

Work programme 2017–2027

Programme for Sámi Research III (SAMISK III)

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Summary

The Programme for Sámi Research III (SAMISK III) is a basic research programme in the humanities and social sciences with a broad scientific scope that addresses Sámi-related questions. The programme is also open to the incorporation of natural science research in the field of climate and the environment that is directly linked to the humanities and social science-based topics.

The primary objective of the programme is to help Norway to fulfil its responsibility for generating new research-based knowledge that will enable the Sámi people to strengthen and further develop their own language, and their own culture and community life.

The programme will promote high-calibre research of relevance to policy development, public administration and various stakeholders in society. The aim is to generate more knowledge about:

- Cultural expressions;
- Sámi identity and community-building;
- Education and conditions for bringing up children and adolescents;
- Language;
- Climate and the environment;
- Living conditions and population development.

The programme seeks to encourage ambitious projects that view the thematic priority areas in relation to one another. The programme will use project funding to support research groups studying the Sámi situation with an eye to enhancing the quality and increasing the volume of research in this field in the long term.

1. Background and challenges

Background

The political foundation for the Programme for Sámi Research (SAMISK) is found in the principles and guidelines set out in various government white papers. In Reports No. 36 and 52 to the Storting (1992–1993), the Sámediggi (Sámi Parliament) and the Research Council of Norway were asked to take a closer look at the conditions for Sámi research. The Research Council used the resulting reports as the underlying framework for an action plan for Sámi research, which was approved by the Research Council Executive Board on 6 September 2000. The establishment of a programme for Sámi research was one of the measures set out in the *Plan of Action for the Research Council's Sámi Research Initiatives*.

The Research Council's first Programme for Sámi Research ran for the period 2001–2005, as specified in the action plan. The objectives of the SAMISK I programme were formulated as follows: "The programme's main objectives are recruitment, encouraging research that can provide new insight and perspectives, and encouraging interdisciplinary and multi-institutional collaboration within the field of Sámi research. The programme is intended to maintain and develop disciplines as well as specific research areas and research groups with somewhat weaker research traditions than the traditional, established sites. At the same time, the programme is intended to help build up a knowledge base that can be of use to both Sámi and Norwegian decision-makers."

The programme's initial budget framework was NOK 35.2 million, and it provided funding for nearly 40 research projects, including a number of personal doctoral research fellowships and student research grants, and about 30 dissemination projects of various types.

In February 2007, the Research Board of the Division for Science approved the work programme for the Programme for Sámi Research II. The primary objective of the SAMISK II programme was to "enhance the quantity and scientific merit of Sámi research." Additionally, the programme was to "encourage adequate dissemination (including publication) of Sámi research." The programme ran from 2007 to summer 2017.

In 2012 a committee headed by Professor Nils A. Butenschøn mapped out the development trends, needs and targets for Sámi research and higher education in a report entitled *Langs lange spor – om samisk forskning og høyere utdanning* [Following a long track – on Sámi research and higher education]. According to the committee's report, 14 institutions were engaged in Sámi research in 2010. A total of 217 researchers at these institutions accounted for 103 researcher full-time equivalents (FTEs). Basic allocations were the institutions' most important funding source, making up 45 per cent of their basic budgets. The Research Council provided 27 per cent of this funding. The committee stressed that more funding was needed for Sámi research. In terms of the structural perspective, the committee emphasised that it was important to ensure the continued use of Sámi as an academic language, recruit more native Sámi researchers and establish networks and national research schools for Sámi research. The report did not set out any strong thematic guidelines aside from highlighting the need for comparative research at the Nordic, circumpolar and global levels.

In 2015 the Research Council awarded over NOK 21 million to research on the Sámi situation. Of this, nearly NOK 15 million was awarded under other programmes than the SAMISK II programme. Both these figures were dramatically higher than in 2005.

In its final evaluation of the SAMISK II programme in 2017, the programme board recommended the following focus areas in a new programme period:

- further development of long-term, high-calibre research on the Sámi situation by providing funding for post-doctoral research fellowships and earmarking funding for fellowships, visiting researcher grants and adjunct professor positions for special topics;
- recruitment of native Sámi researchers and development of Sámi as an academic language by providing funding for pre-projects and translation of texts from Sámi to English;
- network-building and internationalisation by providing funding for overseas research grants, adjunct professor positions, international working meetings, international publication of research with Sámi as the working language and giving greater attention to comparative indigenous research;
- shedding light on complexity and diversity within the Sámi community by including thematic areas touching on the major changes taking place in the northern areas, religion, demographics and use of registry data; promoting dissemination of research results through dedicated funding announcements for support for publication and events; and increasing the visibility of Sámi-language publications.

The decision of the division research board of November 2016 states that the SAMISK III programme is to be a basic research programme in the humanities and social sciences with a broad scientific scope that addresses Sámi-related questions. In addition, the programme is to be expanded to address priority areas set out in Meld. St. 7 (2014–2015) *Long-term plan for research and higher education 2015–2024*, white paper from the Ministry of Education and Research, specifically the area of climate and the environment. Funding that exceeds the amount allocated for the previous programme period will be needed to realise this aim without deprioritising social science and humanities topics.

The SAMISK programme board appointed the following committee to draw up a work programme for the new programme:

- Marit Myrvoll, Museum Manager, Várdobáiki Museum (chair)
- Nils Oskal, Professor, Sámi University of Applied Sciences
- Bruce Morén-Duolljá, Associate Professor, Nord University
- Torjer Andreas Olsen, Associate Professor, Centre for Sami Studies, UiT The Arctic University of Norway
- Ulf Mörkenstam, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Stockholm University
- Hanne Hagtvedt Vik, Associate Professor, Department of Archaeology, Conservation and History, University of Oslo
- Ann Ragnhild Broderstad, Academic Director, Centre for Sami Health Research, UiT The Arctic University of Norway. Proposed by the Sámediggi. (Term through 31 January 2017.)

The mandate for the work programme committee states that the new work programme should address the knowledge that has been built up under the two preceding SAMISK programmes, the gaps in the previously generated knowledge and new research needs that have emerged within the Sámi community, in relations between the Sámi community and the majority community, and in an international context. It also states that the committee should assess the need to expand the programme beyond research on humanities and social science topics to encompass topics in the field of climate and the environment. In the new work programme the committee has given priority to building further on the previous programmes and supplementing it with research on climate and the environment.

