

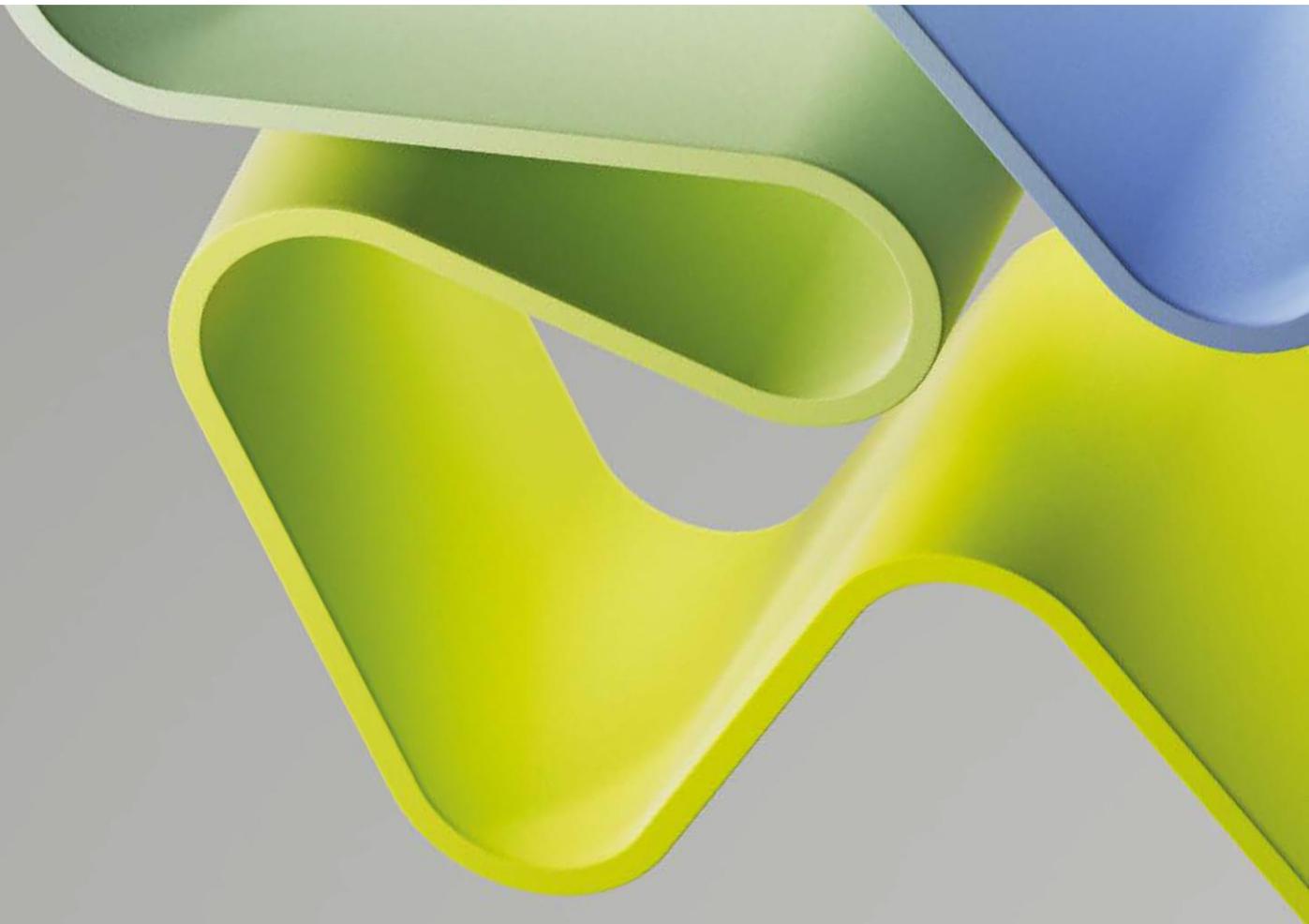
Evaluation of Medicine and Health 2023-2024

