



Programme plan
2007–2017

Program
Samisk forskning II – SAMISK

Programme for Sámi Research II (2007-2017)

Work Programme

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1 Background of the programme

The Research Council's first Programme for Sámi Research ran during the period 2001-2005 as one of the measures set out in the *Plan of Action for the Research Council's Sámi Research Initiatives*. The programme had a budget framework of NOK 35.2 million, and provided funding for nearly 40 research projects, including a number of personal doctoral research fellowships and student research grants, and about 30 dissemination projects of various types.

In connection with budget deliberations for 2006, the Division for Science decided in autumn 2005 to launch a new Programme for Sámi Research. This decision was based in part on Report No. 20 (2004-2005) to the Storting, *Commitment to Research*, which states:

The Ministry of Education and Research presumes that the focus on Sámi research within the programme will be further developed and strengthened, either by continuing with the current approach or by giving the programme a new profile. It may be necessary to develop a new profile in order to incorporate research topics that are not prioritised within the current programme framework, such as research on climate change and reindeer husbandry. The programme's research focus must also facilitate dissemination activity vis-à-vis the Sámi population. (p. 165)

In February 2006 the Research Council contacted research communities with responsibility for or interest in Sámi research and requested their input on what they saw as the most crucial needs within Sámi research. The Sámediggi (Sámi Parliament) had also conducted a survey of the reactions of the Sámi research community to *Commitment to Research*. This survey was submitted to the Research Council in connection with a meeting between the Sámediggi and the Research Council in June 2005.

The programme board's own evaluation was presented to the Research Board of the Research Council Division for Science on 26 April 2006. In its evaluation, the programme board states that efforts have been satisfactory as regards recruitment to Sámi research, especially of women and members of the Sámi community; as regards the dissemination of research findings; and as regards the development of Sámi as an academic language. The programme board goes on to point out several areas that should be followed up by a new programme. In the view of the programme board, three main perspectives should receive special attention:

- The importance of using research-based knowledge as the basis for public policy decisions;
- The importance of providing opportunities to promote internationalisation in the field of Sámi research;
- The importance of recognising that research-based knowledge is "positioned knowledge", which is influenced by the researcher's own background and points of view, and that this may present a particular challenge in research on indigenous peoples.

The evaluation also mentions several specific topics on which research should be continued. In addition, the previous programme board would like to see continued focus on recruitment, especially of native Sámi researchers, and on the development of Sámi as an academic language.

The Division for Science Research Board approved the evaluation, establishing the following framework for the planning of the new programme:

- The programme will be planned for a ten-year period with an external evaluation after five years;
- In connection with the evaluation, consideration will be given to a possible expansion of the programme's thematic scope to include relevant natural science topics in the areas of climate change and reindeer husbandry. Any such expansion will be funded by allocations earmarked for natural science research.

The board appointed the following committee to draw up a plan for the new programme:

Bjørn Bjerkli, Associate Professor, University of Tromsø (chairman)
Björg Evjen, Professor, University of Tromsø
Nils Oskal, Professor, Sámi University College
Kjersti Schanche, Manager, Varanger Sámi Museum
Mikael Svonni, Professor, Umeå University

The Sámediggi appointed Gro Dikkanen, Deputy Director General (Senior Advisor as from 1 October 2006) to serve as its representative on the committee.

The committee prepared the work programme in autumn 2006.

2 Objective

The programme's overall objective is to enhance the quantity and scientific merit of Sámi research.

The programme will therefore:

- Promote long-term, high-calibre research on the Sámi situation;
- Strengthen recruitment to Sámi research at all levels;
- Strengthen recruitment of native Sámi researchers;
- Foster the development of Sámi as an academic language;
- Promote research that views Sámi research in the context of other research on indigenous peoples;
- Promote research that draws on the potential found in international research collaboration;
- Support multidisciplinary research and other research that applies, combines and develops various scientific, theoretical and methodological perspectives;
- Promote research that sheds light on the complexity and development of the Sámi communities;
- Support research that investigates relations between the Sámi community and the majority community;
- Promote research on Sámi understanding of natural and cultural processes in the northern areas.

Another primary objective of the programme is to encourage adequate dissemination (including publication) of Sámi research. The programme will therefore:

- Seek to raise the overall level of knowledge about the Sámi situation through varied dissemination activity targeted at the general public;
- Promote national and international positioning of Sámi research through dissemination in different languages;
- Strengthen the dissemination of research findings which may be useful to decision-makers in both Sámi and Norwegian political arenas and the government administration;
- Promote the dissemination of research-based knowledge about the Sámi situation to the Sámi community, including through dissemination in the Sámi languages.

3 General perspectives

Community development

The development of the Sámi community bears witness to a desire to develop effective structures for decision making and administration, a historical and cultural awareness that incorporates modern cultural expressions, and independent reflection on these processes. In this respect, research activity is important for knowledge production, as a structural condition and as an arena for critical reflection. In order to promote constructive development of the Sámi community, targeted, high-calibre research is essential for forming a better basis for decision making and public administration and as critical input for societal and cultural development.

International perspectives

The fact that the Sámi community is not confined to Norway presents a special challenge. The Sámi nation (Sápmi) spans four nation states: Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia. The Sámi people also participate in international networks and forums, and they share many interests and challenges with other indigenous peoples. By the same token, the Sámi have their own interests to advance internationally in relation to institutions such as the UN and EU and in various cooperative forums, including the Barents cooperation.

Many issues related to Sámi community life, language and culture are not limited by national borders. This opens up the possibility to engage in both multidisciplinary and institutional research collaboration across borders, which the programme board will view in a positive light. The Programme for Sámi Research plans to provide funding for research based at institutions in Norway and to promote international network-building when Norwegian research institutions head the projects.

Sámi research within the Research Council

No clear-cut definition of Sámi research has been established. As in other fields of research, the objective of Sámi research is to generate knowledge that will lead to understanding and insight, and thus lay the foundation for achieving human, cultural, societal and economic goals at the local and global levels. Research has an intrinsic value as well as a cultural function, and it should seek to increase knowledge and expertise within society at large. The Research Council does not view the lack of a clear, commonly accepted definition of Sámi research as problematic. Under the *Programme for Sámi Research II*, the Research Council will provide funding for high-

calibre research which is relevant for the Sámi community and which, accordingly, is also of general interest. The Research Council will also strengthen efforts to recruit native Sámi researchers, but will not stipulate as a criterion that research be conducted by members of the Sámi community. However, the fact that research is conducted by Sámi researchers may in some cases be seen as a special mark of quality.

3.1 Diversity and variation

Sámi culture has a long history which has unfolded over a vast geographic region. Consequently, there is reason to believe that Sámi culture both *in* time and *over* time has been characterised by great diversity and variation in terms of language, adaptation of economic activity, exploitation of resources, cultural expressions, interaction with neighbouring peoples, history of assimilation, etc. Moreover, some segments of the Sámi population were more affected by national assimilation policy than others. This diversity and variation in the Sámi community in both time and space is an important general perspective of the programme.

