

Evaluation of the Humanities in Norway

Report from Panel 6 – Philosophy and Studies in Science and Technology

Evaluation
Division for Science



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The Research Council of Norway
Visiting address: Drammensveien 288
P.O.Box 564
NO-1327 Lysaker

Telephone: +47 22 03 70 00

post@rcn.no

www.rcn.no

The report can be ordered and downloaded at
www.forskningsradet.no/publikasjoner

Graphic design cover: Melkeveien designkontor AS

Photos: Shutterstock

Oslo, juni 2017

ISBN 978-82-12-03611-6 (pdf)

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Summary

Philosophy in Norway has a number of rather unique features compared with other countries, even those with similar academic and cultural environments. Philosophy enjoys a privileged position in that it is offered to all university students regardless of their curricula in courses entitled *Examen philosophicum*. This no doubt reflects the fact that critical thinking and the ability to assess arguments, as well as awareness of ethical and social issues, are held in high esteem, and that philosophical skills are considered to be highly desirable. The panel thinks that this is an excellent policy, and it clearly contributes positively to academia and society at large.

Still, there is a cost to the wide offerings of philosophy courses. There are a great number of university lecturers whose sole duty, or main duty, is to provide these philosophy courses to students in other faculties and departments. It is imperative that academic staff have enough time to develop, and to be part of the national and international community. The panel fears that a negative Matthew effect (disadvantage accumulation) might have an adverse impact on motivation. Fortunately this problem has not gone unnoticed and many of the institutions have taken measures to find a better balance between research and other duties.

Another feature of Norwegian Philosophy, and this is not unique to Norway or to Philosophy, is the division into bigger universities and smaller units such as university colleges, on top of which there is also one research institute (PRIO, Oslo Peace Research Institute). The tendency is towards larger entities and hence towards critical mass, but there is also a notable difference between the goals or chosen strategic aims of the institutions. Although all units emphasise the need to engage in high level research, some university colleges in particular are geared towards serving their local communities or regions. They do not publish, or publish relatively little, in English or other international languages (or, if they do, these publications were not submitted to this evaluation). This means that their international visibility is low and that their research cannot reach the levels of 'excellent' or even 'very good'.

There are substantial variations in the quality and quantity of the research conducted in the units submitted for evaluation. There are departments that have become established as leaders in their fields, but there are also departments that struggle to contribute quality research even at the national level. The panel notes that, since the last evaluation of the field of philosophy (RCN, 2010) there has been progress in terms of internationalisation and mobility, as well as on other fronts.

Although there were pockets of very good or excellent research on many philosophical topics, the panel found that particularly strong fields were philosophy of mind, philosophy of language, epistemology and history of philosophy (including ancient philosophy). Another area worth mentioning on the positive side, are the practical philosophers, in ethics, social and political philosophy, as well as applied practical philosophy. The panel noted that there was relatively little research on areas such as logic, which might represent a threat to the viability of philosophy in Norway, for example if some research projects demand expertise on philosophical logic.

The principal weaknesses of the research field could be said to be the fragmentation of the national field, and the difficulties that the smaller institutions or units have in engaging in national and international collaboration.

As for Studies in Science and Technology, the panel observed that, although only two units were submitted for evaluation, they are both leading institutions, nationally and internationally. The panel noted that one especially strong field is the study of users of technology (in Trondheim). Another strong area in Norway is Studies in Science and Technology approached from an ethical and anthropological perspective, as well as the role of science and technology in modern societies and in research ethics.

Research cooperation and networking in Philosophy varied greatly. There were outstanding or excellent institutions (such as PRIO, UiB and UiO) where both national and international collaboration were the norm. On the other hand, some institutions clearly had difficulties engaging in national and international collaboration as a result of lack of funds and physical distances.

The panel found much interdisciplinary collaboration within both Philosophy and Studies in Science and Technology. At the University of Bergen, for instance, there are strong links between Philosophy and disciplines such as Political Science, Health Studies, Business Studies and Psychology. Philosophers at the Arctic University of Norway contribute to the university's strategic aims through interdisciplinary studies on the grand challenges of the future (health, climate, technology, sustainability and societal development).

The financial possibilities of the institutions vary greatly. On the whole, the basic funding and infrastructure of the institutions are on an adequate level, the average being very good. Some of the institutions are able to provide excellent resources and infrastructure, which have been well utilised. Some of the established institutions have been very successful in securing external funding. On the other hand, although they are provided with adequate basic funding, many of the less privileged institutions have had difficulties securing external funding, so that, for instance, the institution's budget for workshops and seminars is small. Even in these cases, however, the library and ICT facilities and services seem to function well. Nevertheless, increased competition for external funding appears to be challenging for the small institutions, and especially for the university colleges, whose staff have heavy teaching duties.

Obviously, the available resources greatly affect recruitment practices as well as opportunities for staff training and mobility. Again, university colleges, which often mostly serve the local community and the business community, do not have the kind of international recruitment campaigns that bigger universities have. As regards gender balance, there are both cases where this is exemplary and cases where institutions have failed to appoint women, especially at the professorial level. The panel observed that all institutions that experience gender imbalance have policies to remedy the situation.

As to mobility, the possibilities vary here as well. International mobility is strongly encouraged on the whole, and at the University of Bergen, for example, both the staff and the PhD students are encouraged to spend time at academically relevant institutions abroad. PhD training can also include stays abroad. The two institutions in Studies in Science and Technology are internationally leading ones, and this can also be seen in their exemplary procedures for recruitment, training and mobility. Here, gender balance is good as well, in contrast to philosophy, where male predominance tends to be a global phenomenon.

The panel's main evidence for assessing societal impact was the impact case studies the institutions had submitted for evaluation. It should be noted that the impact cases varied greatly in terms of how detailed they were. That said, the panel concludes that all institutions have taken societal impact into account, and some cases are even impressive as regards the impact of research.

The previous evaluation of Philosophy and History of Ideas (RCN, 2010) made a number of general and specific recommendations. It also remarked that Science Studies (or Science and Technology Studies) is represented at a number of universities, where it often has more or less close connections with Philosophy of Science. The recommendations of the current panel include an assessment of how the recommendations of the previous panel have been taken into account during the period 2010 to 2015 (see chapter 2.6). On the whole, research in both Philosophy and Studies in Science and Technology is in a healthy state. There are clear signs of improvement compared with the evaluation in 2010.

1 On the evaluation

One of the duties of the Research Council of Norway is to conduct field evaluations of Norwegian research, that is, evaluations of how entire fields or disciplines are performing in Norway. These have two purposes: to provide an international view and feedback on performance, and to support the development of research policy. By tradition, the evaluated field has been given an opportunity to form a committee to decide how to learn from and change practices based on the evaluation. In many cases, the RCN has then provided some funding to help implement measures proposed by the committee.

The practice of field evaluation is long established in Norway. In the past, such evaluations have confined themselves to one or a small number of individual disciplines, such as Philosophy and the History of Ideas, Law or History. In 2011, the RCN published a wider evaluation of Biology, Medicine and Healthcare. In 2015, it published an evaluation of the fundamental Engineering Sciences. In 2016 it launched this evaluation of the Humanities as a whole and it has more recently started a similar evaluation of the Social Sciences. This evaluation of the Humanities could potentially spearhead a new and even broader field evaluation practice.

1.1 Terms of Reference

The task of this evaluation is to

- Review the scientific quality of Norwegian research in the Humanities in an international context
- Provide a critical review of the strengths and weaknesses of the fields of research within the humanities – nationally, at the institutional level and for a number of designated research groups
- Identify the research groups that have achieved a high international level in their research, or that have the potential to achieve such a level
- Investigate the extent of interdisciplinary research at the institutions and in the research groups
- Review the role of the Research Council of Norway in funding research activities in the humanities
- Investigate the connection between research and teaching activities
- Discuss the organisation of research activities and the role of the Humanities in the strategic plans of the evaluated institutions
- Assess the extent to which previous evaluations have been used by the institutions in their strategic planning
- Identify areas of research that need to be strengthened in order to ensure that Norway possesses the necessary competence in areas of national importance in future
- Discuss the societal impact of Humanities research in Norway in general and, in particular, its potential to address targeted societal challenges as defined in the Norwegian Government's Long-term Plan for Research and Higher education, and the EU framework programme Horizon 2020

The government's Long-term Plan for Research (Kunnskapsdepartementet, 2014) prioritises the following areas

- The sea
- Climate, the environment and environmentally friendly energy
- Renewal of the public sector and more efficient welfare and health services
- Enabling technologies
- An innovative and flexible business sector, able to restructure as needed
- World-leading research groups

These priorities co-exist with a longer-term set of reforms aimed at increasing the quality of Norwegian research.

A recent analysis of the quality of Norwegian research as indicated by bibliometric evidence suggests that there are two dimensions to the need to improve quality (Benner, 2015). The average level of quality (measured by the field-normalised citation rate of Norwegian research as a whole) has risen to match that of Sweden, placing it among the stronger countries worldwide. However, Norway lacks research groups that publish in the most-cited 10% and 1% of articles worldwide. The Humanities are poorly served by bibliometric indicators, so Benner's analysis may be less applicable to the Humanities than to other fields, although it appears consistent with the judgements of the panel conducting this evaluation. Nonetheless, Norwegian research policy is likely to place increasing emphasis on the need not only further to raise the average quality, but also to develop and sustain some world-leading groups (Kunnskapsdepartementet, 2014) (Hatlem, Melby, & Arnold, 2017). The focus on quality in this evaluation therefore responds to an important policy need.

At the same time, in Norway – as in other countries – there is also increasing pressure for research to be able to demonstrate its societal value. Both aspects are tackled in this evaluation.

1.2 The evaluation panels

The evaluation has been carried out by eight field panels comprising international peers, each of which evaluated one or more disciplines. The composition of the panels is shown in Appendix D. Their reports are published in separate volumes.

Panel 1 Aesthetic Studies

Panel 2 Nordic Languages and Linguistics

Panel 3 Nordic and Comparative Literature

Panel 4 Modern and Classical Languages, Literatures and Area Studies

Panel 5 Archaeology, History and Cultural Studies

Panel 6 Philosophy and Studies in Science and Technology

Panel 7 Religion and Theology

Panel 8 Media Studies

Table 1 shows which panels cover which disciplines.

The chairs of the panels have formed an overall evaluation panel – referred to in the Terms of Reference as the principal committee – which is responsible for reporting on the Humanities as a whole.

The tasks of the field panels specified in the terms of reference were to

- Evaluate research activities with respect to scientific quality, and national and international collaboration. Focus on research published in peer-reviewed publications

- Evaluate the relevance and impact of the evaluated research activities
- Evaluate how research activities are organised and managed
- Submit a report with specific recommendations for the future development of research within the subject fields encompassed by the panel, including means of improvement when necessary

Table 1 Overview of the field and panel structure

Panel	Panel name	Discipline
1	Aesthetic Studies	Dance
		Art History
		Musicology
		Theatre and Drama
2	Nordic Languages and Linguistics	Linguistics
		Nordic Language
		Norwegian as a Second Language
		Sámi and Finnish
		Sign Language and Interpretation
3	Nordic and Comparative Literature	Literature
		Nordic Literature
4	Modern and Classical Languages, Literatures and Area Studies	Asian and African Studies
		English Studies
		Classical Studies
		Romance Studies
		Slavonic Studies
		Germanic Studies

5	Archaeology, History and Cultural Studies	Archaeology and Conservation
		History
		Cultural Studies
6	Philosophy and Studies in Science and Technology	Philosophy and History of Ideas
		Science and Technology Studies
7	Religion and Theology	Theology and Religion
8	Media Studies	Media and Communication

Note 1: Researchers in History of Ideas were in most cases submitted to Panel 5

Note 2: The national academic council for Gender research is not included as RCN is planning a separate evaluation of Gender research in Norway

1.3 Methods and Limitations

1.3.1 Organisation of the evaluation

The evaluation addressed four different levels (Figure 1). At the highest level, this report evaluates the field of Humanities in Norway as a whole. To do so, it synthesises and analyses the reports of the eight discipline panels.

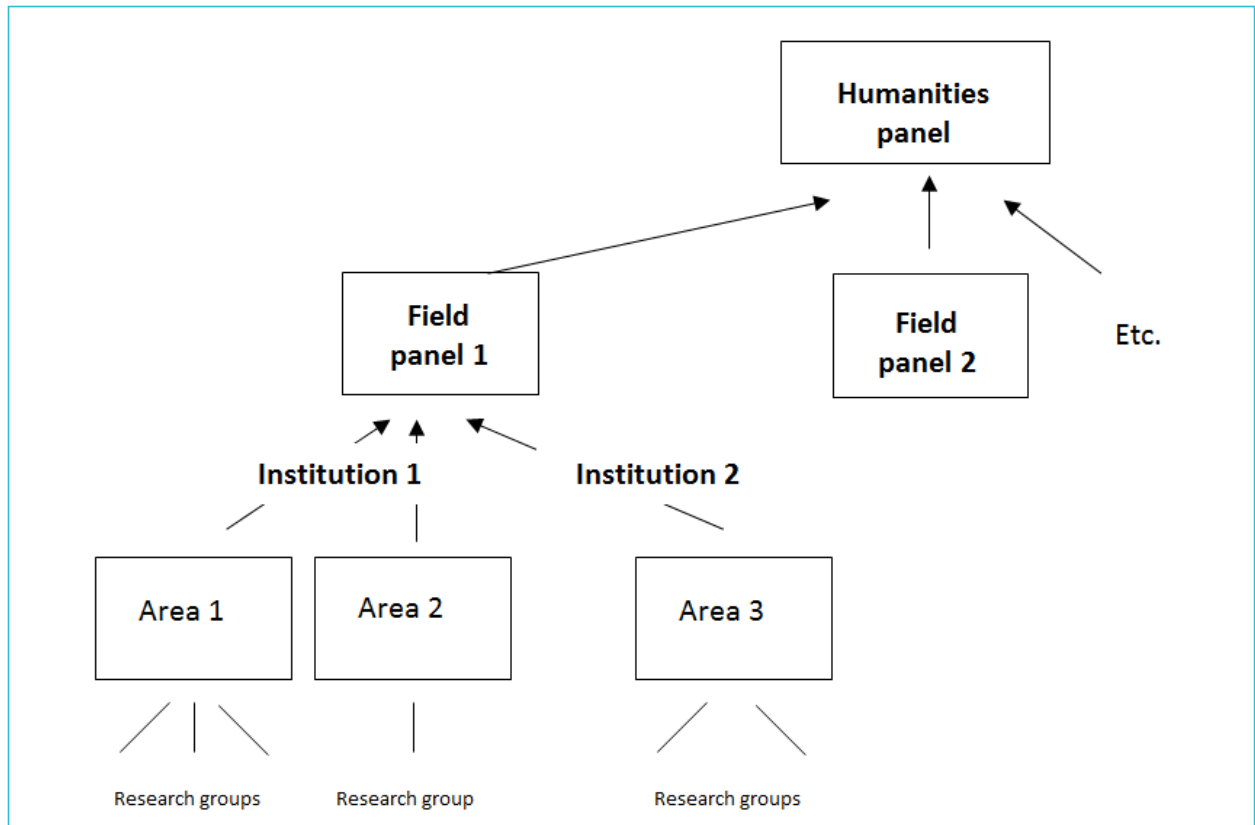
The division of the field of Humanities into panels was based on the established organisational structure of national academic councils (Nasjonale fagråd). There are 24 such academic councils, reflecting the historical development of research areas and teaching subjects within the Humanities in Norway. To avoid a very fragmented panel structure, the research areas of the academic councils were grouped into eight panels based on disciplinary similarities. For the purpose of this evaluation, the area of research and study covered by a specific academic council is referred to as a 'research area'.

The panels were asked to evaluate both research areas and research groups based on the following information.

- Each participating institution was asked to provide a list of its staff working within the Humanities and to indicate the most relevant research area for each staff member. The institutions also provided a self-assessment for each of the relevant panels, with a description of their research activities and results within each research area, as well as about the interplay of research and teaching and other societal impact.
- To support the panels' assessment of research areas, the RCN has provided a bibliometric analysis of all publications by listed researchers for each panel.
- The organisations were also invited to put individual research groups forward for evaluation within each area. The field panels evaluated them individually and also used these research group evaluations to support their area evaluations.

The universities and institutes have themselves decided which parts of their organisation to submit to the evaluation. The coverage of the evaluation is therefore not complete, but is likely to encompass the most significant research-active entities across the Humanities in Norway. Areas do not necessarily map directly onto organisational structures. For consistency, this evaluation refers to these submitted entities as 'areas'.

Figure 1 Structure of the Evaluation



1.3.2 The data available to the panels

The data available to the panels were

- **Self-assessment reports** provided by the research-performing organisations. (The template for these is reproduced in **Feil! Fant ikke referanseilden.**). There is one for each area. A self-assessment report comprises a report firstly at the level of the organisation (most often at the faculty or research institute level), and, secondly, information about an area. The organisation-level information is repeated across multiple self-assessments. So, for example, UiO's self-assessment for the Aesthetics field will comprise an initial section about the University of Oslo as a whole and a second part about the work of UiO in aesthetic disciplines.
- A **bibliometric report** from NIFU (Aksnes & Gunnes, 2016) that provides field indicators at the national, organisational and area level
- **Funding data** from the RCN
- Examples of **scholarly outputs** from areas and groups submitted by the research-performing organisations

- **Societal impact statements** from individual areas. These have been inspired by the use of impact statements in the UK Research Excellence Framework. They are free-text accounts from the researchers of societal impacts they believe research in their area has had over a period of up to fifteen years
- **Survey data from NOKUT** about student views on teaching

Building from the bottom

- The assessments of individual scholarly outputs fed into the group and area evaluations
- The group evaluations fed into the area evaluations
- The report on personnel and publications (bibliometrics) was considered at the area level
- Impact statements were considered at the area level
- The area evaluations were used by the field panels to build a picture of national performance within the field covered by the panel reports
- The field evaluations are used by the main panel to construct the national HUMEVAL evaluation

Panellists met representatives of the areas evaluated in a series of one to two-hour interviews, in which they were able to check their understanding of the data submitted for evaluation.