Evaluation report – Panel 4a

Research Group: Department of Health Promotion (PFHF)

Administrative Unit: Division for Mental and Physical Health (PF)

Institution: Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH)



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Preface

The Research Council of Norway (RCN) is given the task by the Ministry of Education and Research to perform subject-specific evaluations. The primary aim of the evaluation of medicine and health (EVALMEDHELSE) 2023-2024 is to reveal and confirm the quality and relevance of research performed at Norwegian Higher Education institutions, research institutions (the institute sector) and the health trusts, in an international perspective. Such knowledge is useful for the institutions that participate in the evaluation, for the Research Council who advise the authorities on how research should be developed further, and for the authorities, who set targets and frameworks for research and higher education. Research groups submitted by their administrative unit will be assessed by 18 expert panels organised by research subjects or themes. The expert panels will assess research groups across institutions and sectors based on research group's self-assessments and examples of scholarly output. These research reports will be part of the evaluation of their belonging administrative units.

Abstract

The research group was established in 2011 (renamed in 2015), and has expanded from 2 to 18 employees over the last decade. The group is interdisciplinary, with expertise in clinical psychology, medicine, nursing, health promotion, nutrition, social studies, economics, administration, and IT engineering. The group has a strong focus on mental health, sleep difficulties, and the psychological aspects of various health conditions. In more recent years, the research portfolio has expanded with an additional focus on early-life factors and maternal health influences. The group is currently responsible for several large population-based surveys in Norway.

Overall assessment

The panel evaluated the quality of the group's research as internationally excellent, and considered this to be a strength of this group. The panel also concluded that the group's contribution to societal and health development in Norway and internationally is very considerable given what is expected from groups in the same research field. The panel considered the organizational dimension adequate for production of research in the chosen area. A relatively low user involvement was identified as a weakness.

Grading:

Dimensions	Score
Organisational dimension (How adequate the organisational environment is in supporting the production of excellent research).	3
Quality dimension (Research and publication quality/Research group's contribution)	4/4
Societal impact dimension (Research group's societal contribution/User involvement)	4/2

Recommendations

The panel recommends that the research group address the following:

- Training opportunities and resources for young scholars (e.g., PhD students and post-doctoral researchers) should be expanded.
- That the group consider investing into capacity building and training activities that would facilitate the highest possible quality of all research lines pursued by the group.
- That the group should strive to become more competitive in acquiring also international funding (e.g., ERC projects)
- That the group establishes and develops closer contacts with stakeholders and implements co-creation of knowledge throughout its future research activities.

1. Strategy, resources and organisation

1.1 Research group's organisation and strategy

The group conducts research on health promotion with a focus on mental health and community participation. The group is also responsible for the management of several large population-based surveys in Norway, and for evaluations of individual and structural measures aimed to prevent disease and promote health throughout the life course. There is an overlap with some members of the group also contributing to other research topic areas.

The group's main benchmarks include: 1) high-quality scientific publishing, 2) knowledge base for public health authorities and services, 3) collaboration with national and international partners, within and outside academia, 4) increase in external research funding, and 5) dissemination of research results and knowledge.

The research group members are involved in training PhD students and mentoring post-doctoral fellows. They also contribute to supervision of Master's students and regularly offer internship positions for students from Norwegian universities. From 2012 to 2022, members of the research group supervised more than thirty Master's theses, and more than twenty PhD candidates who completed their PhD degree. PhD students are admitted to the PhD education programme and affiliated to a relevant research school at the University of Bergen.

The research group is well integrated within the institution and receives general administrative support as well as support for research administration. This includes support and tools for effective resource management, legal support, IT support, media training and communication support, library services and other. The institution has specific research administrative support units for grant application activities, and for financial management and efficient administrative control of research projects.