The development of a modern Sámi community during the past two decades has sought to counteract the effects of national assimilation policies. In the wake of this policy, knowledge production and research have been crucial in the efforts to rebuild the Sámi community. Research institutions such as the Sámi University College, the Nordic Sámi Institute and the University of Tromsø have played a key role in developing research communities that have generated research-based knowledge about Sámi culture, history and society. These institutions have primarily focused on Sámi issues related to the northernmost regions of Sápmi. Although research has been and continues to be conducted on the South Sámi and their land use and settlement areas, there is a special need to increase research-based knowledge about the South Sámi on topics such as language, joiks and music, history, population development, living standards, conditions for children and adolescents, the institution-building process and the safeguarding of rights. It is essential to conduct such research on the South Sámi areas, not least because the South Sámi people are few in number and live spread out across a large geographic region.

3.2 Recruitment of Sámi researchers

The recruitment of more native Sámi researchers, particularly for research on Sámi issues, would be to the benefit of the overall development of the Sámi community. The knowledge generated by research is influenced by, among other things, the researcher's social, cultural and ethnic background. Factors such as these may play a crucial role in determining which research questions are raised. Accordingly, it is vital that the Sámi people themselves are involved in and exert influence on the research agenda. A number of native Sámi have been recruited to Sámi research through initiatives such as the Research Council's previous Programme for Sámi Research. Extra effort to recruit Sámi researchers will continue to be important, as many of the current members of the research community are approaching the age of retirement. The challenge will be two-fold: to provide opportunities for those already recruited to continue their research careers, and to encourage a new generation of Sámis to pursue research as a career. The programme's recruitment measures will seek to address both of these aspects.

However, research-based knowledge of the Sámi community and culture will be generated regardless of who conducts the research. As a starting point, therefore, all research institutions

with an interest in Sámi issues will be eligible to apply for funding within the framework of the programme. This includes funding for personal doctoral research fellowships.

Given the particular challenges within the South Sámi community, there is a particular need to strengthen research on the South Sámi situation and to recruit members of this community to research.

3.3 Sámi as an academic language

Another key element in promoting research on Sámi community life is the development of the Sámi language as the language of research. In order to achieve an independent, critical, reflective research practice which carries an impact, it is also necessary to ensure that the research language used and developed is comprehensible within the community which the research is studying. Under the programme it will therefore be viewed as important to promote the use of the Sámi language in research projects, thereby fostering the development of a scientific tradition in the Sámi language. This will entail the use of the Sámi language throughout the entire research process, from the formulation of research questions and data collection to analysis, the production of written material and the dissemination of findings. This will also have an impact on the development of the Sámi language as such. Dissemination involves communicating with several different levels and stakeholders: the research community, decision-makers and the general public.

3.4 Cultural and linguistic variation

Throughout history and at many levels the Sámi community has exhibited continuity, cohesiveness and fellowship. By the same token, it is important to note that the Sámi community is complex and consists of wide cultural and linguistic variation. Different ecological and economic adaptations have emerged within the Sámi community in areas such as reindeer husbandry and fishing. Contact with the outside world has taken different forms depending on the place of residence, type of economic activity, patterns of communication, etc. These conditions have created different frameworks on which to base life views and cultural expressions. Some Sámi language groups, such as South Sámi, Lulea Sámi and East Sámi, are small and at risk of stagnation or extinction. The programme will especially encourage projects that can shed light on and strengthen the situation of these minority Sámi languages. The programme will support both Norwegian-language and Sámi-language research on the Sámi situation. Research on the Sámi community and culture that is also conducted on the basis of the local languages is important not least in efforts to develop research perspectives based on local experiences, concepts and values.

3.5 Network-building and knowledge development

The Sámi research arena is comprised of both large- and small-scale research groups. In order to strengthen efforts related to Sámi research, it is essential to continue to develop the networks between these various research communities. The programme will promote this in particular by encouraging projects that incorporate cooperation between institutions and researchers from different circles. Collaboration between researchers from different institutions will also serve to enhance the application of multidisciplinary approaches, which in many cases will produce a more thorough knowledge base for societal, linguistic and cultural questions.

It is also crucial that research on Sámi issues reaches beyond the Sámi community. The objective must be to promote high-calibre research, thereby establishing legitimacy and latitude for involvement at the international level. Sámi research must contribute to the general knowledge pool. The programme will encourage this by promoting national and international network-building and ensuring that research on Sámi issues is included in large-scale, comparative projects. This may involve projects that touch on indigenous peoples on a global scale or that focus on ethnic relations. This also implies that the programme will promote the publication of research findings in high-quality, recognised international publications.

3.6 Ethics

The research programme will both promote research on ethical issues and ensure that the research conducted under the programme takes ethical concerns into account.

The manipulation of data and research findings and similar fraudulent acts constitute unethical behaviour and will not be discussed any further here. Additionally, research ethics involve issues such as researchers' relationship to their informants and research subjects, proprietary rights to and commercialisation of knowledge, and dissemination of research findings. These are concerns that all research projects must take into account.

In relation to Sámi research, the ethical concerns may be clarified as follows:

Historically the Sámi people and Sámi forms of expressions have often been viewed in a negative light in relation to other population groups. To some degree, this negative view has also been evident in previous research. When research is conducted on groups that are especially liable to appear in a marginalising light to the general public, particular caution must be exercised in the use of methodology and the dissemination of research findings. In this case, the danger of stigmatisation and the identification of individuals must be weighed against the need to preserve the empirical basis of the evaluation and the implementation of positive measures. At the same time, Sámi self-awareness and the overall acceptance of the Sámi people by society at large have been enhanced due to the development of the Sámi community in recent years. What is perceived as stigmatising may change over time. This provides an additional stimulus for research on the understanding and handling of ethical issues in society.

The choice of research methods is a fundamental issue within research. If the data is of a material nature (e.g. archaeological excavations) or is based on information about relations between people, the research on the material or relations may, under certain circumstances, change the research material or result in unintended consequences arising from the particular methods used. There is therefore a need to develop a deeper, research-based understanding of ethical issues related to methodology and theory.

Proprietary rights to and the commercialisation of knowledge has become an important area of research ethics, especially in relation to groups that are in a weak political position to begin with. This is the case for many groups of indigenous peoples. Gathering data from individuals or groups of people and publishing analyses based on such data requires informed consent and genuine co-determination.

Not least on ethical grounds, it is important to disseminate the research findings to the informants and the community. This is also an important argument for developing the Sámi language as a language of academic thought and dissemination.

Recruiting members of the Sámi community to Sámi research may also have a positive impact on the ability to conduct critical assessment of the ethical perspectives used in research on Sámi issues in general.

3.7 Thematic priority areas

The evaluation of the previous programme period and input from the Sámediggi, research and educational institutions, and other organisations indicate that the overall need for research remains great, and that a broader scientific and thematic scope is called for. Nonetheless, certain areas stand out in particular, i.e. linguistic issues, relational and institutional perspectives, and issues related to Sámi self-articulation in time and space. The programme will give priority to these areas for two reasons: partly because these comprise areas under pressure in Sámi life, and partly because a better understanding of the conditions and consequences of processes that have already been set in motion is needed. In this way, the programme seeks to foster the production of knowledge, which will also form a better basis for decision making.