1.3.3 Criteria used during the evaluations

The panels based their work on a consistent set of criteria, against which they reported their findings at the area level. These were

- Organisation, leadership and strategy
- Availability and use of resources
- Research production and quality
- Recruitment and training
- Networking with other researchers, nationally and internationally
- Impact on teaching
- Societal impact
- Overall assessment and feedback

Research group reports consider

- Organisation, leadership, strategy and resources
- Research production and quality
- Recruitment and training
- Networking with other researchers, nationally and internationally
- Impact on teaching
- Overall assessment and feedback

Impact was judged in terms of the reach and significance of the impact reported.

- **Reach:** The extent and/or diversity of the organisations, communities and/or individuals who have benefited from the impact.
- **Significance:** The degree to which the impact enriched, influenced, informed or changed the policies, practices, understanding or awareness of organisations, communities or individuals.

In each case, the panels wrote full-text evaluations, which are reported in a separate volume for each panel. They also awarded scores using a series of 5-point Likert scales. These were used internally in

order to gain an overview of the many parts of the evaluation. Only the grades for research groups' overall performance and research quality have been published (in accordance with the Terms of Reference).

1.3.4 Limitations

An exercise such as this inevitably suffers from limitations. This section briefly describes the main limitations of which the panels are aware.

Humanities in Norway does not have a strongly developed evaluation culture. There have been a number of field evaluations with a narrower scope than the present one in recent years, but Norwegian Humanities researchers are not often subject to evaluation unless they are working in an externally-funded centre of excellence. Humanities are also generally less exposed to the need for external, competitive funding from sources such as the RCN, reducing the extent to which scholars need to subject themselves to external assessment, compared with scholars in many other fields. As a result, at least parts of the community have limited experience of how to deal with an evaluation and how to communicate with the evaluators in ways that will enable positive judgements. This is particularly the case in relation to the use of impact statements, which is a novel technique everywhere. Clearly, those with a more developed evaluation culture will be better placed than others to receive a positive evaluation.

The panels worked on the basis of a limited set of data and information. The sources used were mainly

- The self-assessments of the institutions and research groups
- The (small number of) publications submitted by the institutions
- The personnel and publication analysis
- A report on the interplay of research and teaching in the Humanities
- A report on research organisation and external engagement in the Humanities
- Interviews with representatives of the institutions, and national data on publication performance and student satisfaction

The panels could not check the information provided by the institutions against information found elsewhere. Further, institutions and groups did not always specify what they saw as their contributions to knowledge in various fields, so that the panels have had to make their own decisions about the disciplines and areas to which individual research activities are relevant.

The request for self-evaluation data was not uniformly understood by the institutions, suggesting that, in future, equivalent requests could be made more explicit. The number of sample publications requested was low and the processes used to select them are not clear to the panels. Whatever process the universities used, it involves a positive bias. This is a normal feature of such evaluations and the panels regard it as unproblematic: injecting a positive bias means that it is known what sort of bias there is. However, the representativity of the publications submitted is unclear. The fact that some groups submitted publications that were not peer-reviewed was a further complication.

Universities followed different strategies in responding to the request. For example, the number of research groups submitted varied considerably. Some of the groups appeared to have been constructed artificially for the purpose of the evaluation. Others appeared to be groups of people who normally worked together. This variability makes comparisons difficult. The focus on groups also complicates the identification of individual, outstanding talent. It also does not always reflect

the way in which Humanities researchers work, since individual scholarship as opposed to group work is more normal than in the social and 'hard' sciences. There is significant variation among disciplines and panels in their perception of the appropriateness of using research groups as units of assessment. So the divide is as much within the Humanities as between the Humanities and the hard sciences. However, it should also be noted that most of the universities have policies in place to support research groups.

Both NOKUT and NIFU provided data to support the evaluation, based on existing statistical and disciplinary categories. As a result, they do not always match the scope of the areas or groups evaluated by the panels, so that, while they provided useful, broad indications, the panels had to treat them with some caution. NIFU's bibliometric analyses were very helpful. However, the particular weaknesses of bibliometric approaches to the Humanities, a field in which a great deal is published outside the channels normally used for bibliometric analysis, mean that bibliometric indicators present a picture that is even more partial in the Humanities than in other fields.

Participation in the RCN's field evaluations is optional and there are no incentives (such as an effect on funding) for participation, so that their coverage is inevitably partial. The panels are aware that some significant groups are missing from this evaluation, so that the evaluation does not cover the entire field.

It is important to note that the traditional universities in Norway, on the one hand, and the new universities and the university colleges, on the other, have different amounts of institutional research funding. In principle, in the old universities, academics have sufficient funds to split their time equally between teaching and research. At the newer universities and university colleges, the institutional funding covers a much smaller percentage of research time, typically of the order of 20%, though there is wide variation among individual institutions. Only the Norwegian Academy of Music is under 10% (7%), whereas the others are typically between 15 and 30%. Some – but not all – of these institutions actively manage research time, allocating more to some and less to others. These very different funding conditions mean that expectations of research productivity per person should not be the same for the old and the new institutions.

Disciplines and fields differ in terms of what they regard as knowledge or quality and the extent to which they make 'progress', so that knowledge is cumulative rather than comprising many parallel forms of knowledge. A uniform understanding of these dimensions across the whole of the Humanities would therefore not be appropriate; they must be judged within their own disciplinary contexts. The panel approach of using peers in relevant fields to make judgements addresses this issue. While this inconsistency might be regarded as a weakness, the panels regard it as a strength, because discipline-relevant criteria are used in each case in order to compare performance with an international benchmark.

These limitations mean that this evaluation is to some degree an exercise in hermeneutics and collegial advice, rather than in exact measurements and objective results. The panels based their work on an attitude of solidarity with the colleagues and institutions under review. In cases of doubt about information, a charitable interpretation of the data was chosen. The panel also tried to formulate critical feedback in as constructive a way as possible.

1.4 Those evaluated

The evaluation covered Humanities research at 36 research-performing organisations. Eight of these institutions participated in the panel for Philosophy and Studies in Science and Technology.

Table 2 Research-performing organisations participating in the panel for Philosophy and Studies in Science and Technology

	University faculties	No of Researchers	No of Research Groups
Nordland University	Nordland University	14	1
Norwegian University of Science and Technology	NTNU Faculty of Humanities	60	4
University of Bergen	UiB Faculty of Humanities	58	3
University of Oslo	UiO Faculty of Humanities	79	3
The Arctic University of Norway (UiT)	UiT Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education	30	2
University of Agder	University of Agder	5	
	Other HE-institutions		
	Telemark University College	5	
	Research institutes		
	Peace Research Institute Oslo	5	2

2 Assessment at the national level

The panel thoroughly discussed its assessment of the state of Philosophy and Studies in Science and Technology. The subsequent observations are based on the following information:

- several reports by the Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education (NIFU); reports provide data at the national and institutional level in the Humanities, e.g. data on publications and research personnel, data on publication channels in Philosophy and Studies in Science and Technology, data on the relationship between research and teaching, and a report on research organisation and external engagement
- self-assessments of eight institutions that participated in the national evaluation of Philosophy, and two institutions involved in Studies in Science and Technology
- self-assessments of 15 selected research groups at the participating institutions
- the evaluation report Philosophy and History of Ideas in Norway: Evaluation of research 2004 – 2008 (Research Council of Norway, 2010)
- information obtained during the interviews in October 2016
- other background information provided to the panel, including statistical data on student satisfaction, a report on the interplay between research and teaching, and a report on RCN funding streams and funding instruments.

2.1 General observations

Philosophy in Norway seems to have a number of rather unique features compared with other countries, even those with similar academic and cultural environments. Philosophy enjoys a privileged position in that it is offered to all university students regardless of their curricula in courses entitled *Examen philosophicum* that are taught at many universities and university colleges throughout the country. This means that there are a great number of university lecturers whose sole duty, or main duty, is to provide these philosophy courses to students in other faculties and departments. This no doubt reflects the fact that critical thinking and the ability to assess arguments, as well as awareness of ethical and social issues, are held in high esteem, and that philosophical skills are considered to be highly desirable. The panel thinks that this is an excellent policy, and it clearly contributes positively to academia and society at large.

One of the consequences of this is a rather large number of professional philosophers, many of whom do not have a PhD. This, in turn, affects their ability to carry out research and to participate in philosophical debates at the national and especially at the international level. Likewise, it has an effect on the possibility of designing and developing research plans (which invariably require research collaboration) and hence of generating external funding, from either national or especially European and international sources. It is imperative that academic staff have enough time to develop, and to be part of the national and international community. The panel fears that a negative Matthew effect (disadvantage accumulation) might have an adverse impact on motivation. Fortunately this problem has not gone unnoticed and many of the institutions have taken measures to find a better balance between research and other duties. This might also be a consequence of the

2010 evaluation and its recommendations to the institutions. Some units have adopted a system whereby individual researchers who manage to secure external funding can buy themselves research time. This is better than nothing, but one wonders whether it is a sustainable policy – and whether it creates tensions within the communities.

Another feature of Norwegian Philosophy, and this is not unique to Norway or to Philosophy, is the division into bigger universities and smaller units such as university colleges, on top of which there is also one research institute (PRIO, Oslo Peace Research Institute). The tendency is towards larger entities and hence towards critical mass, but there is also a notable difference between the goals or chosen strategic aims of the institutions. Although all units emphasise the need to engage in high level research, some university colleges in particular are geared towards serving their local communities or regions. They do not publish, or publish relatively little, in English or other international languages (or, if they do, these publications were not submitted to this evaluation). This means that their international visibility is low and that their research cannot reach the levels of ‘excellent’ or even ‘very good’. What practical conclusions should be drawn is a delicate issue. Should we recognise that there is a plurality of legitimate strategies for philosophical communities to exist? Or should we urge all philosophers to aim at high-tier publications? The panel wishes to mention this issue since it does have a bearing on the outcome of research groups and research areas – and, ultimately, the national scene. The terms of the evaluation are such that they require us to use the same yardstick – and this might not be fair for all higher level institutions.

Furthermore, the higher education system is scattered, both physically and perhaps also intellectually. Again, this has not gone unnoticed and the entire higher education system appears to be in a process of reorganisation, just like universities elsewhere in Europe. This has a noticeable effect on the smaller units, which seem to be ‘in the process of becoming’. It became clear during the evaluation that the self-assessments sometimes referred to a structure that would only take effect from the beginning of 2017. This process is understandable and inevitable, but it did cause the panel problems as regards evaluating some aspects of organisational structures. It was not always obvious to the panel what measures had already been taken, or whether they only existed as plans.

The overall view of the panel for Philosophy and Studies in Science and Technology is that the quality and quantity of the research conducted in the units submitted for evaluation varied a great deal, at least in part for the reasons given above. There are departments that have become established as leaders in their fields, but there are also departments that struggle to contribute quality research even at the national level. The panel notes that, since the last evaluation of the field of philosophy (the RCN report published in 2010) there has been progress in terms of internationalisation and mobility, as well as on other fronts.

As for Studies in Science and Technology, the panel came to the conclusion that the research carried out at the two units at NTNUHF and UiBHF is at an excellent level. They are both highly visible internationally as well.

2.2 Strengths and weaknesses of Norwegian research in Philosophy in an international context

The panel felt that, on the whole, Norwegian research in Philosophy is between good and very good when compared internationally. The panel found that there are some fields where the quality and quantity of research is excellent. A case in point was Philosophy research carried out at the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Oslo. There are three research groups submitted for assessment in this area: the Centre for the Study of Mind in Nature (a Centre of Excellence), Conceptual

Engineering, and the Society for Ancient Philosophy. All three areas are well led by experienced researchers and leaders of research groups. In addition, the area is growing in strength in practical philosophy. The aims of each of the three groups have been largely the same as the host institution's: to produce research at the highest level, to develop interaction within the discipline and with other disciplines, and to develop applications for the benefit of society as a whole. The panel also found that some institutions, such as PRIO, are truly world-leading institutions. Their contributions within the field of Philosophy and Science and Technology Studies are to a great extent in interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary efforts, rather than in purely discipline-oriented philosophical research. This, the panel believes, is an important contribution at the national and international level.

Although there were pockets of very good or excellent research on many philosophical topics, the panel found that particularly strong fields were philosophy of mind, philosophy of language, epistemology and history of philosophy (including ancient philosophy). The researchers in this area are highly productive, and the core researchers consistently publish in internationally top-ranked journals. The submitted articles provide evidence of research quality of the highest standard internationally. Another area worth mentioning on the positive side, besides core areas of theoretical philosophy, are the practical philosophers, in ethics, social and political philosophy, as well as applied practical philosophy. The panel noted that there was relatively little research on areas such as logic, which might represent a threat to the viability of philosophy in Norway, for example if some research projects demand expertise on philosophical logic.

The panel felt that the strengths of Norwegian Philosophy lie in the creation of strong research environments and in strong internationalisation through research collaboration and publication. Between 2011 and 2015, the total number of publications in the field of Philosophy and Science and Technology Studies was 1161, and the publication points totalled 1379, representing 8% of production within the Humanities. (NIFU, Table 3.2). In terms of publication numbers, UiO scored highest (29% of the field), while the three big institutions (UiO, UiB and NTNU) accounted for 68% of the total output of publication points (Table 3.4). Remarkably, the field's publication and international collaboration profile resemble that of the Natural Sciences in that the proportion of journal articles is high (63% of publications) while the proportion of book chapters is low (33%). These are the highest and lowest figures, respectively, within the Humanities. A great many of the publications, 67%, are in English, the second highest figure in the Humanities (Table 3.6), and, notably, it is the more junior members who publish most in English: the figure for those under 40 years is 77%. As regards open access publication, publishing in the field of Philosophy and Science and Technology Studies is somewhat below the average (8%, Table 3.7) but it leads the Humanities in terms of international co-authorship (18%). These figures indicate that the publishing culture is increasingly international (and predominantly in English), in line with the general tendency in science and scholarship overall. The data from the evaluation from 2010 support this observation: in 2004–2008, 33.5% of journal articles were in English (the figure for all publications was 37.2%), and 62.2% of those aged between 30–39 years published in English.

The principal weaknesses of the research field could be said to be the uneven possibilities and fragmentation of the national field, and the difficulties that the smaller institutions or units have in engaging in national and international collaboration.

As for Studies in Science and Technology, the panel observed that, although only two units were submitted for evaluation, they are both leading institutions, nationally and internationally. The panel noted that one especially strong field is the study of users of technology (in Trondheim). Another strong area in Norway is Studies in Science and Technology approached from an ethical and

anthropological perspective, as well as the role of science and technology in modern societies and in research ethics.

2.3 Research cooperation (national and international)

Research cooperation and networking in Philosophy varied greatly. There were outstanding or excellent institutions (such as PRIO, UiB and UiO) where both national and international collaboration were the norm. Within PRIO, for instance, the research group on Law, Ethics and Religion has excellent networks both in Norway and internationally. Despite the group's small size, it has many contacts, also beyond Europe, and it is engaged in three major collaborative projects. To take another example, the philosophy research groups based at the University of Bergen have extensive networks within Norway, Scandinavia and beyond. The list of the research groups' established partners worldwide, including China, is impressive, and this extensive networking has an obvious positive impact on their research. Moreover, Bergen provides essential resources for international Wittgenstein scholarship due to Bergen's extensive Wittgenstein Archives (WAB), so that there are plenty of visitors and scholars seeking to use the WAB resources and collaborate with Bergen's Wittgenstein scholars. Bergen excels in research cooperation in the area of Studies in Science and Technology as well, and the area is being systematically developed through interdisciplinary and international collaborations with scholars from other research institutions.

On the other hand, some institutions clearly had difficulties engaging in national and international collaboration as a result of lack of funds and physical distances. The interviews alerted the panel to the fact that new or emerging universities with several campuses did not as yet have structures in place for international collaboration.

The panel found much interdisciplinary collaboration within both Philosophy and Studies in Science and Technology. At the University of Bergen, for instance, there are strong links between Philosophy and disciplines such as Political Science, Health Studies, Business Studies and Psychology. Philosophers at the Arctic University of Norway, in turn, contribute to the university's strategic aims through interdisciplinary studies on the grand challenges of the future (health, climate, technology, sustainability and societal development).

2.4 Funding and infrastructure

As noted above in the general observations, the financial possibilities of the institutions vary greatly. On the whole, the basic funding and infrastructure of the institutions are on an adequate level, the average being very good. Some of the institutions are able to provide excellent resources and infrastructure, which have been well utilised. For instance, the research group CSMN (at UiO) has been able to host over 1200 speakers at a total of over 250 events, and the group has collaborated and co-organised events with 25 of the world's top academic institutions.