The framework for the new programme is based on the Research Council's overall principles and guidelines for the establishment of research programmes, including the guidelines for work programmes, and the final report of the SAMISK II programme board. The draft work programme was made available for comment on the Research Council's website, and the work programme committee has discussed the input received. There have also been meetings with the Sámediggi in connection with the preparation of the new work programme both prior to and subsequent to the appointment of the work programme committee.

As of 2017, the SAMISK programme is a permanent programme with an multi-year work programme. This work programme is valid from June 2017.

Challenges

There is a widespread need for knowledge about Sámi language, culture, living conditions and societal development in the past and in the present. The majority of the Sámi people live in Norway, and thus the Norwegian authorities have a particular responsibility for recruiting native Sámi researchers and funding long-term, high-calibre research on Sámi communities within and outside Norway's borders.

Sámi identity, settlement patterns and various relations within the Sámi nation (Sápmi) have been undergoing change over a long historical perspective as a result of external as well as internal factors. During the past 100 years, and particularly the past 30 years, this has been centred around developments in political organisation and institution-building which in general may be seen as a nation-building process. At the same time, a number of political decisions have been taken to improve the conditions for the Sámi as an indigenous people and to safeguard their right to self-determination.

Nation-building in Sápmi involves the building of a common institutional and conceptual framework, which may lead to a new sense of solidarity and collective identity as well as to new tensions and dividing lines. Research can shed light on complexity and diversity within the Sámi community, in relations with other population groups and within the majority community. It may also help to enhance understanding of institutionalisation as the practical development of Sámi self-determination and the conditions and limitations this entails for the further development of self-determination in the nation-states where the Sámi people live. Comparative research is particularly well-suited for use in both a historical and a contemporary perspective and in both a Nordic and an international context.

Research on cultural expressions and cultural diversity can enhance understanding of previous and ongoing change processes. This in turn may lead to a better insight into Sámi self-understanding and life choices in the past and present, including the significance of gender, age, geography and class, for example, as well as other factors. The Sámi communities are characterised by linguistic and cultural continuity and revitalisation and have gained a more visible profile in Norway and internationally. The Sámi language comprises a group of unique, diverse indigenous languages that are in danger of extinction, but are also the backbone of Sámi culture. These languages are a bearer and disseminator of insights into societal development and society as it is now. Research can support language preservation and language vitalisation activities that can be used by current and future Sámi language communities, and particularly by those where time is running out.

The living conditions and quality of life of the Sámi population have undergone dramatic changes in recent generations. More knowledge is needed about the contemporary and long-term consequences of the policy of Norwegianisation. Further research is needed on the implementation and ramifications of political decisions taken during the past decade to protect Sámi culture and improve living conditions. There is a particularly pressing need for research on education and conditions for bringing up children and adolescents in the Sámi community.

The prerequisites for industrial activities and culture are changing as a result of climate change. These in turn are affecting Norwegian and international interests in traditional Sámi settlement areas. The impact of climate change on the natural surroundings and communities must be investigated, including negative impacts, adaptation needs and potential for useful innovations and positive social change. Research can also provide a better understanding of the degree to which new and established systems of cooperation are contributing to problem-solving.

The SAMISK III programme supplements the rather limited amount of research on the Sámi situation conducted under other Research Council programmes, in the EU and in other contexts. The programme will help to strengthen the role and influence of Sámi researchers and research on the Sámi situation within these other frameworks, by among other things establishing common arenas and co-funding with other Research Council programmes.

Projects and other activities under the programme are to give members of the Sámi and majority communities better insight into matters of key importance to Sámi identity and community development, which in turn may result in a better basis for decision-making by Sámi and Norwegian authorities.

Research ethics

All projects must be developed and implemented in compliance with the applicable national statutory framework and guidelines for ethics in research.

2. Objectives for the programme

Activities under the SAMISK III programme will contribute to achieving several of the objectives of the main strategy for the Research Council of Norway, *Research for Innovation and Sustainability*, and in particular objectives 2 and 4:

- Enhance research for sustainable solutions in society and the business sector.
- Promote a public sector that initiates and implements research in reform and renewal efforts.

High-quality, socially relevant research is a key objective of Meld. St. 18 (2012–2013) *Long-term perspectives – knowledge provides opportunity*, white paper from the Ministry of Education and Research, and the Government's *Long-term plan for research and higher education*. The SAMISK III programme's thematic priority areas also share an interface with various other national priority areas for Norwegian research.

The EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, Horizon 2020, and other international collaborative efforts such as Joint Programme Initiatives (JPIs) and the ERA-NET scheme incorporate priority areas of relevance to the SAMISK III programme as well. These are primarily linked to cultural heritage. The SAMISK III programme will cultivate projects that can participate more widely in these arenas.

2.1 Primary objective

The SAMISK III programme will help Norway to fulfil its responsibility for generating new research-based knowledge that will enable the Sámi people to strengthen and further develop their own language, and their own culture and community life.

2.2 Secondary objectives

Thematic and scientific secondary objectives:

1. Generate new knowledge about the Sámi language, culture, community life and history;
2. Increase use of comparative and transnational perspectives in research on the Sámi community and its institutions;
3. Cultivate new knowledge about Sámi identity and self-articulation in time and space;
4. Acquire new knowledge about relations within Sápmi and between Sápmi and other population groups, public authorities and international actors;
5. Acquire new knowledge about the impacts of cultural protection measures and measures to improve living conditions and industrial activities.

Structural secondary objectives:

6. Strengthen recruitment of Sámi researchers;
7. Strengthen international cooperation;
8. Strengthen the use of Sámi as an academic language;

- Promote the dissemination of research-based knowledge about the Sámi situation to decision-makers and other relevant actors within and outside Sápmi.

3. Thematic and scientific priority areas

The SAMISK III programme encompasses six thematic and scientific priority areas:

- Cultural expressions;
- Sámi identity and community-building;
- Education and conditions for bringing up children and adolescents;
- Language;
- Climate and the environment;
- Living conditions and population development.

It will also be important that the research projects awarded funding adequately incorporate perspectives relating to sustainability, research ethics, social responsibility and gender perspectives in research. The scientific priority areas above are important areas of focus under other Research Council programmes as well, including the Research Programme on Better Health and Quality of Life (BEDREHELSE), the Large-scale Programme on Climate Research (KLIMAFORSK), and the Programme for Research and Innovation in the Educational Sector (FINNUT). Cooperation on funding announcements is expected.

