeding, (NKA). The aim of the research group is to strengthen the knowledge base for decisions in the Norwegian health services. Research projects cover both primary and specialist healthcare services, and patient pathways within and between these levels. The research specifically targets selected population groups, including the immigrant population, children/adolescents, including maternity care, individuals with chronic conditions, mental health conditions and substance abuse. The research group combines grants and basic funding (which remains the majority, e.g., around 75%). The group's recruitment strategy focuses on interdisciplinarity (medicine, nursing, social sciences and economy, health economy, psychology, history, epidemiology, biostatistics and migration health) and methodological skills. The research group collaborates with several national and international universities and research institutions and OECD and have published in top international peer review journals (including European Journal of Epidemiology, JAMA, BMJ and Lancet). The self-assessment also highlights the surveillance system set up for covid-19 (Beredt C19), which contributed to the national (and international) response to the epidemic.

The self-assessment file values the supervision of Master and PhD students. Since 2019, five PhDs have finished their degree, with currently one postdoc and four PhD students in the unit. It is stated that the members of the group are involved in teaching, but there are no precise indications of the teaching subjects.

The Department of Research Administrative Support (FAS) is responsible of supporting NIPH's efforts to increase funding from national and international sources, as well as contributing to the development of projects, financial management and efficient administrative control of research projects. Within this Department, a section for project coordination has been established, with project coordinators working on assignments in various research projects throughout the Institute. Additionally, the department consists of staff with expertise in areas such as project economics, proposal writing, funding programs and research permits. A team for research infrastructure has been established within the Department, responsible for GDPR compliance, privacy matters and maintaining an overview of research projects. NIPH has librarians that can assist in systematic literature search and other library services.

The aim of the research group is to strengthen the knowledge base for decisions in the Norwegian health services. Given the size of the group, the number of PhD is relatively low. The merger of research units has enabled the group to achieve an appreciable multidisciplinary critical mass. One of the group's strengths is its strategy of combining high-level scientific development and decision support. However, the nature of this research raises the question of how stakeholders are involved (e.g., policymakers, healthcare professionals, patients, etc.) in the research process and in the group's governance. The self-assessment provides no information on this issue.

Recommendations to the research group

We recommend explaining how stakeholders are involved in group governance, research design and conduct, and in the knowledge transfer process and describe a clear policy for

user involvement, which methods they will use, e.g., panel meetings, workshops and its possible impact on the research performed in the research group.

1.2 Research group's resources

Staff members of the research group consist of 36 researchers, 8 advisors and one PhD student. The research unit relies both on core organisation financing, and project-based external funding. Project-based funding increased over the period but remains a minority (25% in 2022). In 2022, funding was around NOK 48 million. The research unit has a research director and three department directors in charge of a list of research projects. The roles of each staff member are not specified.

The research group's strategy of regrouping and multi-disciplinary recruitment brings together the skills needed to conduct high-quality research in this field. However, the number of PhD students is low in relation to the number of researchers. Although the proportion of external funding has increased over the period, it remains low.

Recommendation:

In order to ensure future research within the group a more clearly stated plan for PhD students and postdoc positions is needed.

1.3 Relevance to the institution

The research group's integration within the Norwegian Institute of Public Health enables it to contribute to the Institute's missions by providing useful data to the health care sector and health authorities. More specifically, in 2019 NIPH launched the development plan for Health Service Research. The Cluster for health service research is leading this initiative at the institute. NIPH's activities fit perfectly with the institute's mission and make an outstanding contribution to it. The dossier highlights the contribution made by research to the management of the covid-19 crisis via the establishment of Beredt C19 for real time surveillance. As indicated in the dossier, Beredt C19 combines the three core-task for NIPH: 1) knowledge - faster and better knowledge production for health and sustainable health and care service, 2) preparedness - such as new solutions to protect life and health and 3) infrastructure - health data and new digital solutions for data handling.

According to the self-assessment, integration into the institution is relevant which could help transfer research results into practice.

Recommendation:

The role of the 8 advisors could be clarified, as it is not clear what their roles are within the research team and their impact to research is not described.

