

NORHED - Norwegian Programme for Capacity Building in Higher Education and Research for Development (Fact Sheet II)



Higher education and research is an important area in Norwegian development policy. The underpinning argument for investing in higher education and research mainly in low and middle income countries (LMICs) is that a strong academic sector is a prerequisite for any country to be able to develop its own intellectual resources, produce a competent workforce and visionary leaders, and foster innovation and knowledge needed to inform policies, address challenges and enhance growth.

NORHED – a new programme

The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) is launching a new Norwegian programme for higher education and research cooperation aiming at strengthening capacity in higher education and research institutions in LMICs to enable them to provide public and private sectors with a skilled workforce.

Programme Goal

The main goal of NORHED is increased higher education and research capacities in LMICs as a means to enhance sustainable development and reduce poverty.

Capacity building through partnerships

NORHED will be driven by demands in LMICs and intra-regional exchanges. Focus on capacity building in higher education and research institutions in LMICs through equal and mutually rewarding partnerships between Norwegian and LMIC-based institutions will be retained in the new programme. Partnering arrangements involving regional cooperation will be encouraged.

The new programme is designed to be responsive to the priorities of the partner countries, be flexible and have a long-term perspective. It will encompass support to in-country/regional Bachelor's and Master's degree programs, joint research projects including PhD studies, systems for improved knowledge management and information dissemination, as well as institutions' and systems' strengthening.

A NORHED project may be established at various levels in the participating institutions, depending on the nature and the scope of the proposed project. The operational level of a NORHED project will normally be the Faculty/School/College level. Projects at the level of larger departments/centres may also be an option. The level at which the project is established at each of the participating institutions should as far as possible be corresponding. Projects should always be anchored in the

regular management structure of the institution. Each partner institution has to identify a project coordinator to handle the day-to-day running of the project as well as the contact and collaboration with the other project partners. Sufficient administrative and financial capacities have to be provided for the smooth and transparent running of the project.

Project activities may take place at different levels in the institutions; at institutional level (e.g. institutional development measures, library development), at Faculty level (e.g. administrative and financial activities, gender mainstreaming measures) and at Institute level (e.g. study programmes, research activities). Relevant staff members should be given responsibility for the different components of a project. A suitable organisation and management structure of the project should be established at each participating institution, and between the partner institutions.

Thematic and/or geographic focus

NORHED will be organised in sub-programmes with specific thematic and/or geographic focus in areas critical for human, social and economic development, and where Norway has a strong comparative advantage and/or can make a special contribution in collaboration with partners aligned with the Norwegian Development Policy. Sub-programme areas will be prioritised and reviewed periodically.

The following thematic sub-programmes have been decided

- Good governance, democracy and economic development (Second call)
- Natural resource management, climate and environment (First call)
- Education (First call)
- Health (First call)
- Humanities, culture, media and communication (Second call)

Elements from NUCOOP (Norwegian University Cooperation Programme for Capacity Development in Sudan) will be continued

Updated information:

www.norad.no

www.siu.no

Norad

Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
P.O. Box 8034 Dep, NO-0030 Oslo, Norway
Phone +47 22 24 20 30

SIU

Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education
P.O. Box 1093, NO-5809 Bergen, Norway
Phone +47 55 30 38 00

under NORHED. EnPe (Norad's Programme for Master Studies in Energy and Petroleum) will continue administered by the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU).

Eligibility requirements for prospective partners

In low and middle income countries: higher education institutions accredited/recognised by in-country national authorities. Countries must be listed in OECD DAC's register of official development assistance recipients, or listed in the specific call for applications.

In Norway: Higher education institutions accredited by NOKUT that offer accredited degree programmes at relevant academic levels and cooperate in accordance with Guidelines for Quality provision in Cross-Border Higher Education (UNESCO/OECD 2005).

Incentives

NORHED will have important benefits for Norwegian higher education and research institutions, both at institutional and individual levels. By supporting and contributing to capacity-building in South-based institutions, Norwegian partner institutions access international networks and expertise, expand their own education and research activities, enhance their own global and developmental perspectives, and provide institutional, personal and career development opportunities. Beyond results of the collaboration itself, Norwegian institutions will receive funding for credit points passed by NORHED students in Norway, and exchange visits to Norway of minimum three months duration carried out by NORHED students. These are the same conditions that apply to students under other cooperation agreements.

Additional incentives will also be applicable not only to the Norwegian institution but also to partner institutions.

Project selection and grants procedures

There will be open calls for applications for seed money as well as main calls for each sub-programme. The frames for support for each round of calls will be periodically reviewed and adjusted to ensure the best match possible with relevance and prevailing priorities, situations and opportunities at any given time.



Selection of projects for funding will be done transparently in line with pre-identified selection criteria and criteria weighting. All applications will be reviewed by independent experts with expertise in higher education, research and institutional development. When possible, inputs will be provided by the Norwegian Embassy in the partner country/countries. Norad will appoint boards for each sub-programme and these boards will make the final decisions regarding allocation of project funds. Regular quality assurance and monitoring, reporting and evaluation are built in as integral elements of NORHED to help ensure successful achievement in a cost-effective manner of intended results that are sustainable.

Full transparency of income and expenditure accounts throughout the project cycle is a prerequisite. The Norwegian Government has a policy of zero tolerance for corruption.

Programme administration and procedures

The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) is responsible for the overall policy of NORHED. Norad, at the MFA's instructions, is responsible for implementation, quality-assurance and evaluation of NORHED and other programmes delegated by MFA. NORHED will be administered by the Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education (SIU). Information will be posted on the Norad and SIU websites.

NORHED in brief

- Aim to increase academic capacities in LMIC
- A long term perspective
- Mutual South-North partnerships
- South demand-driven
- Institutional commitment and involvement
- Thematic and/or geographic focus
- Bachelor - Master - PhD
- Research
- Replacing NOMA and NUFU
- SIU is the programme secretariat
- www.norad.no
- www.siu.no

NORHED timeline 2012

- **March 7:** Seed money – First call for applications with deadline April 25
- **May 30:** First main call for project applications with deadline October 19
- **June 15:** Seed money – Second call for applications with deadline September 15
- **September 1:** Second main call for project applications with deadline January 4, 2013