In relation to Horizon 2020, it is important that the priority areas designated for the SAMISK III programme cover topics that are not covered by the framework programme. At the same time, activities under the programme should also help qualified Norwegian research groups to improve the quality of their research to enable them to compete for EU funding for larger-scale projects.

3.1 Cultural expressions

The Sámi people are a widely heterogeneous, multilingual group with an understanding of historical and modern events that deviates from that of the majority community. Both material and non-material forms of cultural expression convey recognition and a sense of belonging at the same time as they are constantly being recreated in new interpretations and innovations. Culture must be transmitted and learned, and steadily increasing knowledge production may make it possible for a wider range of cultural expressions to be recognised and accepted as part of the Sámi tradition. The Sámi community today is highly diverse in terms of where people live, what they eat, their religious affiliation, and the gender roles and partnership forms they eschew.

Many people identify Sámi culture with the Sámi way of life and culture that prevailed in pre-modern society roughly 100 years ago. But cultural expressions are not static; they are constantly being transformed and redefined, reflecting to a large degree how members of the Sámi community have consciously shaped their lives. This can pose challenges to research. In a global community

characterised by rapid information exchange, it is possible for international cultural expressions to be adapted to and adopted into the Sámi repertoire.

There is a major need for knowledge that provides a means of understanding changes while also seeing the continuity in the forms of cultural expression. Research is sought on the conflicts between the past and present, “the traditional” and “the modern”, within various cultural expressions. The same applies for comparisons of different cultural expressions between various Sámi regions and between the Sámi people and other ethnic groups. This is a challenging dichotomy for political decision-makers, too, and it is therefore essential to incorporate an internal perspective on this research from within the Sámi community as well. Three thematic areas will be given priority:

History and society

Without knowledge of the past it can be difficult to understand cultural expressions in the context of community life today. Non-material culture has in part been transmitted without any Sámi label. Greater knowledge of the Sámi historical framework, both its perception of reality and its material expressions, often gives a broader validity to the history of Sámi settlement and the Sámi way of life. Sámi pre-history and history remain relatively under-researched, and research on various aspects of the Sámi past – including empirical studies and theoretical approaches – will therefore continue to be viewed as an important, high-priority field within Sámi research. Archaeological and written source material may provide a basis for interpreting different aspects of the Sámi society of the past, such as social organisation, resource use, settlement patterns, perception of reality and relations with other population groups in various geographic regions. Moreover, studies of Sámi artefacts in museum collections may provide new insight into how Sámi cultural expressions have been shaped and changed over time, thus contributing to a new understanding of the Sámi past.

Cultural heritage and perception of reality

Research on oral traditions and written literature encompasses narratives and texts including Sámi sagas, stories, myths and joik. These also represent important categories of source material which may serve among other things as an approach to topics related to morals, life view and perceptions of the world. The Sámi people’s traditional knowledge, practices, social structures and perceptions of the world are preserved in both older and more recent narratives/texts produced as manuscripts, sound recordings and videos stored in various archives. Like other research that involves recording and analysing oral narratives of people who have grown up in a particular community, these materials should be made more widely available and used more extensively in research than is the case today.

Yet another interesting research question is how the past has been incorporated into modern Sámi self-understanding and is actively being used to shape contemporary Sámi life. An important element in this context is the emergence of religiosity with a foundation in Sámi religious structures, and research that looks at how public religion (the church) spawns symbols, liturgy and separate Sámi institutions. Religion and spirituality belong to the most deep-lying area of cultural expressions, and there is a need for research aimed at understanding how a traditional perception of reality can colour both a modern religious and a secular Sámi life. Another aspect of this is the integration of narratives of the past in Sámi art, education and policies.

Cultural monuments and sites – both material and non-material – are a vital part of cultural heritage, not least in a Sámi context in which written source material is limited. Research on cultural monuments may lead to better understanding of the relationship between humans and nature and of how the Sámi people have utilised the landscape and the sea to take advantage of resources. Place names are cultural artefacts that can reveal much about what was (and is) important within the given natural surroundings. Basic values, resources and practices involved in the management of both Sámi and other national cultural monuments function in relation to the Sámi community as well as society at large.

More recent cultural expressions and artistic idioms

In recent years there has been widespread innovation and renewal in multiple forms of cultural expression, as evidenced in Sámi literature, joik, music, theatre, dance, film and pictorial art, in addition to *duodji* (Sámi handicrafts). These are cultural expressions that reach the Sámi people and others, and may therefore exert a major influence on Sámi self-understanding as well as the majority population's understanding of the Sámi people. Traditional forms of expression and practices are combined to varying degrees with a modern artistic idiom, and more research in this area may provide an understanding of these trends toward change that in turn may provide an approach to understanding other aspects of the Sámi community. Greater research activity is also sought in the field of Sámi art history as well as on documentation and analysis of prevailing expressions in modern Sámi art forms.

3.2 Sámi identity and community-building

A modern Sámi community structure has emerged in the past several decades, accompanied by a formalised political system and institution-building in many fields, such as policy, education, the media, research, health, trade and industry, art, culture and cultural monuments. At the same time, many reforms have been implemented and new legislation has been adopted with the aim of strengthening the Sámi community. During the period covered by this work programme, the SAMISK III programme will especially encourage research on the actual significance of the reforms, institutions and legislation that have been established and implemented for the Sámi community. There is a particular need for studies employing a comparative methodological approach, with focus on the Nordic countries. Studies that combine contemporary and historical perspectives are sought, as developments in recent decades must be understood both within a contemporary framework and through comparison with developments in earlier periods. Three thematic areas will be given priority:

Sámi identity and self-articulation

It is critical to explore the multifaceted relations between the Sámi community, other population groups and the Norwegian authorities. This will entail greater focus on studying how identity and community-building have taken, and are taking, place, with emphasis on the diverse roles played by Sámi actors and their various connections with the public authorities and other population groups. Research on how these developments have influenced different power relations within the Sámi community is important, as are studies of relations between Sámi actors and other actors within the Norwegian majority community. Here the programme will encourage the use of both long and short historical perspectives, particularly when exploring the significance of Sámi identity in various places,

at various times and in various contexts. This will require comparative research, particularly in a Nordic context, but also in relation to other minorities and indigenous peoples. A focus on the complexity of the Sámi community as well as on gender may supplement these perspectives.