Research on Sámi language, traditional knowledge, oral traditions and literature is essential for the development of Sámi culture as well as for strengthening the Sámi language in society. As a minority language under the influence of powerful national and international forces, the Sámi language is in a particularly vulnerable position. The Sámi languages today are used by a relatively small group of people in Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia. Some of these languages, such as South Sámi and Lulea Sámi, are in danger of extinction. There is therefore a special need for efforts focused on the smaller, more vulnerable Sámi languages.

For many years, the Sámi people were a “people without a history”. It will still take time before research on Sámi history becomes as extensive as research on the pre-history and history of other Western cultures. Consequently, research on Sámi history will continue to be an important priority area during the new programme period. A key challenge for the programme will be to encourage new research activity that uses the enormous variation within past and present Sámi culture as its point of departure. One important area in this context is Sámi self-articulation from a diachronic as well as synchronic perspective. While such self-articulation is expressed through material culture, the culture-based knowledge and life views expressed through action and, not least in verbal communication, are equally important. The programme is also interested in promoting research on conflicts between “the traditional” and “the modern” in order to identify the conditions that enhance continuity or lead to change.

Statistical and numerical data on the Sámi community are critical to research on and the understanding of many conditions of relevance to society. Research on demographics and population development is also an important tool for Sámi community planning and for the ability to quantify the effect of measures targeted at the Sámi people. This area of research is also vital for increasing knowledge and awareness about those people who have roots in the Sámi community, both in the past and present. This will in turn have significance for the individual’s understanding of his or her identity.

By applying a comparative perspective, research on living conditions and quality of life may help to highlight the differences within the Sámi community and between the Sámi and other communities at a national and global level. This will illuminate the complexity and variation of the Sámi community and the differences between communities, thus providing a better foundation for the designation of policy. Research that generates a better understanding of living conditions and quality of life in the past will be important as well, not least because an understanding of the past shapes part of today's self-understanding and identity creation. In addition to the significance this will have in a Sámi context, such research will lead to knowledge that will be of benefit to Norwegian society vis-à-vis Sámi culture and community life in a broad sense.

Under the programme, special emphasis will be put on the need for more research related to Sámi children and adolescents and their living conditions and quality of life in the past and present. The Sámi community has undergone rapid changes in recent years not only from changes in public policy, but also due to technological development and globalisation. It is important to gain a better understanding of how Sámi children and adolescents are dealing with these changes. Knowledge about the conditions for self-articulation and the issue of identity in general for Sámi children and adolescents is important because it may lead to a better understanding of the conditions for being a member of the Sámi community in the future.

In terms of research, the process of modern Sámi institution-building that has taken place in recent years has received relatively little attention. This is true for the public sector as well as civil society. As regards conditions, consequences and changes, there is a need for greater knowledge about the processes that have been set in motion. This applies not only to the Sámi community internally, but also to society at large because these processes touch on and have an impact far beyond the Sámi community. This is also an area in which international comparative research may generate insight and provide a better basis for deciding which paths to take in the future.

Research on resources and safeguarding of rights is an area that is closely aligned with the modern Sámi community-building process. Issues relating to resources and rights lie at the core of the fundamental conditions that many believe must be in place if the Sámi community and culture are to develop. It is also an area in which different views and interests are represented. It is therefore important that documentation continue to be gathered on how natural resources have been exploited, how the rights to these resources have been and are constituted according to customary practice, and how the meeting with formalised institutions and the charting of rights develops and changes internal as well as external interactions. International developments in the area of rights protection are dynamic and have an impact on the development of the Sámi community.

The programme's priority research areas will therefore be:

- language, traditional knowledge, oral traditions and literature
- cultural expressions
- demographics and population development
- living conditions and quality of life
- children and adolescents – conditions during childhood and self-articulation

- the process of modern Sámi community-building
- resources and safeguarding of rights

These research areas are explained in detail in chapter 5.

4 Challenges and instruments

The Research Council draws on a number of funding instruments in its efforts to support research. In principle, the programme will employ the instruments normally used by the Research Council to support basic research. The following section does not provide an exhaustive discussion of these, but presents instead those instruments that will be used in special ways under the programme.

4.1 *Different instruments for different purposes*

The most important institutions for Sámi research in Norway continue to be the University of Tromsø, Sámi University College (Sámi allaskuvla) and the affiliated Nordic Sámi Institute (Sámi Instituhtta). The last two institutions are Sámi-speaking. It will be important for the Research Council to support cooperative measures between these institutions and collaboration between these and other research institutions both nationally and internationally.

Sámi research is also conducted at small institutions and at institutions in which such research comprises a relatively small portion of the activities, for example, at the Sámi museums and other university colleges and universities. In these cases, it would be beneficial for researchers to join together in larger networks in order to take advantage of each other's expertise across subject areas, institutions and national borders. In recent years the Research Council has shifted its focus more toward the funding of larger-scale, collaborative projects, preferably involving several a variety of subject areas and with some type of international orientation. Sámi research institutions could benefit from this approach as well.

However, a certain critical mass is required to develop research projects across institutional borders. In the first phase, some Sámi research groups need funding to develop research activity at their own institutions. The programme will therefore be flexible in its use of instruments so as to strengthen research at small institutions while supporting the research communities already capable of playing an important role in a broader context.

The programme will seek to motivate the institutions themselves to promote the institution-building process. Major research groups applying for funding for large-scale projects will be encouraged to include one or more of the smaller research communities outside their own institutions in a manner that brings added value to the projects.

To promote the development and maintenance of expertise among researchers, the programme may provide funding for **network-building measures**, such as:

- The establishment of meeting places for researchers in the form of seminars and conferences organised under the auspices of the programme and/or research community;
- The establishment and maintenance of national, regional or international thematic networks, possibly with salaried coordinators;

- The development and administration of electronic networks for the purpose of information exchange and discussion (websites, e-mail lists, etc).

Measures such as these may be granted funding within the framework of large-scale researcher projects or separately through special allocations.

To support the institutions in their efforts to develop their research activities, the programme may allocate funding for **strategic projects** based on the model of the Research Council's research institution-based strategic projects. To be eligible for funding, the projects must aim to develop a high-calibre research environment within the institution's areas of responsibility or establish a new research environment in areas of strategic relevance. The projects must be reflected in the institution's strategic plans or curricula. This funding instrument is highly flexible in terms of amount, and it will therefore be well-suited for use in Sámi research.

4.2 Recruitment at all levels

The Research Council's **personal post-doctoral research fellowship** is used to bolster expertise by giving highly qualified doctorate-holders an opportunity to obtain additional qualifications which make them eligible for top-level scientific positions. The personal post-doctoral research fellowship will be an important funding instrument under the new programme for recruitment purposes and for nurturing the expertise built up within Sámi research in recent years, including through the Research Council's first Programme for Sámi Research.

The Research Council has redirected its recruitment policy so that the **personal doctoral research fellowships** are awarded less frequently to individual projects, that is, projects in which the doctoral research fellow is the only project participant. The reasoning for this is that the candidates complete their doctoral degrees more rapidly and gain greater benefit from the research activity when they participate in larger-scale projects. This is true for Sámi research as well. Nonetheless, funding for personal doctoral research fellowships will still be awarded under the programme, as there is still a need to develop research expertise at this level. However, applications will be required to describe the opportunities that exist or could be developed for the candidates to actively participate in the wider research community.

