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Ex-post evaluation of the Research Programme on Latin America

Final report



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Research programme on Latin America was launched by the Research Council of Norway in 2008, with funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From its inception, the primary objective of the programme was “to enhance knowledge about Latin America in Norway by supporting high-quality research”. Undergirding this primary objective were a series of secondary objectives:

- To undertake research of high international quality.
- To ensure a wider scope and longer-term perspectives in research on Latin America.
- To enhance knowledge on issues relevant to Norwegian user groups.
- To contribute to the internationalisation of Norwegian research on Latin America.
- To ensure the communication of research findings and the development of meeting places and cooperation between researchers and users.

With the programme at its completion point, this *ex-post* evaluation was conducted to determine the extent to which the main objectives of the programme have been achieved and to assess its the added value.

CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation team believes that the programme has achieved its goals as set out in the programme documentation. Surveys and interviews have shown high levels of satisfaction with the programme and that it has been successful in providing a vehicle for high quality research in Latin American studies. The programme has been successful in strengthening research networks both within Norway and with Latin America. The programme has, however, been less successful at building new networks, with the majority of researchers working with existing partners. This, however, should not be viewed as a negative for the programme, as the primary objective was centred on building a body of knowledge—“enhancing knowledge”—rather than around connecting researchers to new international networks.

One of the main critiques from project leaders and interviewees of the LATINAMERIKA programme was the lack of projects in the natural sciences, with at least half a dozen survey respondents complaining about support for the social sciences. From the perspective of the objectives, however, it remains very difficult to fault the execution of the programme itself. One of the guiding principles behind selecting a project was that it have some societal relevance as well as have specificities of Latin America.

In addition, the portfolio analysis showed that the majority of projects could be defined as multidisciplinary, even if that was through the representation of different disciplines with the field

of study of social sciences. Project applicants were obviously encouraged by the calls to emphasise multi-disciplinarity in their proposals. This is another of the programme's many achievements.

The programme has exercised an impressive level of communication, both within and outside of the programme, particularly in its engagement with local media. This engagement with media has not shown up in higher levels of discussion around Latin America in the popular press; however, decreases in mentions of Latin American are likely influenced by broader trends in international news gathering, which would be far outside of the scope of this programme to influence.

Levels of satisfaction with the programme were shown to be high, with stakeholders expressing satisfaction in interacting with the administration of the programme as well as with other key stakeholders.

Having enjoyed a unique 10-year funding period, this programme has been provided with adequate funding to achieve its goals. Project leaders that were interviewed indicated that they considered funding to be adequate.

Finally, the Programme Board has been, based on interviews and the survey, effective with their hands-on approach to managing the project, working well with the administration and showing care about not just the evaluation of project proposals, but ensuring successful delivery of those projects. The evaluation team notes that having no Norwegian academic representation, while helpful for avoiding conflicts of interest, did lead to a sharp learning curve for the Board in understanding the Norwegian academic landscape.

RECOMMENDATIONS

If this programme were to be re-launched in some form in future, the evaluation team would recommend a stronger definition of the intervention logic, clearly laid out in an ex-ante evaluation with criteria against which the programme will be measured. Further thought could also be given to the mechanisms to furthering those goals, which can then filter down into finer grained criteria for project selection. It could be clearer whether the programme is focussed on strengthening institutions, developing research capacity or communities, or communicating those results to a wider audience.

And in relation to that wider audience, it would be helpful to better define and potentially prioritise those audiences that the programme intends to reach. As has been made clear by the excellent work being done by NorLARNet as well as some of the more creative projects, the programme has been able to reach out to many audiences. However, there is no getting around the fact that spreading projects across all target audiences from any academic discipline from any country in Latin American threatens to dilute the sustainability of the programme, as resources are spread widely, reducing its overall impact on any one user group or stakeholder. This breadth of geography and academic discipline has been advertised as a strength of the programme, and the evaluation team can certainly

appreciate the flexibility afforded to the programme, allowing it to focus on funding the best research (which is, after all, the primary objective of the programme); however, the evaluation team still believes that the programme could benefit from either clarifying the importance of various secondary objectives or eliminating those objectives all together and addressing other objectives, like dissemination, as selection criteria (something which the Board seems to have done in their execution of the programme, even though this is not reflected in the programme documentation).

In terms of the composition of the Board, the evaluation team would recommend more orientation of the foreign members to the academic landscape which their decisions will influence, particularly if any future version of this programme were to focus on institution or community building. As well, while the evaluation team understands that it is common practice for the private sector to receive representation on these Boards as a given—something which the evaluation teams considers to be very positive—providing the private sector a seat on the Programme Board should bring with it a clearer reflection of their role within the objectives of the programme.

The evaluation team would also recommend that the programme provide more thought towards the sustainability of results. Certainly, providing funding for a 10-year period provides a solid base on which to build a body of knowledge that will sustain itself after the funding period is over, and we agree with the assessment of the RCN that researchers should not become reliant on a single source of funding. Nonetheless, giving focus to institutions—such as providing a permanent funding path for NorLARNet—can help solidify the gains made by the programme. It is institutions such as this one that provide a mechanism for the continued communication of ideas, providing an impetus for research in the field to continue after the programme shuts down.

Finally, while the programme has been very well run and has received praise from the participants, the evaluation team would recommend that the 'front-loading' of projects reduced opportunities for lesson learning. Because 30 of the 69 projects were allocated funding in this early period, there was less scope to adjust future calls and allocate more budget to future projects based on early experiences.

1 CONTEXT OF THE ASSIGNMENT

1.1 AIM AND SCOPE OF THE EVALUATION

The Research programme on Latin America was launched by the Research Council of Norway in 2008, with funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From its inception, the primary objective of the programme was “to enhance knowledge about Latin America in Norway by supporting high-quality research”. Undergirding this primary objective were a series of secondary objectives:

- To undertake research of high international quality.
- To ensure a wider scope and longer-term perspectives in research on Latin America.
- To enhance knowledge on issues relevant to Norwegian user groups.
- To contribute to the internationalisation of Norwegian research on Latin America.
- To ensure the communication of research findings and the development of meeting places and cooperation between researchers and users.

The thematic focus of the programme was also open, which included a willingness to fund projects in the social sciences, development research, environment, energy, and natural resources. The disciplines have been held together by five main research themes:

- Politics and governance
- Culture and society
- Economy, industry, business and markets
- Natural resources: management, exploitation and conservation
- Poverty, welfare and human development

The purpose of this *ex-post* evaluation has been to determine the extent to which the main objectives of the programme have been achieved and to assess its the added value. It intends to analyse the efficiency, effectiveness, and relevance of a programme given the assumptions under which it has been enacted, using the methods as outlined in the following section. The evaluation is looking to answer the following research questions:

- Does the programme contribute to the expected outcomes and impacts?
- Does the programme contribute to creating sustainable research communities in Norway on Latin America?
- Does the programme contribute to the internationalisation of Norwegian research on Latin America?
- Does the programme contribute to enhancing knowledge for relevant Norwegian user groups?

- Has the project portfolio enhanced connections with collaborating countries and institutions in Latin America?
- Does the project portfolio promote inter- and multidisciplinary projects?
- What are the effects of the research programme on relevant user groups and their satisfaction?
- How appropriate has the funding been to achieving the goals of the programme?
- Has the programme board been effective?

1.2 METHODOLOGY

The following section provides a brief outline of the methods used to conduct the evaluation.

PORTFOLIO ANALYSIS

The portfolio analysis involved examining data provided by the RCN to determine the programme's outputs and reviewing a range of documents including:

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs report which led to the programme's launch
- The programme work plan
- Annual reports
- Web site
- Project documents
- Internal and external evaluations of NorLARNet; and
- Programme board meeting minutes.

Our quantitative analysis involved reviewing data on the applications received and those funded. This allowed us to determine the distribution of funded according to:

- Application type (simplified or research project);
- Lead applicant institution type and location within Norway
- Funding provided by county within Norway;
- Gender of the project leader, including a split by research and simplified projects;
- Discipline and the programme's five thematic areas;
- Partner institutions by type and country including partners from Norway, Latin America and elsewhere; and
- Allocation and distribution of financial resources.

The data were delivered by the RCN in Excel sheet format. This allowed the project portfolio to be depicted through the development of pivot tables and charts. The qualitative analysis involved

reviewing project proposals, panel reviews, progress reports and final reports. This substantive review complemented the statistics above by providing insight into the processes used to both select and manage projects; the achievements of the funded projects; challenges encountered by project leaders; and the overall quality of the programme over time.

SCOPUS ANALYSIS

Of the data provided to us by the RCN secretariat we identified a total number of 32 project-leaders who had been awarded a grant from the RCN that was related to a research project (in contrast with pre-projects or event support). In Scopus, we aggregated a list of publications (articles only, no books were included) in which the project-leader was either lead-author or co-author. This resulted in a list of 936 publications which contained the name(s) of the author(s), the journal and year of publications, title, abstract and further information such as the DOI-code and language. Moreover, as stated, the dataset also contained the number of citations per publication as well as the Field Weighted Citation Score (FWCI). The FCWI is the “ratio of the total citations actually received by the denominator’s output, and the total citations that would be expected based on the average of the subject field.”¹ It is a more elaborate and more informative measure that can contextualize the impact of the publication in addition to the citation count. Essentially, the FWCI score normalises for differences in citation activity by subject field, article type, and publication year. It should be interpreted as follows, with a world average of FWCI = 1, articles with a FWCI of 1.46 are cited 46% more than the world average. It is therefore also a good indicator of the impact of a publication. The dataset used for the analysis consisted of the publications, by author and year, including the respective citation count and FWCI score. A next set of variables was constructed averaging the citation count and FWCI score per year for each author in order to perform a time series analysis comparing pre- and post-participation in LATINAMERIKA programme values.

Using this dataset, we performed analyses to compare the pre- and post LATINAMERIKA programme publications. Only those projects (and subsequently researchers) who received funding for projects and/or postdoctoral research, thus not event support or ‘establishment of a project’, were included in the sample. In order to create a more balanced panel we created a subset of the data in which only those publications published five years prior to entering the LATINAMERIKA programme were considered. This prevents that the panel becomes highly imbalanced due to many years of research with typically higher volumes of publications, especially for more senior researchers. The table below provides an overview of the baseline data.

