



National research assessments in Norway

EASSH

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Norway has a formative research evaluation system

Organized by the Research Council of Norway

The Research Council of Norway

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POLICY AND STRATEGY

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 - Evaluation of the Research Council's own activities
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- Report on Science & Technology Indicators for Norway

Subject-specific evaluations

The aim of the subject-specific evaluations is to provide a critical review of the Norwegian research system in an international perspective, and to provide recommendations on measures to encourage increased quality and efficiency of research.

The evaluations help to ensure that the Research Council has the necessary information on which to base its strategic research activities and efforts vis-à-vis public bodies. Recommendations and proposals in the subject-specific evaluations are intended to provide a starting point for establishing general measures and scientific priorities. The evaluations also serve as a tool for the institutions themselves in their ongoing efforts to refine their own strategic and scientific framework.

Current evaluations

- [Evaluation of humanities research in Norway \(2015-17\)](#)
- [Evaluation of social science research in Norway \(2016-18\)](#)

Previous evaluations

- [Evaluation of basic and long-term research within technology \(2014-15\)](#)
- [Evaluation of Norwegian Climate Research \(2012\)](#)
- [Nordic Evaluation of Sports Sciences \(2012\)](#)
- [Evaluation of Basic Research in ICT \(2012\)](#)
- [Evaluation of Mathematical Sciences \(2011\)](#)
- [Evaluation of Earth Sciences \(2011\)](#)
- [Evaluation of Biology, Clinical Medicine and Health Science \(2011\)](#)
- [Evaluation of Research in Anthropology \(2011\)](#)
- [Evaluation of Norwegian Geography Research \(2011\)](#)
- [Evaluation of Research in Sociology \(2010\)](#)
- [Evaluation of Norwegian Research in Ecological Agriculture \(2010\)](#) In Norwegian only
- [Evaluation of Philosophy and History of Ideas in Norway \(2010\)](#)
- [Evaluation of Basic Physics Research in Norway \(2010\)](#)
- [Evaluation of Law \(2009\) In Norwegian](#)
- [Evaluation of Basic Chemistry Research in Norway](#) PDF - 3,3 MB
- [Evaluation of Norwegian Historical Research \(2008\), English summary](#)
- [Evaluation of Norwegian Development Research \(2007\)](#) PDF - 698 KB
- [Evaluation of Economic Research in Norway \(2007\)](#)

Performed by international expert panels every 5-10 years to provide:

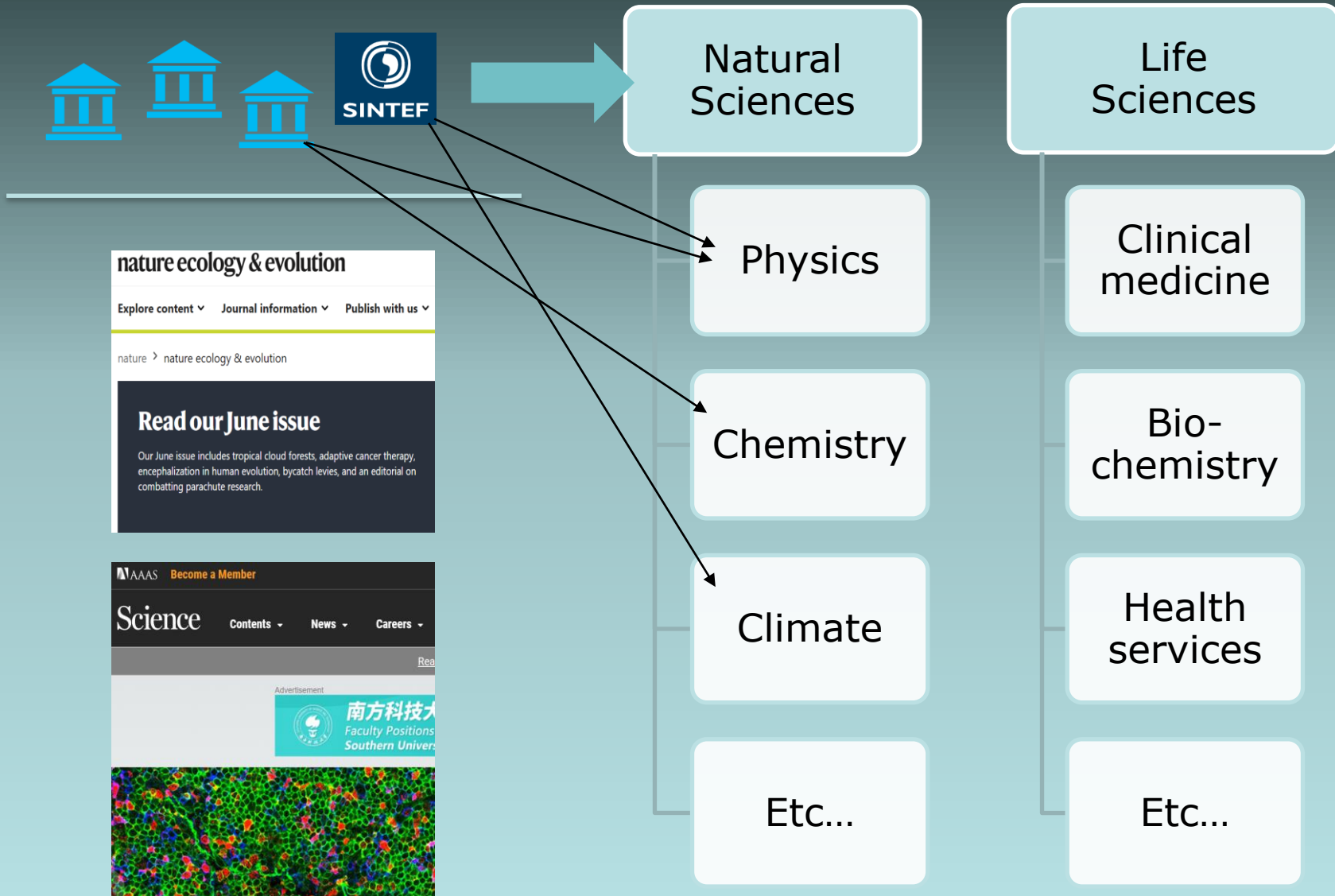
1. a critical review of Norwegian research in an international perspective
2. recommendations for increased quality and efficiency.