Student grants have traditionally been a form of educational support designed to lessen the need for students to obtain a student loan during the final phase of their studies. Under the previous programme, this type of grant was awarded to students writing their second degree level thesis or master's thesis on Sámi topics. Sámi students have been prioritised for these grants, but Norwegian students have received them as well. The student grant scheme will be continued under the programme as one element in the efforts to enhance recruitment to Sámi research. Whenever possible, the grants will be linked to researcher projects. As with the personal doctoral research fellowships, applications for student grants must describe the opportunities for candidates to actively participate in the wider research community.

4.2.1 Gender perspective in recruitment

Gender perspectives will continue to be important in the context of recruitment. Gender equality implies that women and men are given equal opportunities, and this may entail the implementation of different measures for women and men.

The previous programme's efforts to recruit women were very successful. Eight out of 10 personal doctoral research fellowships and 12 out of 15 student grants were awarded to women. In addition to the programme's explicit objective to recruit women, the general tendency in the Sámi community for women to pursue an education while the men remain in more traditional professions has also most likely been a contributing factor. The successful recruitment effort during the previous programme period has made it unnecessary to explicitly recruit women to lower-level research positions under the new programme. A special effort to recruit women to post-doctoral research fellowships may still be beneficial, and it may also be appropriate to implement special measures to recruit men for student grants.

5 Clarification of thematic priority areas

The thematic areas and research questions that the programme wishes to focus on and develop have their basis in the overall perspectives and challenges described in this document. The programme will not apply inflexible parameters to the thematic priority areas. Various methodological and analytical approaches that transcend disciplinary boundaries will be encouraged. In some cases, the priority areas presented here will have overlap with each other. This will promote a multidisciplinary approach and cooperation between various subject areas, which the programme seeks to encourage.

A gender perspective will be relevant for all the thematic priority areas.

5.1 Language, traditional knowledge, oral traditions and literature

Research on Sámi language, oral traditions and literature continues to be essential both for the development of Sámi culture and for strengthening the role of the Sámi language in society. An important basis for the funding provided to research on the Sámi language is that Sámi is an indigenous language which is spoken by Sámi people in Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia, and that several of the Sámi languages and dialects are in danger of extinction.

Similar to many other languages, Sámi has been handed down from one generation to the next in oral form, but the development of the written language is a relatively recent phenomenon. There are currently seven different Sámi written languages, one of which uses the Cyrillic alphabet as its basis. During the course of history the Sámi oral languages have both become differentiated from and more similar to each other, and the historical circumstances underlying the variations in phonology, morphology and vocabulary remain under-researched. Each Sámi dialect and each Sámi language embodies knowledge of the past in its phonological and morphological system, vocabulary, narratives and oral traditions in general. The situation of the Sámi languages in today's community varies, and although the use of Sámi is increasing in new domains, such as in the media, education and administration, the Sámi community needs support to expand the use of the Sámi language. Such support is especially vital for languages that are seriously endangered, for example, South Sámi and the East Sámi languages.

Research on the Sámi language should employ a greater variety of perspectives and include studies of, among other things, Sámi linguistic history, modern Sámi languages and dialects, as well as studies that apply methodologies from sociolinguistics and historical linguistics. It is important that these studies be related to international research in their respective fields.

Studies of Sámi linguistic history should encompass different aspects of the language, especially phonology, morphology and vocabulary. Such studies are especially crucial for South Sámi and Lulea Sámi, and it is important to clarify the historical linguistic conditions in these areas. Another important field that also partially touches on this area is toponymic research.

A neglected area of Sámi research is syntax, especially within the framework of modern linguistic theories. Studies of Sámi sentence structure should therefore be prioritised and encompass all the Sámi languages and dialects. These studies should also contribute to syntax research in general. For South Sámi and Lulea Sámi, research should also be conducted on phonology and morphology. More extensive use of language technology in linguistic research should be encouraged.

Studies involving sociolinguistics and the sociology of language should investigate phenomena that arise when languages meet, and may focus on the past as well as more recent times. It is crucial to study the conditions related to language preservation and bilingualism, as well as the acquisition of Sámi as a first and second language. Research on language vitalisation should also be given special attention.

The Sámi community will also benefit greatly from studies that examine the role of language as a conveyor of knowledge and bearer of culture and identity.

One characteristic of traditional knowledge is that it is usually passed down orally from one generation to the next, and concerns life views, exploitation of resources, land use, forms of adaptation and cultural expression. Documentation of and research on this knowledge is essential as a basis for cultural preservation as well as sustainable development. Documentation of traditional knowledge about the use of land and resources is vital in the context of resource management and in connection with mapping out legal rights. In addition, documentation of traditional knowledge may be a key source in vulnerability analyses and in the formulation of adaptation strategies related to climate change and major development projects. Indigenous people's traditional knowledge is particularly relevant with regard to the Convention on Biological Diversity (cf. articles 8j and 10c) which obligates the signatory countries to respect, preserve and pass on this knowledge.

Research on oral traditions and literature may be said to encompass texts of different types, including Sámi sagas and narratives, myths, and joik texts, as well as older and more recent literature. The Sámi people's traditional knowledge, former social structures and perceptions of the world are preserved in part in older texts. Some Sámi sagas and narratives have been published in book form; others are available in the form of manuscripts and sound recordings in various archives. It is crucial that this archive material be used in research.

Research should be targeted toward a more in-depth interpretation of the texts, and the analysis of Sámi culture, lifestyle and world view is especially important in this context. This extends from

the oldest material we know exists, beginning in the 1600s, to more recent literature reflecting the situation of the Sámi people today. Research on modern Sámi literature is interesting in that it mirrors the traditional Sámi community as well as the process of renewal.

Research that involves recording and analysing oral narratives that reflect the past and more recent times is crucial since much of this knowledge has not been documented and is known only to people who have grown up in a particular community.

The link to other research on the literature of indigenous peoples forms an important starting point for research on Sámi literature. In this context, development of methodology will be important. International collaboration on this type of research is valuable and should be encouraged, especially since research on Sámi literature has already gained international attention.

Research on Sámi language, traditional knowledge, oral traditions and literature may include the following areas:

- Linguistic history and toponymic research
- Language acquisition and bilingualism
- Sámi linguistic structure
- Sámi language as a conveyer of knowledge
- Sámi literature from an indigenous perspective
- Knowledge of the use of resources and land

5.2 Cultural expressions

Language and literature are important forms of cultural expression, but culture may also be expressed in other ways, in both material and non-material forms.

Many people identify Sámi culture with the way of life and culture that prevailed in the Sámi inland regions about 100 years ago. There are many reasons that this perception has gained such a strong foothold, a phenomenon which in itself could be an interesting topic of research. In any case, the ramifications of this require due consideration, and may form the basis for new research activity that takes its starting point in and draws attention to the enormous variation in Sámi cultural expressions through time and space.

Special focus should be directed toward the South Sámi area.