The panel considered the research group's organisation to be generally suitable to conduct its research activities. The group has a satisfactory strategy for its research activities, recruitment, and internationalisation. The group's benchmarks are relevant and are generally achievable, but should be further developed in terms of more detailed, specific and quantifiable goals that would facilitate effective monitoring and management of the group's activities. The institution where the group are based is not an educational institution. The group makes contributions to education of Master's students, mainly in a form of supervising dissertations. The group members are also adequately involved in training and mentoring of PhD candidates and post-doctoral fellows. The group encourages research mobility, and has valuable interdisciplinary, national, international, academic and non-academic collaborations and networks. The institution provides adequate resources and support services to the research group. The panel considered the organizational dimension adequate for production of research in the chosen area and awarded a score of 3 for the organizational dimension.

Recommendations

The panel recommends that the group invest into capacity building, and into training opportunities and resources for junior scholars (e.g., PhD students and post-doctoral researchers) in particular. A more comprehensive set of detailed, specific and quantifiable benchmarks is also recommended.

1.2 Research group's resources

The research group "Department of Health Promotion (PFHF)" was originally established as the Department for Community and Mental Health in 2011 (renamed in 2015) and is located in Bergen city. The group membership expanded from two to eighteen employees over the last decade. The team is interdisciplinary and includes five researchers, a senior physician, an advisor, an IT engineer, four postdoctoral fellows, four PhD students, a professor emeritus, and a director. The director has professional, budget, and personnel management responsibilities. Disciplines represented in the team include clinical psychology, medicine, nursing, health promotion, nutrition, social studies, economics, administration, and IT engineering.

As a part of a government agency, the research group receives core funding from the Norwegian Ministry of Health and Care Services. The group also raised external research funding in competition through grants from the Norwegian Research Council, regional health authorities' research funds, private charitable foundations and other funders, and obtained smaller grants from municipalities and county councils.

The panel sees that external research funding constituted more than half of total funding at the end of the evaluation period. A fairly substantial part of external funding was from international funders. Importantly, the external project-based funding makes it possible for the group to offer research experience to PhD students registered at the University of Bergen, and also recruit postdoctoral fellows to the group. The research group has extensive collaborations, including collaborations and projects with distinguished overseas institutions within the field. Researcher mobility is very suitably implemented as a part of the group's general research strategy. The panel evaluated the quality of the group's research as internationally excellent, and considered this to be a strength of this group. The research quality dimension was scored as 4.

Recommendations

The panel recommends that the research group continue to strive for a higher proportion of external research funding, and a higher proportion of international funding in particular. These could include e.g. ERC or EC funding. Consolidation and further development of international research networks may facilitate these efforts.

1.3 Relevance to the institution

The Norwegian state supports municipal public health initiatives through delegating responsibilities to the NIPH. This research group plays an important role in these activities, namely through its involvement with the Norwegian County Public Health Surveys. The research group is also heavily involved in preparing reports based on these surveys. The group played an important role within the Norwegian Science Program on COVID-19 and was aiding Norwegian public health authorities in emergency preparedness and response.

The research group are also responsible for management of the Students' Health and Well-being Study (SHoT), in partnership with major student welfare organizations.

The group consistently secures external funding for numerous projects and regularly publishes in prestigious journals like BMJ, The Lancet Psychiatry, and The Lancet Digital Health. Additionally, two of its senior researchers actively contribute to NIPH's Centre for Evaluation of Public Health Measures. These varied activities underscore the group's significant role within the administrative unit and demonstrate its commitment to the unit's goals and benchmarks. Through diverse research and collaborations, it aids further to the University's goals.

The panel found that the research group is clearly contributing to the institution's goals and benchmarks. The group's main contributions include design and management of data collection for monitoring and public health evaluations, as well as publications, research grants and international research collaborations.

Recommendations

The panel recognizes a tension between fulfilling the responsibilities of a group based within a governmental organization such as the Norwegian Institute of Public Health on one side, and striving to achieve excellence in a much more focused and narrower research field within the broader area of public health. The panel recommends that the group consider investing into capacity building and training activities that would facilitate the highest possible quality of all research lines pursued by this group.

