Country report card on research integrity: Norway – a broad approach

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“Like other institutions, the institution of science has developed an elaborate system for allocating rewards to those who variously live up to its norms... The evolution of this system has been the work of centuries, and it will of course never be finished.”

Robert K. Merton, 1987

Research Rewards and Integrity: Improving Systems to Promote Responsible Research
The Rio concept of country report cards

Focus on:

• Systems
• Processes
• Outcomes
The Research Council of Norway
The only research council in the country. Distributes approx. 25 percent of public research funding. 4234 applications fully processed in 2016, 29 percent granted (23 percent in 2015).
1978 The first committee on research ethics established (medicine and health).
1985 Regional Ethical Committees (REK) established (implemented 1987).
1990 National committees on research ethics established; Medicine and health (NEM), Science and technology (NENT), and Social Sciences, Humanities, Law and Theology (NESH).
1993 NESH-guidelines published.
2000
2004 Ethics Committee in Patent Cases established (under NENT).
2006 Act on ethics and integrity in research passed (entered into force 2007).
2007 NENT-guidelines published.
2008 The National Committee for Research Ethics on Human Remains established (under NESH).
2009 Guidelines for research ethical and scientific evaluation of qualitative research projects in medical and health research (NEM).
2010 Guidelines for research ethics on human remains.
2013 The Health Research Act enters into force.
2016 Guidelines for the use of genetic information in medical and health research (NEM).
2017 New act concerning research ethics. The role of the institutions is strengthened.
CENTRAL DOCUMENTS

ACT CONCERNING RESEARCH ETHICS

Purpose: Ensure that research carried out in the public and private sectors is conducted in accordance with recognised ethical standards.

NATIONAL STRATEGY


Three primary objectives:
- To strengthen competitiveness and innovation capacity
- To solve major challenges to society
- To develop high-quality research groups

VISION FOR THE NORWEGIAN NATIONAL RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEES

To be the foremost resource for ethically sound and responsible research in Norway.
OUR TASKS

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEES:

- Make principles of research ethics known to the scientific community and to society at large
- Provide a lookout nationally and internationally
- Give advice on research ethics in general and in specific cases
- Investigate cases of suspected research misconduct
- Approve medical and health research projects
- Stimulate debate and exchange of experience

OUR OUTCOMES

- Guidelines, books, reports, webpage, online library (FBIB), independent magazine, educational material
- National survey on research integrity, 2017
- International cooperation (SATORI, ENRIO, EUREC, EUA etc.)
- Ethical approval, recommendations and advice (statements are made public)
- Relevant meeting points (Forum for research ethics, annual meetings, open meetings, media)

THE INSTITUTIONS:

- $ Provide education in research ethics
- $ Establish local committees on research integrity and handle relevant cases
- $ Statements according to institutional guidelines
- $ Reporting suspected cases of misconduct