Knowledge of the past is essential for understanding the present. As relatively little research has been conducted on Sámi pre-history and history, the new programme will give high priority to research on various aspects of the Sámi past, including empirical studies and theoretical approaches. Archaeological and written source material may serve as the basis for interpreting different aspects of the Sámi society of the past, such as the social organisation, resource use, settlement patterns and relations with other population groups in various geographic regions. Moreover, studies of Sámi artefacts in museum collections may provide new insight into how Sámi cultural expressions have been shaped and changed over time, and contribute to new understanding of the Sámi past. Non-material cultural artefacts, such as narrative traditions, joiks,

sagas and myths, are an important category of source material which may serve among other things as an approach to topics related to morals, life view and perceptions of the world. Yet another interesting research question is how the past has been incorporated into modern Sámi self-understanding and how the past is actively being used to shape contemporary times.

Cultural monuments and sites are a vital part of cultural heritage, not least in a Sámi context in which written source material is limited. Research on cultural monuments may lead to better understanding of the relationship of various cultural monuments to each other, their placement in the landscape, how cultural monuments are interpreted and valued at the local level, and how the Sámediggi's management of cultural monuments functions in relation to the Sámi community. Such research is also crucial for ensuring sound management of the Sámi cultural heritage.

Very little research has been conducted on Sámi music, *duodji* (handicrafts) and art. These are important fields that require greater research focus, preferably in the form of comparisons with similar cultural expressions found within other population groups. At the same time, exciting developments have occurred in these fields in recent years in terms of how traditional expressions are being combined with more modern artistic idioms. This is particularly the case for joiks and duodji. Traditional joiks are being incorporated into new contexts and combined with modern music. When it comes to duodji, age-old techniques, forms and patterns are being carried on while new products are being created with the aid of new technology and innovative, modern design. An understanding of these trends toward change may provide an approach to understanding other aspects of the Sámi community. Greater research focus should also be placed on Sámi art history as well as on documentation and analysis of prevailing expressions in modern Sámi art.

Research on the conflicts between the past and present, “the traditional” and “the modern”, within various cultural expressions is desirable.

Important research areas will be:

- The history of Sámi settlement, including social organisation, resource use, settlement patterns and relations with other population groups in various geographic regions
- Religion and world view
- Cultural monuments
- Modern artistic and cultural expressions such as film, music, visual art, etc.
- Duodji
- Comparisons of different cultural expressions between various Sámi regions and between the Sámi people and other ethnic groups
- The conflict between “the traditional” and “the modern” within various cultural expressions

5.3 Demographics and population development

During the previous programme period, no projects exclusively investigated the area of demographics and population development. This is a critical field of research, not least in terms of those regions where assimilation has come the farthest. This research field is crucial not only for increasing knowledge, but also for raising awareness about those who have roots in the Sámi

community. Statistical and numerical data on the Sámi community is vital for research on and insight into many conditions of relevance to the Sámi community. It is also an important tool for Sámi community planning and for the ability to quantify the effect of measures targeted toward the Sámi people.

Researchers today face a number of challenges when focusing on demographic conditions in the Sámi segment of the population. One major challenge arises from the fact that the categories of ethnicity used in older and newer sources vary in both time and space, and that combination categories are used. Moreover, after 1930 ethnicity no longer was a part of the regular registration in the national censuses, nor in any other public source material. The Sámi community in the Nordic region has requested a demographic, statistical overview, but it has not been possible to generate such an overview except for certain localised regions.

Currently there are no clearly-defined criteria or institutional procedures for compiling demographic statistics on and performing analyses of the Sámi population. One important reason for this has been the legal and ethical challenges related to the compilation of data on the basis of ethnicity.

Several factors may be drawn on in order to clarify the composition of and changes in the population. These changes will depend in part on the relationship between fertility and mortality and between relocations to and from Sámi regions, which in turn will generate knowledge about other aspects of the Sámi community. Infant mortality is relevant in this context, as it may be seen as an indication of the quality of living conditions in the past. Marriage patterns and family structures are also key factors which, in a comparative perspective over time and/or space, may generate new knowledge about the Sámi community. A focus on the complexity of the Sámi community as well as on gender may supplement these perspectives. It should be added that it may be difficult to draw a clear boundary between Sámi and other ethnic groups in some cases. It is therefore important to apply perspectives on the dynamics between various groups, such as through inter-ethnic marriage and cultural exchange.

There is a need for projects that address demographic conditions exclusively and those that take their starting point in demographic research, for example:

- The development of population figures over time
- The history of sedentary and nomadic settlement
- Family structure, education and choice of trade/profession
- Life phases
- The variations within the Sámi population
- Relations between the Sámi people and other population groups
- Cross-national comparisons from a historic as well as a contemporary perspective
- Categories and identities in time and space

5.4 Living conditions and quality of life

As in society at large, living conditions in the Sámi community have undergone dramatic changes in recent generations, not least with regard to basic welfare-related and financial needs. The

welfare society's principles on improving living conditions and promoting equalisation have been adopted at the political level. The implementation and impact of various measures, however, reflects the fact that living conditions vary throughout society. At the same time, society has changed with regard to mobility, the labour market, and forms of social life and living arrangements. Knowledge about these variations may be increased by focusing on different groups in society based on gender, age or ethnicity. Variations and different needs also exist depending on the trade or profession, place of residence (rural versus urban area, south versus north), family structure, networks, organisational life, etc. When investigating the Sámi community as a whole, a special challenge is presented by the vast differences in living conditions between Sámi in the Nordic region and those in Russia. This situation in particular calls for comparative studies that apply multidisciplinary approaches.

Living conditions may be viewed in connection with conditions during childhood, education, choice of trade or profession, place of residence and living arrangements, life cycle patterns, health, etc. These may be regarded as fundamental contexts for social life. Research to generate the knowledge needed to create a framework for good solutions and to measure these variables is called for. Quality of life is also related to living conditions, but a distinction must be drawn between how the framework conditions for quality of life are established and measured and how quality of life is perceived. Quality of life, or the perception of what constitutes the good life, is a social and cultural dimension that depends on relationships to other people and the outside world in general. Social networks, organisational life, friendships, and family relations, as well as different tasks related to work and leisure time, are in various ways fundamental to how the good life is perceived. Social, economic, political and ecological changes, however, continually present new challenges for how the good life can be achieved.

As a result of the assimilation policy in the Nordic countries, the Sámi population was relegated to an inferior position in relation to the rest of the population and government authorities. It will be challenging to investigate how this has changed people's perceptions of quality of life and health. Knowledge is also needed regarding the after-effects of this policy, as well as what processes must be set in motion to diminish its effects.

A special challenge lies in identifying the consequences of variations in the make-up of the population in various Sámi communities. In many rural areas, men far outnumber women. Young adults are moving to more urban areas for education and employment. There is also an increasing imbalance between the genders with regard to education. These factors may be significant for living conditions as well as the perception of quality of life.

Ecological changes, new economic conditions, and resource and land management decisions have also altered the foundation for participation in activities such as reindeer husbandry, fishing and other uses of natural resources. This has necessitated increasing restructuring within the Sámi communities. More knowledge about how these changing conditions and opportunities affect living conditions, quality of life and health would be beneficial.