2. Research quality

2.1 Research group's scientific quality

The research produced by the group during the evaluation period had a focus on mental health, sleep difficulties, and on psychological aspects of selected health conditions. More recent publications also address life course determinants of health with attention paid to early-life factors and maternal health influences. The research is based on extensive use of national register data, population-based studies, and health surveys. The group applies multidisciplinary approach and a combination of different designs and analytical methods.

During the evaluation period, the research group published more than 600 scientific papers and reports. The research group has secured external research funding, mainly from the Research Council of Norway.

The research group demonstrate its ability to produce high quality research outputs from a range of different studies, including observational cohort studies as well as randomised controlled trials. The selected publications are predominantly in respected peer-reviewed journals. A broad range of topics is covered by the publications (gender difference in pension rights and its implications for health in old age; mental health of students; access to health care services; and evaluation of mental health interventions). There is some variation in the quality of research outputs, with most original publications being of high quality and excellent in an international perspective. The group's comprehensive dissemination and communication strategy also includes publications in Norwegian language, chapters and reports.

Similarly, the group members are involved in a very wide range of projects with relevance for public health (e.g. mental health interventions, management of Covid-19 pandemic, or quality of obstetric care). The extensive contributions of group members to these publications and projects illustrate its ability to both design and lead large collaborative initiatives, and also contribute to collaborative projects as co-investigators and co-authors.

Recommendations

The panel recommends that the research group **prioritize its main areas of research and strives to become more competitive in acquiring more international research funding** with the aim of improving scientific quality and impact globally.

2.2 Research group's societal contribution

The research group's societal contributions include impacts on health policy, education, and mental health services. The group reports, for example, that the SHoT study, managed by its members, influenced improvements in student welfare, leading to targeted strategies to address loneliness and promote well-being through better housing, community support, and lifestyle changes. The group's research on quality of obstetric care highlighted the consequences of delivery unit closures and led to political discussions and reconsiderations of healthcare accessibility, thus affecting maternal and perinatal health policies.

Importantly, the research group was instrumental in developing The Norwegian Counties Public Health Survey (NCPHS) into a widely used data source for shaping public health policies and actions throughout Norway. The group's research agenda attempts to address many different aspects of population health, including health of vulnerable groups.

The research group reports numerous examples of how their research outputs are translated and implemented into practice and policy within and outside the health care system in Norway. It thus convincingly demonstrate that their contribution to societal and health development in Norway is very considerable given what is expected from groups in the same research field. The societal contributions of the group were graded as 4. On the other hand, there is not sufficient information provided on the role of societal partners in different parts of the research process. Judging from the information provided in the report, at the moment, societal partners other than Norwegian government who funds the institution, have a modest part in the research process. This aspect was scored as 2.

Recommendations

The panel recommends that the research group continue with its research and research translation activities, paying attention to priority areas in public health. The panel also recommends that the group establishes and develops closer contacts with other stakeholders and **includes co-creation of knowledge in its future research activities.**

Appendices

Evaluation of Life Sciences in Norway 2022-2024

Evaluation of Medicine and Health 2023-2024

Mandate Expert panels

The Research Council of Norway (RCN) is given the task by the Ministry of Education and Research to perform subject-specific evaluations. The Portfolio board for Life Sciences in the Research Council of Norway has decided to carry out an evaluation of medicine and health in 2023-2024 as the second of two evaluations within Life Sciences. The evaluation of biosciences takes place in 2022-2023.

1. The objective of the evaluation

The primary aim of the evaluation of Life Sciences is to reveal and confirm the quality and the relevance of research performed at Norwegian Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), by the institute sector and by health trusts.

The results of the evaluation will be used as recommendations to the institutions, the Research Council, and the ministries.

2. Tasks of the expert panels

The panels are requested to:

- evaluate the strategy, resources and organisation of/for the research groups.
- evaluate research production and quality of the research groups.
- grade and write a short evaluation text to the evaluated research groups.