Does **not** influence institutional funding directly.

A new framework (2021)

- [National framework for evaluation of research and education](#)
Developed by the Ministry for research and education
- The Evaluations should
 - support research quality management and strategic leadership at the **institutions**
 - focus not only on research quality, but also on **the aims and local contexts of the research** and its **relations to education and society**
 - be organized with **overarching committees** addressing organizational questions and **subpanels** focusing thematically on fields of research

Combination of institutional and disciplinary perspectives



Evaluation criteria and -data

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, quality and integrity	Self-assessment Research contribution to selected publications (and other research results)	Self-assessment Bibliometrics
Diversity and equality		Self-assessment National registers Administrative data
Relevance to institutional and sectorial purposes		Self-assessment Administrative data
Relevance to society		Self-assessment National registers Impact cases
Overall assessment	Data related to: Benchmark defined by administrative unit	Data related to: Strategic goals and specific tasks of the admin.unit

Responsibilities according the new framework (2021)

- «**The Research Council of Norway** has the responsibility for national evaluations of Norwegian research» (p. 44).
- «**The institutions** are responsible for the quality of their research and education» (p. 46).

- **The Research Council of Norway** follows up recommendations at the national level
 - Action plans at national level
 - Measures to improve quality, relevance and capacity at national level
 - Advice to the government

- **The institutions** follow up recommendations regarding their own organisational units
 - Strategic development
 - Allocation of internal funds

Example: Legal research in Norway (2019)

- Norwegian legal research has **good to high quality**
- The **resource situation** for Norwegian legal research is satisfactory, but there are large differences between the institutions
- The evaluated institutions can to a greater extent apply for **external funding**
- There is a potential to work more **interdisciplinary** and to **collaborate** more nationally.
- Norwegian legal research should be made more available to an **international audience**
- The **dissemination** of legal research to professionals and the community at large is characterized by high quality



A legal version of Pasteurs quadrant

	Research that only potentially has social relevance	Research that is immediately of high societal relevance
Original research	<p>Basic legal research. Major contribution with original new knowledge.</p> <p>Often has social relevance only indirectly and in the long term.</p>	<p>Research which both contains original innovative knowledge and which at the same time has immediate social relevance.</p>
Routine research		<p>Applied legal research. Great societal relevance.</p> <p>Not groundbreaking new knowledge.</p>



Adapted from: Henrik Palmer Olsen
Copenhagen University
[ENRESSH webinar 20 February 2023](#)