Research should also look at Sámi identity and self-articulation at the collective level. This will entail studying how insiders and outsiders are defined within Sápmi. Studies must include formal structures (such as the electoral register for the Sámediggi (Sámi Parliament)) and informal structures related to identity markers (such as language and professional belonging). This will also entail studying the emergence and importance of a potential minority political/legal hierarchy in Norwegian, regional and international contexts.

Sámi organisations and political systems

The Sámediggi plays a key role in nation-building and the practical implementation of the Sámi people's right to self-determination. The Sámediggi is a representative political body that is intended to serve the Sámi people and civil society. Key research tasks here will involve studying how this has developed and what challenges remain. There are numerous reasons why many Sámis have not registered in the electoral register. There is a need for a better understanding of elections, voter behaviour and the Sámi electoral register. A specialised administrative system with responsibility for various Sámi policy areas has been gradually built up through legislation, the establishment of institutions, and the transfer and integration of authority, in which the Sámediggi plays a central part. The role and position of the Sámediggi in the Norwegian system of governance and the Sámi community is constantly evolving. There is a need for further research here, also in relation to Sweden and Finland, where the formal position and role of the Sámediggi as a representative body is different. Research on the prerequisites that must be in place to establish a joint Sámediggi for Norway, Sweden and Finland will also be of interest, particularly in light of the draft Nordic Saami Convention.

The national government, municipalities, counties and other public administrative units in Norwegian society are linked to a structure for public administration and decision-making in which the Sámediggi's role has neither been, nor is, consistently well-defined. It would be beneficial to learn more about the dynamic in the various relations that the Sámediggis have developed or participate in and the basis for political priority setting. This applies particularly to areas with a direct impact on the economic basis for Sámi industrial interests, as these will be critical to realising the right to economic self-determination.

Other institutions have also been established in Sámi community life, including life-phase institutions, cultural institutions, research institutions, and health and social services. A number of these institutions have worked extensively with Sámi culture and self-understanding. One important task will be to generate more research-based knowledge about the framework for, and significance of, these institutions and how Sámi institutions serve to set the agenda in the field of Sámi policy. Relevant research questions under the programme may be linked to the development of political institutions and their relations with the Sámi community and the outside world, including Nordic cooperation and cooperation between indigenous peoples. Issues related to the development of democracy, power sharing and the public sphere will be especially crucial. The media's role and content will be important in this context. It may also be of interest for research projects to collect

and process the knowledge of those who have been involved in this development, preferably by compiling and using collections of written and oral sources of political culture and community-building.

Developments in rights protection

Safeguarding of rights is also of major importance to community-building. Analyses of the impacts of the legal reforms implemented in Norway are important, both within the Sámi community and in relation to other population groups. These include, for example, provisions pertaining to the Sámi language in the Sámi Act, the right to consultation in matters affecting the Sámi directly, the Finnmark Act and the Finnmark Commission. The work of the Sámi Rights Commission III on the land and water rights situation in Troms and Nordland counties and further southward in the South Sámi area will also be important. It will further be of interest to investigate perceptions of rights as well as the internal criteria and norms used to assess what kinds of utilisation establishes rights and how natural resources are to be managed. The same is true for research on the degree to which legislation and regulatory framework, such as the consultation procedures in Sámi matters, are implemented in practice and followed up by the responsible authorities. The indigenous perspective is important in this context, including rights, co- and self-determination, capacity-building and knowledge development, and cooperation between nation-states and indigenous peoples.

Self-determination must be understood not only within the framework of the nation-state, but also within the international sphere. Studies of rights protection will also entail examining how new legal rules for rights protection have been established, both in the individual nation-states where the Sámi people live and internationally. Studies of the relationship of the Sámi community to supranational institutions and areas will be particularly relevant in this context. Research on and knowledge about existing conventions and the development of new legal instruments will be important for further social development. The contribution of Sámi stakeholders to, and participation in, the international indigenous movement will be of key interest here, as will other Sámi contributions to international political processes and rights protection.

3.3 Education and conditions for bringing up children and adolescents

The Sámi communities are part of a constantly changing world where globalisation and urbanisation are among the important trends. Education is pivotal to the individual's health, quality of life, social engagement, social integration and ties to working life. Within the framework of the overall educational pathway, educational research may encompass topics ranging from early childhood education and care to higher education. In education relating to Sámi perspectives there is an important distinction between, on the one hand, education for an indigenous/Sámi target group, understood as the education of Sámi children/pupils/students on the Sámi situation in a Sámi language and, on the other hand, education for the majority school system, understood as the education of the majority population on the Sámi situation. There is a pressing need for research in both of these areas. New ideas about gender, family constellations and the urban landscape have been integrated into traditional concepts of the extended family and expanded kinship network. Technology and the media are an integral part of the world in which Sámi children and adolescents live today. Three thematic areas will be given priority:

Sámi schools and education

Norway bases educational policy relating to the Sámi community on national legislation and international commitments, and this has a bearing on the education-related components of Sámi research. Sámis living in and outside the Sámi language administrative district have the right to tuition in Sámi and education on Sámi matters. The Sámi school system, i.e. schools in the Sámi language administrative district, follows the Sámi Knowledge Promotion Reform curriculum and is continually evolving and facing new challenges. There is a need for research on the practices and experiences of these schools. Research should also be conducted on how Sámi schools and education operate and progress at different levels and in different subjects. Particular focus should be placed on the Lulea Sámi, Pite Sámi, Eastern Sámi/Skolt Sámi and South Sámi areas. Practice-oriented research on teaching methods and educational theory related to Sámi education will be important as well. This may include, for example, use of traditional knowledge and/or Sámi languages. School dropout is a problem in many Sámi local communities. Research on the Sámi situation should include dropout-related issues in regions where Sámi children/pupils/students live. It will be important to incorporate gender as a factor in such research.