Each of the expert panels will write a brief report with evaluations of the different research groups as well as specific recommendations.

3. Time schedule

Digital panel meetings will take place in the period March 15. - June 15. 2024.

Deadline for submitting panel report to the Research Council: June 15. 2024.

4. Miscellaneous

Other important aspects of Norwegian life sciences research that ought to be given consideration.

EVALMEDHELSE 2023-2024 – Panel group description – January 2024

Panel group	Description	Panel no.
Group 1 PHYSIOLOGY Physiology-related disciplines (human physiology), including corresponding translational research	Anatomy, physiology, embryology, nutritional physiology, pathology, basic odontological research, exercise physiology, neurobiology, toxicology, pharmacology, medicinal chemistry, chemistry, biology, pathology.	Panel 1a Panel 1b
Group 2 MOLECULAR BIOLOGY Molecular Biology, including corresponding translational research	Microbiology, bacteriology, inflammation and infection disease research, forensic medicine, genetics, immunology, vaccine development, microbiological diagnostics, pharmaceutical microbiology, cell biology, molecular medicine and -biophysics, medical biochemistry, omics, organoids, imaging, toxicology, pathology, drug development, cancer research, translational research, systems biology, personalized medicine, biomarkers, oncology, genetics, genomics, epigenetics, proteomics, bioinformatics-/statistics, computational science, AI, biology, virology, radiology, ionisation, molecular biology, microbiology, pharmacology, pharmacogenomics, regenerative medicine and related subjects.	Panel 2a Panel 2b Panel 2c
Group 3a CLINICAL RESEARCH	Clinical Research, including surgery and translational research within: paediatrics, women's health, gynaecology, otorhinolaryngology, head and neck surgery, oncology, haematology, radiology and medical imaging.	Panel 3a_1 Panel 3b_2
Group 3b CLINICAL RESEARCH	Clinical Research, including surgery and translational research within: general medicine, emergency medicine, anaesthesiology, neurology, geriatric medicine, rehabilitation medicine, cardiology, nephrology/urology, endocrinology, pulmonary medicine, orthopaedics, rheumatology, Infection, gastroenterology.	Panel 3b_1 Panel 3b_2 Panel 3b_3
Group 4 PUBLIC HEALTH Public Health and Health-related Research	Public health, community research, epidemiology, preventive medicine, mental health, behavioural research and ethics, medical statistics, environment, nutrition, preventive medicine, physiotherapy, sports medicine, implementation research, public health, health care services research, global health, nursing	Panel 4a Panel 4b Panel 4c

	sciences, rehabilitation sciences, public health systems, digital health care services, ICT, HTA, health competence, genetic and epigenetic epidemiology, non-communicable diseases, pharmacology, nursing research, professional research, occupational medicine.	Panel 4d Panel 4e Panel 4f
Group 5 PSYCHOLOGY Psychology and Psychiatry	Clinical psychology, personality psychology, developmental psychology, cognitive psychology, biological psychology and forensic psychology, psychiatry, including geriatric psychiatry, child and adolescent psychiatry and biological psychiatry, social-, community- and workplace psychology, organizational psychology, developmental psychology, behavioural and health psychology, health promotion and well-being.	Panel 5a Panel 5b



Panel group 4 PUBLIC HEALTH

Expert panel 4a

Name	Title	Institution
Jill Manthorpe (chair)	Professor emeritus	King's College London
Falko Sniehotta	Professor	Universitetzmedizin Mannheim
Elisabetta Crocetti	Professor	Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna
Ilona Grünberger	Professor	Stockholm University
Lars Wallin	Professor	Dalarna University
Frank de Vocht	Professor	University of Bristol



