Research ethics in Norway – some facts and figures
NORWAY

POPULATION (2018):

♀ 5,3 million

GDP/CAPITA (2017):

⦽ USD 75,500

NUMBER OF RESEARCHERS (2016):

🔍 43,918 full time equivalents

PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION WITH PHD:

_allocation 1 % of population aged 25-64
DOCTORATES 1996-2016:

DOCTORATES 2016: 1410

GOVERNMENT-FINANCED R&D (2016):
1% of GDP

TOTAL R&D EXPENDITURE (2015):
1.9% of GDP
5806 mn USD

RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

34 Universities and university colleges
49 Hospitals / health trusts
48 Research institutes with basic (govt.) funding
37 Other research institutions (defined by the research council)

The Research Council of Norway
The only research council in the country. Distributes approx. 25 percent of public research funding. 4234 applications fully processed in 2016, 29 percent granted (23 percent in 2015).
1990 – National committees on research ethics are established by the parliament; Medicine and health (NEM), Science and technology (NENT), and Social Sciences, Humanities, Law and Theology (NESH). The committees are part of the academic self regulation system and organised under the Norwegian Research Council as an independent unit.

2006 – Following a serious misconduct scandal, the Act on ethics and integrity in research is passed. It establishes the National Commission for the Investigation of Scientific Misconduct. The act states that the committees shall be autonomous in professional matters.

2013 – The Norwegian National Research Ethics Committees are re-organised to become an independent administrative body directly under the Ministry of Education.

2017 – The Act on research ethics is replaced by the Act on the organisation of research ethics.
The Act on the organisation of research ethics - in brief

• **Purpose:** to ensure that research carried out by public and private entities is conducted in accordance with recognised norms of research ethics.

• **National Research Ethics committees:** The ministry shall appoint committees that collectively covers all scientific areas.

• **Independence:** committees appointed shall be independent bodies as regards professional matters.

• **Researchers’ duty of care:** researchers shall act with due care to ensure that all research is carried out in accordance with recognized norms of research ethics.

• **Requirements of research institutions** - the institution is responsible for:
  - necessary training of candidates and employees in recognised norms of research ethics
  - ensuring that everyone who conducts or participates in research is familiar with recognised norms of research ethics.
  - handling cases concerning potential breaches and must have a committee on research ethics and integrity
The Norwegian National Research Ethics Committees

§ Committees and commissions appointed pursuant to the Act are autonomous in professional matters.

Central Documents

Act on the Organisation of Research Ethics
§ Purpose: Ensure that research carried out in the public and private sectors is conducted in accordance with recognised norms of research ethics.

National Strategy
Long-term plan for research and higher education 2019–2023
Three primary objectives:
• To strengthen competitiveness and innovation capacity
• To solve major challenges to society
• To develop high-quality research groups

Our Vision
To be the foremost resource for ethically sound and responsible research in Norway.

Science and Technology (NENT)

Medicine and Health (NEM)

Social Sciences and the Humanities (NESH)

Investigation of Research Misconduct

Human Remains

Institutions
§ Scientists and research institutions shall assure that research is conducted in accordance with recognised norms of research ethics.
Our web-resources

etikkom.no/en
Our magazine:
Forskningsetikk (Research Ethics)
Publications
RINO-project

ETIKK OG INTEGRITET I FORSKNING
resultater fra en landsomfattende undersøkelse

DISKUTABEL FORSKNINGSPRAKSIS:
holdninger og handlinger
Guidelines for research ethics

Guidelines for Research Ethics in Science and Technology

Guidelines for Research Ethics in the Social Sciences, Humanities, Law and Theology
NESHs Guidelines for research ethics in the social sciences, humanities, law and theology
Statement on ethical evaluation in EU-projects

Based on various inquiries recently concerning challenges related to ethics evaluation in EU-projects, NEMB has decided to give a general advice which might be applicable for others. The aim is to clarify, rationalise and harmonise the different approaches to ethical evaluation in the Norwegian systems and H2020 Ethics Approval Procedure respectively. Hopefully, the statement will be helpful for the administration of the Participant Portal for H2020, when processing applications from Norway.

Regulation in the Norwegian system

In Norway, research ethics is governed in the Research Ethics Act of 2007, originally introduced in 2007. The act provides a legal basis for three independent National Research Ethics Committees, initially established as advisory bodies in 1998, covering all fields of research in both public and private sector:

- a) The National Committee for Medical and Health Research Ethics (2007)
- b) The National Committee for Research Ethics in Science and Technology (NRE) 2007
- c) The National Committee for Research Ethics in the Social Sciences and the Humanities (NESH) 2007

Since 2007, with the Research Ethics Act, we also have a fourth national body:
The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity
Possibilities

- International collaboration  >  National
- Inter-disciplinary  >  Field-specific
- Ethics and integrity in funding  ->  H2020
Challenges

- Trust Governance OR Autonomy
- Integrity Ethics OR Misconduct
- Norms Science OR Research