2. Research quality

2.1 Research group's scientific quality

The research carried out by the research group is clearly part of the field of health services research. Within this framework, they address a number of topics from different angles: health care providers (e.g., municipal health and care services; primary care), population (in particular special-needs groups), and/or quality and organisation. It is interesting to note that, alongside this applied research, the group is developing methodological research. This is particularly important in the field of HSR, where inventions and organizations are complex, requiring methodological innovation to grasp this complexity. This methodological research focuses on designs adapted to the objects of study, on metrology (mobilising, in particular, patients with reported outcomes), and on the use of databases (registry data). The multi-disciplinary nature of the research group is a strength that is highly relevant to the subject of the research, combining medical expertise, statistical skills and social science expertise. The quality of the research is demonstrated by the publication of articles in the top international peer review journals (e.g. JAMA, BMJ, the Lancet).

The projects highlighted in the self-assessment illustrates the diversity of research themes and methodological approaches which shows how different methodological research methods are integrated with applied research. Three of the projects on the list are internally funded. A highlight of national or international grants could be pertinent to objective the capacity of the group to obtain grants at these levels. The members of the group chose to highlight their publications on the covid-19 epidemic (5 publications/10), reflecting their responsiveness in generating scientific data useful for decision-making in a crisis context. Useful data, but also of good scientific quality, enabling them to be published in top journals (in a highly competitive field). Three of the mentioned publications focus on metrology/questionnaires/measurements and two publications are epidemiological studies.

The group has a coherent research approach, combining applied and methodological research. They have been able to promote their results in leading journals within their field of research which is remarkable. Their methodological contributions are highly useful to the international HSR research community.

Recommendation:

We recommend that the research group work on a more dynamic grant-seeking strategy (including European grants) and base the research programme less on core funding which makes it too vulnerable for the group.

2.2 Research group's societal contribution

The aim of this research group is to strengthen the knowledge base for decisions in the Norwegian health services. In this, they make a major societal contribution. This concerns public decision-makers, notably via the NIPHs. The research group contributes with knowledge transfer through rapid production of results to the Ministry of Health, Parliament and Government, media and the public. This contribution is also made to the national and international healthcare and research communities, notably through the provision of tools (e.g., Questionnaire bank (PREMs, PROMs). More than 20 instruments and minimum one validation article/publication for each instrument, including generic versions, diagnosis specific versions, short versions, with translated versions into English. Several examples are given to illustrate the impact of research on practice and decision-making. The dossier features reports, international contributions and tools.

The research group seems remarkable when it comes to the research conducted and the decision support is a key strength. The research group has useful outputs at national and international levels. Particularly the contributions during the covid-19 crisis show how the research group is able to adjust to rapid societal changes. This social activity could benefit from stronger international partnerships. In fact, to facilitate transfer from research to practices, the pool of research production may be a facilitator (e.g., to pool international PROMS tools databases).

Recommendation:

We recommend the group to describe and highlight how various stakeholders are involved in research conducted in the group, and the possible impact on the output of research.

Appendices

Evaluation of Life Sciences in Norway 2022-2024

Evaluation of Medicine and Health 2023-2024

Mandate Expert panels

The Research Council of Norway (RCN) is given the task by the Ministry of Education and Research to perform subject-specific evaluations. The Portfolio board for Life Sciences in the Research Council of Norway has decided to carry out an evaluation of medicine and health in 2023-2024 as the second of two evaluations within Life Sciences. The evaluation of biosciences takes place in 2022-2023.

1. The objective of the evaluation

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), by the institute sector and by health trusts.

The results of the evaluation will be used as recommendations to the institutions, the Research Council, and the ministries.

2. Tasks of the expert panels

The panels are requested to:

- evaluate the strategy, resources and organisation of/for the research groups.
- evaluate research production and quality of the research groups.
- grade and write a short evaluation text to the evaluated research groups.

Each of the expert panels will write a brief report with evaluations of the different research groups as well as specific recommendations.

3. Time schedule

Digital panel meetings will take place in the period March 15. - June 15. 2024.

Deadline for submitting panel report to the Research Council: June 15. 2024.

4. Miscellaneous

Other important aspects of Norwegian life sciences research that ought to be given consideration.