Evaluation of Medicine and Health (EVALMEDHELSE) 2023-2024

Self-assessment for research groups

Date of dispatch: **15. September 2023**

Deadline for submission: **31. January 2024**

Updated: **13. October 2023**

Institution (name and short name): _____

Administrative unit (name and short name): _____

Research group (name and short name): _____

Date: _____

Contact person: _____

Contact details (email): _____

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Short version

Introduction

The primary aim of the evaluation is to reveal and confirm the quality and the relevance of research performed at Norwegian Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), the institute sector and the health trusts. These institutions will henceforth be collectively referred to as research performing organisations (RPOs). The evaluation report(s) will provide a set of recommendations to the RPOs, the Research Council of Norway (RCN) and the responsible and concerned ministries. The results of the evaluation will also be disseminated for the benefit of potential students, users of research and society at large.

You have been invited to complete this self-assessment as a research group. The self-assessment contains questions regarding the group's research- and innovation related activities and developments over the years 2012-2022. All submitted data will be evaluated by expert panels.

Deadline for submitting the self- assessment to your administrative unit – 26 January 2024

The administrative unit will submit the research groups' completed self-assessments and the administrative unit's own completed self-assessment to the Research Council within 31 January 2024. Please submit completed self- assessment to the administrative unit no later than 26 January 2024.

Please use the following format when naming your document: [short name of the institution]_[short name of the administrative unit]_[short name of the research group], e.g. *UiT_DepPsy_Short name of the research group*.

For questions concerning the self-assessment or EVALMEDHELSE in general, please contact RCN at evalmedhelse@forskningsradet.no.

Thank you!

Guidelines for completing the self-assessment

- Please read the entire self-assessment document before answering.
- The evaluation language is English.
- Please link to websites/documents in the self-assessment where relevant.
- Please be sure that all documents linked to in the self- assessment are written in English and are accessible.
- The page format must be A4 with 2 cm margins, single spacing and Calibri and 11-point font.
- The self-assessment follows the same structure as the [evaluation protocol](#). In order to be evaluated on the two evaluation criteria described in the evaluation protocol, the research group must answer all questions.
 - ⇒ Provide information – provide documents and other relevant data or figures about the research group, for example strategy and other planning documents, as well as data on R&D expenditure, sources of income and results and outcomes of research
 - ⇒ Describe – explain and present using contextual information about the research group and inform the reader about the research group.
 - ⇒ Reflect – comment in a reflective and evaluative manner how the research group operates.
- Data on personnel should refer to data reported to DBH on 1 October 2022 for HEIs and to the yearly reporting for 2022 for the institute sector and the health authorities. Other data should refer to 31 December 2022 if not specified otherwise.
- It is possible to extend the textboxes when filling in the form. **NB!** A completed self- assessment form cannot exceed 25 pages (pdf file). Expert panels are not requested to read more than the maximum of 25 pages. Pages exceeding maximum limit of 25 pages **might not** be evaluated.
- Submit the self- assessment as a pdf (max 25 pages) to the administrative unit within **26 January 2024**. Before submission, please be sure that all text are readable after the conversion of the document to pdf. The self- assessment should be sent from the administrative unit to evalmedhelse@forskningsradet.no within **31 January 2024**.

Please note that information you write in the self assessment and the links to documents/websites in the self-assessment are the only available information for the expert panel.

In exceptional cases, documents/publications that are not openly available must be submitted as attachment(s) to the self- assessment (pdf file(s)).

1. Organisation and strategy

1.1 Research group's organisation

Describe the establishment and the development of the research group, including its leadership (e.g. centralised or distributed etc.), researcher roles (e.g. technical staff, PhD, post docs, junior positions, senior positions or other researcher positions), the group's role in researcher training, mobility and how research is organised (e.g. core funding organisation versus project based organisation etc.).

Table 1. List of number of personnel by categories

Instructions: Please provide number of your personnel by categories.

For institutions in the higher education sector, please use the categories used in DBH, <https://dbh.hkdir.no/datainnhold/kodeverk/stillingskoder>. Please add new lines or delete lines which are not in use.