In evaluating the effects of the LATINAMERIKA programme on the beneficiaries the evaluators chose to adopt a difference-over-time approach. The make-up of the programme; the small yet diverse set of beneficiaries, the sequential starting points and the wide scope of the calls notwithstanding the geographic focus, necessitated the use of an in-time comparison rather than a control group. Since

¹ <http://libguides.oulu.fi/c.php?g=124852&p=3559923>

comparing the LATINAMERIKA programme to any other programme of similar funding by the RCN would not hold up to standards of impact evaluation as there is a high likelihood of other confounding factors which influence the research quality output of both programmes. To then account for these confounding factors by constraining the control group would require such a high level of data-insight that is unfeasible within the context of this evaluation. As such, the analysis below focuses on the beneficiaries of the LATINAMERIKA programme only and looks at the changes in their research output over time. At the end of the analysis, we comment more in-depth on the chosen database and its limitations.

MELTWATER ANALYSIS

Meltwater is a third-party tool that monitors and analyses various social media platforms, blogs and news sites, tracking the number of mentions of particular keywords. Our social analysis focused only on the current programme period and largely excluded mentions on social media. A time-based analysis of Meltwater's data is more limited in value. The quality of Meltwater's social media data continues to increase annually, and it would be difficult to separate changes in indicators that are because of the programme versus those that are taking place because of changes in the quality of the data.

A number of searches were conducted, limited to Norwegian newspapers and online news sources, searching for changes in mentions for all Latin American countries, with keywords for each country in English and Norwegian. A separate search for Brazil, given its specific interest to the programme, was also conducted.

INTERVIEWS, BOTH INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP

The role of interviews was largely a qualitative analysis, looking to capture the thoughts of managers and user groups as to the functioning and output of the programme. Interviews were conducted with a guide, though the interviewer was left to probe on in an open manner on topics of interest.

Themes addressed for the interviews included:

- The overall scope of the project, including questions around the number of disciplines and the wide geography for the project;
- The role and performance of the Programme Board in the overall administration and guidance of the programme as well as comments on its composition and mandate;
- The likely sustainability of the programme—or, put in other words, the perceived short-, medium-, and long-term legacy that could be left by the programme;
- Levels of satisfaction with the various stakeholders in the programme; and
- Levels of funding for the programme.

All interviews conducted were confidential in nature, and as such, attribution of comments made have not been done in this report. The following groups were interviewed over the course of the evaluation.

- All members of the programme board except for one were interviewed via Skype or telephone;
- Two administrators at the RCN were interviewed;
- A select group of project leaders, identified to speak with researchers from different parts of the country from different fields of study;
- A representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and
- The lead of NorLARNet.

SURVEY

We have also conducted an online survey, sending invitations to 55 project leaders funded by the Latin America programme with 39 individuals responding, meaning a response rate of approximately 71%. All project types were requested to fill out the survey, including projects, pre-projects, event support, post-doctoral fellowships, and “other” support. The survey was divided into six major categories:

- Research networks;
- Sources of funding;
- Doctorates & Post-docs;
- Satisfaction;
- Communication; and
- Interdisciplinarity.

A full break-down of the questions asked in the survey is available in Appendix A.

2 SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAMME

2.1 PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES AND THE INTERVENTION LOGIC

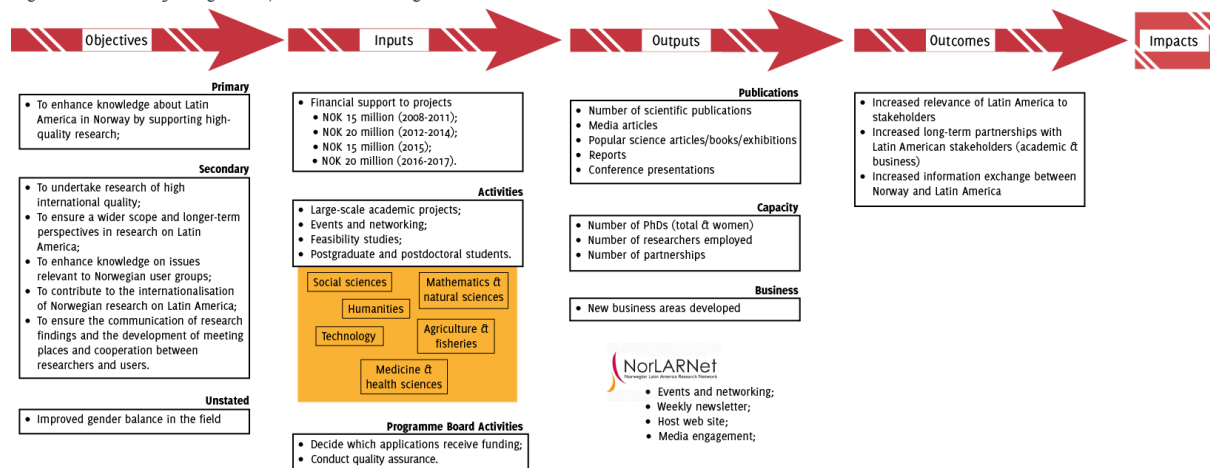
In the early 2000s, policymakers in Norway identified increasing interest in Latin America, driven by economic and social interests, which included young people and students. While interest in the region was increasing, capacity in the wider academic community seemed unable to meet the interests of Norwegian stakeholders. Policymakers believed that information about the region, when it was available to Norwegian stakeholders, was being filtered through a UK or American lens, which led to incomplete information for the interests of Norway. It was believed that additional research-based knowledge would be required to improve understanding of Latin America and to increase links on various levels between Norway and the region.

This desire to strengthen the knowledge and research base surrounding Latin America within Norway, as discussed with programme managers and the Programme Board, was one of the main drivers for the creation of a new research programme to Latin America, which would seek to centralise and defragment Norway's Latin American research community. The main vehicle for the lack of "sound, well-informed knowledge" was seen as high-quality research projects, originally envisioned through a "stable publication output in national and international journals (refereed), high-quality monographs and books published by renowned publishers, and promote doctoral degree research and communicate findings to stakeholders"². Once the programme had begun, the Programme Board expanded this vision for dissemination of knowledge somewhat with some attention paid to other, non-academic channels, though this was not a part of the original intervention logic.

In addition to the primary objective of enhancing knowledge about Latin America, a number of secondary objectives were also devised, most of which appear to offer some context to the primary objective. These objectives—as well as the expected inputs, outputs, and outcomes of the programme—are summarised in the figure below.

² Work Programme for the new Research Programme on Latin America, p.4.

Figure 1 Summary diagram of Intervention logic



Source: Technopolis Group

While primary and secondary objectives are outlined clearly in various programme documentation, interviews with stakeholders have identified two objectives which remain unstated or understated. First is a desire to have improved gender balance within the Latin American studies cohort, something which is general policy for RCN as well as for academic institutions. And the second has been to “improve the quality and viability of Norwegian research communities working on Latin American issues”. This second objective around “research communities” has proven to be one open to interpretation, particularly within a Norwegian context, something which will be addressed in Chapter 4 of this evaluation.

To address the intervention logic as identified above, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Research and Education developed a three-pronged strategy. One pillar involved signing memoranda of understanding with corresponding ministries in Brazil, Argentina and Chile to collaborate on higher education and research. A second, more concretely, drove the establishment of a Research Programme on Latin America hosted by the Research Council of Norway (known as ‘the LATINAMERIKA programme’). Born out of the recommendations of a working group tasked with designing a way to bolster research-based knowledge about Latin America, the programme was to be run by the RCN, funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and overseen by a programme board consisting of seven persons plus two deputies: seven academics specialising in relevant thematic areas and one representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and one from the private sector.

2.2 PROGRAMME RESOURCE ALLOCATION AND OTHER INPUTS

Straddling five main research areas - Politics and governance, Culture and society, Economy, industry, business and markets, Natural resources: management, exploitation and conservation, and Poverty, welfare and human development – to date, the programme has devoted NOK 175 million to 69 research initiatives. The main funding instruments have been large-scale research projects (27), and individual postgraduate and postdoctoral studentships (eight) receiving a total of approximately NOK 141 million. The programme also granted funding for events such as conferences and workshops, and

project establishment support for developing proposals for the planned call in 2008 and pre-projects for developing a main project and support for preliminary research. These projects have received approximately NOK 5 million. Figure 2 shows that disbursement of funding increased significantly following the programme’s launch, peaking in 2011 and gradually tapering off since then.

Figure 2 LATINAMERIKA-Programme annual project funding allocation (2008-2017)



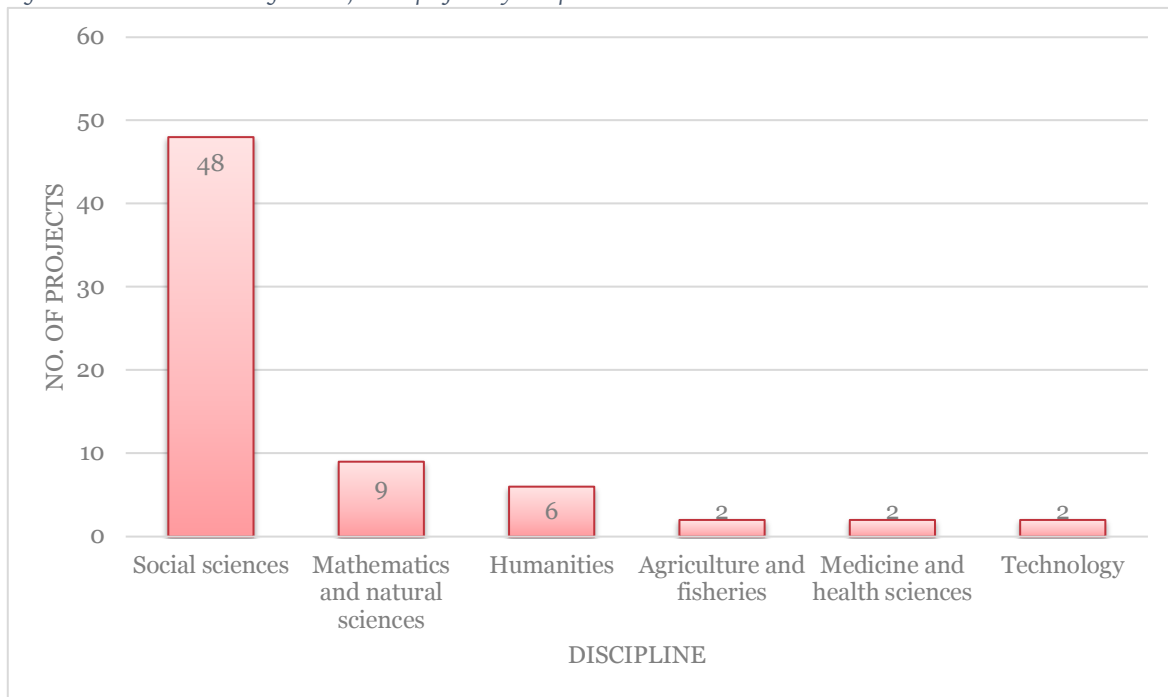
Source: Prosjektbanken, Research Council of Norway

NB: The graph above refers to the amount of funding spent as part of the LATINAMERIKA programme each year. The numbers within the bars refer to the number of projects that were active each year (not the total number of projects).

