Norwegian Practice and Strategy

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Executive Director, Division for Science
Outline

- Introduction
- The role of The Research Council of Norway
- Barriers for Early Career Researchers
- How do we address ECR?
- Summary
Secure the new generation of researchers – a shared responsibility

- The government
- The funding agencies
- The research institutions – universities

- ...a global responsibility
Early Career Researcher

- **Definitions:**
  - ...a maximum of 4 years’ academic research following the completion of their PhD,...
  - ...those with a doctorate who had their doctoral viva not more than 5 years form application closing date...

- Earlier "intrusion" necessary?
The Research Council’s roles

- Adviser to the government
- Research funding
  - Support basic research
  - Implement national thematic priorities
  - Support private R&D
- Networking and dissemination
- Internationalization
Funding received from the ministries (2014)

- Total NOK 8048 mill.
- Administration incl.

- Trade, Industry and Fishery: 1908
- Petroleum and energy: 779
- Agriculture and food: 478
- Environment: 371
- Health and Care Services: 362
- Foreign Affairs: 329
- Education and Research: 1830
- Research and education measures: 1312
- Cross-sectoral measures: 269
- Misc.: 269

The Research Council of Norway
The Research Council canalises nearly 30% of public funding of Norwegian R&D

- Public funding
  - Ministry of Education and Research
  - The Research Council
  - Other ministries i.e. Ministry of Education and Research
  - Industry
  - Universities
  - Institutes
Extensive external participation in Council activities

Boards

Executive Board

Division board

Panels and committees

Commitees

Meeting-place
Barriers for early career researchers

- Lack of predictable career paths, permanent positions at high age
- Academic career- External funding a prerequisite
- Seniors "rule" the peer review processes
- “Boiling” labour market in Norway
Lack of predictable career paths, permanent positions at high age

- The Government now propose to introduce tenure track in Norway

Age profile of professors and associate professors 2001 and 2011

Source: NIFU
Seniors "rule" the peer review processes
Success rate vs age and scientific level of proposal

Source: RCN
Boiling labour market in Norway

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of education</th>
<th>Labour force</th>
<th>Employed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic school level</td>
<td>479 000</td>
<td>92 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upper secondary level</td>
<td>1 163 000</td>
<td>97 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Higher education</td>
<td>1 032 000</td>
<td>98 %</td>
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Source: Statistics Norway
Boiling labour market in Norway
Predicted surplus of phd candidates, moderate growth alternative

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Source: Etterspørsel etter og tilbud av stipendiatstillinger i Norge frem mot 2020 (tab 6.7), arbeidsgruppe satt ned av KD og UHR 2012
Academic career - External funding a prerequisite
Level of external funding, per cent

Source: NIFU
Late completion of PhDs, late independence
Age of PhD completion, 2009-2011
RCN addressing ECR

- Pre ECR
  - Research schools
  - Integrated phd programmes in medicine

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<tr>
<th>University of Oslo</th>
<th>Average time</th>
<th>Age</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phd in total</td>
<td>3,9 years</td>
<td>41,3</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Medical Student Research Program</td>
<td>1,8 years</td>
<td>31,0</td>
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</table>

Source: University of Oslo

Source: RCN
New Instrument at RCN: Talented Young Researchers

- **Definition:**
  - For researchers early in their career.
  - No less than two years and no more than eight years since the date of approval of doctoral thesis.
  - The project manager must be 39 years or younger at the deadline for the call for proposals.

- **Talented young researchers in 2013**
  - 64 projects funded (including co-financing with the universities)
  - 18 per cent success rate
  - 7 per cent success rate among established researchers
Summary

- ECR, a shared responsibility?
- «Early intrusion» necessary?
- Complete PhD at lower level?
- More predictable career paths?
- Permanent positions at lower age?
- Specific funding for ECRs?