Priority areas of research will be:

- Quality of life and the good life
- Living conditions in time and space

- Life phases, and concepts and the use of concepts related to this
- Gender and quality of life
- Sámi perceptions of health

5.5 Children and adolescents – conditions during childhood and self-articulation

The developments that have occurred in the Sámi community in recent years have created new conditions for Sámi children and adolescents and their self-articulation. In principle, local Sámi communities are organised so that children may be brought up within a Sámi cultural framework through institutions such as pre-schools and schools. At the same time, certain structural divisions within the Sámi community produce divergent conditions. For instance, a Sámi curriculum for primary schools has been introduced in some municipalities, whereas schools in other municipalities follow a Norwegian curriculum even though some of the children and adolescents who live there are also of Sámi descent. The ratio of Sámi children to Norwegian children varies among municipalities. In the political sphere it has been stated that Sámi children should be entitled to a secure upbringing based on Sámi cultural values. However, knowledge about the past and present situation for Sámi children and adolescents is limited due to lack of research in this area. This was also pointed out in the evaluation of the previous programme period.

Education and schooling are important factors in the living situation of Sámi children and adolescents. Relatively little research has been conducted in this area although decisions that have an impact on the conditions under which children and adolescents are raised are continually being taken.

The conditions for socialisation of children have undergone tremendous change in recent years. One characteristic of Sámi children's socialisation is that it has occurred partly within the framework of the extended family and an extensive kinship network. A relevant research question is whether and how the conditions for children's socialisation are changing in the modern Sámi community.

Children and adolescents participate today in new and different social arenas. Some of these arenas are targeted toward young people in particular and are controlled by adults, such as after-school programmes, sports clubs, municipal cultural programmes, youth clubs, and political and religious organisations. In addition to these more formal arenas, children and adolescents create their own arenas in which adults participate only to a limited extent, if at all. A special challenge in this context is to understand the participation of Sámi children and adolescents in the global arenas that have developed, such as the Internet and the music and film industries. Sámi festivals are part of this picture since they often encompass an international indigenous population. This represents active participation in new forums with new cultural expressions and the potential for changed self-understanding.

The development of mobile technology has also created new conditions for local patterns of interaction. In terms of communication, this technology has democratised the global as well as local spheres in some respects. By the same token, the potential of external forces to exert an influence has increased, and differentiated forms of children's and youth cultures are developing

with new mechanisms for exclusion and inclusion. This indicates that the premises for children's and adolescents' self-articulation have undergone dramatic change. This may have an impact on children's and adolescent's use of language, both in their leisure time and in more formal settings.

In general, research on identity issues related to children and adolescents will be essential for better understanding the conditions for what it means to be a member of the Sámi community in the future. Comparisons in both time and space will be an important methodological approach.

Relevant research topics may include:

- Living conditions and the perception of quality of life among children and adolescents
- What the new arenas represent for children and adolescents with regard to socialisation and upbringing
- How gender roles are shaped in various contexts
- Ideas about careers expressed by children and adolescents
- Language use among children and adolescents
- How "Sámi-ness" is expressed in the new arenas
- The situation for Sámi children and adolescents at school

5.6 Modern Sámi community-building

In the past 20 years Sámi community life has undergone rapid development. A modern Sámi community structure has emerged, accompanied by institution-building in many fields, such as education, the media, research, health, trade and industry, art, culture and cultural monuments.

The Sámediggi, established in 1989, plays a key role in the new institution-building process. A representative political body and a specialised administrative system with responsibility for various Sámi policy areas have been gradually built up through legislation, the establishment of institutions, and the transfer and integration of authority. The Sámediggi represents both an innovation in and a continuation of the Norwegian democratic form of government. The role and position of the Sámediggi within the Norwegian system of government and within the Sámi community is constantly evolving. Parallel to this, developments have taken place within Sámi civil society, with regard to both a changing framework and new adaptations.

In general, institution-building may be seen as a nation-building process. Nation-building also entails homogenisation. A common institutional and conceptual framework is being built, which may lead to new tensions and new dividing lines within the Sámi community. Another important aspect involves studies of how indigenous people's struggle for political inclusion within the parameters of existing nation-states affects the nation-state itself as an institution. This touches on issues of self-determination. How has the development of Sámi self-determination transpired, and what are the conditions and limitations for the further development of self-determination within the nation-state? Self-determination is dynamic by nature, and many different solutions are possible. Self-determination must be understood not only within the framework of the nation-state, but also within the international sphere. This makes studies of the relationship of the Sámi community (both non-governmental organisations and the formal political system) to supranational institutions and areas of activity highly relevant. A special focus in this context will be the Nordic-Russian connection, since the Sámi settlement areas span four nations. Also

important will be global comparative research, both related to other indigenous peoples and to the development of ethnic relations in general.

As regards studies of specific fields, the programme will give priority to studies that focus on the framework for and significance of the newly established institutions. Raising questions about and analysis of this area may help to form the basis for new knowledge and add new dimensions to the Sámi cultural and social debate.

The programme will encourage research that employs a theoretical perspective as well as studies of specific fields. One important task will be to generate more research-based knowledge about how Sámi institutions serve to set the agenda in the field of Sámi policy. Relevant research questions may be tied to the development of political institutions and the relationship between these institutions and the Sámi community as well as the outside world, including Nordic cooperation and cooperation between indigenous peoples. Issues related to the development of democracy, power sharing and the public sphere will be especially crucial. The media's role and content will be important in this context. In general, a better understanding of elections and voter behaviour will also be of interest. The national government, municipalities, counties and other public administrative units in Norwegian society are linked to a structure for public administration and decision making in which the Sámediggi's role has neither been, nor is, consistently well-defined. It will be relevant to learn more about the dynamic in the various relations that the Sámediggi has developed or participates in and the basis for political priority setting.

The Sámediggi must also serve the Sámi people and civil society. Key research tasks will include examining how this relationship has developed and what the challenges are. Important institutions in Sámi community life comprise what may be referred to as life-phase institutions, for example, pre-schools, the educational system, and health and social services. In recent years institutions have been developed in these areas that have put special focus on Sámi culture and self-understanding. What features characterise the interface between these new institutions and the community? What impact have these institutions had, and what special challenges confront this type of institution?

In brief, the programme seeks research projects in the areas of:

- Sámi nation-building
- Self-determination
- The development of democracy and power sharing
- Elections and voter behaviour related to elections to the Sámediggi
- The development of Sámi institutions and their relations with the Sámi community, other institutions and the outside world

5.7 Resources and safeguarding of rights

Knowledge about the Sámi people's use of land and resources is essential for public resource management and for efforts to clarify the safeguarding of rights. A greater effort must be made to improve the documentation on the use of Sámi areas and raise it to the level of comparable documentation on other parts of Norway.

There is a need to gain an overview of previous and current use. This is a task that must be approached from a variety of angles; it will have ramifications for different fields of research and call for projects that take an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach. These efforts may also in the long run entail consequences for interaction internally within local Sámi communities as well as externally in relation to society at large.

Another challenge is to develop methods that clarify the use of natural resources and cultural customs related to this use. With use comes the potential for misuse of the natural resource base, and it is therefore equally important to investigate perceptions of rights as well as the internal criteria and norms used to assess the merit of customs and perceptions of what kinds of utilisation establishes rights. As an extension of this, there are also challenges with regard to how Sámi customs may be documented and adapted so that these can serve as useful instruments in the application of the statutory framework.