	Position by category	No. of researcher per category	Share of women per category (%)	No. of researchers who are part of multiple (other) research groups at the admin unit	No. of temporary positions
No. of Personnel by position	Position A (Fill in)				
	Position B (Fill in)				
	Position C (Fill in)				
	Position D (Fill in)				

1.2 Research group's strategy

a) Describe the research group's main goals, objectives and strategies to obtain these (e.g. funding, plans for recruitment, internationalization etc.) within the period 2012-2022.

b) Please describe the benchmark of the research group. The benchmark for the research group should be written by the administrative unit in collaboration with the research group. The benchmark can be a reference to an academic level of performance (national or international) or to the group's contributions to other institutional or sectoral purposes.

Example: A benchmark for a research group is related to the research groups' aim which again is included in the strategy for the administrative unit. A guidance for the administrative unit to set a benchmark for the research group(s) can e.g. be: What do the administrative unit expect from the research group(s)?

c) Describe the research group's contribution to education (master's degree and/or PhD).

d) Describe the support the host institution provides to the research group (i.e., research infrastructure, access to databases, administrative support etc.).

1.3 Relevance to the institutions

Describe the role of the research group within the administrative unit. Consider the research group's contribution towards the institutional strategies and objectives, and relate the research group's benchmark to these.

1.4 Research group's resources

Describe the funding portfolio of the research group for the last five years (2018-2022).

Table 2. Describe the sources of R&D funding for the research group in the period 2018-2022.

	2018 (NOK)	2019 (NOK)	2020 (NOK)	2021 (NOK)	2022 (NOK)
Basic funding					
Funding from industry and other private sector sources					
Commissioned research for public sector					
Research Council of Norway					
Grant funding from other national sources					
International funding e.g. NIH, NSF, EU framework programmes					
Other					

1.5 Research group's infrastructures

Research infrastructures are facilities that provide resources and services for the research communities to conduct research and foster innovation in their fields. [These](#) include major equipment or sets of instruments, knowledge-related facilities such as collections, archives or scientific data infrastructures, computing systems communication networks. Include both internal and external infrastructures.

- a) Describe which national infrastructures the research group manages or co-manages.
- b) Describe the most important research infrastructures used by the research group.

1.6 Research group´s cooperations

Table 3. Reflect on the current interactions of the research group with other disciplines, non-academic stakeholders and the potential importance of these for the research (e.g. informing research questions, access to competence, data and infrastructure, broadening the perspectives, short/long-term relations).

<p>Interdisciplinary (within and beyond the group)</p>	<p>About 1/3 page</p>
<p>Collaboration with other research sectors e.g. higher education, research institutes, health trusts and industry.</p>	<p>About 1/3 page</p>
<p><u>Transdisciplinary</u> (including non academic stakeholders)</p> <p><i>Transdisciplinary research involves the integration of knowledge from different science disciplines and (non-academic) stakeholder communities with the aim to help address complex societal challenges.</i></p>	<p>About 1/3 page</p>

2. Research quality

2.1 Research group's scientific quality

Describe the research profile of the research group and the activities that contribute to the research group's scientific quality. Consider how the research group's work contributes to the wider research within the research group's field nationally and internationally.

Please add a link to the research group's website:

Short version

Table 4. List of projects

Instructions: Please select 5-10 projects you consider to be representative/the best of the work in the period 1 January 2012 – 31 December 2022. The list may include projects lead by other institutions nationally or internationally. Please delete tables that are not used.

Project 1 -10: <i>Project title/Project period (year from – year to)</i>	Project owner(s) (project leaders organisation)	
	Total budget and share allocated to research group	
	Objectives and outcomes (planned or actual) and link to website	

Table 5. Research group's contribution to publications

Instructions: Please select 5-15 publications from the last 5 years (2018-2022) with emphasis on recent publications where group members have a significant role. **If the publication is not openly available, it should be submitted as a pdf file attached to the self-assessment.** We invite you to refer to the Contributor Roles Taxonomy in your description: <https://credit.niso.org/>.