The panel noted that some of the established institutions have been very successful in securing external funding, with philosophy research groups at NTNUHF being prime examples of this. The panel also felt that the institutions made good use of the resources – and that some were instrumental in building and sustaining research infrastructure. A case in point is the aforementioned Wittgenstein Archives located at the University of Bergen, since the archives really are of great service to the philosophical community internationally, and more generally to the community of scholarship within the Humanities.

It is clearly of the utmost importance that institutions have sufficient administrative resources to provide support for applying for external funding. For example, NTNUHF offers funding for

developing and coordinating research grants. Furthermore, researchers in Studies in Science and Technology at NTNUHF have a large portfolio of external funding, including EU programmes, which has allowed them to hire more administrative staff. The panel also noted with satisfaction that many institutions, e.g. PRIO, have good resources and that they are committed to building research infrastructure that facilitates open access to high-quality, comprehensive data relevant to their studies. Finally, the panel observed that many institutions encourage international collaboration by providing administrative support for applications for external funding and participation in the European framework Horizon 2020.

On the other hand, although they are provided with adequate basic funding, many of the less privileged institutions have had difficulties securing external funding, so that, for instance, the institutions' budget for workshops and seminars is small. Even in these cases, however, the library and ICT facilities and services seem to function well. Nevertheless, increased competition for external funding appears to be challenging for the small institutions, and especially for the university colleges, whose staff have heavy teaching duties.

2.5 Staff (incl. training, recruitment, gender balance and mobility)

Obviously, the available resources greatly affect recruitment practices as well as opportunities for staff training and mobility. Again, university colleges, which often mostly serve the local community and the business community, do not have the kind of international recruitment campaigns that bigger universities have. The University of Oslo is exemplary: vacant posts are widely advertised internationally, PhD training often includes additional international supervision, career path opportunities are considered on a regular basis, and researchers are highly mobile internationally.

As regards gender balance, there are both cases where this is exemplary and where institutions have failed to appoint women, especially at the professorial level. The panel observed that all institutions that experience gender imbalance also have conscious policies to remedy the situation. At HiT (Telemark University College), for example, the gender balance among staff is very good on the whole, but this does not extend to the higher echelons: only one of the deans is female, and only 18% of professors are female. The management has acknowledged this gap and is prepared to take affirmative action to remedy the situation. It has also mapped career ambitions, and it takes both these ambitions and abilities into account when considering appointments to professorships.

As to mobility, the possibilities vary here as well. International mobility is strongly encouraged on the whole, and at the University of Bergen, for example, both the staff and the PhD students are encouraged to spend time at academically relevant institutions abroad. PhD training can also include stays abroad.

As mentioned above, the two institutions in Studies in Science and Technology are internationally leading ones, and this can also be seen in their exemplary procedures for recruitment, training and mobility. Here, gender balance is good as well, in contrast to philosophy, where male predominance tends to be a global phenomenon.

Cooperation with other sectors of society (e.g. the private and public sectors) and the societal impact and function of the fields of research in society

Generally speaking, measuring the societal impact of research is complex and it also differs within disciplines. Furthermore, there is no globally acknowledged standard definition or procedures for evaluating societal impact of research. However, it is generally assumed that research should have an

impact beyond academia and some beneficial effects on the surrounding society, locally or globally. In more stringent uses of the term, the dissemination of research results does not count as ‘impact’, but here the panel collectively agreed to interpreting the term more loosely and, hence, dissemination counts favourably as well. The panel’s main evidence for assessing impact were the impact case studies submitted by the institutions. It should be noted that the impact cases varied greatly in terms of how detailed they were. That said, the panel concludes that all institutions have taken societal impact into account, and some cases are even impressive as regards the impact of research. A good example of this is the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), whose whole existence is based on producing societally relevant research. Not surprisingly, PRIO’s social relevance is high, and it has contributed to public debate on nuclear disarmament, societal security and refugee issues, for instance.

Another impressive example is the University of Bergen (Philosophy). Its direct societal impacts include a proposed change regarding the calculation of the health benefits of preventing stillbirths, a report on future technology developments presented to the Council of Europe’s meeting in Strasbourg in May 2015, and research on the ethics of international collaborative clinical research. The latter influenced the revision of the 2002 CIOMS (Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences) ethical guidelines for biomedical research. Again, the Arctic University of Norway submitted an impressive case study on the engagement of the research group in reframing how laypersons perceive moral or juridical problems. The contributions of the group have resulted in a series of articles, interviews, debates and discussions on the marginalisation of minorities and freedom of speech. In sum, the research area has done research in various fields, in particular within ethics, that has had a considerable societal impact and high national or even international visibility.

Finally, the societal impact of Studies in Science and Technology is also exemplary. At NTNUHF, research results are systematically disseminated to the local community, and another form of impact is that ministries and local authorities employ some of the graduates from the area. The University of Bergen (Studies in Science and Technology) also has a major impact on society at large: not only do scholars engage in broad reflection on the uses and abuses of science in modern societies, they also act as consultants for the Norwegian government and as advisers at the EU level on the formulation of the EU’s science policy. Bergen also excels at involving non-academic stakeholders in a number of research projects.

2.6 Overall recommendations

The previous evaluation of Philosophy and History of Ideas (RCN, 2010) made a number of general and specific recommendations for Philosophy to flourish. It also remarked that Science Studies (or Science and Technology Studies) is represented at a number of universities, where it often has more or less close connections with Philosophy of Science. It might be useful to reflect on these recommendations and to see how they have been taken into account during the period 2010 to 2015.

Research Cooperation (nationally and internationally)

The first recommendation by the previous panel concerned internal (or national) and international collaboration, and the panel recommended increased collaboration on PhD training. It also pointed out the differences in possibilities between the units with critical mass and smaller units that, as we already remarked, often suffer from a negative Matthew effect. The previous panel suggested as one possibility the establishment of a system of national PhD courses, and it also urged the individual units to continue to develop their internal collaboration.

The current panel observed that much progress has been made, although the difference between more research-oriented large units and the less research-oriented units is still formidable. The differences are understandable, but efforts should continue to be made to increase collaboration at the national level. At the international level, the collaboration between the large units and some centres, such as the Centre of Excellence CSMN, and smaller research institutes such as PRIO is substantial and well-resourced. As can be seen from the figures on the publishing profile, this collaboration has resulted in increased publishing in foreign languages, especially English, as well as in co-authored international publications. This has clearly led to higher international visibility.

Funding and Infrastructure

As to funding and infrastructure, the previous panel noted the substantial external funding obtained by the larger units, but also saw problems. The panel pointed to the uneven distribution of resources, with the University of Oslo dominating the research scene. This is still true, but there are now also remarkable strengths elsewhere. In general, the basic funding of Philosophy in Norway is at a satisfactory level, and the inputs to developing infrastructure are impressive. However, the smaller units continue to have difficulty ensuring that their staff have enough time to do research or to develop plans for applying for external funding. The previous panel remarked that 'there is general frustration in the smaller departments about the difficulties of getting research grants, postdoc positions and the like', and that much energy goes into preparing applications that do not succeed.

The current panel notes, with satisfaction, that many of the smaller units have strengthened their administrative services and support, and that they provide incentives for their staff to apply for external funding. The process of consolidation that is under way in the Norwegian higher education system will no doubt offer further possibilities on this front.

Staff (including training, recruitment, gender balance and mobility)

The 2010 panel noted that postgraduate training has undergone a process of professionalisation, in much the same direction as elsewhere in the Nordic countries. It also noted that, in this area, there has also been a lot of variation 'within and between local environments'. The current panel notes, again with satisfaction, that much progress has been made on this front. The differences are still great as regards the availability of supervision, especially with respect to the possibilities of being integrated in strong research environments. The panel evaluating philosophy in 2010 noted that there were cases where some students had no face-to-face supervision. Since the current panel mostly had to rely on data at the institutional level, it is difficult to know whether some students still lack supervision, but at least all the institutions are committed to supporting their postgraduates, and good practices have been spreading.

The spreading of good practices also applies to recruitment. It is now standard practice to use international channels when recruiting both students and staff. Norway is able to provide excellent facilities and good salaries, so that it has become an attractive country in the increasingly competitive international market. The previous panel observed, however, that there was relatively little recruitment to Norwegian universities from other Norwegian universities; for example, although quite a few members of the staff at the University of Oslo had a PhD from a foreign university, none had a PhD from another Norwegian university. This no longer seems to be true and there is more mobility within the country, both in Philosophy and Science and Technology Studies. However, to ensure the future vitality of Science and Technology Studies, they should recruit young scholars in order to secure recruitment to their leading positions in the next decade.

Some smaller units still complain that they have not been able to appoint international members to their staff, but all units have an explicit policy of attempting to improve on this. As regards gender balance, philosophy is still a male-dominated area, although there are outstanding exceptions. There is still the problem that, the higher up the academic hierarchy we go, the fewer female members of staff there are. On the whole, all units have an explicit policy of advancing equal opportunities, and hence of recruiting women members to the staff, as well as emphasising recruitment from different ethnic backgrounds.

With respect to mobility, the previous panel noted that there was negligible collaboration between the departments of philosophy, and hence little national mobility. To improve collaboration and thereby mobility, the current panel recommends that joint ventures should be encouraged between Universities, e.g. through targeted funding instruments that require several units with similar or complementary profiles to submit joint applications. Similarly, one of the strengths of researchers in both Philosophy and Science and Technology Studies is their ability and willingness to cooperate with researchers in other fields. It has turned out that the Humanities aspect is needed – and often sorely missed – in attempts to meet the global grand challenges. Interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary enterprises should thus be encouraged, perhaps also by making it mandatory for Humanities aspects to be built into, e.g. RCN programmes. The panel also noted with satisfaction that Norwegian philosophers and STS researchers take their responsibility to society seriously – and Norway has been one of the pioneers in research ethics. This should also be encouraged in future.

On the whole, the panel came to the conclusion that research in both Philosophy and Studies in Science and Technology is in a healthy state – and that there are clear signs of improvement compared with the evaluation in 2010. Needless to say, this development is uneven, but once the smaller units that now aspire to university status have reached this goal, the prospects will be very good. The management and organisation of the bigger universities is very good or even excellent.

3 Assessment of institutions and research areas

3.1 Nordland University, The Faculty of professional studies (UiN)

Nord University (UiN) was formed in January 2016 when University of Nordland merged with the two University Colleges of Nord-Trondelag and Nesna. The Faculty of Professional Studies (SPS), one of seven faculties, has two sections, Health and Teaching. According to the institutional self-assessment, The Faculty's expenditure relevant for this evaluation has increased from NOK 19.7 million (2013) to NOK 23.1 million (2015). The share of external funding of the total expenditure also increased from 15.6% to 16.8% in the same period. The RCN is the most important source of external funding, followed by other public Norwegian sources.

Within the research area of Philosophy and Studies in Science and Technology, 14 researchers were listed for HUMEVAL. The following data were submitted by the institution: one research group (Theory of Practical Knowledge), one impact case study but no research area publications. The evaluation committee interviewed representatives of the institution during the project.

3.1.1 Research area: Philosophy

Organisation, leadership, strategy

The Faculty of Professional Studies (SPS) states in its strategic plan that it aims to pioneer studies in professional practice in Northern Europe. It encourages internationalisation and networking among its academic staff and aims to provide an active research environment that is recognised locally, regionally, nationally and internationally in connection with the study of professional practice, in terms of both research and dissemination.

Philosophical research is done at the Centre for Practical Knowledge. The researchers in this rather heterogeneous group choose their own research topics, which should contribute to the aims of the centre, namely (1) to conduct research on epistemological and methodological aspects of knowledge development in praxis, and (2) relevant empirical studies. The goals of the centre contribute to the university's overall goals (Blue and Green Growth, Innovation, and Welfare). The aims are realistic, although rather modest.

Resources

Given the small size of the organisation, the university has reasonably good resources, and the institution makes good use of them. The university library is the only main research infrastructure. It has nine branches on the different campuses. However, the institution's budget for workshops and seminars is small. All the employees have research time as part of their academic position. The institution has not yet received external funding for major research projects.

Research production and quality

Between 2011 and 2015, the 14 people in Nordland University (Faculty of Professional Studies) reached 14 publication points – 14% of its staff had at least 4 publication points, and 36% were without publication points. 7% of publications were at level 2, 50% in English and 60% journal articles (for the humanities as a whole, the respective figures were 23% at level 2, 57% in English and 53% in journals; NIFU Report 2016).

The institution aims to encourage direct engagement between Philosophy (and other Humanities) and fields of professional practice, through both foundational and applied research. It has received support for the establishment of a new academic journal that is both philosophical and sufficiently relevant for professions. Owing to this profile – studying professional practices from a philosophical perspective, often in collaboration with practitioners – the production has been somewhat lacking, at least in terms of purely academic standards. Many of the publications are written in Norwegian. These publications may have practical relevance in Norway, but they fail to contribute to international debates. The publications are often based on interdisciplinary approaches, but some of them are published in traditional Philosophy journals (e.g. *The Monist*).

Recruitment and training

The strategy of the university includes recruiting researchers in order to stimulate research environments. At the faculty level, announcements of academic positions are increasingly oriented towards the international market. The institution has signed the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers. In many cases, however, candidates are expected to speak Norwegian fluently, which limits the possibility of recruiting from the international market. PhD students are encouraged (but not required) to participate in international research networks. The faculty does not have a separate policy for gender equality, but the university aims to increase the proportion of women in top academic positions. There is some imbalance in the age profile, as junior researchers are underrepresented.

Networking

The university encourages international collaboration, and the institution (i.e. the Centre for Practical Knowledge) supports incoming visitors within the limitations of the available resources. The institution has good connections with certain Nordic Universities (Aarhus, Åbo, Södertörns Högskola), and it also has some partners in the public sector. The institution does not currently have any major European partners. However, its long-term goal is both to expand the network of available partner institutions and to make an international semester a requirement during the PhD period.

Impact on teaching

As the university has undergone a reorganisation, the new research strategy has not yet been fully implemented. The future will show how well BA and MA teaching will be based on research. The institution's MA programme incorporates a significant amount of research in which both faculty members and doctoral students are involved. In general, the institution's research is highly relevant to the university's study programmes.

Other societal impact

The Centre for Practical Knowledge aims to bring Philosophy and the Humanities in general into direct contact with social practices in a way that contributes to real world problems. The intention is to help areas such as social work, healthcare, education, aesthetics, police work and journalism.

Overall

The Centre for Practical Knowledge is a relatively new group at a brand new university. At the moment, it does not have many international connections and it does not publish much in international forums. This is partly because of its profile, which aims to connect philosophy with studies that are relevant to various professions.

Feedback

The institution lacks sufficient networks. It would be important to have more relations with similar institutions even if such institutions may be rare. Publishing in international journals should be encouraged. The centre should have resources for international workshops and seminars.

3.2 Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Faculty of Humanities (NTNUHF)

The Faculty of Humanities at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNUHF) is at the time of the evaluation undergoing a merger that, by 2017, will make NTNUHF one of eight faculties at NTNU, comprising six departments of varying size. According to the institutional self-assessment, NTNUHF's total expenditure decreased from NOK 176 million (2013) to NOK 163 million (2015). The share of external funding of the total expenditure has increased, however, from 32% to 34% in the same period. The RCN is the most important source of external funding, followed by private Norwegian sources. Moreover, funding from the EU constitutes a relatively sizeable share of the total external funding (NOK 7 million in 2013 and NOK 8 million in 2015).

Within the research area of Philosophy and Studies in Science and Technology, 60 researchers were listed for HUMEVAL. The following data were submitted by the institution: four research groups (Applied Ethics, Centre for Technology & Society (CTS), Consciousness, Cognition & Reality, and the Research group on the Ethos of Technology – RESET), seven impact case studies and one research area publication. The evaluation committee interviewed representatives of the institution during the project.

3.2.1 Research area: Philosophy

Organisation, leadership, strategy

The panel considered research and teaching in the area to be well led. The area seems to have a good strategy and sensible goals that contribute to the overall goals of the institution. The applied ethics group is a part of NTNU's strategic programme for applied ethics, and the CCR group (Consciousness, Cognition and Reality) likewise contributes to one of the three areas highlighted by the institution as research priorities. The infrastructure at NTNU is good and both groups make good use of it.

The CCR group is all-male, while the applied ethics group has an acceptable gender balance. The institution acknowledges that the area is very male-dominated in Norway, and it is aware of difficulties in attracting female students even at the BA level. They respond to this by endeavouring to make prospective applicants aware of the programme and attempting to recruit internationally. The institution as a whole pursues a number of strategies to improve gender balance at all levels, such as offering a mentoring programme and actively encouraging applications from women. The Faculty of Humanities is also coordinating an NTNU and RCN-funded project on gender inclusion and management in academia.

Resources

In the panel's view, NTNU provides good resources for research, allowing senior faculty researchers 50% research time. The NTNU offers funding for developing and coordinating research grants. The two groups are very small in size, but make good use of the infrastructure provided by NTNU. There is insufficient information about support for research activities such as workshops, conferences and other events. The institution provides support for members of staff and PhD candidates who want to spend time abroad. 5% of academic staff goes for longer stays abroad. There is a plan to increase this to 10%.

Both the assessed research groups make good use of external research funding. For instance, the RCN-funded ISP-FIDE project 'Representationalism vs. Anti-Representationalism' (RAR) was

developed on the back of CCR discussions. In addition, an offshoot of the CCR group in philosophy of language has just received an excellent score at the RCN, and they are continuing to develop the project with external funding in mind.