The majority school system and multi-level citizenship

Everyone who grows up in Norway is presumed to acquire knowledge about Sámi history and community life by virtue of their participation in public education. In light of this, some of the research on education should focus on whether, or to what degree, government commitments and targets are met. This also includes research on how the majority school system addresses Sámi and indigenous issues. All educational research conducted under the programme will require research in different disciplines and use of different methodologies. Research questions involve education as policy; how education, for example using learning resources and subject curricula, articulates and defines Sámi identity and tradition; and education as practice, from didactics to classroom research. The place of education in society, both nationally and locally, is also a key area of research. One question to be explored here is how education relates to citizenship. Both indigenous education and the majority school system are linked to the concept of multi-level citizenship, and contain an inherent duality in which Sámi children/pupils/students are to become both Sámi cultural citizens and Norwegian cultural citizens, and where cultural citizenship for all children/pupils/students in Norway implies having knowledge about Sámi history and community life.

Identity and conditions for bringing up children and adolescents

Developments in Sámi communities in recent years have created new conditions for the bringing up of Sámi children and adolescents as well as their self-articulation. There are, however, major differences in how Sámi children are growing up and in which type of community. Children and adolescents participate today in many different social arenas, both virtual and physical. The role that Sámi identity and self-articulation plays in these various arenas is an interesting area for research. Growing up takes place across many divides: between family and society at large, between the unorganised and the organised, between subculture and mainstream, and between school and leisure time. The organisation of adolescence within the Sámi community is an area of study open to new research approaches, and it encompasses among other things festival culture and global(ised) indigenous identity. Research on specific conditions for bringing up children and adolescents, such as

cyberbullying, for example, is also important, as such conditions may in many ways play a critical part in identity formation.

3.4 Language

Research on Sámi language is essential in order to strengthen the Sámi language in society and to promote the further development of Sámi culture. An important basis for research is that the Sámi language comprises a group of living, diverse indigenous languages that are in danger of extinction and have been in use over a very long period across a wide geographical area extending across Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia. This makes Sámi unique in a European context.

In Norway, some of the Sámi languages have status as official languages and are an important part of the country's collective identity and cultural heritage. Language is an integral part of identity, and many individuals with Sámi heritage may experience regret over never having learned Sámi or passed their language on to the next generation. The Sámi community will also benefit greatly from studies that examine the role of its languages as bearers and conveyors of culture and identity. It will also be of great importance to clarify and analyse the Sámi languages that have been most heavily suppressed, and that are most ignored and endangered in a Norwegian context. In Norway, these languages are Lulea Sámi, Pite Sámi, Sea Sámi, Southern Sámi, Ume Sámi and Eastern Sámi/Skolt Sámi. In this connection, funding and research activity are especially important for Lulea Sámi and Southern Sámi, which still have active language communities but where time is running out.

Sámi language research should be conducted in relation to broad-based international research in each of the following thematic areas:

Language acquisition, language education, multilingualism and pedagogy

Traditionally, Sámi languages have been transmitted orally from one generation to the next in the home and in local communities. Recently, however, written language and teaching aids, written literature and formal tuition have been given an increasingly greater role in Sámi language acquisition and tuition than previously. The situation in areas where Sámi traditionally held a strong position is also changing. Research on Sámi language acquisition and tuition is needed to preserve and develop these languages as a medium of daily communication for children and young people. In light of the history of suppression of Sámi languages by majority society with the ensuing language shift this brought about, and the lack of local arenas where Sámi language can be heard and used, it is highly relevant to explore Sámi language learning as both a native and a second language, as well as the framework for language preservation, language development, language vitalisation and multilingualism in addition to language teaching methods and their effectiveness. Given the variation in Sámi language usage in society today, this should be carried out across different geographical areas and sociolinguistic settings. Relevant pedagogical and educational theory research problems will be fruitful to address in this context.

Language as bearer of culture and source of historical information

Over the course of time, Sámi spoken languages have moved both away from and towards one another. They have influenced and been influenced by each other and non-Sámi languages. Little research has been conducted on the historical factors behind these influences. Each individual Sámi language and dialect carries with it a view into the past, captured in grammar, vocabulary and oral

traditions. They also contain insights into societal development, practices and society as it is now. An integrated overview of Northern Europe's history and cultures must incorporate adequate investigation, detailed descriptions and mapping of Sámi languages in relation to one another and to other languages. Research on language as a bearer of culture and source of historical information may help to make the Sámi people's historical presence more visible, and increase the use of Sámi languages today.

Linguistic structures, human language capacity and literature

Given that Sámi languages possess grammatical traits that are very rare among the world's languages and which challenge popular linguistic theories, they can reveal a great deal about the distinctive language capacity of humans. Research can contribute to more comprehensive grammar and cognition models. There is a need for more Sámi language research that is targeted towards linguistic research in general, and that can be used to develop more effective materials for language education and language technology. Research on modern Sámi literature is interesting in that it mirrors the traditional Sámi community as well as the process of renewal. In addition, literature also displays cultural and linguistic similarities and differences across time and space.

Language and place name policy research

Government policy instruments have been developed to promote the use of Sámi in the Sámi language administrative district. Pursuant to the Act relating to place names, the use of Sámi place names is permitted in the public sector. Research is needed on the use of these policy instruments, as well as the implementation and effect of these measures.

3.5 Climate and the environment

Climate change poses challenges on a global scale, but will also have a variety of ramifications at the local level. Knowledge about local conditions is therefore crucial, both to understanding local changes and impacts and to creating a framework for the best possible adaptation and restructuring. Natural resource-based industries will be particularly vulnerable to changes that affect growth conditions, vegetation, grazing conditions and seasonal access to grazing areas. Three thematic areas will be given priority:

Reindeer husbandry and livestock farming

Climate change research is of great interest for the reindeer husbandry industry, which is also facing mounting pressures from activities such as windfarm development and mineral extraction competing for the use of land areas on the one hand, and nature conservation interests on the other. A shift in growing conditions will have an impact on the ratios between grazing animals, game and predators. There is a need for research-based knowledge on predator stocks and how these – together with the impacts of climate change – affect the conditions for reindeer husbandry and livestock farming. Climate change impacts often come on top of other encroachments and constraints, which may further complicate adaptation and restructuring efforts. Comparative studies of climate impacts, various adaptation strategies and expansion of restructuring capacity would help to strengthen this field of research. In addition to humanities and social science research, it will also be fruitful to integrate environmental science approaches into studies of the basis for natural resource-based industries.