Though primarily targeted at Norwegian research institutions, most funded projects have involved formal or informal collaborations with Latin American counterpart organisations. Partnering with a Latin American organisation was not mandatory when the programme was launched, but was strongly encouraged in later calls. While detailed data on partner countries is provided in Section 3.3, a brief look at the initiatives funded to date shows that 51 projects included a focus on one specific country and 30 projects examined themes that relate to more than one country or an entire region (e.g. Latin America as a whole or Central America). By far the most represented single country of study is Brazil (16 projects) as a result of a 2012 call for proposals that placed emphasis on projects pertaining to Brazil, though allowed proposals for all Latin American countries. Mexico (6), Argentina (6), Colombia (4) and Chile (4) – as the continent’s other large geographies – unsurprisingly also feature in several projects. Central America both as a region (3) and for individual countries (most notably Guatemala which was the focus of five projects while Nicaragua was the focus of one project) attracted a significant number of researchers relative to its size and political sway. Bolivia (3), Peru (3), Ecuador (1), Paraguay (1) and Cuba (1) have also been subject to scrutiny in the projects funded.

The data currently available categorises the projects funded by the programme by field of study (as opposed to the research areas outlined above). Figure 3 shows the dominance of social science-based initiatives and our portfolio analysis outlined in Section 3.3 further distils this broad category.

Figure 3 LATINAMERIKA-Programme-funded projects by discipline



Source: Research Council of Norway

A third pillar of the strategy was the creation of a Norwegian Latin America Research Network (NorLARNet). The network is funded by the LATINAMERIKA-programme and aims to connect institutions and individuals across Norway working on Latin America. Its secretariat has two members of staff who are hosted within the Centre for Development and the Environment (SUM) at the University of Oslo. NorLARNet was selected following a call for proposals which attracted three other applications. Specifically, the network provides a platform for interaction on research as well as acting as a resource centre and promoter of Latin American research. This it achieves by holding and funding networking events, workshops, conferences and seminars as well as hosting the NorLARNet website containing information and resources and producing a weekly newsletter.³ The network has been allocated NOK 19.6 million over a ten-year period. This makes it the programme’s largest funded initiative, accounting for almost 11% of the overall budget. As well as staffing and other administrative costs, a significant amount of this funding is redistributed to researchers organising events and other networking activities.

³ NorLARNet (2017) ‘About NorLARNet’ available at <http://www.norlarnet.uio.no/about/>.

3 EVALUATING COMPONENTS OF THE LATINAMERIKA PROGRAMME

3.1 GOVERNANCE OF THE BOARD

The Programme Board was appointed by what is now the Research Board for the Division for Society and Health at the Research Council of Norway, consisting of seven foreign academics and two deputy members. The deputy members are one representative of the Norwegian business community and one representative of the funding agency, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The two deputy members filled an advisory role, providing a different perspective to the academic board members on decisions around funding of particular projects.

The Research Council, in forming this Board, had considered it to be very important that the primary Board members were not members of the Norwegian academic community. They have argued that having representation from the Norwegian academic community studying Latin American topics would present a conflict of interest since the board members most likely would know the applicants and could not make decisions on funding. This approach is generally standard practice at the Research Council and is based on the experience of forming programme boards that oversee programmes.

As per the mandate of the Programme Board during its inception, the Board was responsible for the following:

- in a dialogue with the administration,
 - establishing the strategic orientation, objectives and targets for the programme.
 - drawing up the work programme.
 - preparing two three-year action plans and plans for issuing funding announcements in accordance with the available budgetary framework and the governing principles stipulated by the division research board.
- ensuring that the programme portfolio is optimally designed to achieve the programme's objectives.
- ensuring the programme adequately promotes internationalisation of research, including encouraging mobilisation and qualification to take part in relevant funding announcements involving European or other international funding.
- conducting quality assurance of the application review process, i.e. ensuring that the referees and administration follow the approved guidelines.
- deciding which projects are to receive funding within the established budgetary framework.
- formally approving the minutes of the programme board meetings.
- preparing an annual report on the programme's activities in cooperation with the administration.

Based on interviews with Board members, project leaders, and the administration of the RCN, it would appear that the Board functioned efficiently and effectively. In many ways it provided added value outside of its formal mandate. For example, Board members would speak with project leaders, at the behest of the RCN, when there were issues around deliverables. The Board was described on more than one occasion as being “active” or “hands on”, also in a way that could be considered complementary to the work for the administration at the RCN. The administration of the RCN would flag issues up to the Board, at which point members that were responsible for approving a project would get into contact with project leaders to see if particular issues could be resolved—in the informal words of one member of the Programme Board, providing a bit of “oomph” behind demands of the RCN.

Board members have also been involved in helping to disseminate results, though generally speaking within the context of workshops being conducted with the Ministry and a few events organised by NorLARNet. In a few instances, Board members have even used knowledge gained from the programme to inform others within their personal networks, though this was not done systematically.

The one governance issue around the Board that was mentioned on a few occasions was over the foreign representation, and their lack of knowledge of the Norwegian community. This comes more as a self-assessment from Board members themselves rather than project leaders of the administration of the RCN. On the one hand, given that the primary *stated* objective was to fund research excellence, which would then be the mechanism for achieving secondary goals, this is not necessarily a problem. On the other hand, one of the unstated objectives of the programme is around community and capacity building, and as such, understanding how funding will influence the growth of a sustainable community would be helpful at the beginning of the application process.

3.2 RESEARCH IMPACT

One of the primary outputs of the LATINAMERIKA programme has been publications in various forms; however, this output has been broader than academic articles in either refereed journals or academic monographs. There have been a number of reports, for example, drafted for the project target groups and a number of articles prepared for “popular science” publications. These outputs are summarised in the table below, figures that have been collated from the final reports of 30 research projects in the portfolio (which does not include NorLARNet or the simplified projects).

Table 1 Output of the programme

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Popular science publications	0	5	27	55	20	3	15	6	9	140
New publication in the media	0	3	13	22	33	22	7	21	7	128

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Reports, memoranda, articles, presentations held at meetings/conferences for project target groups	0	2	60	124	146	54	93	109	124	712
Monographs published	0	0	3	4	1	0	2	1	0	11
Companies participating in the project that have introduced new/improved methods/technology	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Articles published in anthologies	0	31	26	22	25	5	15	19	2	145
Articles published in scientific/scholarly journals or series	0	0	8	19	51	15	10	20	22	145

Source: Project data provided by the RCN

The first metric we used to evaluate the effect of the LATINAMERIKA programme on the researchers' publications, as reported in the Scopus database, is the comparison of the mean and median differences of the citation count and FWCI. The Scopus database does have a few limitations. As it does not measure citations or FCWI scores for books, this form of output (including book chapters) were excluded. Moreover, though it does include non-English articles, it only does so when they have an English abstract and title. Finally, its search engine does not allow for a script to run searches on numerous authors, which is why we restricted the search to principal investigators of projects only. While this dataset does not represent the full output of the programme, it does offer a point of comparison between this programme period and previous periods. The mean and median results of the citation count and the FWCI indicator reveal an inverse outcome than expected. For all indicators on all levels, the publications after participation in the programme perform worse than before the programme. Although the differences for the FWCI indicator are considerably smaller, considering the smaller unit, the results still seem to indicate a negative impact rather than a boost.

Table 2 Mean and Median differences Citation Count and FWCI (N of researchers = 32, N of projects = 936)

	Mean pre-LATINAM	Mean post-LATINAM	Median pre-LATINAM	Median post-LATINAM
Citation count	27	13	33	12
FCWI	1.6	1.4	1.7	1.6

Source: Technopolis 2017

However, there are a number of reasons which can account for the unexpected decrease in the mean and median citation count and FCWI score. The most prominent one is that overall, articles take time to be published. Given that the programme was started in 2008, it cannot be expected that in 2009 there is a substantial rise in citations or the FWCI score. If anything, the research projects take time to generate results which can be used in academic papers, which in turn take time to get published. Hence, in Table 3 we ran similar analyses, but lagging the time period forward by two years. Although

the citation count does not show much difference compared to the previous table, the mean difference for the FWCI score actually shows a modest increase.

Table 3 2 Year-Lag: Mean and Median differences Citation Count and FWCI

	Mean pre-LATINAM	Mean post-LATINAM	Median pre-LATINAM	Median post-LATINAM
Citation count	27	12	33	13
FCWI	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.5

Source: Technopolis 2017

Although adding the time lag addresses the issue of delayed results in terms of publications, a further refinement to the analysis is to separate those researchers who received the grant earlier in the programme period from those who only received it later.