Research production and quality

Between 2011 and 2015, the 30 people in NTNU (Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies) reached 84 publication points – 40% of its staff had at least 4 publication points, and 37% were without publication points. 26% of publications were at level 2, 81% in English and 52% journal articles (for the humanities as a whole, the respective figures were 23% at level 2, 57% in English and 53% in journals; NIFU Report 2016).

The applied ethics group is responsible for the journal *Etikk i praksis* that advances ethical debates in Norway. It is part of a collaborative network in applied ethics called Elsa. As can be seen from the data provided in the self-assessments, the more senior researchers in the CCR group are above average in terms of research productivity. The quality of research across both groups is mixed, with some very good work, some good work and work that is competent and interesting but lacks originality.

Recruitment and training

Recruitment is done through international calls evaluated by selection committees. Several recent senior recruits have been international. Career development practices at the institutional level appear to be of an acceptable standard, involving mentoring programmes for postgraduates and encouraging postgraduate travel abroad. Currently, some 5% of the permanent academic staff have the possibility of staying abroad for longer periods, while the goal is to increase this by 10%. In the Faculty of Humanities, some 40% of postdoctoral fellows have spent extensive time abroad in the last three years. As for PhD candidates employed by the faculty, every year around 10–15% of them reside in a foreign country for longer periods, often funded by the Faculty of Humanities or by RCN-funded research projects. The institution has also started to work more on developing career opportunities for junior staff by producing guidelines for writing applications.

The self-assessment report states that members of the CCR group read papers and each other's work, give feedback on MA students' project proposals for PhD applications, and provide an environment in which MA and advanced BA students can interact more easily with staff.

Networking

Several members of the applied ethics group are engaged in collaborative projects with relevant partners. In particular, the group is engaged together with the RESET research group in the promotion of responsible research and innovation. The area could further develop its international network as well as interdisciplinary collaboration. CCR, in particular, might benefit from further collaboration with cognitive scientists. To enhance networking, the NTNU established an office in Brussels in 2015 as part of its focus on participation in Horizon 2020. As a result of this, research groups from HF have increased their engagement in current application processes.

Impact on teaching

The staff members in the area teach at all levels (BA, MA and PhD) in NTNU's Department of Philosophy. As the self-assessment makes clear, the institution is implementing measures to further integrate teaching and research. For instance, MA students are invited to participate in ongoing research projects or to attend conferences – individually or in smaller groups – related to their MA projects. NTNUHF notes in its self-assessment report that one fundamental challenge as regards the

interplay between teaching and research is that most research projects in the Humanities are individual projects. The faculty does have a research-based portfolio, but that does not mean that there are always very strong, explicit and concrete links between individual projects and the various topics covered in the portfolio. The faculty also recognises that the academic level of the students, as well as their level of confidence or interests, occasionally presents obstacles to a more satisfactory research/teaching interplay, preventing the desired involvement of students in the different departmental research areas.

Other societal impact

Seven impact cases were submitted for the evaluation and they demonstrate a positive impact in a range of different areas.

Overall

The research groups produce reasonably high-quality research. There is a good deal of international and interdisciplinary collaboration, although more active collaboration would be likely to improve scientific quality. The overall assessment is good with room for improvement.

Feedback

The panel recommends more active engagement in research activities, such as workshops, conferences and international collaboration, and a higher level of interdisciplinary collaboration.

3.2.2 Research area: Studies in Science and Technology

Organisation, leadership, strategy

The Centre for Technology and Society (CTS) is a research unit within the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies of Culture. It plays a pivotal role in NTNU's current strategy 'knowledge for a better world'. CTS helps to define research priorities in areas with a strong societal impact: energy, health, oceans and sustainability, and it is leading in some of them.

The research is organised in five projects with three to five people in charge of each project. CTS favours initiatives 'from below' and, to that end, it holds weekly meetings.

Resources

The group is well supported by the host institution, especially in terms of research infrastructure. However, CTS has a large portfolio of external funding, mostly from the RCN and a variety of sources, including EU programmes that allow the centre to employ administrative staff.

Research production and quality

Between 2011 and 2015, the 30 people in NTNU (Department of Interdisciplinary Studies of Culture) reached 98 publication points – 50% of its staff had at least 4 publication points, and only 23% were without publication points. 14% of publications were at level 2, 74% in English and 63% journal articles (for the humanities as a whole, the respective figures were 23% at level 2, 57% in English and 53% in journals; NIFU Report 2016).

Trondheim enjoys international recognition in the international community of Science and Technology Studies (STS), especially in the domain of users of technology studies. Because innovative concepts were developed on the basis of empirical field work, one can speak of a 'Trondheim school' in STS. As bibliometric statistics show, the publication records in international journals are very good, and Trondheim also launched the *Nordic Journal of Science and Technology Studies*.

Recruitment and training

The recruitment of tenured staff and PhD students is carried out through appropriate international channels. The group within the area of Science and Technology Studies has an excellent gender balance, with five female full professors out of eight, and a total of 15 female members out of 29.

International mobility is strongly encouraged, and there is an excellent PhD programme and training in writing papers and career development.

Networking

There is cooperation within the university on better understanding of social and human facets of technology, as well as national and international cooperation, especially within the EU-funded project 'Use IT smartly'.

Impact on teaching

STS is included in teaching at all levels. The STS MA programme has delivered 100 MAs since its inception in 2003, and 42 PhDs graduated in STS. MA and PhD students receive excellent training through participation in research projects.

Other societal impact

The impact cases demonstrate extensive diffusion of research results in local communities. The group increases its societal impact through the employment of former CTS graduates in ministries and local governments.

Overall

Excellent and competitive research at the national and international levels; the CTS group is definitely a leader in user studies and domestication of technology studies.

Feedback

The group might want to put further effort into cutting-edge and innovative research to maintain its high profile.

3.3 University of Bergen, Faculty of Humanities (UiBHF)

Established in 1948, the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Bergen (UiBHF) has five departments and two inter-faculty centres. According to the institutional self-assessment, the total expenditure of the Faculty of Humanities increased from NOK 206.1 million (2013) to NOK 234 million (2015). The share of external funding of the total expenditure also increased from 21.7% to 22.9% in the same period. The RCN is the most important source of external funding, followed by private Norwegian sources. Some modest EU funding is also documented throughout the period (NOK 4.8 million per year on average).

Within the research area of Philosophy and Studies in Science and Technology, 58 researchers were listed for HUMEVAL. The following data were submitted by the institution: three research groups (Ethics, Interdisciplinary Studies of Knowledge, Values & Society, and Wittgenstein's Philosophy), five impact case studies and three research area publications. The evaluation committee interviewed representatives of the institution during the project.

3.3.1 Research area: Philosophy

Organisation, leadership, strategy

The faculty's self-assessment reports that the organisation complies with professional and international standards (an elected Faculty Board with a Dean and Faculty Director, two Vice-Deans, each department is led by a head, who is appointed by the Faculty Board for five years; they all meet three times each month in the Dean's Forum). The panel was unable to assess how well this organisational structure works in practice.

The University of Bergen has defined three priority research areas: (1) global social challenges, (2) marine research, and (3) climate and energy adaptation. The Faculty of Humanities intends to align its research priorities with these – despite the fact that, as it explains in its SWOT analysis, these priorities do not favour the Humanities. Of the three research groups submitted for evaluation, two contribute to priority research areas, in a wide sense.

The three groups have to a varying extent managed to acquire external funding (RCN and EU sources). Judging from their publishing profile, they make good use of the resources. Most of the research in the area is individually based and is carried out in contact with local, national and international networks, as well as with the departmental research groups. For the purpose of this evaluation, UiBHF explained that it has taken a flexible approach to the definition of the concept of research group. As the concept is used, it also includes research milieus consisting of individuals who share a common field of interest. This results in synergies, even if the milieu does not always work on a common project or share a common research plan.

The faculty expects that the Department of Philosophy will increase publications in international high level journals and that it will strengthen interdisciplinary research, in particular in cooperation with Medicine, Social and Natural Sciences. The department already has stronger links to such fields than many philosophy departments, e.g. in bioethics and in text technology.

One strategic aim of the faculty is to achieve at least one Centre of Excellence in the next call. It does not specify which of the current research groups, if any, it considers to be a promising candidate.

The faculty mentions Medical Humanities as a growing interdisciplinary field. This is definitely a field to which the research area of Philosophy can make an essential contribution, and to which it might even be indispensable.

The representatives of the institution indicated during interviews that they are not completely content with the RCN's definition of research groups, which leads to many excellent researchers falling under the radar.

This worry also applies to the Centre for the Study of the Sciences and Humanities (SVT), a permanent inter-faculty centre whose core identity is in the philosophy and theory of science. SVT has no students, only PhDs, and a small inter-faculty course. The institutional report is silent on how SVT is related to the research groups the panel assessed. In effect, we assessed only publications by those SVT members who are also members of one of the research groups.

Resources

The faculty's institutional report singles out the Norwegian Language Collections, a large archive that has recently been transferred from UiO to UiB, which is not relevant to the research area of Philosophy.

UiB also hosts the Wittgenstein Archive (WAB), a digital resource for research on the philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein. One of the research groups is dedicated to Wittgenstein studies, with special emphasis on using up-to-date technologies, such as those developed within digital humanities. There is no doubt that this kind of service is valuable to the philosophical community, and more generally for the community of scholarship within the Humanities.

Administrative support from the university for externally funded projects has been satisfactory, but more technology support (e.g. programming) would be helpful.

A considerable number of members of the research groups are in 'teaching-only' positions, which is not an ideal situation from the perspective of research.

In addition to its 24 full-time staff who teach philosophy at all levels, the Department of Philosophy has 12 lecturers with 80% of their time devoted to teaching. They teach exclusively the *Examen philosophicum*. Previously, many of the part-time lecturers were appointed solely for teaching purposes, but the policy was changed. The part-time lecturers were replaced by qualified lecturers and teaching responsibilities are now more evenly distributed in the department.

Based on specific research plans, all permanent staff can apply for a sabbatical semester after three years of full teaching load.

Research production and quality

Between 2011 and 2015, the 41 people in UiBHF (Department of Philosophy) reached 140 publication points – 37% of its staff had at least 4 publication points, and only 29% were without publication points. 22% of publications were at level 2, 61% in English and 59% journal articles (for the humanities as a whole, the respective figures were 23% at level 2, 57% in English and 53% in journals; NIFU Report 2016).

As the NIFU Report on Publication and Research Personnel in the Humanities in Norway (NIFU Report 2016:14) shows, UiB is the second largest institution in the Humanities in Norway, with an overall proportion of 15% of publication points in the years 2011–2015. Remarkably, the highest proportions

of the national output are found in Media Studies and in the area of Philosophy (23%) and Science and Technology Studies (20%) (NIFU Report 2016:14, p. 20). The self-assessment report in turn shows that many of the three research groups' senior members have excellent publication records. Some group members could be more active, even though they are primarily teachers, not researchers.

In general, the quality of the submitted papers is very good. The majority have been assessed as very good, some as good and some as excellent. Most of the papers (and books) are professionally written and they are usually very clear and reader-friendly.

The social and political relevance of the papers from the Ethics and Knowledge, Values and Society groups (299 and 300) is very strong, and they do not just address an academic audience. The contributions show that the members of the groups are able and willing to use results from other scientific fields, especially health sciences, political science and law. The groups' contributions have had a positive influence on international philosophical and bioethical debates.

The Wittgenstein group is the result of a merger of two former groups (Wittgenstein's Philosophy and Philosophy of Text Technology) and is by nature interdisciplinary. It successfully uses up-to-date technologies within digital humanities. UiB's Wittgenstein Archive and the related research have an international reputation.

Recruitment and training

The department has five PhD positions and one postdoctoral position. The training of the students is good, and they participate in meetings, workshops and conferences. One research group practises a system of joint supervision with the Medical Faculty.

Vacancies are advertised internationally as well as via extensive channels in Norway. As a result, foreign applications have been increasing. The university has also signed the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers, and started implementing its procedures.

There is as yet no systematic provision of career advice.

The number of PhD defences is slightly too low for a department of this size.

Both the staff and the PhD students are encouraged to spend time at academically relevant foreign institutions. In some research groups, the training of PhD students includes a stay abroad.

Of the seven positions that have been replaced since 2011, six were recruited from outside Norway. That is a remarkable record.

The faculty has made active efforts to tackle the issue of gender balance, and this has resulted in the proportion of female PhD students recruited increasing from 48% to 62% between 2010 and 2015. However, there is less gender balance higher up the career ladder. There has even been a decrease in the proportion of women professors (from 35% in 2010 to 27% in 2015). Given the present large number of female PhD students, the prospects of reversing this trend look good. These figures represent the gender balance at the faculty level, since separate statistics for the Department of Philosophy were not available.

Networking

The research area has strong links to other groups at the University of Bergen (including Political Science, Health, Business School and Psychology). The research groups have extensive networks within Norway, Scandinavia and beyond. The list of the research groups' established partners

worldwide, including China, is impressive. The extensive networking has a clear and positive impact on their research.

The Wittgenstein group's work essentially provides resources for international Wittgenstein scholarship, so that there are many visitors and scholars seeking to use the WAB resources.

Impact on teaching

The members of the three philosophical research groups teach at all levels. Many courses are directly linked to their research (i.e. climate change, political philosophy, Wittgenstein). A considerable part of their teaching is devoted to students outside Philosophy. Erasmus agreements have also been entered into, and PhD students are encouraged to collaborate outside academia.

The data on student satisfaction are sparse. There were eight respondents from the MA programme in Philosophy. These students' satisfaction with their knowledge of scientific work methods and research and with their own experience of research and development work was 3.67 (on a 5-point scale), which is above average.

Other societal impact

Five impact case studies were submitted to Panel 6. During the interviews, the representatives stated that they chose the submitted cases from a larger pool, that they were strict as regards the definition of impact cases and that they did not accept dissemination as impact.

Three of the cases reflect UiB's pronounced profile in medical ethics and bioethics. The direct societal impacts include a proposed change to the calculation of the health benefits of preventing stillbirths, a report on future technology developments presented to the Council of Europe meeting in Strasbourg in May 2015, and research on the ethics of international collaborative clinical research. The latter influenced the revision of the 2002 CIOMS (Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences) ethical guidelines for biomedical research (this impact case falls outside the period under review, however).

Additional impact cases concern two individual researchers, one of whom was repeatedly consulted by the Norwegian Labour Party to provide advice on the basic framework for children's education in public schools. The other researcher conducted research on evidence assessment and the standard of proof in criminal cases, which found its way into seminars for judges in Norway, and most significantly the national introductory programme that all new judges must take.

In sum, the research area has done research in various fields, in particular within medical ethics and bioethics, that has considerable societal impact and high national or even international visibility.

Overall

The research area hosts a number of active and well-networked groups. The quality of their research is very good across a large range of fields (distributive justice, climate justice, international law, foundations of the welfare state, medical ethics, health care prioritisation, Wittgenstein research, digital humanities). They make use of interdisciplinary approaches and their contributions are internationally visible within their respective research communities.

Furthermore, the research area demonstrates Philosophy's relevance beyond academia, and that it is capable of addressing 'the global challenges'. The submitted case studies are evidence of considerable societal impact and high visibility.

Feedback

The department's recent new recruits (due to retirements) have already led to an improvement, although the number of publications in international top-level journals should be increased.

The Ethics group could try again to change 'teaching-only' positions, so that everyone can have official time allocated for research. As the members of the group are experts on ethics, they could possibly teach research ethics to all the students in Bergen (if this is not done already).

The research group Interdisciplinary Studies of Knowledge, Values and Society is ageing and would benefit from the recruitment of more early-career scholars.

The output of PhD graduates is slightly too low for a department of this size. In the interviews, the representatives expressed a worry that their PhD programme may not be good enough to make graduates sufficiently competitive at other universities. They indicated that the Department of Philosophy has recently recruited several foreign members of staff who have increased the quality of research substantially. However, these recent recruits have not yet had an impact on the quality of the PhD training.

3.3.2 Research area: Studies in Science and Technology

Organisation, leadership, strategy

STS research is conducted in the interdisciplinary group (300) based on a broad ethical and anthropological perspective on 'Wissenschaft'. Bergen enjoys international recognition in two research areas: the role of science and technology in modern societies and research ethics (scientific integrity and scientific quality).

The interdisciplinary Studies of Science and Technology are of great benefit to the host institution. Thanks to widely attended seminars and an inter-faculty seminar about 'The central questions in Research & Society', scientists have an opportunity to develop a reflective attitude and better promote their research agendas.

STS research is conducted on a wide international basis by a number of foreign scholars attached to Bergen and through international collaborations with various universities (Barcelona, Tübingen, Lisbon and Utrecht).

Resources

The institution encourages international collaboration through administrative support for applications for external funding and participation in the European framework Horizon 2020.

Research production and quality

Between 2011 and 2015, the 16 people in UiBHF (Centre for the Study of the Sciences and Humanities) reached 46 publication points – 56% of its staff had at least 4 publication points, and only 13% were without publication points. 12% of publications were at level 2, 90% in English and 66% journal articles (for the humanities as a whole, the respective figures were 23% at level 2, 57% in English and 53% in journals; NIFU Report 2016).

The area has excellent publication records in relation to academic criteria (international journals, citation index etc.) and also in terms of the impact of publications beyond the STS community, in a variety of fields, for instance, the recent creation of an international *Journal for Food Ethics*.

Recruitment and training

Although few PhD students and postdocs are trained in STS (given the interdisciplinary status of the research group), the group provides intensive research training and help with publications for its graduate students.

The gender balance and the proportion of international scholars are both good.