Traditional knowledge and environmental protection

Research on traditional Sámi knowledge is important to studies of natural resource-based industries. Traditional knowledge is often woven into life views and incorporated into various practices relating to resource utilisation and land/sea use. Documentation of traditional knowledge about the use of land/sea and resources is vital in the context of resource management, in connection with mapping out legal rights and in studies of philosophies of life. In addition, documentation of traditional knowledge will be a key source in vulnerability analyses and in the formulation of adaptation and restructuring strategies in response to climate change, both for reindeer husbandry and for other uses of land and nearby sea areas by the Sámi people. In this context there is a widespread need to document and analyse traditional ecological knowledge and landscapes in fjords in Sea Sámi settlement areas.

Environmental protection activism has played a major role in modern Sámi history, and is also a key element in policy and cooperation relating to indigenous people today. There is a need for research on how traditional knowledge is activated and modified in the face of changing knowledge systems and management regimes. Research is further needed on the significance of both international cooperation between indigenous peoples and greater insight into the traditional knowledge of other indigenous peoples. It is equally important to carry out research addressing various ramifications of recent legal instruments pertaining to the status of traditional knowledge in the wake of the new legislation on biological diversity and environmental protection.

Climate change and industrial development

Climate change will also alter the framework for industrial development, outdoor recreation and tourism in Sámi settlement areas. It will be extremely important to learn more about how Sámi stakeholders are being included in the establishment of new and expanding industrial activities that entail modified land-use, and which systems of cooperation are most effective.

3.6 Living conditions and population development

The Sámi population is heterogeneous, and the living conditions of individuals are, and have been, shaped by societal development as well as individual factors. There is a need for research on living conditions and population development in Sámi communities in both a historical and a contemporary perspective. This area of research is particularly well-suited to projects that combine humanities/social science methodologies and health science methodologies. Three thematic areas will be given priority:

Living conditions and health

To understand how individual members of the Sámi community experience the good life (or not) research in this area should focus on the individual and on the framework that is created by political decisions at the macrolevel. Decisions regarding, for example, industrial activities, communications and institution-building (and dismantling) may have an impact on individuals and local communities. Living conditions may be viewed in connection with conditions during childhood, education, choice of trade or profession, place of residence and living arrangements, leisure time and recreational activities, lifecycle patterns, and both physical and mental health. Research-based knowledge is called for in each of these areas as well as on the connections between them. Research is also needed on the significance of living conditions for, for example, health and the ability to realise life

plans, not only at the individual level but also in terms of the Sámi community overall. Stress management in the battle for the good life also involves the battles for livelihood and lifestyle. Research should be conducted on how, or whether, Sámi actors in the primary industries – along with the Sámi people in general – perceive this situation. In connection with this, it will also be relevant to study historical differences in health and living conditions among Sámi communities and in relation to other groups and how these differences have emerged and are perpetuated.

Demographics and settlement patterns

Research on demographics and settlement is crucial both for generating knowledge and for raising awareness about the Sámi community in time and space. Demographic research can yield statistical and numerical data on, for example, health indicators, age and gender composition, marriage patterns and family structures in the Sámi community. Such data will help to achieve the aim of the greatest possible equality in living conditions for the Sámi population compared with the rest of the population. Research on settlement patterns may help to reveal mobility patterns, and causes and consequences of urbanisation for the individual and the Sámi community as a whole. Research studies may be based on residents of cities, rural areas or the Sámi community as a whole.

Cultural resilience

Research in this area can generate knowledge about the role that culture and identity play in relation to living conditions and quality of life. One of the results of assimilation policy was that large segments of the Sámi population were relegated to an inferior position in relation to the government authorities and the rest of the population, and became socially and culturally marginalised. Modernisation processes and diverse regulatory measures continue to put pressure on the Sámi community and traditional livelihoods. This is particularly true for reindeer husbandry and Sea Sámi fisheries. Research can help to provide knowledge about factors that led certain individuals and families in various geographical regions and at different times to become assimilated into the majority culture, while others have retained a clear Sámi identity.

4. Priorities for structuring the research effort

The SAMISK III programme is a basic research programme designed to generate fundamental, high-quality knowledge about the Sámi situation. The programme will be relevant to society in the sense that the knowledge generated will be useful for societal and policy development. The primary objective is to enable the Sámi people to strengthen and further develop their own language, and their own culture and community life.

4.1 Types of support

As a basic research programme, the SAMISK III programme will be open to employing a number of the Research Council's application types and support schemes. However, funding will primarily be concentrated on large-scale researcher projects as the best means of achieving programme objectives.

The programme is seeking new collaborative constellations and work methods in the research conducted, both nationally and internationally. The programme will therefore facilitate the establishment of meeting places, networks and other collaboration arenas and encourage the institutions themselves to promote institution-building. Applicants are encouraged to include smaller research networks outside their own institutions in grant applications for research projects.

To promote the development and maintenance of expertise among researchers, the programme may provide funding for network-building measures. These may include the establishment of meeting places for researchers in the form of seminars and conferences organised under the auspices of the programme and/or research community, and the establishment and maintenance of national, regional or international thematic networks. Funding for such measures may be granted within the framework of large-scale researcher projects or separately in the form of support for events.

The programme may introduce a funding scheme for pre-projects to help research groups to develop their ideas into full-fledged research projects and to promote cooperation between smaller and larger research groups in the field.

As a step in achieving the objective of strengthening the use of Sámi as an academic language, funding will be made available for the publication of Sámi-language books and scientific articles based on research conducted under the programme. Some funding will also be made available for the translation of scholarly texts produced under the programme between Norwegian, Sámi and English.

4.2 Internationalisation

International research cooperation is essential for enhancing quality in Norwegian research and for ensuring that Norway has access to, and contributes to, international knowledge production.

Studies with a relational and comparative focus at the Nordic level and at the international level have a natural place in Sámi research. The programme will therefore encourage international comparative research when this is beneficial for the analyses as well as international exchange for research fellows affiliated with the projects.

Horizon 2020 and other international collaborative efforts such as Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs) and the ERA-NET scheme incorporate priority areas of relevance to the SAMISK III programme. The SAMISK III programme will cultivate projects that can participate in these arenas.

In order to strengthen international cooperation on Sámi research, the programme will seek projects that:

- include international partners and participate in international networks;
- incorporate a stay at a research institution abroad for doctoral and post-doctoral research fellows during the project period;
- incorporate overseas research grants for research fellows and researchers;
- organise international seminars and conferences in Norway;
- publish internationally.