EVALMEDHELSE 2023-2024 – Panel group description – January 2024

Panel group	Description	Panel no.
Group 1 PHYSIOLOGY Physiology-related disciplines (human physiology), including corresponding translational research	Anatomy, physiology, embryology, nutritional physiology, pathology, basic odontological research, exercise physiology, neurobiology, toxicology, pharmacology, medicinal chemistry, chemistry, biology, pathology.	Panel 1a Panel 1b
Group 2 MOLECULAR BIOLOGY Molecular Biology, including corresponding translational research	Microbiology, bacteriology, inflammation and infection disease research, forensic medicine, genetics, immunology, vaccine development, microbiological diagnostics, pharmaceutical microbiology, cell biology, molecular medicine and -biophysics, medical biochemistry, omics, organoids, imaging, toxicology, pathology, drug development, cancer research, translational research, systems biology, personalized medicine, biomarkers, oncology, genetics, genomics, epigenetics, proteomics, bioinformatics-/statistics, computational science, AI, biology, virology, radiology, ionisation, molecular biology, microbiology, pharmacology, pharmacogenomics, regenerative medicine and related subjects.	Panel 2a Panel 2b Panel 2c
Group 3a CLINICAL RESEARCH	Clinical Research, including surgery and translational research within: paediatrics, women's health, gynaecology, otorhinolaryngology, head and neck surgery, oncology, haematology, radiology and medical imaging.	Panel 3a_1 Panel 3b_2
Group 3b CLINICAL RESEARCH	Clinical Research, including surgery and translational research within: general medicine, emergency medicine, anaesthesiology, neurology, geriatric medicine, rehabilitation medicine, cardiology, nephrology/urology, endocrinology, pulmonary medicine, orthopaedics, rheumatology, Infection, gastroenterology.	Panel 3b_1 Panel 3b_2 Panel 3b_3
Group 4 PUBLIC HEALTH Public Health and Health-related Research	Public health, community research, epidemiology, preventive medicine, mental health, behavioural research and ethics, medical statistics, environment, nutrition, preventive medicine, physiotherapy, sports medicine, implementation research, public health, health care services research, global health, nursing	Panel 4a Panel 4b Panel 4c

	sciences, rehabilitation sciences, public health systems, digital health care services, ICT, HTA, health competence, genetic and epigenetic epidemiology, non-communicable diseases, pharmacology, nursing research, professional research, occupational medicine.	Panel 4d Panel 4e Panel 4f
Group 5 PSYCHOLOGY Psychology and Psychiatry	Clinical psychology, personality psychology, developmental psychology, cognitive psychology, biological psychology and forensic psychology, psychiatry, including geriatric psychiatry, child and adolescent psychiatry and biological psychiatry, social-, community- and workplace psychology, organizational psychology, developmental psychology, behavioural and health psychology, health promotion and well-being.	Panel 5a Panel 5b

Panel group 4 PUBLIC HEALTH

Expert panel 4c

Name	Title	Institution
Kirsten Schultz Petersen (chair)	Ass. Professor	Aalborg university
Barbara Dooley	Professor	University College Dublin
Francois Alla	MD PHD	University of Bordeaux
Anne-Marie Nybo Andersen	Professor	University of Copenhagen
Mirjana Kujundžić Tiljak	Professor	Medicine Faculty Zagreb



Evaluation of Medicine and Health (EVALMEDHELSE) 2023-2024

Self-assessment for research groups

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

Updated: **13. October 2023**

Institution (name and short name): _____

Administrative unit (name and short name): _____

Research group (name and short name): _____

Date: _____

Contact person: _____

Contact details (email): _____

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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 a research group. The self-assessment contains questions regarding the group's research- and innovation related activities and developments over the years 2012-2022. All submitted data will be evaluated by expert panels.

Deadline for submitting the self- assessment to your administrative unit – 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 submit completed self- assessment to the administrative unit no later than 26 January 2024.

Please use the following format when naming your document: [short name of the institution]_[short name of the administrative unit]_[short name of the research group], e.g. *UiT_DepPsy_Short name of the research group*.