International mobility is remarkable, with a two-way flow of foreign scholars working in Bergen and scholars from Bergen spending time abroad. The Bergen STS community is an attractive destination for foreign scholars on sabbatical leave.

Networking

STS is developing through interdisciplinary and international collaborations with scholars from other research institutions. However, contacts with other faculties at the host institution appears to be more difficult to develop.

Impact on teaching

There is no STS curriculum except at PhD level. STS is included in MA curricula, however, and it is also taught at BA level through the brave attempt to offer an inter-faculty course on 'The central questions in Research & Society'.

Other societal impact

STS has a tremendous impact on society: not only do STS scholars develop broad reflection on the uses and abuses of science in modern societies, they also serve as consultants for the Norwegian government and advisers at the EU level on the formulation of EU science policy.

Non-academic stakeholders are involved in a number of research projects.

Overall

STS is a major and highly visible component of Bergen University. It is distinguished by its major contributions to the study of science and technology in modernity and post-modernity.

Feedback

Senior and well-established scholars should take care to recruit and train early-career scholars in order to maintain the research profile.

3.4 University of Oslo, Faculty of Humanities (UiOHF)

The Faculty of Humanities at the University of Oslo (UiOHF) is organised in seven departments, which makes it the largest Faculty of Humanities in Norway. According to the institutional self-assessment, the total expenditure of the Faculty of Humanities decreased from NOK 434.9 million (2013) to NOK 413.5 million (2015). The share of external funding of the total expenditure also decreased from 27% to 24% in the same period. The RCN is the most important source of external funding, followed by other public Norwegian sources. Some modest EU funding is documented in 2013 (NOK 3.3 million), but this category has decreased as well (NOK 1 million in 2015).

Within the research area of Philosophy and Studies in Science and Technology, 79 researchers were listed for HUMEVAL. The following data were submitted by the institution: three research groups, eight impact case studies and two research area publications. The evaluation committee interviewed representatives of the institution during the project.

3.4.1 Research area: Philosophy

Organisation, leadership, strategy

Three research groups working in the area were submitted for assessment in this area: CSMN, Conceptual Engineering, and the Society for Ancient Philosophy. All three are well led by experienced researchers and leaders of research groups. In addition, the area is growing in strength in practical philosophy.

The aims of each of the three groups have been largely the same as the host institution's: to produce research at the highest level, to develop interaction within the discipline and with other disciplines, and to develop applications for the benefit of society as a whole.

UiO has highlighted Ancient Philosophy, and Philosophy and Linguistics among its research priorities, to which these groups contribute.

The core members in this area are highly productive researchers with many publications in top tier journals. They host numerous workshops and other academic events with leading scholars from around the world, and collaborate both internationally and across disciplines in order to facilitate the highest scientific quality.

Resources

The institution provides excellent resources and infrastructure, and the area makes excellent use of external research funding. The main funding for CSMN has been external through the Centre of Excellence grant from the RCN. It has received further grants every year. Conceptual Engineering has been awarded a prestigious five-year ToppForsk grant from the RCN that is expected to amount to NOK 25 million over its five-year lifetime, and it has applied to the RCN for Centre of Excellence status, and has plans to apply to the ERC.

CSMN has, for instance, hosted more than 1200 talks (30% of which were given by women). It has organized over 250 events, and it has collaborated and co-organised events with 25 of the world's top academic institutions.

There is a good balance between teaching and research. All the members of the area (except for the director of CSMN) contribute to teaching at all levels, though most teaching is done at the postgraduate level.

Research production and quality

Between 2011 and 2015, the 79 people in UiOHF (Department of Philosophy, Classics, History of Art and Ideas) reached 223 publication points – 25% of its staff had at least 4 publication points, and 52% were without publication points. 45% of publications were at level 2, 78% in English and 62% journal articles (for the humanities as a whole, the respective figures were 23% at level 2, 57% in English and 53% in journals; NIFU Report 2016).

The NIFU Evaluation of research in the Humanities in Norway Report points (NIFU report 2016:14) out that UiO 'accounts for more than half of the overall publication points in the Humanities Research' (Figure 3.2). When the figures are broken down to the institutional and sector level, it turns out that UiO accounts for 29% of the publication points within the field of Philosophy and Science and Technology Studies. The areas also have a distinctly international publication pattern in that, proportionally, they publish more journal articles than any other field (63% of all publications), and a high proportion of them in English (67%, the second highest in the Humanities). This highly international pattern is strengthened by the degree of national and international (mostly international) collaboration on publication: the figure for nationally co-authored publications is 10% and internationally co-authored publications 18%, both of which are the highest figures within the Humanities.

The researchers in this area are highly productive, and the core researchers consistently publish in internationally top-ranked journals. The submitted articles provide evidence of research quality of the highest international standard.

Recruitment and training

The area follows best practice in recruitment. All posts are widely advertised internationally, and those appointed come from a wide variety of international institutions. PhD training has been given through the programme at the department, often with additional international supervision. PhD candidates have been successful in gaining academic posts. Career paths and mobility are routinely discussed with PhD candidates and postdoctoral fellows in yearly appraisal interviews. All departments encourage their PhD students and postdoctoral fellows to spend time abroad. All academic staff are asked to reflect on the benefits and possibilities of a research stay, and both academic and practical aspects of these stays are discussed with the department's head of research. Researchers are highly mobile internationally. Some core researchers maintain links with departments abroad.

The gender balance is less than equal, but this reflects the poor gender balance in the field as a whole. UiO has identified Philosophy as an area that has few female academic staff and it is implementing sensible strategies to remedy the situation, such as actively increasing the focus on recruiting women through the use of professor II positions. Every year, the faculty holds special meetings with the heads of department on gender equality. The faculty has reached its aim of hiring 40% women to all new academic positions between 2011 and 2015. In 2015, HF also reached its target for gender equality (minimum 40% women) in all academic positions, with the exception of professorships, where the proportion of women is currently 36%. All female employees are encouraged to take advantage of UiO's mentoring programme.

Networking

The area makes excellent use of collaboration, primarily internationally, to advance its strategy and produce high-quality, relevant research. The organisation of the CoE Centre for the Study of Mind and Nature (CSMN) includes broad international participation on advisory boards and in research activities. In addition, many of the core group of researchers are based at various universities around the world.

Impact on teaching

Both BA and MA teaching appear to be adequately research-based in that researchers teach at all levels in their areas of specialisation. The interplay between teaching and research is considered important for the faculty and it is also part of its strategic plan that the MA level should offer specialised, research-intensive programmes. Students have several opportunities to engage in research at all levels. According to the institution's self-assessment, the Department of Philosophy, Classics, History of Art and Ideas offers scholarships to 10 MA students per year, who write their theses in cooperation with one of the department's established research groups.

According to the statistics on student satisfaction, scores are above average at all levels surveyed.

Other societal impact

Eight impact case studies were submitted, showing both a breadth and depth of positive impact.

Overall

This area is excellent overall, with core researchers who are highly productive and produce research of the highest quality. All three groups submitted can be identified as 'star' groups.

Feedback

There is some suggestion that the strength of UiOHF in practical philosophy is growing. It would be good to see this developed further.

3.5 The Arctic University of Norway, Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education (UiTHSL)

The humanistic disciplines at the Arctic University of Norway (UiT) are part of a broad and multidisciplinary faculty, the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education (UiTHSL). The faculty, UiT's second largest, is spread across three campuses. According to the institutional self-assessment, UiTHSL's total expenditure within the Humanities increased from NOK 136 million (2013) to NOK 140 million (2015). The share of external funding of the total expenditure decreased, however, from 18% to 13% in the same period. The RCN is the most important source of external funding, followed by other public Norwegian sources.

Within the research area of Philosophy and Studies in Science and Technology, 30 researchers were listed for HUMEVAL. The following data were submitted by the institution: two research groups (Ethics and PJD), one impact case study and two research area publications. The evaluation committee interviewed representatives of the institution during the project.

3.5.1 Research area: Philosophy

Organisation, leadership, strategy

UiTHSL defines itself as a multidisciplinary faculty with the basic aim of maintaining a broad variety of disciplines that can support and strengthen all disciplines and research areas that show good research quality.

The research in the area of Philosophy contributes to two of UiT's strategic aims: 'interdisciplinary approaches to the grand challenges of the future (health, climate, technology, sustainability, and societal development)', and 'ensuring the development of knowledge relevant for the northern Norwegian society (incl. research on indigenous peoples and the Sámi people)'.

(UiTHSL) has submitted two groups within the Philosophy area. These two research groups have organised their work in somewhat different ways. The PDJ group is quite large: 13 members from UiT (listed for evaluation), and eight other members from UiT and other Norwegian universities not listed for evaluation. The group thus comprises almost the whole academic staff of UiT's Philosophy department. The Ethics research group is a recent one, established in 2011 (with official status in 2015), comprising 18 members, 15 of whom are tenured and only seven are regular members. The group has relied exclusively on university funding.

The PDJ group members work together on common issues to a greater extent than the Ethics group. The external members are well integrated in the PDJ group, while the Ethics group is more a group of individual researchers. Some of them are among the most active in the faculty, and the individual researchers are very productive. In the Ethics group, the external members seem to be less integrated.

As for the organisation of research, PDJ has a regular and institutionalised meeting point, and a hub group that generates specific and cutting-edge research projects. Success has been limited so far: two PhD positions are funded by the faculty. The PDJ group is in the process of making up its mind whether it should become a more specialised group. The cost, they write, will be that several of today's members will no longer fit the profile of the group

Resources

Increased competition for funding proves challenging for the small units. There is also a fear that the forthcoming new model for research funding in the Norwegian higher education sector is not favourable for a department with a large and somewhat patchy palette of Humanities groups.

One of the ideas, and a main reason for the faculty using the research group model, is to put its staff in a position to apply for EU funding. Without a group, it is difficult to succeed in securing external funding. The research groups have encouraged their researchers to apply for EU funding, but they have not succeeded so far.

Research production and quality

Between 2011 and 2015, the 30 people in UiTHSL (Department of Philosophy) reached 81 publication points – 37% of its staff had at least 4 publication points, and 30% were without publication points. 31% of publications were at level 2, 65% in English and 52% journal articles (for the humanities as a whole, the respective figures were 23% at level 2, 57% in English and 53% in journals; NIFU Report 2016).

In accordance with the university's strategy, UiTHSL's research within the area of Philosophy has focused, with success, on interdisciplinary studies on a variety of topics, such as justice and democracy. The annual average number of publication points for the three-year periods selected for scrutiny has been lower than average, but the positive side is that it increased substantially in the Department of Philosophy during the last period and has increased roughly threefold, from approx. 12 in 2010–2012 to approx. 33 in 2013–2015 (NIFU 2016:14).

The PDJ group focuses on normative political theory. It addresses global justice and cosmopolitanism, democratic theory and freedom of speech, multiculturalism and allocation of rights, climate action and the humanities, and human rights and the use of public reason.

The Ethics research group has published two anthologies. The publications selected comply with professional academic standards but few of them contain original and outstanding results. They focus on action theory issues but in an effort to enhance the interdisciplinary relevance of their work, the group has recently sought to engage more actively with other areas of philosophical research such as those represented by the "Pluralism, Democracy, and Justice" research group at the Department of Philosophy.

The PDJ group submitted 11 publications, of varying scientific quality. Some of them the panel deemed excellent, some are weak and most fall somewhere in between. Productivity varies considerably between individual members of PDJ. One member's recent publication record is outstanding, a second member's is very good, while the rest are average or below average (given the statistical mean of 4.9 publication points within 5 years, according to NIFU statistics).

The PDJ group's book publication *Varieties of Liberalism*, which resulted from a conference, was published by a publisher with a poor academic reputation.

The panel concludes that the research within the area is heading in the right direction, but that the production is somewhat uneven.

Recruitment and training

Many members of the teaching and research staff virtually have teaching-only positions. The staff recruited have PhDs and some of them are professors. However, despite their title, their possibilities for research are very limited. They can apply for external funding and buy themselves research time.

Within the area of Philosophy and Studies in Science and Technology, the Faculty offers BA and MA levels (as well as a web-based first semester study programme). There is only one PhD and three *de facto* PhDs, since there have been difficulties recruiting PhD students because of lack of funding. Efforts are being made to send junior members abroad (indeed, almost all PhD students spend time abroad) and their publications and applications are being supervised.

As to recruiting policy, PhD positions are advertised internationally, and two out of four PhD candidates are non-Norwegian. The research group organises writing seminars, and supports proofreading for articles.

The gender balance (in PDJ): 14 male, 6 female, which is not uncommon in Philosophy departments; as the self-evaluation report says, 68% of PhDs are female, and the percentage at the professorial level is as high as 43.

Networking

National and international academic networks are being built through invitations to annual workshops organised by the Ethics research group, but there are no research or teaching partnerships, nor formally established long-standing relationships with institutions with similar profiles.

The PJD group, in turn, invites experienced political philosophers to workshops and conferences, and it has hired some of them as affiliated members. The group participates in projects run by external collaborative partners: 1) Civic Constellations II (Spain), 2) Active citizenship in Religiously and Culturally Diverse Communities (PRIO, UiO); 3) Globalization, Cosmopolitanism and Transnational Migration (Linköping/Copenhagen).

Some external members of research groups have part-time positions at other universities, and, for example, the PDJ research group has a joint project with PRIO and Aarhus that is funded by the RCN. There is also a network collaboration project on migration with Linköping and Copenhagen Universities, funded by the Swedish Research Council. The objective is to create cooperation and generate ideas between the Nordic countries in political philosophy. An Arctic Centre will also be established with a professorial chair in Philosophy, and several philosophers have been active in its creation.

Impact on teaching

The host institution (the Centre for Practical Knowledge) runs an MA degree and a PhD programme, and the students are encouraged to be in touch with research fellows. Some students have also co-authored publications with staff members. Due to the research profile, much of the teaching also involves carrying out research in classrooms – a practice that is difficult to accommodate in work plans. In fact, the group feels that this practice is under pressure and believes that this way of intermingling teaching and research should be defended.

Most teaching is done at the BA level, including the *Examen philosophicum*. The self-assessment report mentions a gap between research and teaching activities, although it claims that its research is highly relevant to the study programmes of the host institution. The tenured group members dedicate approximately 20% of their time to research and 80% to teaching. Most of them have a PhD.

The PhD training in philosophy works well, and students sometimes have external supervision based on specific competence, and also in order to create a network.

Staff members have attended courses on how to write EU applications, and two outgoing PhDs have received funding from UiT for stays at Oxford and Copenhagen Universities.

Other societal impact

UiTHSL has submitted an impact case study entitled 'Reframing the Public Understanding of Justice Beyond Material Distribution'. This is an impressive case study that describes the engagement of PDJ in reframing public self-understanding of justice. The contributions of the members of PDJ have spanned the years 2011–2015, and it has resulted in series of articles, interviews, debates and discussions on marginalisation of minorities, freedom of speech etc.

Overall

The area aspires to become a leading institute in interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research relevant to societal concerns. In accordance with this, PDJ aims to become the research group of reference for studies in political philosophy in Norway and also good at the international level. There are other universities that excel in theoretical philosophy or applied philosophy, so that the choice of practical philosophy is justified. Research in the area contributes well to UiT's overall strategy. Research quality and productivity is uneven between members of the research groups. The research groups have not been particularly successful in raising external funds, but they have obtained some funding through collaborative partners (other Scandinavian research groups). The research groups seem to be at a crossroads between specialising and keeping the group large and heterogeneous.

With the forthcoming projects (on climate justice etc.), their work will fall more into the category of applied philosophy. The projects that are currently ongoing are also applied in the sense that they are related to minority rights etc.

Feedback

Publishing at the international level should be encouraged, and more international recruiting should be done. The rather heavy teaching duties of some of the permanent staff leave relatively little time for research. Future recruitment policies should aim to rectify this situation so that all staff members have time and facilities to do research. The panel feels that research within the area is heading in the right direction, but notes that the contributions of the groups and their members are uneven.

3.6 University of Agder, Faculty of Humanities and Education (UiA)

The Faculty of Humanities at the University of Agder (UiA) has four departments under which all study programmes are organised. According to the institutional self-assessment, UiA's expenditure relevant for this evaluation has decreased from NOK 38.6 million (2013) to NOK 32.9 million (2015). The share of external funding of the total expenditure has increased, however, from 7.4% to 12.2% in the same period. The RCN is the most important source of external funding, followed by private Norwegian sources. Moreover, a small share of the external funding comes from other public Norwegian sources (NOK 3.5 million from 2013–2015).

UiA became one of Norway's new universities in 2007. The Faculty of Humanities and Education has no separate Department of Philosophy. The Department of Religion, Philosophy and History employs a small number of philosophers, two of whom have submitted material that was assigned to Panel 6 (one journal article and one impact case study). Both are members of the research group 'Ethics and Society' (UiA 284) that is assessed by Panel 7 (Religion and Theology). During the project, the evaluation committee had an opportunity to interview representatives of the institution. However, as the evidence provided is incremental, it is not possible to assess Philosophy as a separate area at the university.

3.7 Telemark University College (HiT)

In 2016, Telemark University College (HiT) merged with Buskerud and Vestfold University College (HBV) and became the University of Southeast Norway (HSN). For HUMEVAL, however, HiT is the relevant institution for the evaluation. The Faculty of Arts and Sciences (AF) was organised in four departments, and the majority of the researchers in the Humanities belonged to the Department of Cultural Studies and Humanities (IKH). According to the institutional self-assessment, the expenditure of HiT relevant for this evaluation increased from NOK 6.9 million (2013) to NOK 11.9 million (2015). The share of external funding of the total expenditure also increased from 4.6% to 8.8% in the same period. The external funding only comes from Norwegian sources. The RCN is not listed as a funding source, however.

