

**DMMH's contribution to the Norwegian Ministry of Education & Research's input on thematic priorities for the EUs next Framework for Research and Innovation (FP10)**

DMMHs response takes into consideration the Norwegian Research Council's (NRC) strategy, and the Long-Term Plan for Research and Higher Education 2023–2032 (LTP) by Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research (hereafter referred to as just LTP). Additionally, our views reflect partly our priority areas as a research and higher education institution, and our commitment to social responsibility. We believe that it is significant that both Norwegian national priorities with regards to Research and Innovation, are well-integrated with the EU's.

**Question 1: Which thematic areas are particularly important for us to collaborate on at the European level in the upcoming framework program? Justify your proposals and explain how they will contribute to European added value.**

**Climate, environment, and energy:** These themes align with the EUs priorities such as the European Green Deal, making it a strategic area for joint research initiatives that focus on developing sustainable technologies and energy solutions. The Norwegian Ministry of Research and Education's LTP also emphasizes on climate change and the transition to a low-emission society. Therefore, given Norway's leadership in hydro and wind energy, collaboration in energy transition projects can significantly contribute to the EU's strategy for a sustainable future, leveraging Norwegian expertise to foster greater energy independence and sustainability. Collaboration in this area is crucial.

**Health and well-being:** With an ageing European population and ongoing health challenges, including unforeseen pandemics, the LTP identifies health as a priority area. Collaborative health research can lead to advancements in medical technologies and health services, benefiting populations across Europe. This thematic area also highlights the importance of collaborative research in health, particularly in areas like public health preparedness and response to pandemics and aligns with the European Commission's goal to support people and strengthen societies.

**Sustainable and digital transitions:** This theme puts emphasis on the necessity of focusing on green and digital transitions, as prioritized by Norway and the EU. Sustainable and digital transitions can contribute to tackling climate change, enhancing biodiversity, and reducing pollution. This will directly contribute to European added value by promoting sustainable development and innovation across member states.

**Question 2: European partnerships and missions are instruments that the EU uses in addition to regular calls for proposals. They are used only where regular calls are not expected to yield the same results. In the partnerships, both the private and public sectors actively contribute, including funding. The goal of the missions is to address global challenges. In which areas is it particularly important for Norway that these instruments are used? Justify your proposals.**

**Innovation in public sector and industry:** It is important to encourage R&D investments and foster innovation in the public sector and industry, key aspects of the LTP. Collaborations through European partnerships can enhance public services and industrial competitiveness, particularly in developing sustainable technologies and improving service delivery through digitalization.



**Green and digital transitions:** Emphasize the importance of transitioning to green and digital economies. European partnerships like Horizon Europe and missions focusing on climate action can significantly benefit from Norwegian participation due to its leadership in renewable energy and digital technologies. The Norwegian Ministry of Research and Education should advocate for participation in partnerships that drive digital transformation, where Norway can contribute to and benefit from European digital infrastructure projects, including those enhancing cybersecurity and AI development. This ensures an alignment with the EU's digital strategy.

### **Question 3: Other important issues to highlight from the national thematic input**

**International cooperation:** Underline the importance of maintaining and expanding international cooperation in research and innovation, ensuring that Norway continues to attract global talent and participate in cutting-edge research projects.

**Ethics and integrity:** Highlight the commitment to uphold high ethical standards and integrity in research, reflecting both Norwegian values and EU expectations for responsible research and innovation.

**Integration and application of research:** LTP stresses the need for not only developing but also applying research outcomes effectively within society. Emphasizing this aspect can advocate for stronger mechanisms within EU programs to transition from research to real-world applications.

**Interdisciplinary and international cooperation:** Given the complex nature of modern challenges, LTP encourages interdisciplinary approaches and broad international cooperation. Highlighting this can push for more inclusive and comprehensive research frameworks in European programs, ensuring diverse expertise and international resources are well integrated.