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 link to websites/documents in the self-assessment where relevant.
- Please be sure that all documents linked to in the self- assessment are written 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 the two evaluation criteria described in the evaluation protocol, the research group must answer all questions.
 - ⇒ Provide information – provide documents and other relevant data or figures about the research group, for example strategy and other planning documents, as well as data on R&D expenditure, sources of income and results and outcomes of research
 - ⇒ Describe – explain and present using contextual information about the research group and inform the reader about the research group.
 - ⇒ Reflect – comment in a reflective and evaluative manner how the research group operates.
- Data on personnel should refer to data reported to DBH on 1 October 2022 for HEIs and to the yearly reporting for 2022 for the institute sector and the health authorities. Other data should refer to 31 December 2022 if not specified otherwise.
- It is possible to extend the textboxes when filling in the form. **NB!** A completed self- assessment form cannot exceed 25 pages (pdf file). Expert panels are not requested to read more than the maximum of 25 pages. Pages exceeding maximum limit of 25 pages **might not** be evaluated.
- Submit the self- assessment as a pdf (max 25 pages) to the administrative unit within **26 January 2024**. Before submission, please be sure that all text are readable after the conversion of the document to pdf. The self- assessment should be sent from the administrative unit to evalmedhelse@forskningsradet.no within **31 January 2024**.

Please note that information you write in the self assessment and the links to documents/websites in the self-assessment are the only available information for the expert panel.

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

1. Organisation and strategy

1.1 Research group's organisation

Describe the establishment and the development of the research group, including its leadership (e.g. centralised or distributed etc.), researcher roles (e.g. technical staff, PhD, post docs, junior positions, senior positions or other researcher positions), the group's role in researcher training, mobility and how research is organised (e.g. core funding organisation versus project based organisation etc.).

Table 1. List of number of personnel by categories

Instructions: Please provide number of your personnel by categories.

For institutions in the higher education sector, please use the categories used in DBH, <https://dbh.hkdir.no/datainnhold/kodeverk/stillingskoder>. Please add new lines or delete lines which are not in use.

	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 Personnel by position	Position A (Fill in)				
	Position B (Fill in)				
	Position C (Fill in)				
	Position D (Fill in)				

1.2 Research group's strategy

a) Describe the research group's main goals, objectives and strategies to obtain these (e.g. funding, plans for recruitment, internationalization etc.) within the period 2012-2022.

b) Please describe the benchmark of the research group. The benchmark for the research group should be written by the administrative unit in collaboration with the research group. The benchmark can be a reference to an academic level of performance (national or international) or to the group's contributions to other institutional or sectoral purposes.

Example: A benchmark for a research group is related to the research groups' aim which again is included in the strategy for the administrative unit. A guidance for the administrative unit to set a benchmark for the research group(s) can e.g. be: What do the administrative unit expect from the research group(s)?

c) Describe the research group's contribution to education (master's degree and/or PhD).

d) Describe the support the host institution provides to the research group (i.e., research infrastructure, access to databases, administrative support etc.).

1.3 Relevance to the institutions

Describe the role of the research group within the administrative unit. Consider the research group's contribution towards the institutional strategies and objectives, and relate the research group's benchmark to these.

1.4 Research group's resources

Describe the funding portfolio of the research group for the last five years (2018-2022).

Table 2. Describe the sources of R&D funding for the research group in the period 2018-2022.

	2018 (NOK)	2019 (NOK)	2020 (NOK)	2021 (NOK)	2022 (NOK)
Basic funding					
Funding from industry and other private sector sources					
Commissioned research for public sector					
Research Council of Norway					
Grant funding from other national sources					
International funding e.g. NIH, NSF, EU framework programmes					
Other					

1.5 Research group's infrastructures

Research infrastructures are facilities that provide resources and services for the research communities to conduct research and foster innovation in their fields. [These](#) include major equipment or sets of instruments, knowledge-related facilities such as collections, archives or scientific data infrastructures, computing systems communication networks. Include both internal and external infrastructures.

- Describe which national infrastructures the research group manages or co-manages.
- Describe the most important research infrastructures used by the research group.