Within the research area of Philosophy and Studies in Science and Technology, five researchers in one research group (EMAL) were listed for HUMEVAL. The institution submitted one impact case study but no research area publications. The evaluation committee interviewed representatives of the institution during the project.

3.7.1 Research area: Philosophy

Organisation, leadership, strategy

At the beginning of 2016, Telemark University College merged with the University Colleges of Buskerud and Vestfold to form the University College of Southeast Norway (HSN), with 17 000 students and some 1500 staff. Since the new organisation was only implemented from the beginning of 2017, it is too early to judge how well it will manage to support the university college's strategy. The self-assessment report describes the new university structure, but it is somewhat unclear what the structure was like during the assessment period. There have been and still are four faculties and four campuses. The Faculty of Arts and Sciences is the biggest one. It has four departments. The Department of Cultural Studies and Humanities (IKH) is the department where the submitted research is carried out.

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences (AF) is a multi-disciplinary entity, which can be regarded as one of its strengths. The faculty is led by a dean. The organisation seems to be clear cut and the resources, at least for the Humanities, adequate. The gender balance among the staff is very good on the whole, but this does not extend to the higher tiers: only one of the deans is female, and only 18% of professors are female. The leadership recognises this gap and is prepared to take action.

HiT states in its self-assessment report that it began establishing research groups four years ago, but only one has been submitted within the area of Philosophy. This is the Embodied Making and Learning (EMAL) research group.

Resources

The university college has good library facilities and IT services. It is mostly internally funded and has been able to secure some external funding from Norwegian sources. However, it has no EU funding or sources of funding from abroad. The self-evaluation SWOT analysis notes the heavy teaching load of its staff as one of the weaknesses of HiT. The university supports attempts to obtain external funding, and measures are in place to stimulate research. For instance, once a researcher gets external funding, she or he can buy time to do research. There was a worry that the rising number of

students would require even more teaching. However, the resources have been increased accordingly. Since teaching loads are heavy, it is difficult to plan and apply for larger projects.

Research production and quality

Between 2011 and 2015, the 5 people in Telemark University College reached 27 publication points – 60% of its staff had at least 4 publication points, and 40% were without publication points. 7% of publications were at level 2, 52% in English and 86% journal articles (for the humanities as a whole, the respective figures were 23% at level 2, 57% in English and 53% in journals; NIFU Report 2016).

According to the self-assessment of the institution, the ambition of the research group in the area of Philosophy and Science and Technology Studies, Embodied Making and Learning (EMAL), is to expand our knowledge of embodied making, with the aim of applying this knowledge to education, teaching and learning. There seems to be an anti-dualist philosophy behind this since, unlike the Cartesian tradition, it emphasises that body and mind form a unity. There were no research papers submitted, however. In the absence of academic publications, or publications aimed at the philosophical community, it is difficult to assess the quantity and quality of production.

Recruitment and training

Telemark University College offers a one-year programme in the History of Ideas (BA), an MA in Cultural Studies and a PhD programme in Cultural Studies. There is an obvious gender gap among the higher tiers of staff, and the department states that it has taken affirmative action to remedy the situation when recruiting new staff. It has also mapped career ambitions and it takes both these ambitions and abilities into account when considering appointments to professorships.

The students are encouraged to spend time at institutions abroad, and the university encourages them to take part in research activities. This has perhaps not been fully successful in the Humanities areas, because of a lack of suitable projects. HiT has endorsed the European Charter and Code for Researchers, and it has developed a plan accordingly.

Networking

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences works in close collaboration with the local authorities and the municipality (Bø). Moreover, it has formal arrangements for cooperating with Telemark Research Institute (located at Bø), for instance on financing and supervising PhD students.

Impact on teaching

This was already touched upon in Recruitment and training. The PhD programmes, one of which is the programme for Cultural Studies, are an important part of HiT's aspiration to become a full university.

Other societal impact

There is an impact case study entitled 'Landscape and Life Quality. Methodologies in view of a user-based district development with Ulefoss as a case'. This is a project financed in part by the local or regional authorities that aims to study why some towns are less attractive than others. Ulefoss has been in decline for around seven years, and the study aims to find out how the town was perceived by its inhabitants and people in the surrounding area.

The impact case shows how important relations between HiT and the local and regional community are. Studying how Ulefoss is perceived by its inhabitants and by others from neighbouring communities is important qualitative research. The research group also organised a discussion or

open meeting with people at Ulefoss Community House in May, 2016. The idea was to make the results of the study known and to get citizens involved in the research process. This is significant outreach activity and has societal impact on at least the local and regional level. However, although the local and regional impact is considerable in this case, wider societal engagement could be hoped for. There is little evidence that the research group has made a national impact. This impact case is also in Norwegian and therefore not likely to have an impact elsewhere.

Overall

Telemark University College will soon become the University College of Southeast Norway. The details of the merger and the structure have yet to be finalised. Publications were not included, so that not much can be said about the quality and quantity of the research activities. The focus is clearly on local and regional activities, and studying landscape and quality of life and other socially relevant issues. Whether philosophical research is carried out on the basic level is difficult to say. The principal investigator for the impact case is a professor of philosophy of culture (kulturfilosofi).

Feedback

Telemark University College is still in the process of making the transition to become the University College of Southeast Norway. There is inadequate evidence of its research (perhaps because the research community is so small), though, judging from the impact case and its self-assessment form, it focuses strongly on applied philosophy. It may be difficult for a university college where staff members have heavy teaching loads to apply for external funding at the national or European level. Instead, the college is an important local and regional agent, engaging in applied research on education, teaching and learning in particular.

3.8 Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)

The Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) is an autonomous non-profit foundation, independent of ideological, political or national interests. The research is organised in three research departments. According to the institutional self-assessment, PRIO's total expenditure has increased from NOK 89.3 million (2013) to NOK 114.3 million (2015). PRIO depends mostly on external funding. The share of basic funding has decreased from 16 percent (15.2 MNOK) to 14 percent (16.7 MNOK) in the same period. The RCN is the most important source of external funding, followed by other public Norwegian sources. Moreover, PRIO is one of the few institutions that has received funding from private international sources (NOK 7.8 million in 2013 and NOK 10.3 million in 2015).

Within the research area of Philosophy and Studies in Science and Technology, five researchers were listed for HUMEVAL. The following data were submitted by the institution: two research groups (Humanitarianism, and Law, Ethics and Religion), three impact case studies and one research area publication. The evaluation committee interviewed representatives of the institution during the project.

3.8.1 Research area: Philosophy

Organisation, leadership, strategy

As PRIO's strategy indicates, its long-term vision is to work towards a more peaceful world through its research. Its current four-year strategy (2014–2017) focuses on the changing responses to conflict areas, with particular emphasis on how environmental, demographic, technological and security factors impact on conflicts, and the importance of knowledge in informing decision-making. Accordingly, PRIO has decided to focus on three broad topics considered to be of high importance: Technological Change, Inequalities and Insecurities, and Contested International Engagements.

PRIO has three governing bodies, namely, the Board, the Institute Director, and the Institute Council. The organisational model includes three building blocks: departments, projects and research groups. Research groups (such as Humanitarianism, and Law, Ethics and Religion) serve as a driving force in innovation and project development. The research group on Law, Ethics and Religion consists partly (but not only) of philosophers. The group is led by two coordinators with responsibility for each subgroup (a. Law and Ethics; b. Religion). The structure of the organisation is clear and its goals are well defined. The group contributes to the strategic goals of PRIO by generating research on strategic themes in the PRIO strategy. The group makes good use of external funding. Its publication profile is truly international, although it contributes to Norwegian discussions as well.

Resources

PRIO has good resources and is committed to building research infrastructure that facilitates open access to high-quality and comprehensive data relevant to their studies

Research production and quality

Between 2011 and 2015, the 5 people at PRIO reached 44 publication points, and all of them had at least 4 publication points. 37% of publications were at level 2, 84% in English and 60% journal articles (for the humanities as a whole, the respective figures were 23% at level 2, 57% in English and 53% in journals; NIFU Report 2016).

The research group on Law, Ethics and Religion encompasses many academic disciplines, including law, moral philosophy, political theory, religious studies, theology, geography, history, anthropology and sociology. Interdisciplinary approaches are used when needed. The publishing profile of the group does not appear to be very consistent, and it uses a variety of publication forums from different fields. This is understandable, however, given the nature of the group. The members of the group are experts in their own fields, and their work has been published by major university presses (Cambridge University Press and Oxford University Press, for example). The members have not published extensively in leading philosophy journals, but most of the members are fairly productive. The *Journal of Military Ethics* is co-edited by the group on Law, Ethics and Religion. The journal has a good reputation and is an important discussion forum in the field of ethics.

Recruitment and training

PhD students are recruited through research projects and calls are international. Most of them have an exchange stay abroad. PRIO employs a high number of doctoral researchers and other researchers pursuing a doctoral degree (in 2015 the number was 23). PRIO facilitates career progression opportunities for researchers. The institute promotes gender equality for its employees, and one of its goals is to increase the proportion of female research professors.

Networking

Within PRIO, the research group on Law, Ethics and Religion has excellent networks both in Norway and internationally. Despite its small size, it has many contacts, also beyond Europe, and is engaged in three major collaborative projects. Group members participate regularly in international conferences and workshops.

Impact on teaching

Researchers at PRIO participate in educational activities through MA and doctoral studies and by supervising students. They also give lectures (in cooperation with NTNU and UiO, and the International Summer School, Oslo). PRIO is first and foremost a research institute and it does not have a clear strategy for optimising the interplay of teaching and research. However, PRIO tries to include doctoral researcher positions as an integral part of larger researcher-led research projects. As a research institute, teaching is not a major undertaking for PRIO, but many researchers have voluntary teaching responsibilities as this allows them to keep in contact with their primary subject.

Other societal impact

PRIO's social relevance is high, as is clearly shown by the impact cases submitted for the evaluation. It has contributed to discussions on nuclear disarmament, societal security and refugee issues, for instance. The true impact of civic discussions on political decision-making is always an open question. The public seminars held by the research group Law, Ethics and Religion are attended by non-academics as well as academics.

Overall

At the end of 2015, PRIO had 15 research groups: Business and Peace; Civilians in Conflict; Conflict Patterns; Gender; Governance; Humanitarianism; Law and Ethics; Media; Migration; Non-state Conflict Actors; Peacebuilding; Regions and Powers; Religion; Security; and Urbanization and Environment. Two of them are clearly related to Philosophy, but they do not concentrate on philosophical issues alone. Thus, it seems evident that Philosophy is not a major field within PRIO's research activities. However, the philosophical contributions they have produced are of high quality. The research group (or groups) on Law, Ethics and Religion is very small (three members listed for

the evaluation under HUMEVAL), but it is effective and in good hands. PRIO has a clear organisation, and the group serves PRIO's purposes well.

Feedback

The philosophical part of PRIO's research activities is of excellent quality. However, it could enhance productive collaboration if the research in Philosophy were more relevant to the curriculum of universities. The group should strive for EU funding by creating suitable partnerships.

4 Assessment of research groups

4.1 UiN – Theory of Practical Knowledge

Overall score: 2

Research production and quality: 2

Organisation, leadership, strategy and resources

The group was established in 2013 at a university that is relatively new to the university sector. It is rather large (in its own assessment) but heterogeneous. The university is headed by a rector, and the faculties by deans. The Centre for Practical Knowledge hosts the research group «Theory of Practical Knowledge» at the Faculty for Arts and Education. The faculty also has a Research Board and a Doctoral Board. Despite the rather clear organisation at the upper level, the research group does not seem to have a clearly established leadership or strategy for research and publication. The justification for this seems to be that the way the group is organised gives members as well as partners flexibility in terms of how they collaborate. Thus, publications result from individual interests and past engagements with practical work – in healthcare etc. – and as a result of workshops, seminars and other academic activities, which are structured in terms of specific themes, which themselves are planned with a view to RCN and possibly EU projects and applications.

The goals are somewhat vague, that is, to develop the epistemology and methodology of knowledge development praxis, and to carry out related empirical studies.

The host institution focuses on blue and green growth, innovation and welfare, and the research group tries to show that Humanities and philosophical research can contribute to these aims. It is not clear that this has been very successful so far. The aims of the research group are, in any case, rather modest, and there is no indication that it aspires to being a leading or even a reasonably successful group. The group states that it focuses on areas that are marginal, from the point of view of mainstream Philosophy. On the other hand this is understandable, given that the group was so recently established.

The university aims to be ‘recognised locally, regionally, nationally and internationally in connection with the study of professional practice’, but the contributions of the group have been rather modest.

On the resources side, the group feels that it has too few resources for organising workshops and similar academic activities. This no doubt has a negative effect on the possibilities of contributing at the national and international level. The group has attempted to secure funding for a major research project but has not succeeded so far. One of its aims in the near future is to secure such funding from the Research Council of Norway or the EU.

Research production and quality

Owing to its profile – of studying professional practice from a philosophical and Humanities perspective, often in collaboration with practitioners in various professions – its productivity is rather weak. Only two of the submitted publications were deemed to be of good quality, and none were

considered very good or excellent. Many members of the group had no publications in languages other than Norwegian.

Recruitment and training

Doctoral fellows are recruited both via open calls and directly from the MA programmes. Since doctoral fellows all teach and carry out research, and since they need to be in touch with professionals in different fields, there is a language requirement. This hampers international recruitment. However, since postdoctoral researchers are not required to teach or to participate in administration, international recruitment has been more successful. The university has also moved more towards opening calls for full-time international researchers, whereas previously they were mostly part-time fellows.

As to mobility, and especially international mobility, there is little in the self-assessment or the institutional assessment about this.

Networking

PhD students and postdoctoral researchers are encouraged to engage in networks, not only within Norway but especially within the Scandinavian countries. There seems to be little mobility outside these countries, but the university has adopted as one of its aims to become a pioneer in professional practice in Northern Europe. Likewise, it emphasises participation in EU projects, though success has been modest so far.

Impact on teaching

The host institution (The Centre for Practical Knowledge) runs an MA degree and a PhD programme, and the students are encouraged to be in touch with research fellows. Some students have also co-authored publications with staff members. Due to the research profile, much of the teaching also involves carrying out research in classrooms – a practice that is difficult to accommodate in work plans. In fact, the group feels that this practice is under pressure and believes that this way of intermingling teaching and research should be defended.

Overall

The research group and the university are new to the university sector – in fact the university was established in 2011, and in 2016 it was merged with two university colleges. The new strategy also awaits realisation. The quality and quantity of research could be improved.

Feedback

More publishing in internationally recognised journals should be encouraged, and more international recruiting should be done. The profile of the group makes this difficult, however, since the focus on applied philosophy and applied humanities research is not often recognised as belonging to the core of these disciplines.

4.2 NTNUHF – Consciousness, Cognition, and Reality

Overall score: 3

Research production and quality: 3

Organisation, leadership, strategy and resources

The CCR group contributes to one of the three research areas that the host institution (NTNU's Philosophy Department) has defined as main research areas. It started in 2011 with a number of other groups, as a result of NTNU's policy of forming research groups in connection with the follow-up of the evaluation of Philosophy and History of Ideas in Norway in 2010.

CCR's main aim is 'to provide a forum for discussion of issues within theoretical philosophy and cognitive science at the department.' The group mainly works in the analytic tradition and focuses on issues relating to epistemology, metaphysics, philosophy of mind, philosophy of science and philosophy of language.

Given its wide scope, which embraces the main fields of theoretical philosophy, the group is relatively small (five people, including two PhD students). It is led by a prominent philosopher, who is also the most experienced and most productive member of the group.

The gender imbalance is blatant; the group has no female members.

The group receives funding from the host institution for the development and running of externally funded projects. It has been using these resources quite successfully. The RCN-funded ISP-FIDE project 'Representationalism vs. Anti-Representationalism' (RAR) was developed on the back of CCR discussions. In addition, an offshoot of the CCR group in the philosophy of language has just received an excellent score from the RCN, and they are continuing to develop the project with external funding in mind.

Research production and quality

Of the five research group members, the three senior researchers show above average productivity (as measured by the average of 4.9 publication points within Philosophy, according to NIFU statistics 2011–2015). The junior members of the group are just beginning their publication careers.

It is not easy to assess the research quality on the narrow basis of four submitted papers. Two of them are very good, while the other two are good.

Due to the unusually wide scope of the group's research, which covers all the main subfields of theoretical philosophy and aims to connect to cognitive science and neuroscience, the research profile as reflected in the publications is somewhat heterogeneous.

Recruitment and training

The group's self-assessment is not particularly informative about this. The postdoctoral fellowship in connection with CCR's offshoot 'Representationalism vs. Anti-Representationalism' (see above) was advertised internationally and a British researcher was appointed to the position.

As for international mobility, the group's three senior researchers were hired from abroad (UK and Finland). PhD students are encouraged to attend international conferences.

The group states that they read papers and each other's work, give feedback on MA students' project proposals for PhD applications, and provide an environment in which MA and advanced BA students can more easily interact with staff. These practices should be standard and deserve no special praise.

Networking

No specific information was available, apart from the fact that researchers from psychology and neuroscience have attended the group's meetings on various occasions.

Impact on teaching

The staff members of the group teach at all levels (BA, MA and PhD) at NTNU's Department of Philosophy. The two tenured staff have roughly 50% of their positions devoted to teaching and supervision. There is very little information about the relevance of teaching to the host institution.