Hence, the time lag was maintained but a further distinction was added in the analysis of a subgroup of researchers who received a grant in 2008, 2009 or 2010 vis-à-vis the group of researchers who received a grant between 2011 and 2014. These two groups are the so called ‘early’ and ‘later’ beneficiaries. This analysis yielded the results as displayed in the table below:

Table 4 Early beneficiaries vs. later beneficiaries

	Mean pre-LATINAM		Mean post-LATINAM		Median pre-LATINAM		Median post-LATINAM	
	2008-2010	2011-2014	2008-2010	2011-2014	2008-2010	2011-2014	2008-2010	2011-2014
Citation count	21	30	14	12	29	33	18	10
FCWI	1.2	1.9	0.8	1.7	1.4	1.8	1.2	1.6

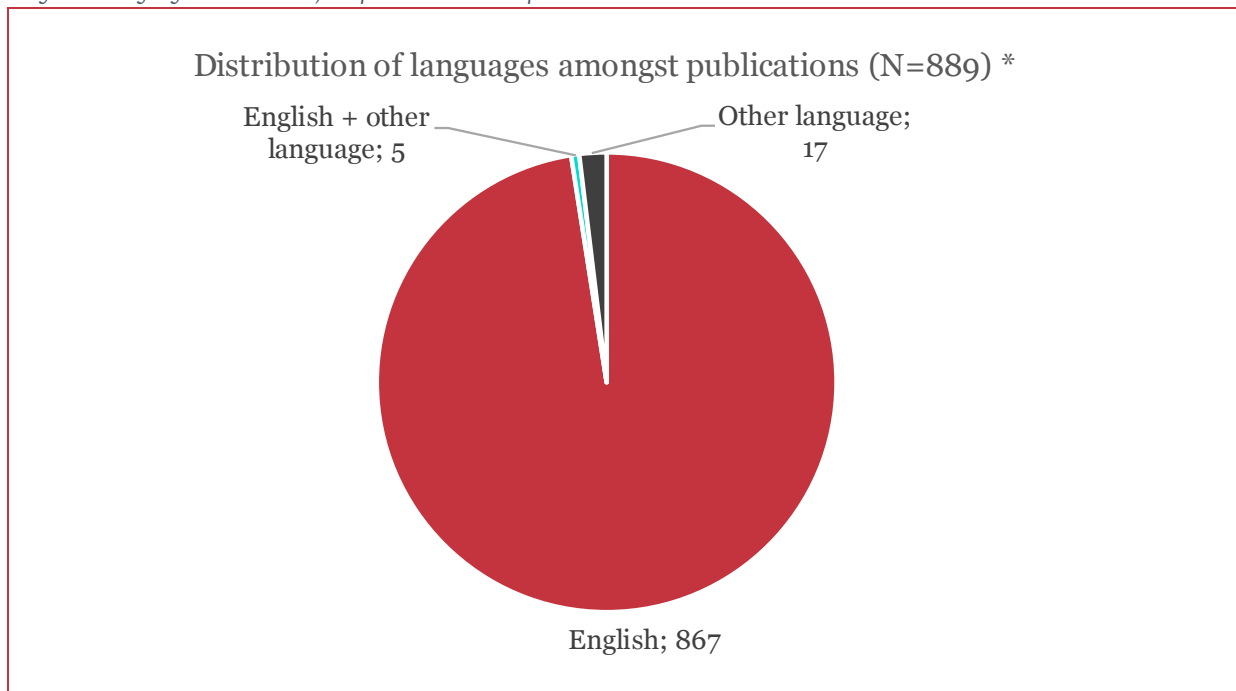
Source: Technopolis 2017

Table 4 shows that both the early and later beneficiaries of the LATINAMERIKA programme still maintain a decline in both the citation count and the FCWI score, the differences between the early beneficiaries pre- and post the grant are smaller than for those who started later. As these results may still not demonstrate the expected increase in quality of the research, they do suggest that a longer time span is needed to assess the full impact of the LATINAMERIKA programme. At the same time it is important to consider that researchers are often less productive in terms of publications when coordination a research project. The dividend of this research only comes after the project is concluded or when it draws to an end.

A further evaluation question was the assessment of the language distribution of the publications. The figure below shows that the majority (98%) of the publications has English as language. The international dimension of the programme, as well as publications in more internationally oriented journal, explains the high volume of publications in English. However, also the Scopus requirements

of articles in the database needing to have an English abstract and title affects the language distribution. Four articles of the database were published in Spanish and nine in Norwegian, respectively representing 0.5% and 1% of the publications. Only a small number of publications were published in multiple languages.

Figure 4 Language distribution of the publications in Scopus



Source: Scopus 2017 * (Not all scopus records had language attributed)

Finally, we also looked at the geographical spread of the publications before and after participation in the LATINAMERIKA programme. Finally, we also looked at the geographical spread of the publications before and after participation in the LATINAMERIKA programme. The purpose of including geographical spread was to see if any transfers or research collaborations had led to some of the beneficiaries having a position in a Latin American university. If so, and they would have published under that institution's name, it would have shown up here.

Table 5 shows that between the origins of the lead-author's institutions there is hardly any difference between the pre- and post LATINAM countries. The sample is limited to four countries and there are no significant increases or decreases as to where the publications originate from.

Table 5 Origin of institutions of lead-authors of publications

	Pre-LATINAM	Post-LATINAM
Australia	2%	2%
Brazil	0%	0%
Mexico	1%	2%

	Pre-LATINAM	Post-LATINAM
Norway	97%	96%

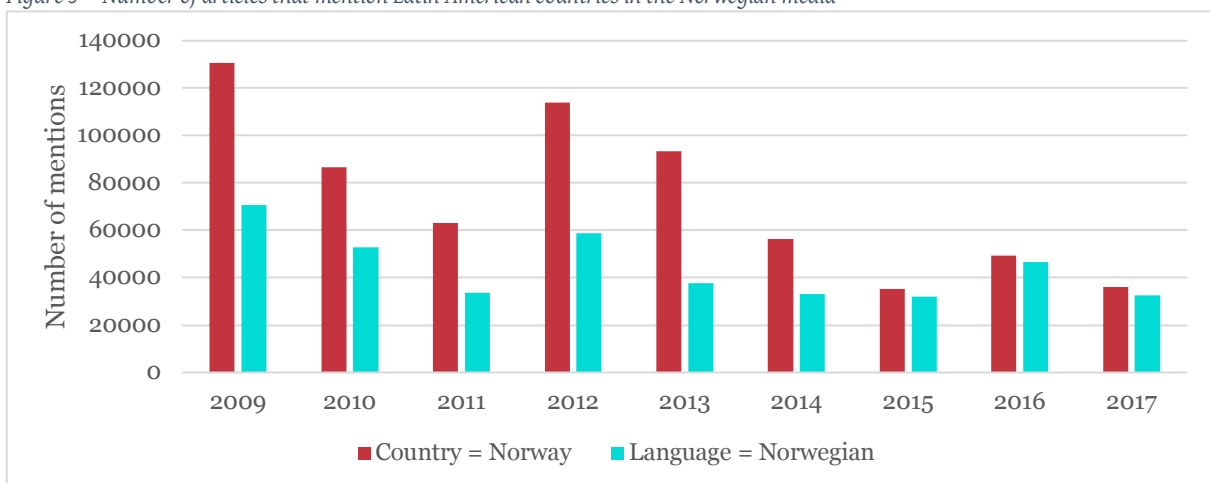
Source: Scopus 2017

WIDER DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS

Beyond the academic results, an attempt was made to examine whether the programme had influence in the wider media using Meltwater, focussed largely on mentions (number of times the programme or its researchers were ‘mentioned’) in the news media. As mentioned in the methodological section of this report, social media was not analysed given both an increased usage of social media as well as increasing quality of the dataset by Meltwater, which leads to a natural increase in mentions which cannot be properly controlled.

Figure 5 shows the number of articles or news items in which the programme or its beneficiaries on the y-axis. The red bars indicate whether the article originates from a Norway-based source, whereas the blue bars solely look at whether the language was in Norwegian. As shown in the figure, mentions of Latin America has been steadily in decline in the media from 2009 until the current period, with particular declines in 2010 and 2011, which largely follow with the declining fortunes of media after the 2008 economic crisis (and the rise of online news sources). Mentions of Latin America have suffered following the financial crisis of 2008 as well as wider trends in the declining fortunes of the media as social outlets like Google News and Facebook have eaten into the revenues of journalism. According to recent work completed by Roy Krøvel, professor at the Department of Journalism and Media Studies at the Oslo and Akerhus University College of Applied Sciences, these reduced revenues have meant fewer reporters working abroad. There is currently no permanent Norwegian journalist based in any Latin American country. Framing for Latin American issues that reach the Norwegian press tend to also be from an American perspective rather than a Norwegian one.

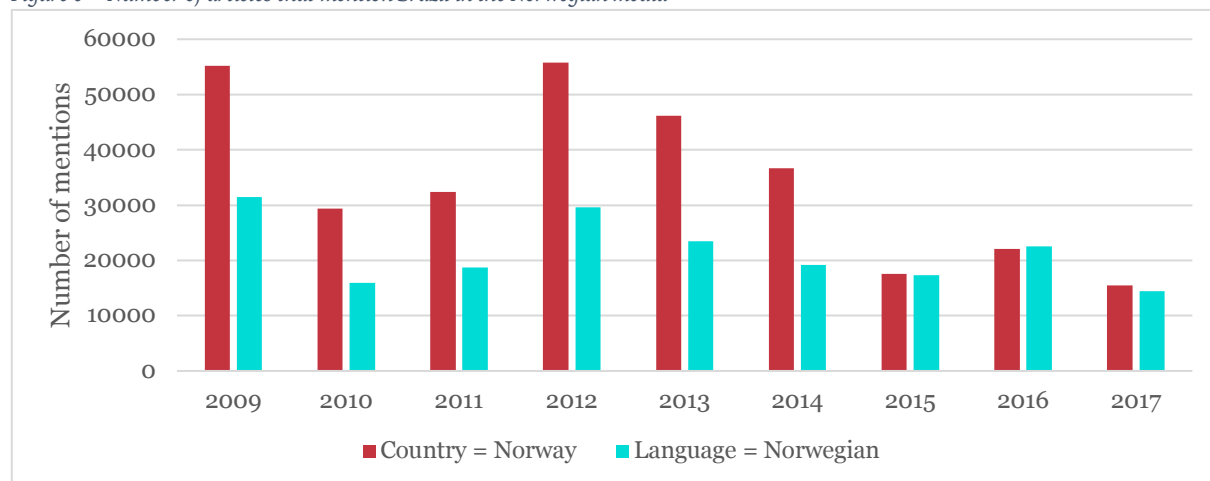
Figure 5 Number of articles that mention Latin American countries in the Norwegian media



Source: Meltwater

Digging down into results for Brazil, which received special attention of the research programme, one can see largely the same trend patterns of mentions of Brazil in the wider media, with a small up-tick in 2012, some of which could be accounted for with the Brazilian World Cup taking place.