In recent decades, the focus in various societal contexts has been targeted more toward the natural environment, the consequences of human intervention in the natural environment, and the need for conservation of land, flora and fauna. Attention will therefore also be directed toward various systems of resource management. More knowledge is also needed on the interface between local forms of use and various resource management programmes, and on issues related to indigenous rights and environment-related rights that are raised by such interaction.

Focus on the abundant natural resources in the northern areas presents opportunities as well as challenges. The indigenous perspective is important in this context, including rights, co- and self-determination, the development of capacity and knowledge, and cooperation between nation-states and indigenous peoples. The northern areas are experiencing rapid development. Research and knowledge that is updated in relation to the needs of society will be crucial in the future.

Developments have been taking place at a rapid pace in the field of land and water rights for indigenous peoples, in Norway as well as other countries. Documentation, expertise and knowledge are essential for ensuring that this trend continues to move in a positive direction. Specifically, this involves the process related to the Finnmark Act and the upcoming work to be carried out by the Finnmark Commission. In addition, the report by the Sámi Rights Commission on the area south of Finnmark will play an important role in the years to come. The commission is expected to submit its report in 2007, and the follow up will provide the basis for formulating important, relevant research questions.

In the international community, in particular within the UN and EU as well as the Nordic region, there is greater focus on the rights of indigenous peoples in general. Research on and knowledge about existing conventions and the development of new legal instruments will be crucial for further social development. For instance, a consultation agreement has been established between the Sámediggi and government authorities; in this context, analyses of the regulations in the consultation agreement related to various issue areas will be of interest.

Relevant areas of research will be:

- Sámi cultural customs and perceptions of rights regarding the use of land and marine areas

- Norms for assessing the merit of customs and perceptions of rights
- The interface between local forms of use and different types of resource management systems
- Regulations in the consultation agreement related to various issue areas in connection with natural resources and rights
- The development of the northern areas viewed from the perspective of indigenous peoples and rights to resources
- Comparative research questions related to the territorial rights of indigenous peoples
- International developments in the area of indigenous rights

6 International collaboration

Internationalisation of Norwegian research is a strategic instrument for enhancing scientific merit, increasing international collaboration and funding from abroad, and enabling Norwegian research communities to generate and bring home new knowledge. Increased internationalisation is therefore a top priority in the Research Council's strategy. This applies to Sámi research as well. Developments in recent years suggest that the programme should emphasise the objective of international collaboration between Norwegian research communities and relevant research communities abroad – in general, within the Sámi framework, and as a contribution to research on indigenous peoples. In its resolutions the UN's Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues stresses the enormous need for knowledge about the world's indigenous peoples in many fundamental areas such as demographics, resources, rights and traditional knowledge. International collaboration between persons and institutions on higher education for indigenous peoples has shown that there is much to learn from each other with regard to the globalisation processes occurring in education, culture and language. There is therefore a need to enhance global research on indigenous peoples and to create meeting places for this research field.

Indigenous knowledge has become a global research field, one which provides important input to knowledge about the natural environment and the relationship of humans to climate, land, animals, plants and the environment. This knowledge is of widespread interest the world over. It has special relevance in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and thus also for Norway which has ratified the convention.

The anticipated developments in the northern areas will pose new challenges for indigenous communities, and research-based knowledge has a key role to play in this context. One challenge in this regard will be to gain insight into the Arctic population's own understanding of the natural and cultural processes unfolding in the northern areas.

The programme therefore actively seeks to promote cooperation between researchers and research institutions in Sápmi and to encourage Sámi research to apply an indigenous perspective and place it in a general international context.

7 Information and dissemination

In recent years greater emphasis has been placed on the dissemination of Sámi research findings, which should be carried out in both scientific and popular media. It is important to disseminate research findings to the general public, and especially to communicate these to the informants, the community that has been the subject of investigation, and other contributors. General dissemination of research findings on the Sámi situation is also meaningful for the Sámi identity-building process, and consequently, much of the popular dissemination should be carried out in the Sámi language. Sámi research may also make a valuable contribution to the development of indigenous research at the national and international level. Both the Programme for Sámi Research and each individual researcher should give priority to dissemination via newspapers, radio, television and the Internet, in addition to oral presentations at meetings and conferences. The programme will draw up its own plan for dissemination of research material adapted to various target groups, including government decision-makers in Norwegian and Sámi spheres. In the funding announcements for dissemination, priority will be given to dissemination activities that are innovative and creative.

If more native Sámi researchers are to be recruited than has been achieved to date, it will be essential to arouse the interest of children and young people in research. The programme will therefore participate in the Research Council's various measures directed at these groups with a view to organising special initiatives for Sámi children and adolescents.

One easy, popular dissemination measure will be to present Sámi research material as part of the National Science Week in Norway (*Forskningsdagene*). Participation in *Forskningsdagene* and other Research Council measures to reach children and young people will also help to integrate Sámi research into the Research Council's general activities and programmes.

Scientific publication is the main channel for disseminating research findings internally within the research community. One of the programme's objectives is that research on the Sámi situation will result more frequently in scientific publication and that the languages used will be Sámi, Norwegian and English. The Government emphasises in particular that Sámi is to be developed as an academic language, and the programme will ensure that funding for the publication of books and scientific articles in the Sámi language is in place. Some funding will also be provided for the translation of scientific texts between Norwegian, Sámi and English, primarily with regard to texts produced under the programme. The programme will take a somewhat long-term perspective when allocating funds to Sámi peer-reviewed scientific journals.

The programme will also cooperate with the Research Council's publication committee for humanities and social science research. This will allow Sámi works to be assessed in a context in which their quality is viewed in relation to other Norwegian research, while the programme also helps to ensure that Sámi research findings are actually published.

8 Performance indicators

8.1 Researcher recruitment, high scientific merit and internationalisation

The programme will give priority to recruitment activities. The programme intends to award a greater number of personal post-doctoral research fellowships during the programme period, preferably at an early stage, since there soon will be a need to replace researchers retiring from top-level positions.

The programme also plans to grant more personal doctoral research fellowships than was the case during the previous programme period. The programme seeks to boost the number of Sámi doctorate-holders, and one programme objective is to increase the amount of research conducted in the Sámi language. To promote the development of Sámi as an academic language, an extra six months' of funding may be granted to research fellows who write their theses in Sámi. There is also a need for greater expertise in Sámi-relevant research outside the Sámi-language research communities. The programme will therefore recruit candidates from other institutions and research communities as well.

As in the previous Programme for Sámi Research, the current programme will also provide funding for master's theses on topics relevant to Sámi issues.

Moreover, the programme will provide funding for large-scale, international research projects in which several research institutions participate. Special focus will be placed on the national and international dissemination aspect of these projects.

By the conclusion of the programme period, the programme's researchers and research fellows as a group are to have made an impact in an international context by having delivered lectures at international conferences, published books through internationally recognised publishing houses, and published articles in books and peer-reviewed journals. The programme board will closely monitor this aspect and introduce corrective measures if the level of international activity is too low in relation to the research approach taken by the projects.

8.2 Greater knowledge about the Sámi situation – dissemination measures

The programme will give priority to publication and dissemination, including in the Sámi language. As many doctoral theses as possible should be published, and funding for other publications will also be increased compared with the previous programme. Large-scale projects must result in book publications.

