

Kunnskapsdepartementet
Att: Avdelingsdirektør Pål Sørgaard

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Norske interesser og prioriteringer for et åttende rammeprogram for forskning

NOVA – 'Norsk institutt for forskning om oppvekst, velferd og aldring' is one of the leading social research institutes in Norway. NOVA covers the broad field of welfare, public policy, ageing and life courses and has been involved in the European Research Framework Programmes since FP4. The discussions and developments related to the Europe 2020 Strategy and the future of research programmes are highly relevant for NOVA's research sections¹ and REASSESS, the Nordic Centre of Excellence in Welfare Research², directed by NOVA and funded by NordForsk /2007-12).

Based on its considerable experience from European research, NOVA suggests the following:

- It is important to secure the continuation of the **Cooperation category** in FP8 and the division into different themes: **Socio-economic Sciences and the Humanities (SSH)** should be kept as a theme as well as the different funding schemes: large scale integrating projects, small or medium-scale focused research projects, research for the benefits of specific groups – civil society organisations and coordination and support actions, incl. Social Platforms. These funding schemes allow relatively small research organisations and civil society organisations to be involved in the Research Framework Programmes and to contribute to the European Research Area.
- As one of Norway's main priorities will be to **increase the research on global and societal challenges**, SSH should become an important theme in Cooperation. The annual budget for the SSH Work Programmes should be increased, which will allow to finance more than one research project per topic.
- According to the Norwegian discussion paper³ *welfare research* should be increased, therefore it will be important that Norway becomes a **member in the Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) 'More Years, Better Lives – The Potentials and Challenges of Demographic Change'**⁴ and joins the **'Research programme on public sector and social innovation'** and the **'European**

¹ Since 2010 NOVA's research activities are organised in six research sections: ageing and the life course, child and youth welfare, comparative welfare policy, migration and transnationality, youth, welfare governance and health behaviour.

² www.reassess.no

³ *Norske interesser og prioriteringer for et åttende rammeprogram for forskning*, 24.09.2010, page 6f.

⁴ German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), *Joint Programming Initiative More Years, Better Lives - The Potentials and Challenges of Demographic Change*, Berlin, 10.03.2010.

Innovation Partnership in the field of active and healthy ageing⁵, which both will be launched in 2011. Active involvement in the ongoing initiatives can support the Norwegian priority on social research for FP8.

- A broad discussion on the relevance of the planned '**European Social Innovation pilot**'⁶ will be necessary, especially as Norway is not a member of the European Union and is not participating in the European Social Fund (ESF).

NOVA appreciates the open dialogue on Norway's involvement in FP8 and encourages a public discussion on the Europe 2020 Strategy and its **Flagship Initiatives**⁷, which all will be very relevant for the future of the Norwegian society.

Best regards



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⁵ European Commission, *Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative Innovation Union*, Brussels, 06.10.2010, page 22 and page 40f.

⁶ European Commission, *Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative Innovation Union*, page 22.

⁷ European Commission, *Europe 2020: a strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth*, Brussels, 03.03.2010, page 30.