Figure 6 Number of articles that mention Brazil in the Norwegian media



Source: Meltwater

This is not to say that the programme has not achieved success in reaching out to a wider audience. As has already been evidenced in evaluations of NorLARNet, the network has managed to reach out to an impressive number of Norwegian media outlets, hence showing its influence on the wider media landscape, which has been in decline since the start of the Research Programme. Activities, as collated from the annual dissemination reports from NorLARNet, are provided in the table below:

	2016-17	2014-15	2013-14	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11	2009-10	TOTAL
Seminars of current interest	6	7	8	7	7	15	6	56
User-oriented seminars	4	7	4	1	3	1	1	21
Guest lectures	4	6	3	2	4	1	3	23
Workshops / user meetings	4	2	2	6	5	5	4	28
Master collections	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Conferences	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	4
Publications	3	2	3	4	4	9	10	35
Interviews by Benedicte Bull	31	37	36	30	39	20	18	211
Interviews with guests	1	2	8	10	5	0	0	26

	2016-17	2014-15	2013-14	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11	2009-10	TOTAL
Blog entries	2	10	11	18	18	0	0	59

This is not to say that interest in the region has been waning. In fact, according to Krøvel, looking at statistics for the region, there is more business being conducted in the region, more students learning Spanish than ever before, and even more marriages with Latin Americans. But this interest is not being reflected in the wider media, and given the objectives of this programme, it remains unsurprising that it would not address the issue of media mentions of Latin America.

3.3 OVERALL EVALUATION OF THE LATINAMERIKA PROGRAMME

OUTPUTS OF THE PROGRAMME

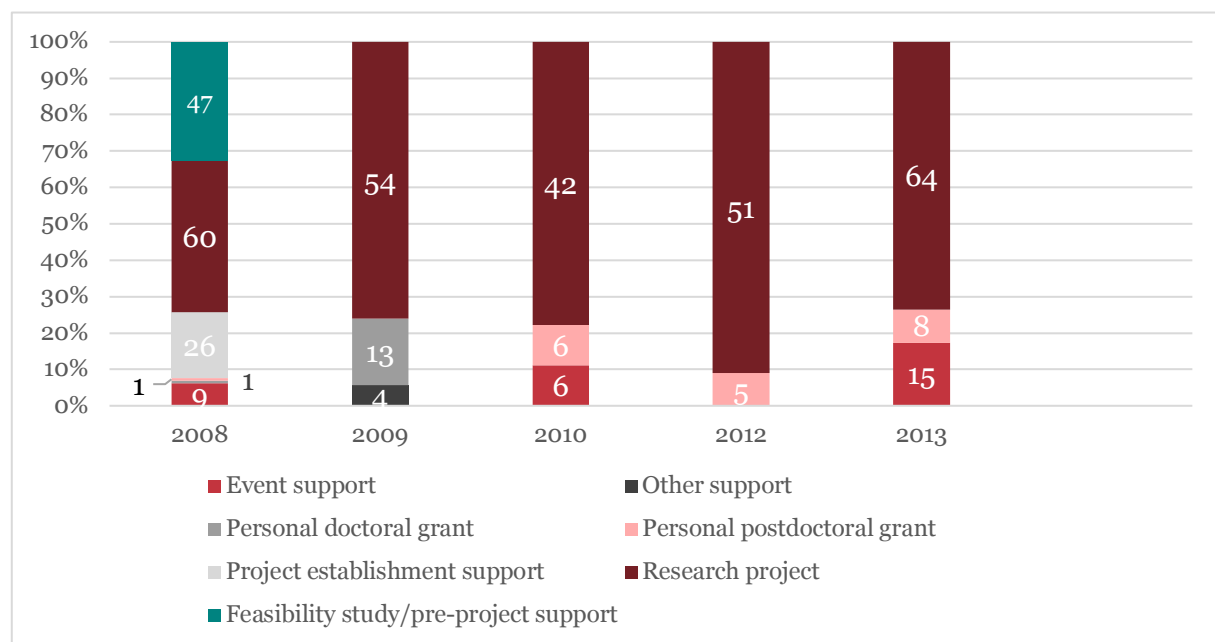
The project portfolio analysis examined both the nature of the applications received by the programme across all calls before delving into some features of the funded and rejected projects. This included data related to the project leader and type as well as partnerships forged in the funded projects. Looking at rejected projects allowed us to evaluate how representative the funded projects were of the overall application pool.

APPLICATIONS

Between 2008 and 2013, a total of eight dedicated calls were made for applications to the LATINAMERIKA programme, leading to the submission of 414 proposals. Of these, one was withdrawn and nine were rejected on formal grounds before being submitted to the review process. Of the remaining 404 which were scored according to the specific call criteria, 70 were awarded funding and 334 were not. One of the projects which was awarded funding was not implemented. This was because the individual awarded a postdoctoral scholarship was offered a permanent position and therefore was no longer in a position to carry out a postdoctoral project. As such, the programme distributed funding to 69 projects. The programme was also involved in a joint call with EULANEST in 2009 and two joint calls with ERANet-Lac in 2014 and 2016. The EULANEST and ERANet-Lac 2014 calls led to an additional four projects being funded that involved Norwegian researchers and fell under the LATINAMERIKA programme. In the case of the 2016 ERANet-LAC call, several other programmes at the RCN contributed funds to finance relevant projects. These were: the HELSEVEL programme focusing on health, care and welfare services research, and the BIONÆR programme focusing on innovation in food and bio-based industries. The HELSEVL contributed NOK 4,5 million and the BIONÆR programme contributed NOK 3 million. LATINAMERIKA and NORGLOBAL – another RCN programme seeking to stimulate research in support of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – each provided NOK 500,000 in funding. Four projects including Norwegian participants were granted funding under the ERANet-LAC call, and the projects were included in the HELSEVEL and BIONÆR programme portfolios.

Most applications submitted to the programme were for ‘researcher’ projects consisting of a team led by a dedicated project leader. The projects have led to multiple research outputs such as articles in peer-reviewed journals, articles in edited volumes, monographs, various forms of media and other outreach activities. In some cases, doctoral or postdoctoral scholarships formed a part of this category. However, four of the calls for proposals (both 2008 calls, the 2010 call – ‘Broad thematic call for proposals for research funding for 2011’ and the first 2013 call – ‘Support for conferences and workshops’) gave the opportunity for researchers to submit applications for ‘simplified projects’. These included support for running events such as conferences or workshops, project establishment support (covering expenses related to developing a detailed research proposal to be submitted in a later call) and feasibility studies or ‘pre-projects’ which could later be developed into full research projects. Figure 7 below shows the breakdown of these applications by type. The applications categorised as ‘other support’ were those received in 2009 to establish a Latin American research network in Norway.

Figure 7 Breakdown of applications received each year by type



Source: Project data provided by the RCN

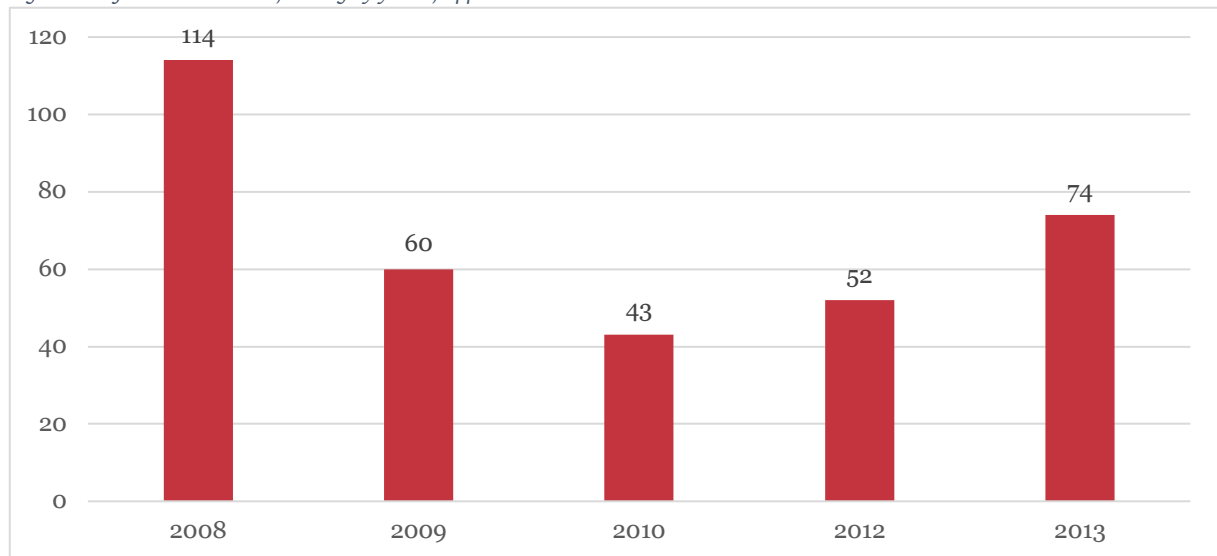
Of the projects awarded funding, 27 were either not graded or the grades were not made available to the evaluation team. Twenty-three of those without grade were from the first two calls in 2008 before the grading and panel review systems became the norm. The remaining four which were not graded were the call for the establishment of a Latin America network with the remaining three from the ‘Broad thematic call for proposals for research funding for 2011’. In terms of the projects allocated funding that were graded, most were awarded a 6 (Excellent) or 7 (Exceptional) by either an individual

expert or panel review. In total across all projects, five were awarded a grade; 27 were awarded a grade 6; one was awarded a 5.5; five were awarded a grade 5; and three were awarded a grade 4. The distribution of funded projects across this grading scale changed slightly over time with all nine funded projects that had been awarded a 4 (Good) or 5/5.5 (Very good) emerging from earlier calls (three from the 2008 'Call for proposals: Pre-projects and Researcher Projects; four from the 'Broad thematic call for proposals for research funding 2010' and two from the 'Broad thematic call for proposals for research funding for 2011'). Only one research project awarded a grade 4 was allocated funding (in the 2008 Call for proposals: Pre-projects and Researcher Projects) while the other two funded projects awarded a grade 4 were personal scholarships. This shows that the standard of applications received improved over time.