1.6 Research group's cooperations

Table 3. Reflect on the current interactions of the research group with other disciplines, non-academic stakeholders and the potential importance of these for the research (e.g. informing research questions, access to competence, data and infrastructure, broadening the perspectives, short/long-term relations).

Interdisciplinary (within and beyond the group)	About 1/3 page
Collaboration with other research sectors e.g. higher education, research institutes, health trusts and industry.	About 1/3 page
<u>Transdisciplinary</u> (including non academic stakeholders) <i>Transdisciplinary research involves the integration of knowledge from different science disciplines and (non-academic) stakeholder communities with the aim to help address complex societal challenges.</i>	About 1/3 page

2. Research quality

2.1 Research group's scientific quality

Describe the research profile of the research group and the activities that contribute to the research group's scientific quality. Consider how the research group's work contributes to the wider research within the research group's field nationally and internationally.

Please add a link to the research group's website:

Short version

Table 4. List of projects

Instructions: Please select 5-10 projects you consider to be representative/the best of the work in the period 1 January 2012 – 31 December 2022. The list may include projects lead by other institutions nationally or internationally. Please delete tables that are not used.

Project 1 -10: <i>Project title/Project period (year from – year to)</i>	Project owner(s) (project leaders organisation)	
	Total budget and share allocated to research group	
	Objectives and outcomes (planned or actual) and link to website	

Table 5. Research group's contribution to publications

Instructions: Please select 5-15 publications from the last 5 years (2018-2022) with emphasis on recent publications where group members have a significant role. **If the publication is not openly available, it should be submitted as a pdf file attached to the self-assessment.** We invite you to refer to the Contributor Roles Taxonomy in your description: <https://credit.niso.org/>.

Cf. Table 1. List of personell by categories: Research groups up to 15 group members: 5 publications. Research groups up to 30 group members: 10 publications. Research groups above 30 group members: 15 publications.

Please delete tables that are not used.

Publication 1 -15: <i>Project title/Journal/Year/DOI/URL</i>	Authors (Please highlight group members)	
	Short description	
	Research group's contribution	

Table 6. Please add a list with the research group's monographs/scientific books.

Please delete lines which are not used.

1	Title - Authors (Please highlight group members)- link to webpage (if possible)
2	

2.2 Research group's societal contribution

Describe the societal impact of the research group's research. Consider contribution to education, economic, societal and cultural development in Norway and internationally.

Table 7. The research group's societal contribution, including user-oriented publications, products (including patents, software or process innovations

Instructions: Please select 5–10 of your most important user-oriented publications or other products from the last 5–10 years with emphasis on recent publications/products. For each item, please use the following formatting. Please delete lines which are not used.

3. Challenges and opportunities

Information about the strengths and weaknesses of the research group is obtained through the questions above. In this chapter, please reflect on what might be the challenges and opportunities for developing and strengthening the research and the position of the research group.

Short version

Scales for research group assessment

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

Score	Research and publication quality	Score	Research group's contribution Groups were invited to refer to the Contributor Roles Taxonomy in their description https://credit.niso.org/
5	Quality that is outstanding in terms of originality, significance and rigour.	5	The group has played an outstanding role in the research process from the formulation of overarching research goals and aims via research activities to the preparation of the publication.
4	Quality that is internationally excellent in terms of originality, significance and rigour but which falls short of the highest standards of excellence.	4	The group has played a very considerable role in the research process from the formulation of overarching research goals and aims via research activities to the preparation of the publication.
3	Quality that is recognised internationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour.	3	The group has a considerable role in the research process from the formulation of overarching research goals and aims via research activities to the preparation of the publication.
2	Quality that meets the published definition of research for the purposes of this assessment.	2	The group has modest contributions to the research process from the formulation of overarching research goals and aims via research activities to the preparation of the publication.
1	Quality that falls below the published definition of research for the purposes of this assessment.	1	The group or a group member is credited in the publication, but there is little or no evidence of contributions to the research process from the formulation of overarching research goals and aims via research activities to the preparation of the publication.

Societal impact dimension

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.

Norges forskningsråd

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Foto/ill. omslagsside: [fotokreditt]