The programme will provide funding for Sámi scientific journals and for translations to Sámi and English of books and articles produced under the programme.

Priority will be given to funding for national and, in particular, international research conferences and seminars. Focus will also be placed on popular dissemination activity, especially targeted at

children and adolescents. The programme's website will be updated on a regular basis, and will include information about funding opportunities for Sámi research under other Research Council programmes and initiatives.

8.3 Overlap and coordination with other Research Council programmes

The programme comprises an extremely broad range of thematic areas and research topics. Certain research areas related to reindeer husbandry, climate, land use and the environment, as well as Sámi-relevant health research, may also be addressed by other Research Council programmes¹ during the programme period. The programme also takes into account the Research Council's Focus on the Northern Areas Initiative.

The programme seeks to improve coordination of the broad, cross-cutting field of Sámi research by:

- Playing an active role as coordinator vis-à-vis other programmes that touch on or could touch on aspects of Sámi culture and Sámi community life;
- Establishing common arenas with these programmes in the form of conferences, dissemination measures and the like, and possibly providing funding for these.

9 Time frame, funding and achievement of results

The programme is being planned within a budget framework of NOK 94 million to be allocated by the Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion and the Ministry of Education and Research. The funding provided by the Ministry of Education and Research, which comprises the largest share of the programme budget, consists of general allocations taken from the Research Council funds earmarked for humanities and social science research.

The planned financial framework will also incorporate the Research Council's ongoing obligations under the programme/allocations to Sámi research that were previously agreed to. The real disposable budget available to the programme board will therefore be about NOK 86 million for the ten-year period 2007-2017.

Sámi research communities continue to undergo development and change, and this creates the need for funding that is both long-term and predictable. The previous programme ran for five years, and the research communities found this time frame to be rather short in practice. The

In 2007 this encompasses the International Polar Year, Environment 2015, Climate Change and Impacts in Norway, Area and Nature-based Industrial Development, Research Programme on Health and Care Services, Research Programme on Mental Health, Research Programme on the Environment, Genetics and Health, and Research Programme on Public Health.

current programme will therefore take a ten-year perspective. However, the programme will be subject to an external evaluation after five years in order to identify the potential need to adjust course, either to better equip the programme to achieve the objectives set forth in the work programme or action plan or to more closely address new needs arising from changes in research needs. Among other things, an assessment will be made of whether health and natural science research (reindeer husbandry, climate and environmental issues) should be included under the programme or whether such research is already being appropriately dealt with under other Research Council programmes.

Broad recruitment to Sámi research is a key objective. Since the programme will run twice as long as the previous Programme for Sámi Research, the objective to grant roughly twice as many personal doctoral research fellowships as under the previous programme is a reasonable one. Much of this increase must occur through the funding of researcher projects that include a recruitment element. In the long term, the Research Council's recruitment to Sámi research is expected to take place primarily through researcher projects, not through personal doctoral research fellowships. The number of personal post-doctoral research fellowships should also be increased, and some type of grant for master's degree students should be maintained to ensure recruitment to the doctoral level.

Internationalisation of research takes place in many different ways. A number of international conferences on Sámi research have been held and visiting researchers have come to Norway from abroad. The programme intends to continue such measures. However, very few major, international research projects have been conducted thus far, and it is vital that the programme's financial framework allow for the funding of such projects.

Dissemination of research findings is also crucial, and the programme will focus on various types of dissemination activities directed at the general public as well as the research communities at the national and international level. This will require, for example, the translation and adaptation of research material in both English and Sámi, which is particularly costly with regard to the Sámi language. Various types of dissemination through multimedia will also entail substantial costs, assuming that funding is awarded for this type of activity.

10 Organisation

10.1 The programme board

The programme board is comprised of the following members:

Bjørn Bjerkli, Associate Professor, University of Tromsø (chairman)

Björg Evjen, Professor, University of Tromsø

Anni-Siiri Länsman, Lecturer, University of Oulu

Nils Oskal, Professor, Sámi University College

Kjersti Schanche, Manager, Varanger Sámi Museum

Per Selle, Professor, University of Bergen

Mikael Svonni, Professor, Umeå University, from 1 November 2008 replaced by
Lars-Gunnar Larsson, Professor, Uppsala University
Torvald Falch, Senior Advisor, Sámediggi (observer)
Maret Guhttor, Director, Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion (observer)

10.2 Programme board's mandate

Appointment and term of office

The programme board has been appointed by the Division for Science as from 1 May 2007. The programme period runs ten years from 1 May 2007 to 30 April 2017. The term of office for the programme board members is up to six months beyond the programme period in order to carry out required evaluation and dissemination tasks.

An external evaluation will be conducted after five years. The programme board has therefore been appointed for five years (1 May 2007 – 30 April 2012) with the possibility of extension to 30 October 2017.

Tasks

Programme for Sámi Research II

The programme board will administer the Programme for Sámi Research. In this context the programme board reports to the Division for Science and acts on behalf of the Research Council. The programme board is responsible for ensuring that the programme achieves the objectives set forth in the work programme and that the efforts are carried out by the most effective means possible within the parameters established by the division research board. The division research board may give new instructions to the programme board during the programme period.

In particular, the programme board will:

- Identify research needs, initiate projects and other competence-building measures, and assess suitable research communities and project proposals in relation to the programme's objectives and priorities;
- Ensure that the various thematic priority areas under the programme receive sufficient attention within the programme's framework and assess the emphasis on the general perspectives in relation to each thematic area;
- Follow up ongoing projects and other measures - including projects within Sámi research launched by the Division for Science before the programme began – with regard to scientific merit, relevance and implementation;
- Ensure that the programme's resources are used in the most effective manner in relation to the stipulated objectives;
- Encourage network-building between researchers at the national and international level;
- Encourage interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research based on cooperation between various research communities and lay a foundation that enables researchers in Norway to benefit from international research and achieve international publication;
- Draw attention to Sámi research, encourage public debate on Sámi research questions, and inform the media and general public of activities conducted under the programme;

- Formulate and implement a strategy for the dissemination of knowledge and research findings to various user groups, the media and the general public both nationally and internationally.

The Research Council's strategic interests

In addition, the programme board is charged with safeguarding the Research Council's overall strategic interests within the field of Sámi research. This may entail acting as a consultative body when the Research Council makes official comments on matters relevant for Sámi research, providing input on strategic documents related to research, and preparing special initiatives and plans for the Research Council's activities within Sámi research.

Powers of authority

The programme board will draw up a budget plan for the programme period, as well as annual budget memorandums and reports on the programme's activities for submission to the Research Council. The programme board will allocate funding within the powers of authority granted by the Research Council of Norway and other guidelines issued for programme boards.

The programme board's efforts and results will be subject to an external evaluation after five years. The evaluation may result in changes to all or part of the programme board and/or changes in the programme's content.

10.3 Programme administration

The Research Council is responsible for organising the secretariat functions for the programme in accordance with the guidelines for research programmes administered by the Research Council of Norway. According to need, the programme board may submit questions of a scientific nature to the Research Council's expert committees and other programme boards for their response.

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