APPLICATIONS NOT AWARDED FUNDING

Before examining the portfolio of 69 funded projects, we examine those 334 applications that were not awarded funding. The distribution of projects not awarded funding by year is shown in Figure 8. All 334 applications which were submitted to the assessment process but were ultimately not awarded funding were from the field of study 'social sciences'. This shows that applicants with projects pertaining to the social sciences were more likely to apply to the programme than those in other fields of study. For the overall portfolio, this means that all projects in the remaining fields of study (humanities, mathematics and physics, medicine/health, technology and agriculture and fisheries) were awarded funding. At face value, this suggests that the fields of study included in the portfolio were not representative of the fields of study included in the applications made to the programme. However, because the number of applications received in humanities (6), mathematics and physics (9), medicine/health (2), technology (2) and agriculture and fisheries (2) were so low, this is negligible.

Figure 8 Projects not awarded funding by year of application



We also looked at the gender of project leaders whose applications were not awarded funding. This showed that 69% of these project leaders were male. This is slightly higher than the proportion of projects that were awarded funding which were led by a male project leader (57%). This is in line with the RCN's policy on favouring female applicants where all other criteria are equal.

Regarding institution type, the proportion of unsuccessful applications (which were submitted to the review process) by institution type was similar to those allocated funding. This means that the ultimate portfolio represented accurately the types of Norwegian institution with an interest in research on Latin America.

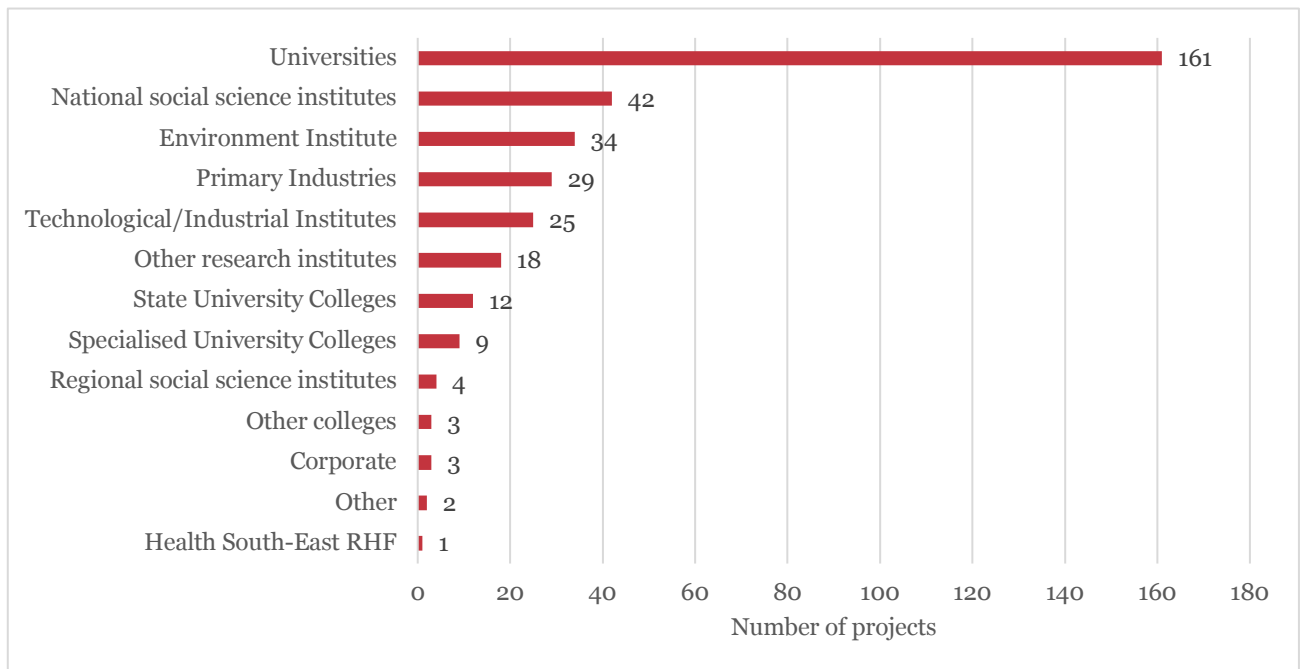


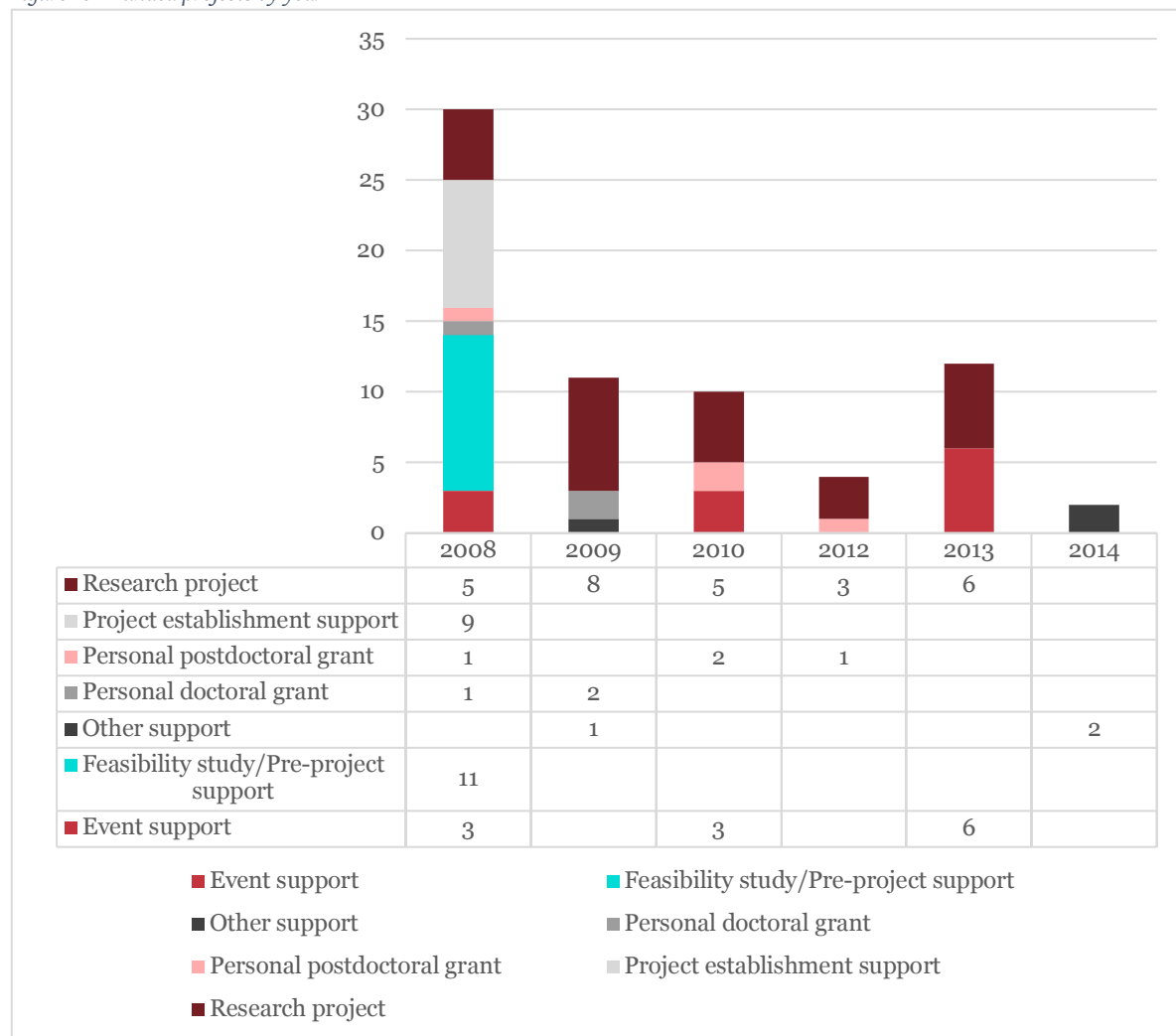
Figure 9 Projects not awarded funding by institution type

FUNDED PROJECTS

At the time of writing (Autumn 2017), 52 projects had been fully concluded and the remaining 18 projects (all researcher projects) have either (a) been completed during Summer 2017 but the final reports are not yet available, or (b) are to be completed by late 2017. The exceptions are the ERANet-LAC projects which are due to finish in 2018.

Figure 10 shows that the application award process appears front-heavy in terms of project numbers with 43% of all projects being allocated in the programme’s launch year.