Overall

The group is relatively small, but with a wide scope. The research conducted is somewhat heterogeneous, but the group has been successful in applying for funding.

Networking/integration/visibility within NTNU leaves room for improvement, however.

Feedback

It might be suggested that the group should be enlarged but, on the other hand, this might be a risk, since the theoretical philosophy environment at NTNU is quite small at the moment. The group might at least sharpen its focus, however, since covering all the main subfields of theoretical philosophy seems overstrained.

It was unclear to the panel, how the CCR group, the RAR project and the envisaged philosophy of language offshoot relate to each other.

Measures should clearly be taken to tackle the current gender imbalance.

4.3 NTNUHF – Applied Ethics

Overall score: 3

Research production and quality: 3

Organisation, leadership, strategy and resources

The Applied Ethics group contributes to the overall goals of the institution, as the group is a part of NTNU's large programme for Applied Ethics. The goal of the group seems to be clear, as it aims to stimulate ethical reflection in research and education. The infrastructure at NTNU is good, and the group is able to make use of it. Given the small size of the group, the leadership of the group does not need to be particularly strong, apart from the supervision of the PhD students by the faculties. The gender balance of the group seems fair.

Research production and quality

The group is responsible for editing the journal *Etikk i praksis*. The journal advances ethical debate in Norway. The contributions of the group indicate that it is able and willing to use interdisciplinary approaches when the research question demands it. As the bibliometric data show, the group's productivity is good and state-of-the-art in environmental, medical and digital ethics, although some

members of the group seem to be rather passive. Although many of the papers by the members of the group are very interesting and clearly written, the quality of the contributions could be higher in terms of originality. Review papers are common. Some papers are published in forums that meet the highest international standards of applied ethics/philosophy.

Recruitment and training

Doctoral students (and postdocs) have usually been hired through open calls open to foreign students. They are encouraged to spend time abroad. The mobility of researchers is good, although this only concerns a few people (as the group is rather small).

Networking

Several members of the group are engaged in collaborative projects with relevant partners. In particular, the group is engaged together with the RESET research group in the promotion of Responsible Research and Innovation.

Impact on teaching

NTNU mainly has a technological profile. Ethical reflection on issues relating to technology contributes to this profile and could potentially have an important impact on study programmes at NTNU. More specifically, the Erasmus Mundus Master contributes to the training of professional ethicists, while the 'Ethics portal' may contribute to extensive diffusion of ethical issues.

Overall

This is a small group whose members carry out research on a variety of topics in Applied Ethics. The connecting link between the different issues is technology, in a loose sense. Some of the contributions represent political philosophy rather than applied ethics, but this is unproblematic, as applied ethics is obviously related to social and political issues. Although the emphasis on practical issues in most of the contributions is understandable in an 'applied' ethics approach, it should not preclude the discussion of broader philosophical issues raised by the case studies. Many papers by the group are reviews and commentaries. They give the impression that the authors are well aware of their topics, but, on the other hand, their contributions do not always demonstrate striking originality.

Feedback

Weekly research seminars could help the members of the group to develop a common language and share conceptual tools on the basis of their respective case studies. If the group does not hold such regular seminars, it might consider organising them. Making the group even more visible within NTNU would make the research results more relevant to teaching and could possibly help to attract even more partners within NTNU. Applied ethics should be clearly connected to both natural and social sciences. All actions that might lead to new links are welcome. International cooperation could be further developed.

4.4 NTNUHF – Research group on the Ethos of Technology (RESET)

Overall score: 3

Research production and quality: 3

Organisation, leadership, strategy and resources

According to the self-assessment, since 2013, the group has been a formalisation of existing collaborations aimed at creating added value. It is more a venue for interaction (at least on Friday mornings, for an hour) than a shared programme. The overarching goal, ‘to explore the ethos of contemporary technology development [– as a practice]’, is not manifested in the publications that were submitted for assessment (although the self-assessment mentions publications that appear to be relevant to the overarching goal). The reference to ‘humanistic knowledge needed to meet the challenges of our times’ (one of the faculty’s objectives) appears to capture the overall thrust. The group appears to be driven by resource opportunities (as in the externally funded projects they secured in the RCN’s large strategic technology programmes, and the NTNU strategic area on Health) and networking. There might be a de facto leadership, but it is not visible in the self-assessment text. The self-assessment text mentions that NTNU has made funds available to strengthen the group by appointing a prominent international scholar as a part-time professor (0.20) for two years.

Research production and quality

The interdisciplinary nature of much of the group’s research does not always lend itself to publication, but there is nevertheless a steady stream of publications. The quality of the publications is uneven: some of the English-language publications the group decided to submit for assessment are weak, while others are very good. Some of the publications are based on earlier work done elsewhere.

Recruitment and training

It is unclear where the funding for PhD students and postdocs comes from, and how many members there are in the group. The group’s website indicates one PhD student and one postdoc, who both appear to work on personalised medicine, which seems to be a new focus in the group.

There is support for early-career researchers, and encouragement for international mobility.

Networking

Members of the group invest in networking, and are active in relevant institutions and communities, and they have responsible positions.

Impact on teaching

There is some data (but it is not very clear) on the amount of teaching; tenured staff are expected to do both teaching and research. There are initiatives by the department as a whole for a BA programme in Applied Ethics. There is very little information about the relevance of teaching to the host institution.

Overall

The group is a forum for interaction rather than a unit with identified tasks, which makes it more difficult to assess in terms of the RCN criteria for a group. The self-assessment report indicates that

the work of members of the group is relevant to NTNU's strategy (the humanistic perspective), and it contains an extended discussion of their dedicated approach, which lies between the normative and the empirical, integrating the two. This is interesting. It reads like a brief essay on approaches, and members of the group clearly have relevant experience. It is less clear what its outcomes and achievements are.

Feedback

The group is separate from the group on Applied Ethics, but it has difficulty distinguishing itself. The self-assessment emphasises its dedicated approach, but its actual achievements are not as striking as one would hope.

4.5 NTNUHF – Centre for Technology and Society

Overall score: 4

Research production and quality: 4

Organisation, leadership, strategy and resources

The group comprises 29 members. It is divided into five subgroups with two to eight members who work on thematic projects related to current research topics in STS research, modulated by research opportunities and perceived needs. All members exchange knowledge and views at a weekly meeting. The group relies on external funding, mostly from the RCN and a variety of research programmes. The group plays an important role within NTNU.

Research production and quality

There is a good balance between international and national journals in the group's publication profile. Many papers develop the results of national empirical enquiries conducted as teamwork by two members of the group. Most of the publications selected combine empirical results with conceptual and theoretical developments.

Recruitment and training

PhD students and postdoc fellows are largely recruited on an international basis. There is excellent gender balance. The group has established a PhD training programme and takes care of the career development of PhD students.

Networking

The group has strong partnerships with two Centres of Excellence on energy and it has members from abroad. The group has a strong presence on the international STS scene.

Impact on teaching

Teaching (47% of staff members' time) includes BA, MA and PhD levels. It is based on cutting-edge research and involves PhD students as well as senior research scientists. There is very little information about the relevance of teaching to the host institution.

Overall

This is a quite big group with a research school tradition for studies on user appropriation and domestication of technology. The group has managed to diversify its research topics while preserving its strong identity.

Feedback

The national focus of field studies is a strong component of research activities; however, the group would benefit from more international comparisons and collaborations. The international dimension could be enhanced.

4.6 UiBHF – Ethics and Distributive Justice

Overall score: 4

Research production and quality: 4

Organisation, leadership, strategy and resources

The group's research is focused on a fair distribution of resources, locally and globally. In that respect, the goals of the group are well in line with the strategic aims of the University of Bergen, which include 'global societal challenges'. The group already has well-established traditions. The leader of the group is a productive all-round researcher. The department that provides the environment for the group is headed by an experienced scholar. The group has very good resources and infrastructure and, judging by its active publishing profile, it makes good use of the resources. Many members of the group are in 'teaching-only' positions, which is not an ideal situation from the perspective of research.

Research production and quality

The group's research production is good in terms of quantity. Some members of the group could be more active, even though they are primarily teachers, not researchers. In general, the quality of the papers is very good. The papers (and books) are professionally written and they are usually very clear and reader-friendly. The points that are defended are typically rather convincing and original. The social and political relevance of the papers is very strong – they do not just address an academic audience. The contributions show that the members of the group are able and willing to use the results of other sciences, especially Medicine, Political Science and Law. The group's contributions have positively influenced international philosophical and bioethical debates.

Recruitment and training

The department has five PhD positions and one postdoctoral position. When hiring, they use mechanisms from outside the department to recruit PhD students, and the programme is truly international. The training of the students is good, and they participate in the meetings, workshops and conferences. Joint supervision (with the Medical Faculty) is practised by the group. The mobility of early-career researchers appears to be good, although not much is said about this in the self-assessment report.

Networking

The group has strong links both to other groups at the University of Bergen (Political Science, Medicine, Business School and Psychology) and to international collaborators (including researchers in China). The group's members meet regularly, but they also hear the opinions of other groups and individuals in Bergen. Good networking has an obvious positive impact on their research. The group has participated in projects such as Priorities (Bergen and the US Health Institute) and Philosophy of International Law.

Impact on teaching

The members of the group in the Department of Philosophy teach at all levels. About half of their teaching is devoted to students outside the field of philosophy. Many courses are directly linked to their research, including the course on climate change and the courses on political philosophy. The group appears to be very useful for the study programmes at the University of Bergen.

Overall

This is a strong group with established traditions. The group's new research areas (climate justice, international law, foundations of the welfare state, health care prioritisation) strengthen the group. The quality of the group's contributions is very good, and they publish in forums where the publications will be noticed.

Feedback

The group could try to change 'teaching-only' positions so that everyone would have official time for research. As the members of the group are experts on ethics, they could possibly teach research ethics to all the students in Bergen (if this is not done already). That would make the group even more important, and its impact on teaching would increase.

4.7 UiBHF – Interdisciplinary Studies of Knowledge, Values, and Society

Overall score: 4

Research production and quality: 5

Organisation, leadership, strategy and resources

This interdisciplinary group has 18 members, including non-Norwegian scholars. The director is responsible for ensuring long-term strategic activities, but the governance structure is otherwise flat, and members are encouraged to take initiatives. There is interaction and mutual support, and the ambience appears to be very positive. The group relies on external funding (RCN and EU sources), and it has been quite successful in acquiring resources.

Research production and quality

Excellent publication record for the senior members.

Recruitment and training

Only a few PhD students and postdocs – which is understandable given the group's position and role in UiB.

Networking

Drawing on its interdisciplinary profile, the group has developed collaborations with scholars from other research institutions at both the national and international level.

Impact on teaching

All members contribute to teaching at PhD level and one of them to a course on Central Questions in Research and Society at the BA level. There is very little information about the relevance of teaching to the host institution.

Overall

The group has a good research dynamic with a strong identity in its interdisciplinary approach to science in society.

Feedback

The group is top-heavy in terms of seniority and would benefit from recruiting more young scholars.

4.8 UiBHF – Text technology and Wittgenstein’s philosophy

Overall score: 4

Research production and quality: 4

Organisation, leadership, strategy and resources

The research group, a merger of Wittgenstein’s Philosophy and Philosophy of Text Technology, belongs to the Department of Philosophy. The merger seems to have been the result of an overlap between previous groups in terms of people and interests. The department’s strategy includes developing Philosophy and Text Technology as an internationally leading research group.

Goals

The goals of the research group are clear: it wants to be a leading centre for Wittgenstein studies, with special emphasis on using up-to-date technologies such as those developed within digital humanities. This is a laudable and well-defined strategic goal. There is no doubt that this is of great service to the philosophical community, and more generally to the community of scholarship within the humanities.

Strategy

In its recently adopted strategic plan, the university emphasises strengthening research by advocating better organisation of research groups with a view to achieving excellence. As a concrete goal, the strategy mentions trying to secure at least one Centre of Excellence in the next call. Another goal of the university is to encourage interdisciplinary collaboration, both within the university and with outside collaborators. The strategy also encourages participation in Horizon 2020.

We can therefore conclude that the group fits well with the university’s strategic plans.

Resources

Based on a political decision at the national level, the university hosts a number of important databases (such as the Norwegian Language Collections), and the Wittgenstein Archive (WAB) is a

fundamental digital resource. In its institutional report, the university mentions that it supports Digital Humanities, and it also mentions explicitly that the Wittgenstein Archive (WAB) is a fundamental digital resource for research on the philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein.

The department and WAB have managed to secure external funding from the RCN as well as from private sources and from the EU. The administrative support from the university for the externally funded projects has been satisfactory, but more technology support (e.g. programming) would be helpful.

Research production and quality

Excellent output.

Recruitment and training

In accordance with university policy, vacant positions are advertised internationally as well as published via extensive channels in Norway and internationally (such as the European Job Portal). As a result, foreign applications have been on the increase, although they vary between faculties and departments. The university has also signed the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers, and started implementing its procedure. Gender balance has also been addressed, and the results as regards the recruitment of PhD students have improved. However, the higher up on the ladder we go, the less balanced the gender balance is.

There is a peculiarity in the Bergen staff (and this is true of other universities also). All students at the University take a 10-credit course called *Examen philosophicum*. Hence there are 24 full-time members of the faculty who teach Philosophy at all levels. Previously, many (60%) of the part-time lecturers only taught, but the policy was changed and teaching responsibilities are now more evenly distributed.

The largest increase in international applications has been in recruiting PhD students.

As to mobility, both the staff and the PhD students are encouraged to spend time at academically relevant foreign institutions.

Networking

The research group has an extensive network in Norway, Scandinavia, Europe and the world. Indeed, the work they are doing provides essential resources for international Wittgenstein scholars, so that there are plenty of visitors and scholars seeking to use the resources. Likewise, the centre encourages working in related institutions – and the list of established partners all around the world is impressive.

Impact on teaching

The group regularly teaches the Introduction to Wittgenstein course, and it also gives seminars and the like. Erasmus+ agreements have also been made, and PhD students are encouraged to collaborate outside academia.

Overall (and Feedback)

The group is an active and well-networked group. It is internationally visible among Wittgenstein scholars, and its engagement with Digital Humanities and the use of modern technology provides an especially important service for the community of scholars. The university should be congratulated for supporting this line of research.

4.9 UiOHF – Centre for the Study of Mind in Nature

Overall score: 5

Research production and quality: 5

Organisation, leadership, strategy and resources

The group is well led. CSMN was established as a Centre of Excellence in 2007, with a scientific advisory board that provides leadership and help. The core group is headed by the director, who is responsible for the planning and integration of scientific activity. While the centre is located in Oslo, the core group members are spread over several countries and institutions. The organisational structure is designed to take maximum advantage of this fact and ensure an international level of research.

The group has sensible, albeit ambitious, goals: to establish CSMN as a leading international centre for philosophical and philosophically driven interdisciplinary research on the nature of agency and its attendant normativity.

Its strategy has been to initiate integration with the best researchers in the field in a variety of arrangements, conferences and workshops. Another element is the aim of fostering an environment where philosophers from different sub-disciplines collaborate and engage extensively with linguists, economists, psychologists and researchers from other disciplines.

The group's strategic goals have largely been the same as the host institution's: to produce research at the highest level, to develop interaction within the discipline and with other disciplines, and to develop applications for the benefit of society as a whole.

The centre undoubtedly makes good use of external funding. Its main funding has been external through the Centre of Excellence grant from the RCN. It has received further grants every year. There is also significant funding from the host institution, which has provided fully adequate infrastructure for all activities.

The group makes good use of it, as evidenced by research production and quality.

Research production and quality

CSMN has had a significant impact on international debates: work by centre members has been the subject of 'author meets critics' sessions at the American Philosophical Association, symposia in some of the world's leading journals, and collections by leading publishers.

The researchers in this group are highly productive, and the submitted articles provide evidence of research quality of the highest international standard.

CSMN has hosted over 1200 speakers (30% women) participating in a total of over 250 events. It has collaborated and co-organised events with 25 of the world's top academic institutions.

It makes excellent use of interdisciplinary resources. Indeed, some core group members are from other disciplines (e.g. Linguistics).

Recruitment and training

The group follows best practice in recruitment. All posts are widely advertised internationally, and those appointed come from a wide variety of international institutions.

PhD training has taken place through the programme in the department, always with additional international supervision. PhD candidates have been successful in gaining academic posts.

Researchers are highly mobile and well connected internationally.

Networking

The group makes excellent use of collaboration, primarily internationally, to advance its strategy and produce high-quality, relevant research, and many of the core group of researchers are based at universities around the world.

Impact on teaching

All the group's members contribute to teaching. In Oslo, apart from the director, the core group members teach 25% of their time at all levels.

The greatest impact on teaching is in, and focused on, postgraduate education, since CSMN, as a Centre of Excellence, is heavily focused on research.

Overall

This is an excellent group on the whole. It is identified as a star group in the panel's assessment.

Feedback

This group is outstanding, and is well recognised internationally. It should be encouraged to continue to build on its strengths.

4.10 UiOHF – Conceptual Engineering

Overall score: 5

Research production and quality: 5

Organisation, leadership, strategy and resources

The group is well led, and it has a good strategy and sensible (albeit demanding) goals. The group contributes well to the strategic goals of the institution:

- Academic cooperation and interdisciplinarity: the group engages in collaborative work with the fields of history of ideas, linguistics, mathematics, media and war studies, and psychology.
- Improved teaching and instruction: all group members teach regularly within their own areas.
- Internationalisation of research and teaching: this is a multinational group with a high international profile, and large number of publications in top tier journals. There are many internationally recognised scholars on the scientific board. This group is part of a section that is among the strongest and most internationally recognised in Europe.

