

Tematiske innspill til EUs kommende rammeprogram for forskning og innovasjon - 24/5497

1. Thematic areas of high importance for collaboration on the European level.

OsloMet would suggest that the following four topics are particularly important for research collaboration at the European level:

- **Welfare:** Europe is facing major challenges in terms of changes in demography, climate change, digitalization and labour market restructuring, immigration, economic uncertainty and growing social inequality. New knowledge is needed to ensure that we are prepared for the health and care tasks associated with an ageing population, to promote integration and solidarity in a heterogeneous population, to facilitate school and education systems that prepare young people for the needs of the future, and to avoid economic and social exclusion. The economic basis for the development of the welfare system must be nurtured through technological development, and new business developments with low greenhouse gas emissions. These are challenges that will affect all European countries, and where the EU develops common policies and, in some cases, supranational legislation. The single European labour market makes European level-projects on these issues particularly relevant.
- **Democracy:** Democratic values are under pressure in large parts of the world. Fake news and alternative facts, widening polarization of the public sphere, and dwindling trust in both social institutions and fellow citizens are growing challenges. This affects both the sense of unity in society and the foundation for democracy and legitimate governance. We need knowledge of the technological, economic and social driving forces behind these developments as well as good initiatives that build communities and a sense of unity and solidarity. The challenges are great and apply across national borders, and work at the European level will be of great importance.
- **Sustainable development:** Sustainable development deals with the interaction that takes place between nature, economic and social factors, and how this affects the natural basis, the climate and people's opportunity to live good lives. In order for Europe to succeed in transitioning to a climate-neutral society, a significant investment in research and innovation is required to ensure a better understanding of the interaction between climate policy and other policy areas in each individual country, in Europe as a whole, and globally. These are areas where learning across national borders is paramount. The development of knowledge must therefore be international, and solutions must be developed jointly in cross-border collaborations.

- **A changing world order:** Global warming continues, and the natural basis and biodiversity is threatened both in Norway and globally. The UN expects the world's population to reach almost 10 billion people by 2050. These challenges will affect political and economic conditions, migration, living conditions, health and safety all over Europe. Likewise, there is war in our region, and the security situation has changed, with heightened military tension. Europe is facing a range of new challenges as a region. An important part of managing this relates to promoting unity and fundamental values in Europe (see also the aspects mentioned above relating to welfare, democracy and sustainable development). At the same time, it is important to build knowledge for an unpredictable world, understand the history and development of Europe, and understand Europe's relations with other parts of the world.

2. European Partnerships and EU Missions.

The planned European Partnership on Social Transformations and Resilience is a new partnership that may have major impacts for Norway. The topics that have been outlined – Social Protection and Essential Services (i.e. welfare); the Future of Work; Education and Skills Development; and A Fair Transition towards Climate Neutrality – touch on some of the most pressing issues facing society today and are also areas where Norway has strong academic environments. OsloMet has significant research projects in these areas with links to players at all levels of society (including close collaboration with schools and kindergartens, the specialist health services and the municipal sector, and projects in particularly challenged urban districts, etc.) and will therefore be able to adopt a national role.

We would also highlight the planned European Partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage. This is an important area aimed at addressing the challenges that climate change will entail for cultural heritage, as well as how cultural heritage can support solutions for societal transformations in general. Norway and OsloMet have strong academic environments in this area too.

Norway has chosen “Include more children and young people” as one of our national missions. This could be an important strategy on the European level as well. Social exclusion among young people is a challenge for the welfare system, for the future support for and development of social institutions, for democracy, trust and unity in society, and for the young people themselves. In order to promote the other goals of welfare, democracy, sustainable development, and a Europe equipped to handle a changing world order, it is important to include more children and young people in education, work and social institutions, to prevent social exclusion from an early age.

3. Other issues

OsloMet would emphasize the importance of Pillar II of the framework programme – where thematic calls for applications are designed around the main global challenges. OsloMet holds that targeted work to resolve major global challenges is essential. The budget for FP10 should place a strong emphasis on global challenges through thematic calls for proposals.

The thematic calls should encourage interdisciplinary projects and involve players across sectors and levels of governance. We would underline the importance of keeping a good balance between research and innovation in the thematic calls, i.e. between research and innovation action (RIA) and innovation action (IA) projects. This is necessary in order to develop knowledge that will help resolve both current **and** future challenges. Research in the RIA projects should open for more basic research at technology readiness levels (TRL) 2 and 3. A stronger priority should be given to more open thematic calls that generate knowledge in a meta perspective.

OsloMet does not support a division of Pillar II into two separate councils as could be interpreted from the Heitor report. This could lead to unnecessary splitting and diversification and undo some of the good work that has been done in recent framework programmes to strengthen the cohesion of the programmes. The report recommends more funding for the European Research Council (ERC) and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) and a more “efficient” management of the global challenges within the framework programme. OsloMet would underline the importance of pillar II and the need to avoid a re-priorization of resources to other areas of the framework programme. We find the current structure of the framework programme to be quite good.

FP 10 should have a structure and design that allows the inclusion of new players both from within Europe and from third countries. An open and intuitive FP 10 will be able to form the basis for inclusion and involvement at every stage, with the outcome that we will get projects that reflect the challenges and results that are applied at all levels and to the extent necessary. By establishing a platform for FP 10 that provides accessibility through openness and inclusion, the next framework programme will be able to make Europe a spearhead for transformative processes in a global context.

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