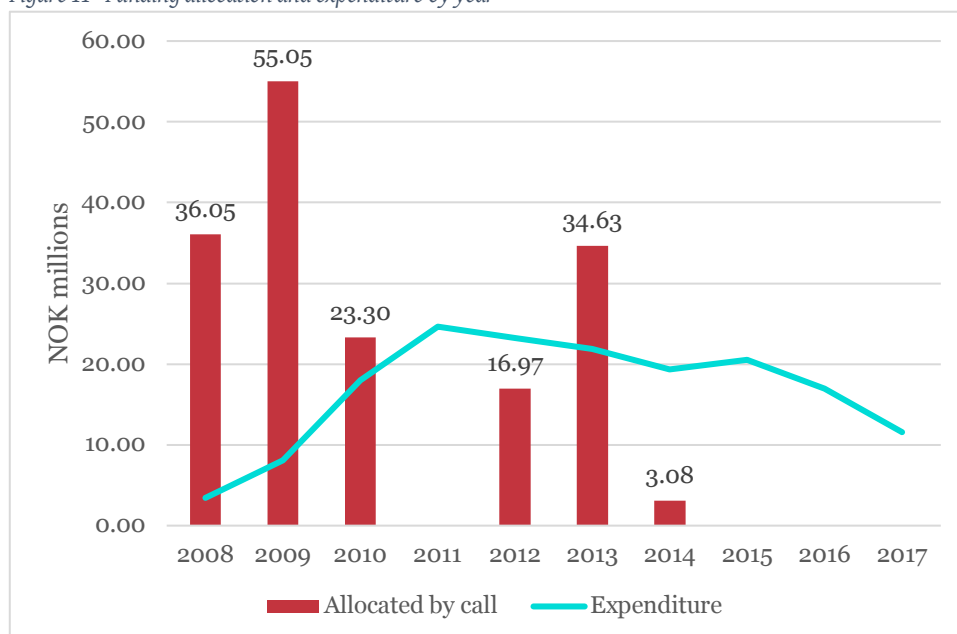
Figure 10 Funded projects by year



Source: Project data provided by the RCN

When we examine budget allocation per year, however, it is clear that – while the total number of projects funded during 2008 was high – the number of ‘simplified projects’ (feasibility studies, project establishment support and event support) means that the actual funding allocated was lower. And with an average project length of 29 months, the actual distribution of funds is evenly spread. Figure 11 shows that most funds were allocated in 2009 due to the establishment of NorLARNet. Expenditure shows a logical progression, growing steadily in the programme’s early years to then level out before tapering off at programme end.

Figure 11 Funding allocation and expenditure by year



Sources: LATINAMERIKA programme annual reports (expenditure); Prosjektbanken on RCN website (allocated by call – see also Figure 2 above).

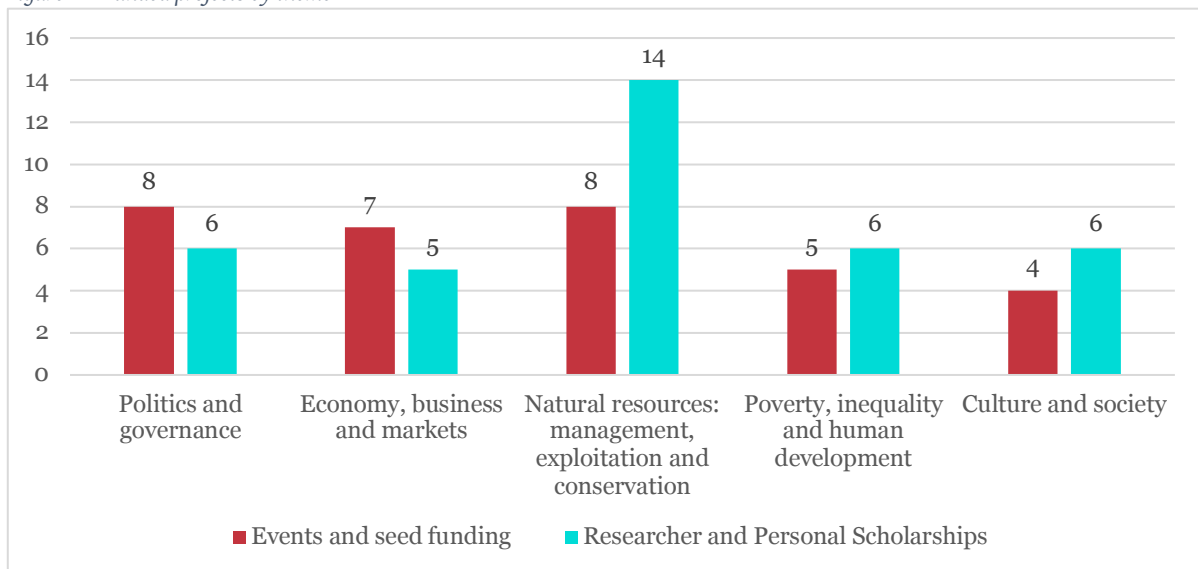
Table 6 Average budget for projects (research and simplified) by year

Year	Average budget for funded research projects (NOK)	Average budget for funded simplified projects (NOK)
2008	4,556,928	180,304
2009	4,282,981	No simplified projects granted funding
2010	3,245,821	191,666
2011	No research projects granted funding	No simplified projects granted funding
2012	4,243,722	No simplified projects granted funding
2013	5,666,666	104,654
2014	1,542,000	No simplified projects granted funding
2015-2017	No research projects granted funding	No simplified projects granted funding

In terms of academic discipline, most funded projects (71%) fall into the ‘social sciences’ category with mathematics and physics (13%), humanities (9%), technology (3%), medicine/health (3%) and agriculture and fisheries (3%) constituting small proportions of the remainder. More helpful is to

examine the spread across the programme’s own thematic focus areas. Most of the programme’s annual reports reported that the ‘Natural resources, management, exploitation and conservation’ theme received most applications. This trend is reflected in the spread of awarded projects, as shown in Figure 12. Although earlier annual reports indicated that the programme board wished to address this ‘challenge’, later reports did not reflect any initiatives been taken along these lines.

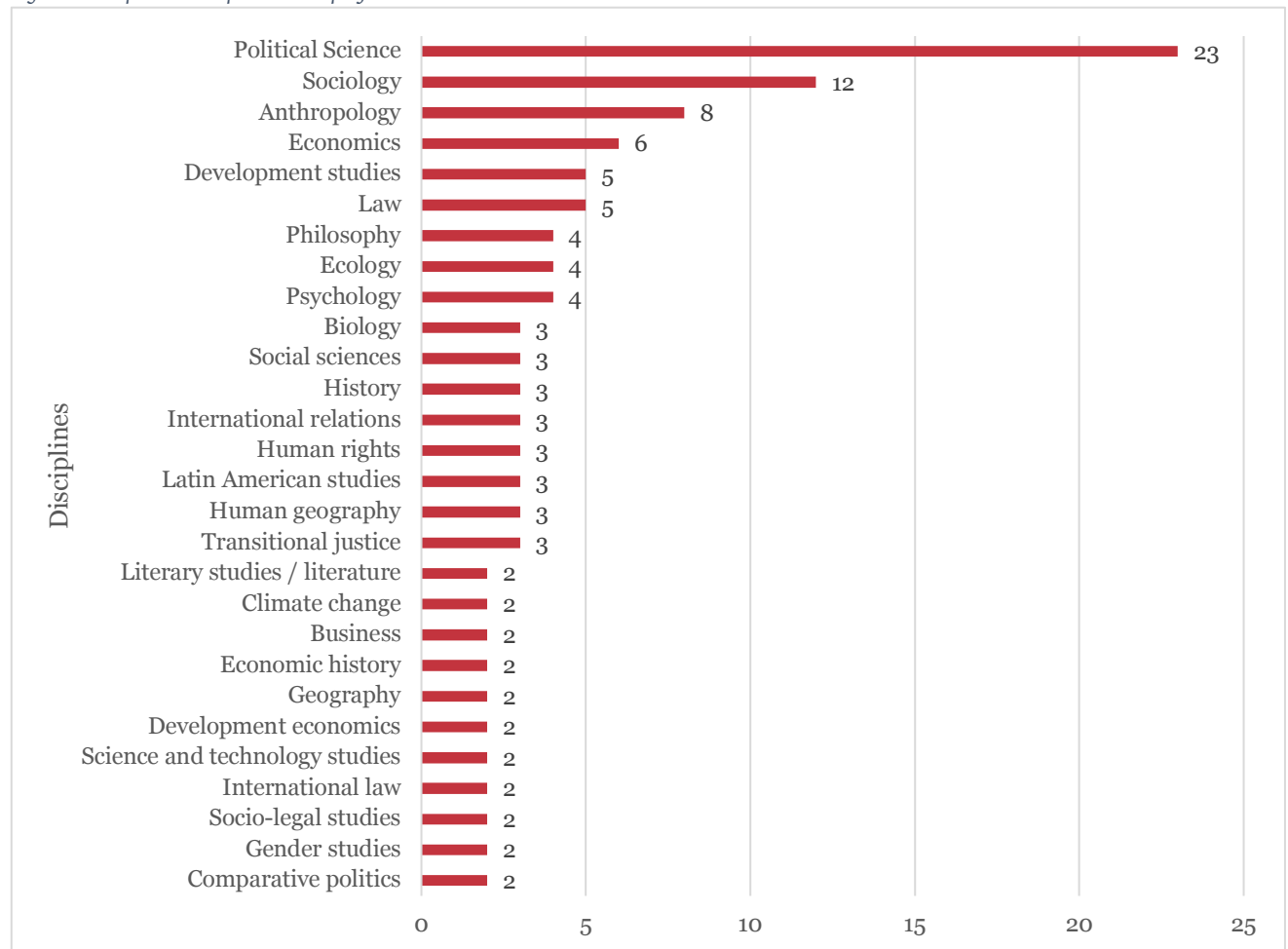
Figure 12 Funded projects by theme



Source: Project data provided by RCN

To drill down further into this broad category, the self-reported disciplines included in the project proposals of funded projects were examined. This involved taking the primary thematic areas of the project (as included in the project data provided by the RCN) and noting the entries in the field ‘Discipline(s)/specialist field’ in the proposal form, as depicted in the figure below. The LATINAMERIKA programme work plan specifies a desire to fund ‘mono-, cross- and multidisciplinary studies’, yet most were in the latter category according to the self-reported discipline/specialist field contained in the successful project proposals.