4.3 Gender balance and gender perspectives

Gender perspectives will continue to be important in the context of recruitment. Gender equality implies that women and men are given equal opportunities, and this may entail the implementation of different measures for women and men. In its funding announcements the programme will encourage gender balance in the research team and the incorporation of gender perspectives in the research conducted. When selecting projects for funding, the SAMISK III programme board will ensure that the gender balance among the project managers remains satisfactory and that gender perspectives are well-incorporated into research under the programme.

4.4 Recruitment of Sámi researchers

The recruitment of more native Sámi researchers would be to the benefit of the overall development of the Sámi community. The researcher's social, cultural and ethnic background may play a crucial role in determining which research questions are raised. Accordingly, it is vital that the Sámi people themselves are involved in and exert influence on the research agenda. In its funding announcements the programme will encourage the recruitment of native Sámi project managers and project participants. In cases when there is a pressing need for recruitment, funding may be made available for student grants within the framework of large-scale researcher projects.

5. Cooperation with related instruments

The Research Council is concerned with how to better integrate humanities and social science perspectives into research targeted towards diverse societal challenges. The SAMISK III programme can facilitate this by addressing societal challenges of relevance to the Sámi people through dialogue and cooperation with other thematic initiatives at the Research Council. It should be possible to incorporate Sámi-relevant humanities/social science research into several of the thematically oriented programmes, both by contributing specific knowledge and by problematising the technological and natural science-related knowledge hegemonies in these vital areas of society. The programme will also address relevant aspects of the Research Council's *Research Strategy for the Arctic and Northern Areas* (forskning.nord.to).

Common arenas

The programme encompasses a broad range of thematic areas and research topics. A number of Research Council programmes address Sámi issues, for instance as related to reindeer husbandry, climate, land use and the environment, and health. These programmes have been dominated by natural science perspectives to a great degree.

To integrate Sámi issues in a humanities/social science perspective, the programme will work to establish common arenas with other programmes in the form of cooperation on funding announcements, conferences and dissemination measures. Relevant programmes for cooperation include the Research Programme on Better Health and Quality of Life (BEDREHELSE) with regard to Sámi-relevant humanities/social science-based health research and the Large-scale Programme on

Climate Research (KLIMAFORSK) with regard to Sámi-relevant humanities/social science-based climate and environmental research. Furthermore, the SAMISK III programme will seek to play an active role as coordinator vis-à-vis other programmes that touch on or could touch on aspects of Sámi culture and Sámi community life. The Programme for Research and Innovation in the Educational Sector (FINNUT) is a relevant programme for cooperation in the field of education.

Delimitations

Although the SAMISK III programme will seek closer cooperation with other programmes, it is wise to maintain some division of tasks between the programmes. The various initiatives have different priorities and tasks, and the SAMISK III programme cannot participate everywhere. It must therefore focus its efforts and resources in areas that support its various programme objectives in the best possible manner. It is also critical that the SAMISK III programme's activities in areas that share an interface with other programmes – for example, climate and the environment and health – serve to strengthen those programmes' own efforts to integrate Sámi-relevant humanities/social science topics.

6. Anticipated results, impacts and societal outcomes

The programme will be evaluated after five years. This will include assessing whether the programme is on course in achieving its objectives. This will require the designation of a variety of indicators relating to the objectives and anticipated results. It will be important to ensure that these performance indicators can be used for comparisons with the existing project portfolio in order to determine whether targets are being achieved. It will be more difficult to define indicators for impacts and societal outcomes that the programme is seeking to realise and expecting to see. This is particularly true for impacts beyond the activities and duration of the individual projects, as this will require an entirely different degree of in-depth analysis of the current situation. Furthermore, it is nearly impossible to isolate the long-term impacts and societal outcomes of the activities under the SAMISK III programme as a whole. Thus the indicators for measuring whether the programme is achieving its objectives are primarily targeted towards the structural secondary objectives of the programme and the impacts of the individual research projects. The indicator for societal outcomes is directly linked to the programme's primary objective.

The programme will employ the following performance indicators:

- the programme has funded research within all of the thematic priority areas;
- number of projects awarded funding;
- number of projects with Sámi as the working language;
- number of projects incorporating comparative and transnational research;
- number of projects incorporating international cooperation;
- number of post-doctoral research fellows;
- number of doctoral degrees completed;

- number of master's students with grants;
- number of scholarly publications and proportion of these published via highly ranked publication channels;
- number of scholarly and popular science publications in the Sámi language;
- number of participating institutions and networks;
- number of overseas research grants;
- number of conferences, seminars and workshops for researchers, users and the public at large.

The programme will employ the following impact indicators:

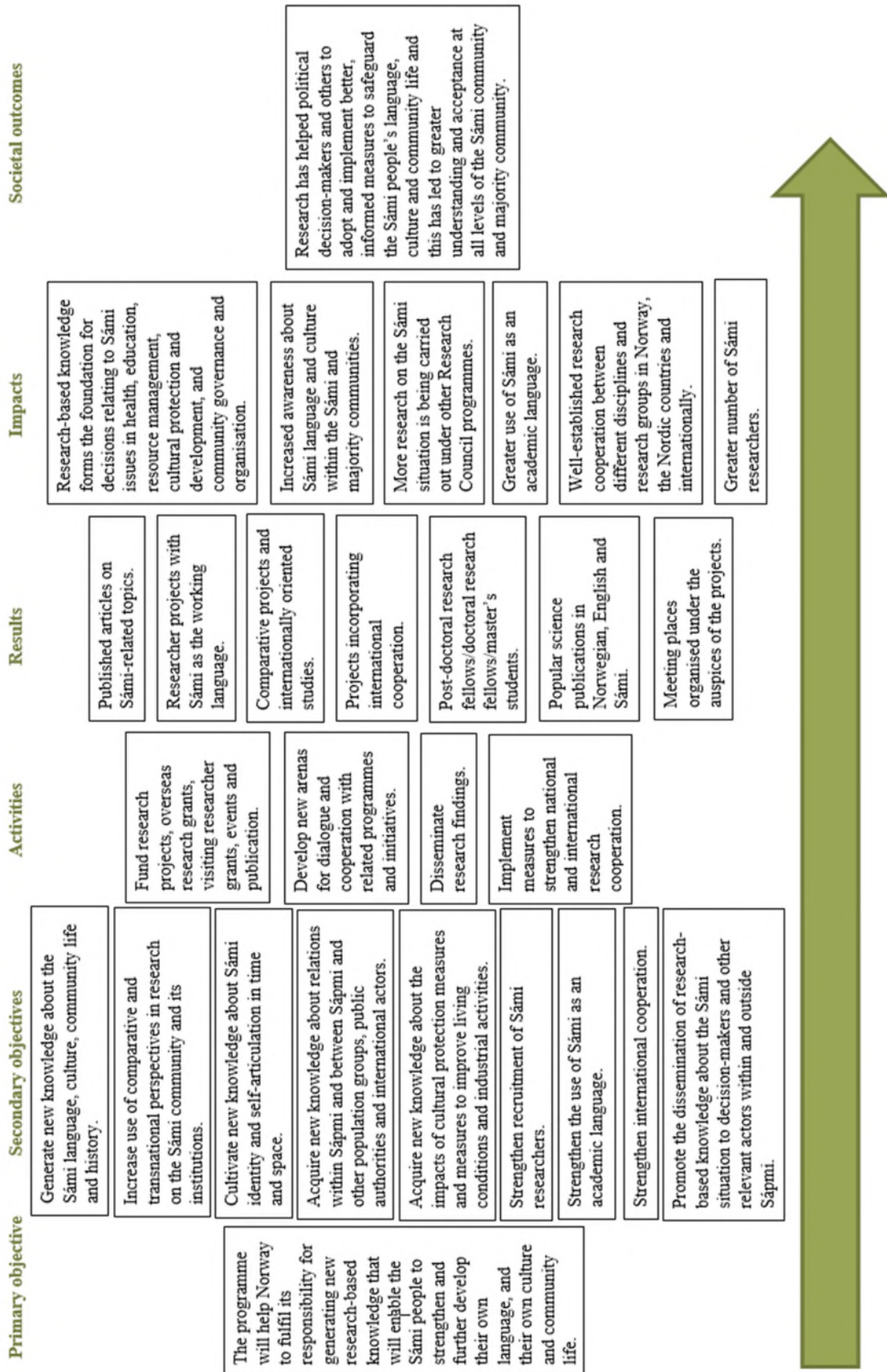
- the final reports of SAMISK-funded projects demonstrate new knowledge and insights generated by their researchers on issues encompassed by the programme's thematic priority areas;
- Sámi research is being incorporated into the basis for decision-making relating to Sámi issues in the areas of health, education, resource management, cultural protection and development, and community governance and organisation;
- Sámi research is being disseminated via the public media (TV, newspapers, social media) and has given a more visible profile to Sámi language, culture, living conditions and history within the Sámi community and majority community;
- figures in the Research Council's project database and project catalogue show an increase in research on the Sámi situation in other Research Council programmes;
- a review of the projects' final reports shows that there has been development and an increase in the use of Sámi as an academic language;
- a review of the projects' final reports and figures from the Research Council's project database shows that cooperation between small and large research groups has been developed and strengthened;
- a review of the projects' final reports and the Research Council's project database shows that research networks in Norway, the Nordic countries and internationally have been developed and expanded;
- an increase in the number of native Sámi researchers.

The programme will employ the following indicator for societal outcomes:

- The programme is contributing research-based knowledge to the basis for decision-making in society, trade and industry and the government administration with the aim of enabling the Sámi people to strengthen and further develop their own language, and their own culture and community life.

Progress reports and final reports provide ongoing information about the status of the projects. This information is compiled and assessed in the programme's annual reports, among other things. Developments in, for example, publication and dissemination activity are indicators of scientific merit and relevance to society. The programme may further specify additional secondary objectives and performance indicators, target groups, types of evaluations and the like in the three-year action plans, when this is relevant.

6.1 Diagram of the programme logic model



7. Resources and budget

The programme is funded by the Ministry of Education and Research (NOK 11.7 million) and the Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation (NOK 3.85 million), for a total annual allocation of NOK 15.5 million. The programme is open-ended, without a defined programme period. The budget for the 10-year period covered by this work programme is approximately NOK 155 million. This financial framework will determine the latitude of action regarding the types of activities that can be launched. The programme plans to issue one funding announcement per year.

The programme has a broad thematic scope, and this work programme is ambitious and identifies many challenges. Given the current financial framework it will be difficult to cover all the thematic priority areas set out in the work programme. As noted earlier, additional, non-earmarked funding will be needed to integrate natural science perspectives without deprioritising cultural and social science perspectives. The programme will therefore work to create common arenas with other programmes where Sámi-relevant research questions can be (or could be) addressed through cooperation on funding announcements, for example.

Approximately NOK 15 million in funding will be made available each year, and calls for proposals will in principle encompass all the thematic priority areas set out in the work programme. Cooperation with other programmes, such as the Programme for Environmental Research for a Green Transition (MILJØFORSK) and the KLIMFORSK and BEDREHELSE programmes, may be of interest in the thematic priority areas “climate and the environment” and “living conditions and population development”.

8. Governance and organisation

Programme board

The overall responsibility for the SAMISK III programme lies with the Division for Science, which has also appointed the programme board. The programme is administered by the programme board, acting on behalf of the Research Council, and reports to the Research Board of the Division for Science via the Director of the Department for Humanities and Social Sciences and the Executive Director of the division. The programme board is responsible for ensuring that the programme achieves its stipulated objectives and is implemented as effectively as possible within the approved plans and the framework approved by the division research board. The Research Council administration is responsible for carrying out the day-to-day tasks of the programme.

The programme board is comprised of the following members:

2017-2021

Marit Myrvoll, Museum manager, Várdobáiki Sámi centre
Ante Aikio, professor, Sàmi University of Applied Sciences
Astri Andresen, Professor, University of Bergen
Oddmund Andersen, Senior Researcher, Árran

Jens Dahl, Professor, University of Copenhagen
Anne Lene Turi Dimpas, Psychology Specialist, SANKS
Morten Melgaard, Professor, University of Copenhagen
Ulf Mörkenstam, Associate Professor, Stockholm University
Nancy Vibeke Olsen, Senior Adviser, Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation
(observer)
Katri Somby, Senior Adviser, Sámi Parliament (observer)

Programme administration

Adviser Elisabeth Westphal is the programme coordinator. Information about additional contact persons in the Research Council administration may be found on the programme's webpages.

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