The group makes excellent use of external research funding. It has been awarded a prestigious five-year ToppForsk grant from the RCN that is expected to amount to NOK 25 million over its five-year lifetime. It has also applied for Centre of Excellence funding from the RCN, and has plans to apply for

funding from the ERC. The host institution provides excellent support and infrastructure. For instance, the faculty has awarded seed funding to develop grant applications. The group makes excellent use of these resources, as evidenced by research production and quality.

Research production and quality

The core members of the group are highly productive researchers with many publications in top tier journals. The submitted publications are excellent and make contributions of international significance to the field.

Recruitment and training

The group's hiring and recruitment practices are in accordance with best practice. Positions are widely advertised internationally.

PhD candidates and postdocs are very well trained and mentored. There is a collaborative approach, with many group seminars, as well as an assigned senior member as mentor.

Researchers are highly mobile. The group leader holds a 20% research position at the University of St Andrews in Scotland.

Networking

The group makes excellent use of collaboration, both nationally and internationally, to advance its strategy to produce high-quality research. National collaboration is concentrated in Oslo, and there is interdisciplinary collaboration within Oslo.

Impact on teaching

The research group ensures that research is made relevant to teaching by having active researchers teach regularly within their own areas.

Overall

This is a 'star' group and should be recognised as such.

Feedback

This research group is outstanding. It should be encouraged to continue as planned. In particular, plans to apply to funding sources outside of Norway (such as the ERC) are encouraged.

4.11 UiOHF – Society for Ancient Philosophy

Overall score: 4

Research production and quality: 4

Organisation, leadership, strategy and resources

The research group is organised as the Society for Ancient Philosophy and receives an annual budget from UiO's Department of Philosophy. It contributes to UiO's strategic goals, ancient philosophy having been singled out as one of the research priorities by the Faculty of Humanities.

The group consists of five tenured professors and four PhD students. Two female PhD students keep the gender imbalance of the group at a ratio of 2:7. UiO has just hired a highly renowned ancient philosopher from Oxford, who will join the group and make it even stronger.

The group is led by an experienced leader of quite a number of research projects, including the RCN-funded doctoral training project 'History of Philosophy and History of Ideas 600 BC-1800 AD' (2013-15).

The group's primary aim is to produce international top-level research in Ancient Philosophy, from the Pre-Socratics through the Classical and Hellenistic periods down to Late Antiquity and the Early Christian era. They regularly organise workshops and conferences and invite international speakers. They are very active in terms of publication, including monographs and edited volumes with prestigious international publishers and journal articles at Level 2. They have also published a number of translations of ancient Greek philosophers into Nordic languages.

The group's funding record includes successful and less successful applications. They are currently 'between major projects', as they put it, because two applications for an ERC project and a Toppforsk project (2015) were finally rejected. The group intends to secure funding for future projects, and eventually to become a Centre of Excellence.

Research production and quality

The group is without doubt the strongest Nordic research group in Ancient Philosophy and it is internationally recognised as such.

The submitted publications (five book chapters, mostly published by OUP) cover a wide range, from Plato to early Christian philosophy. All are very good or even excellent.

The productivity is very good as well. Altogether, the five tenured members of the group have published two monographs, 12 peer-reviewed articles, 25 book chapters and two edited collections within the past five years.

Recruitment and training

The group encourages students to participate in reading groups and to attend its conferences. Students have also been invited to present papers at these conferences. A number of UiO's MA students in ancient philosophy have secured PhD positions at other universities, and two previous postdocs in the group secured tenured positions. Placement is the gold standard for measuring the success of recruitment and training.

The group states that it is keen to actively recruit women to rectify its uneven gender balance. The present PhD students are all about to finish their dissertation projects, so there will be a chance to turn rhetoric into action.

Networking

Within the group, there is interdisciplinary cooperation between Philosophy, History of Ideas and Classics. At present, the group does not have specific formalised collaboration with external institutions. From previous projects and through their conferences, they are building an extensive international network of scholars in Ancient Philosophy.

The group's year of residence at the Norwegian Centre for Advanced Study in 2009/10 involved a number of renowned international scholars. The activities during this year are not part of the period under review. However, one highly visible output of the CAS-project Ethics in Antiquity was the

edited volume *The Quest for the Good Life* (OUP 2015), which includes three of the publications submitted for HUMEVAL.

Through the History of Philosophy and History of Ideas 600 BC–1800 AD project, the group fostered collaboration between the Universities of Oslo, Tromsø and Bergen.

A recent indication of international recognition of the group's work is that the committee for the Symposium Aristotelicum, a very influential symposium that meets every third year and publishes its proceedings with OUP, decided to hold its 2020 meeting in Oslo.

Impact on teaching

The group's members dedicate approximately half of their time to teaching at all levels, from *Examen philosophicum*, through BA and MA, to PhD level courses. Since Ancient Philosophy is a specialised area that is not compulsory for achieving a degree, the group's research is more relevant to courses at upper levels.

In autumn 2016, the Department of Philosophy will offer a new study option in Ancient Philosophy at the MA level that includes both philosophy and language (ancient Greek) and will be taught by colleagues from Philosophy, Classics, and the History of Ideas. This is a very reasonable plan that will be a way of recruiting international PhD students as well.

Overall

This is the strongest Nordic research group in Ancient Philosophy. It is very successful in terms of research, training and networking. The group is experienced and consolidated, and it has an impressive funding record, although it is currently between projects.

Feedback

- There is an uneven age distribution between tenured members, some of whom are approaching retirement, and PhD candidates. (This will improve through the recent recruitment of a new senior researcher.)
- Addressing the gender balance should not just take place at the level of PhD students. The group could, for example, consider hiring a promising female postdoc from abroad.
- The group should be aware that more peer-reviewed journal articles at Level 2 are a better indicator of research excellence than book chapters.
- The group must resist the temptation to rest on its laurels. It states that it 'hopes to pursue a more formalised project, perhaps through a Marie Curie grant', and that it intends to 'secure funding for future projects, and eventually also to become a Centre of Excellence'. What are the specific project plans for the future? What are the next steps towards achieving its goals?

4.12 UiTHSL – Ethics Research Group

Overall score: 3

Research production and quality: 4

Organisation, leadership, strategy and resources

This is a recent group established in 2011, with official status in 2015, comprising 18 members, 13 of whom are tenured members. The group has relied exclusively on university funding.

Research production and quality

Two anthologies have been published. The publications selected comply with professional academic standards, and many of them contain original results. They focus on action theory issues but a new focus on pluralism, democracy and justice is emerging, along with a concern with interdisciplinary relevance.

Recruitment and training

The group has only produced one PhD and three 'de facto PhDs'. It has experienced difficulty in recruiting PhD students due to lack of funding. The group intends to send junior members abroad. The group supports and guides the junior members, for example by supervising their publications and applications for funding.

Networking

The group has built national and international academic networks through invitations to annual workshops, but has no research or teaching partnerships.

Impact on teaching

The group contributes to teaching at BA level. The report mentions a gap between research and teaching activities although it claims that its research is highly relevant to the study programmes at the host institution.

Overall (and Feedback)

The group has a coherent research profile expressed in the anthologies published, but it has not yet stabilised its identity and position within the host institution and in the national and international context.

4.13 UiTHSL – Pluralism, Democracy and Justice

Overall score: 3

Research production and quality: 4

Organisation, leadership, strategy and resources

The PDJ group is quite large: 13 members from UiT (listed for evaluation) and 8 further members from UiT and other Norwegian Universities. Thus, the group comprises almost the whole academic

staff of UiT's Philosophy Department. Founded in 2010, it was promoted by UiT in 2014 to a Level 2 research group and granted annual research funding until 2018.

The group focuses on normative political theory, and the topics addressed include global justice and cosmopolitanism, democratic theory and freedom of speech, multiculturalism and allocation of rights, climate action and the Humanities, and human rights and the use of public reason. Its ambitious aim is to become the research group of reference for studies in political philosophy in Norway. As a good practice, the group has a regular and institutionalised meeting point, and a hub group that generates specific and cutting-edge research projects.

The group clearly contributes to two of UiT's strategic aims: 'interdisciplinary approaches to the grand challenges of the future (health, climate, technology, sustainability, and societal development)', and 'ensuring the development of knowledge relevant for the northern Norwegian society (incl. research on indigenous peoples and the Sámi people)'. It has to be said, however, that the inclusion of the latter aim makes the group's research and publication profile somewhat heterogeneous.

The group is in the process of making up its mind about whether it should become a more specialised group. The cost, it writes, will be that several of today's members will no longer fit the profile of the group.

Research production and quality

The group submitted 11 publications; the quality of publications is mostly good, although it varies between authors. Productivity varies considerably between individual members. One member's recent publication record is outstanding, a second member's is very good, while the rest are average or below average (given the statistical means of 4.9 publication points within five years, according to NIFU statistics).

Recruitment and training

PhD positions are advertised internationally, two out of the current four PhD candidates are non-Norwegian. The group organises writing seminars and supports proofreading for articles. The members of the group have also attended courses on how to write EU applications. Two outgoing PhDs have had stays at Oxford and Copenhagen financed by UiT. The gender balance is not particularly imbalanced for Philosophy, although it could obviously be better.

Networking

The group invites experienced political philosophers to workshops and conferences and has hired some of them as affiliated members. It is also noteworthy that the group participates in projects carried out by external collaborative partners: 1) Civic Constellations II (Spain), 2) Active Citizenship in Religiously and 3) Culturally Diverse Communities (PRIO, UiO); Globalization, Cosmopolitanism and Transnational Migration (Linköping/Copenhagen). The self-assessment report states that 'Concerning cooperation with non-academic partners, the contribution has been modest' (i. e. participating in public debate in Tromsø).

Impact on teaching

The tenured group members dedicate approximately 20% of their time to research and 80% to teaching, although three group members have succeeded in having their teaching duties reduced. Most teaching is done at the BA level, incl. *Examen philosophicum*.

Overall

This is a large group that contributes well to UiT's overall strategy, but its research quality and productivity is uneven between members. The group has not been particularly successful in raising external funds, but it receives some funding through cooperation partners (other Scandinavian research groups) instead. Teaching duties leave comparably little time for research, and, at the moment, the group stands at a crossroads between specialising and keeping the group large and heterogeneous.

Feedback

The group should find ways to reduce the teaching load of many members of the tenured staff. The group is in the process of deciding whether it should become a more specialised group. The cost, they write, will be that several of today's members will no longer fit the profile of the group. They should proceed with a specialised profile.

4.14 PRIO – Humanitarianism

Overall score: 4

Research production and quality: 4

Organisation, leadership, strategy and resources

The Humanitarianism research group at PRIO was instrumental in preparing PRIO's participation in the Norwegian Centre of Humanitarian Studies (NCHS) and applying to the RCN's HUMPOL programme for funding. The director of NCHS is a member of the group, and, like NCHS, the group combines high-level research, participation in public debate, networking and advice, and aims to promote the general professionalisation of humanitarian practice.

The governance structure is flat. The group appears to be made up of senior researchers, often with an international background, who work on their own projects, always in collaboration. The research is linked to externally funded projects, and the Critical Humanitarian Technology Project that started in 2013 appears to create strategic directions and lead to participation in public debate and providing advice.

Research production and quality

The five members of the group who are included in the evaluation by Panel 6 publish extensively in a wide variety of peer-reviewed journals. This includes occasional agenda-setting documents.

Recruitment and training

The self-assessment report shows that there is at least occasional PhD supervision.

Networking

There are a great deal of networking activities, which appear to have impact.

Impact on teaching

There is some service teaching.

Overall

The group has a strong normative interest (to improve humanitarian practice) and it is well embedded in relevant institutions and practices. It is able to combine this with dedicated analytical research, sometimes on quite specific topics, but also oriented towards reviewing and agenda setting. The Critical Humanitarian Technology Project is presented as a pilot project; it receives a lot of attention in the group's self-assessment, and could well be important for the future of the group (and for the field of humanitarianism).

Feedback

The demography of the group (five senior researchers in their late thirties or early forties) could be expanded by recruiting more junior researchers.

4.15 PRIO – Law, Ethics and Religion

Overall score: 5

Research production and quality: 5

Organisation, leadership, strategy and resources

The group is divided into two subgroups: Law and Ethics, and Religion. The group works from a broad multidisciplinary perspective in keeping with the research agenda of the home institution. The group's strategy is to support both academic publications and project development for external funders.

Many of the members did not participate in HUMEVAL, or were assessed by another panel. Our assessment is based on the self-assessment text and on our reading of publications submitted by six members for assessment by Panel 6.

Research production and quality

The publication records are impressive: members of the group publish with the best publishing houses and co-edit the *Journal of Military Ethics*. The group's publications are related to six major themes with broad international and intercultural coverage. The research projects conducted by group members show a remarkable combination of expertise in various fields, such as religious studies, military studies, geography, security studies, law and moral philosophy.

Recruitment and training

PhD students are recruited on the basis of research projects and are stimulated to engage in international fora and conferences. Their training includes a stay abroad.

Networking

The group members work in collaboration with international scholars and other Norwegian universities. There are three major international collaborative projects concerning security issues and extremism.

Impact on teaching

The group's educational activities mainly consist of supervising PhD students. The group holds regular seminars that are also attended by a non-academic audience. Group members also deliver

lectures in a variety of contexts. PRIO is not a teaching institution, and it is therefore understandable that there is very little information about the relevance of teaching to the host institution.

Overall

This is an extremely productive research unit, interdisciplinary, with an impressive range of activities and broad international coverage.

Feedback

The group could extend its educational and training activities through partnerships with Norwegian universities or international summer schools.

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6 List of abbreviations used in the reports

Abbreviation	Meaning
AHO	Oslo School of Architecture and Design
ATH	Ansgar University College and Theological Seminary
BI	BI Norwegian Business School
BVH	Buskerud and Vestfold University College
CCR	Consciousness, Cognition and Reality (NTNU)
CIOMS	Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences
CRISTin	Current Research Information System in Norway
CSMN	Centre for the Study of Mind and Nature (UiO)
CTS	Centre for Technology & Society (NTNU)
DHS	Diakonhjemmet University College
EMAL	Embodied Making and Learning research group (HiT).
FIH	Fjellhaug International University College
FP	EU Framework Programme
FRIPRO	RCN's 'bottom-up' funding instrument for investigator-initiated research
HEI	Higher Education Institutions
HERD	Higher Education Expenditure on R&D
HiHm	Hedmark University College
HiL	Lillehammer University College
HiØ	Østfold University College
HiOA	Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences
HiT /TUC	Telemark University College
HUMEVAL	This evaluation of the Humanities in Norway
HVO	Volda University College
IFS	Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies
IKH	Department of Cultural Studies and Humanities (HiT)
MF	Norwegian School of Theology
MHS	School of Mission and Theology
NHH	Norwegian School of Economics

NIFU	Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education
NIKU	Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research
NLA	NLA University College
NMH	Norwegian Academy of Music
NOKUT	The Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education
NTNU	Norwegian University of Science and Technology
NTNUHF	Norwegian University of Science and Technology Faculty of humanities
NTNUMuseum	Norwegian University of Science and Technology University Museum
PDJ	Research group on Pluralism, Democracy, and Justice (UiT)
PRIO	Peace Research Institute, Oslo
RAR	Representationalism vs. Anti-Representationalism (NTNU)
RCN	Research Council of Norway
REF	UK Research Excellence Framework (a system for performance-based research funding)
RESET	Research group on the Ethos of Technology (NTNU)
SH/SAMAS	Sámi University of Applied Sciences
SPS	Faculty of Professional Studies (UiN)
STS	Studies in Science and Technology
UHR	Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions
UiA	University of Agder
UiB	University of Bergen
UiBHF	University of Bergen Faculty of Humanities
UiBMuseum	University of Bergen University Museum
UiBSV	University of Bergen Faculty of Social Sciences
UiN	Nordland University
UiO	University of Oslo
UiOHF	University of Oslo Faculty of Humanities
UiOMuseum/KHM	University of Oslo Museum of Cultural History
UiOTF	University of Oslo Faculty of Theology
UiS	University of Stavanger
UiSMuseum	University of Stavanger Museum of Archaeology
UiT	The Arctic University of Norway
UiTHSL	The Arctic University of Norway, Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education

UiTmuseum	The Arctic University of Norway University Museum
UNI	UNI Research (In the case of this evaluation specifically the UNI Research Rokkan Centre)
WAB	Wittgenstein Archives Bergen
WoS	Thomson-Reuters Web of Science

7 List of panel members

Chair	Sintonen	Matti	University of Helsinki
Secretary	Talvinen	Krister	University of Helsinki
	Bensaude-Vincent	Bernadette	Panthéon-Sorbonne University (Paris 1)
	Hattiangadi	Anandi	University of Stockholm
	Keil	Geert	Humboldt University of Berlin
	Rip	Arie	University of Twente
	Räikkä	Juha	University of Turku



The Research Council of Norway

Visiting address: Drammensveien 288
P.O. Box 564
NO–1327 Lysaker

Telephone: +47 22 03 70 00
post@rcn.no
www.rcn.no

Publisher:
© The Research Council of Norway
www.rcn.no

June 2017
ISBN 978-82-12-03611-6 (pdf)

Design: Melkeveien Designkontor AS
Photos: Shutterstock