Cf. Table 1. List of personell by categories: Research groups up to 15 group members: 5 publications. Research groups up to 30 group members: 10 publications. Research groups above 30 group members: 15 publications.

Please delete tables that are not used.

Publication 1 -15: <i>Project title/Journal/Year/DOI/URL</i>	Authors (Please highlight group members)	
	Short description	
	Research group's contribution	

Table 6. Please add a list with the research group's monographs/scientific books.

Please delete lines which are not used.

1	Title - Authors (Please highlight group members)- link to webpage (if possible)
2	

2.2 Research group's societal contribution

Describe the societal impact of the research group's research. Consider contribution to education, economic, societal and cultural development in Norway and internationally.

Table 7. The research group's societal contribution, including user-oriented publications, products (including patents, software or process innovations

Instructions: Please select 5–10 of your most important user-oriented publications or other products from the last 5–10 years with emphasis on recent publications/products. For each item, please use the following formatting. Please delete lines which are not used.

3. Challenges and opportunities

Information about the strengths and weaknesses of the research group is obtained through the questions above. In this chapter, please reflect on what might be the challenges and opportunities for developing and strengthening the research and the position of the research group.

Short version



Scales for research group assessment

Organisational dimension

Score	Organisational environment
5	An organisational environment that is outstanding for supporting the production of excellent research.
4	An organisational environment that is very strong for supporting the production of excellent research.
3	An organisational environment that is adequate for supporting the production of excellent research.
2	An organisational environment that is modest for supporting the production of excellent research.
1	An organisational environment that is not supportive for the production of excellent research.

Quality dimension

Score	Research and publication quality	Score	Research group's contribution Groups were invited to refer to the Contributor Roles Taxonomy in their description https://credit.niso.org/
5	Quality that is outstanding in terms of originality, significance and rigour.	5	The group has played an outstanding role in the research process from the formulation of overarching research goals and aims via research activities to the preparation of the publication.
4	Quality that is internationally excellent in terms of originality, significance and rigour but which falls short of the highest standards of excellence.	4	The group has played a very considerable role in the research process from the formulation of overarching research goals and aims via research activities to the preparation of the publication.
3	Quality that is recognised internationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour.	3	The group has a considerable role in the research process from the formulation of overarching research goals and aims via research activities to the preparation of the publication.
2	Quality that meets the published definition of research for the purposes of this assessment.	2	The group has modest contributions to the research process from the formulation of overarching research goals and aims via research activities to the preparation of the publication.
1	Quality that falls below the published definition of research for the purposes of this assessment.	1	The group or a group member is credited in the publication, but there is little or no evidence of contributions to the research process from the formulation of overarching research goals and aims via research activities to the preparation of the publication.

Societal impact dimension

Score	Research group's societal contribution, taking into consideration the resources available to the group	Score	User involvement
5	The group has contributed extensively to economic, societal and/or cultural development in Norway and/or internationally.	5	Societal partner involvement is outstanding – partners have had an important role in all parts of the research process, from problem formulation to the publication and/or process or product innovation.
4	The group's contribution to economic, societal and/or cultural development in Norway and/or internationally is very considerable given what is expected from groups in the same research field.	4	Societal partners have very considerable involvement in all parts of the research process, from problem formulation to the publication and/or process or product innovation.
3	The group's contribution to economic, societal and/or cultural development in Norway and/or internationally is on par with what is expected from groups in the same research field.	3	Societal partners have considerable involvement in the research process, from problem formulation to the publication and/or process or product innovation.
2	The group's contribution to economic, societal and/or cultural development in Norway and/or internationally is modest given what is expected from groups in the same research field.	2	Societal partners have a modest part in the research process, from problem formulation to the publication and/or process or product innovation.
1	There is little documentation of contributions from the group to economic, societal and/or cultural development in Norway and/or internationally.	1	There is little documentation of societal partners' participation in the research process, from problem formulation to the publication and/or process or product innovation.

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