Figure 13 Reported disciplines in all projects



Source: Project data provided by RCN

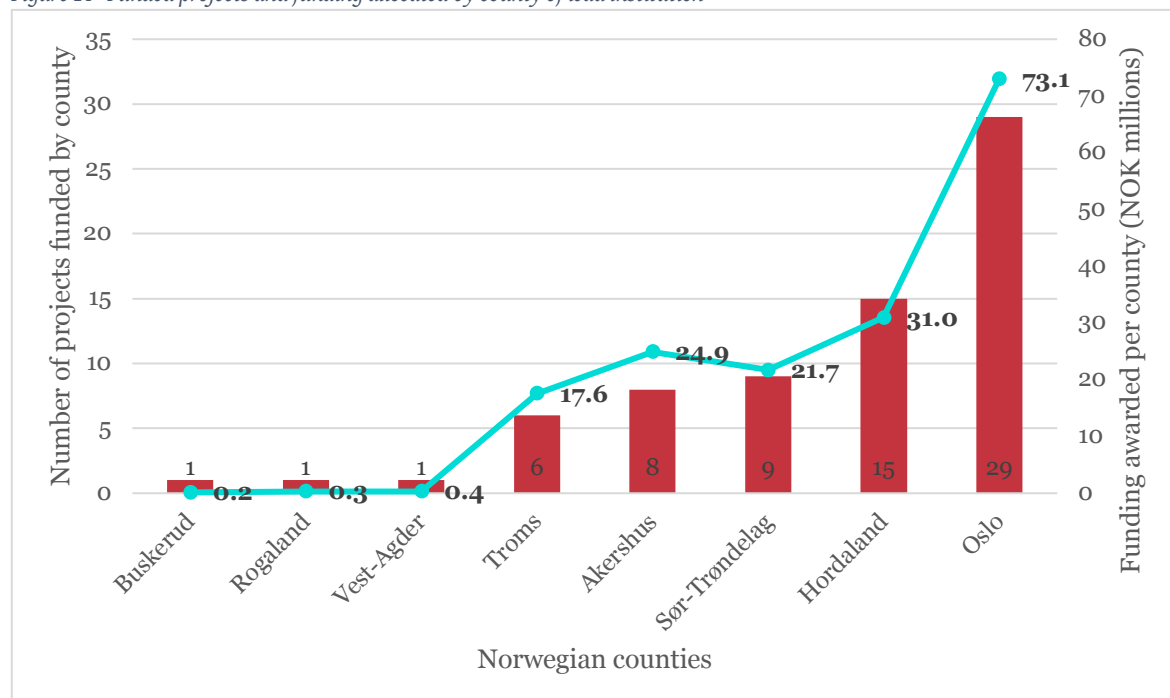
The gender of project leaders for all funded projects was skewed slightly in favour of men (57% to 43%). This varies somewhat when examining the different project types. For the 27 research projects, the balance was 63% male project leaders and 37% female. A similar balance is observed for the 32 simplified projects (including event support, project establishment support and feasibility studies). Across the 19 doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships awarded (including both direct scholarships and those awarded as part of research projects), the balance was in favour of women who made up 68% of this group. Overall, the higher representation of male project leaders in both research and simplified projects is reflective of the gender of all applicants (67% male, 33% female). This skewedness with respect to projects and simplified projects is a reflection of the ‘sins of the past’ while the female-favoured balance for individual projects shows the promise of a more equal future.

On this subject of gender equality, the issue of parental leave, which both parents are entitled to in Norway, warrants a mention. Interviews with project leaders, the RCN administration, and even Board members demonstrated that it still remains a topic of concern. Parental leave—and the delays

that it caused to projects given the relatively generous conditions of parental leave in Norway—is something with which the project had to contend. Despite concerns around the subject, however, the evaluation team felt that the administration dealt with the issue of parental leave flexibly. And, in the end, parental leave is simply a cost of doing business, so to speak. There was nothing to indicate that parental leave was any more or less of a problem for this programme as it would be for any other organisation doing business in Norway, and nor should it be taken as a negative in the programme.

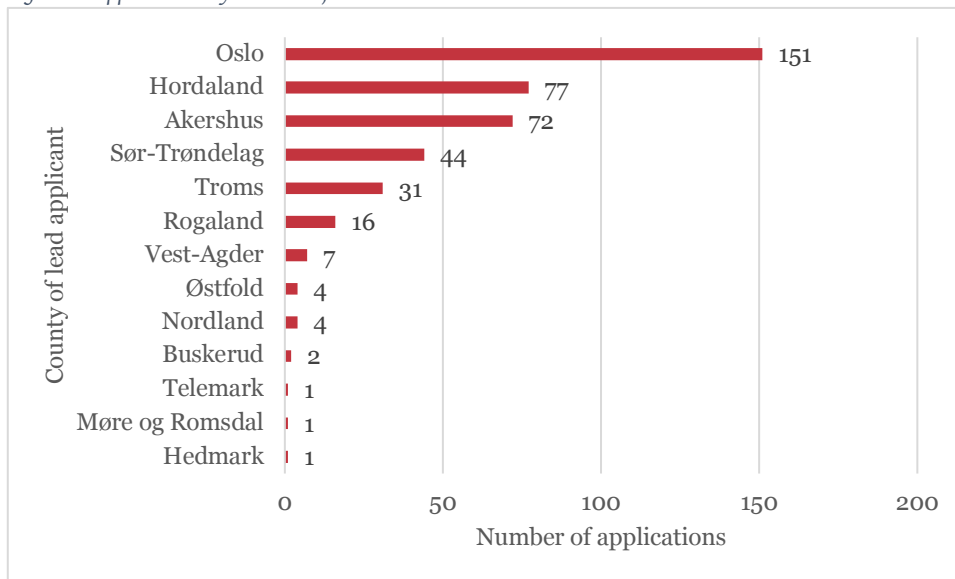
County-wise, most projects (29) were awarded to project leaders based in Oslo while Hordland – home to the University of Bergen – came in a far second with 15 projects (Figure 14). Project leaders based in Sør-Trøndelag (9), Akershus (8) and Troms (6) were also allocated funding in several instances. Vest-Agder, Rogaland and Buskerud were only home to one successful lead institution each. This is reflective of concerns raised in the NorLARNet external and internal reviews regarding the Oslo-centricity of Latin American research activities in Norway. However, as the internal review indicated, it was challenging for institutions in other counties to organise and secure sufficient attendance at research and networking events. While recognising that this review pertains to NorLARNet rather than the LATINAMERIKA programme as a whole, these observations make the trend less surprising. Moreover, the proportion of projects which were awarded funding by county is more or less reflective of the geographic location of all applications received by the programme, i.e. most applications (151) came from institutions based in Oslo, followed by Hordaland (77), Akershus (72), Sør-Trøndelag (42) and Troms (31) (Figure 15).

Figure 14 Funded projects and funding allocated by county of lead institution



Source: Project data provided by RCN

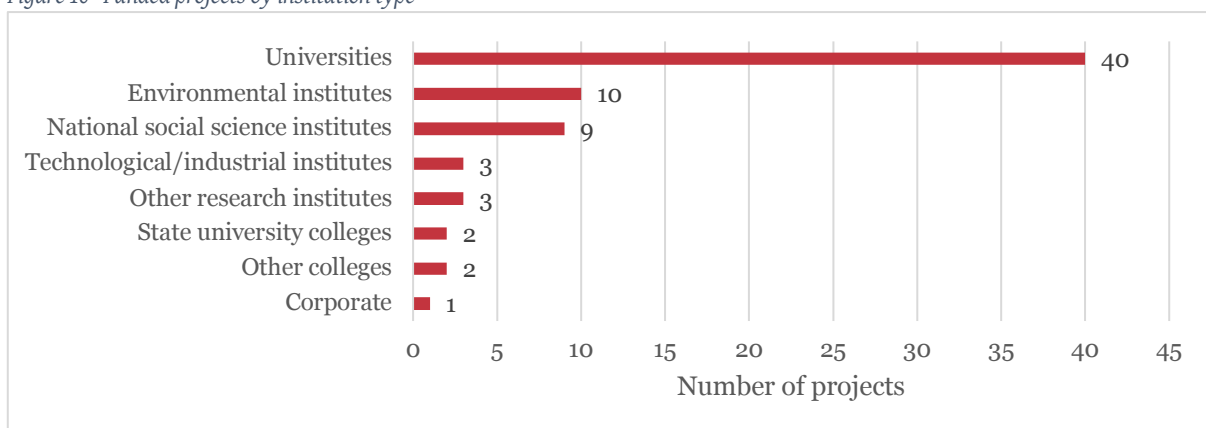
Figure 15 Applications by location of lead institution



Source: Project data provided by RCN

The majority of funded projects (57%) were led by universities; primarily departments or centres within the Universities of Oslo and Bergen (55% of all university-led projects).

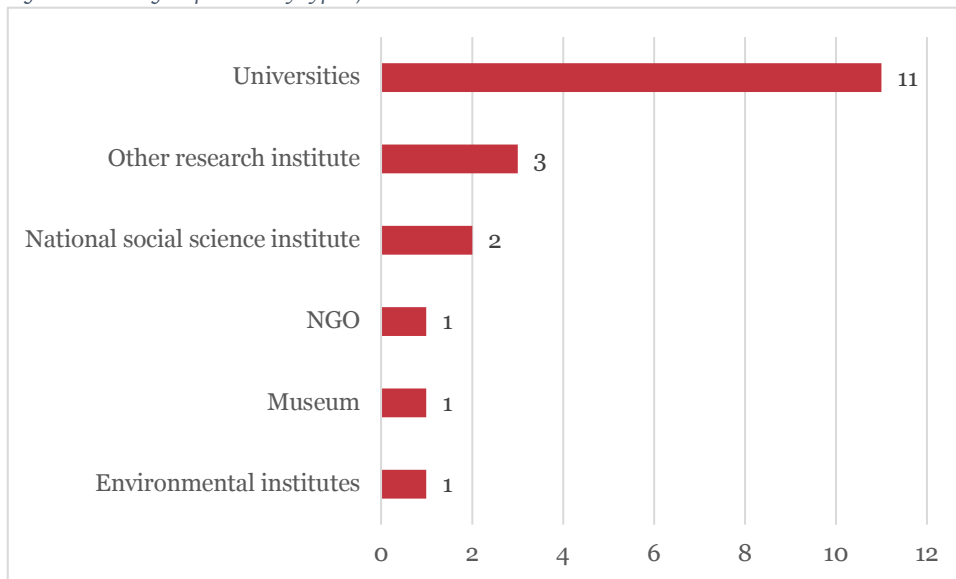
Figure 16 Funded projects by institution type



Source: Project data provided by RCN

One of the LATINAMERIKA programme’s main objectives was to facilitate international partnerships, though in the beginning, there was no formal requirement to have an official partner in Latin America. In fact, most partner organisations (19) were based in Norway which shows the domestic links that the programme was able to forge. In line with the types of Norwegian institutions applying, most partner organisations were universities with a similar distribution of other institution types (Figure 17).

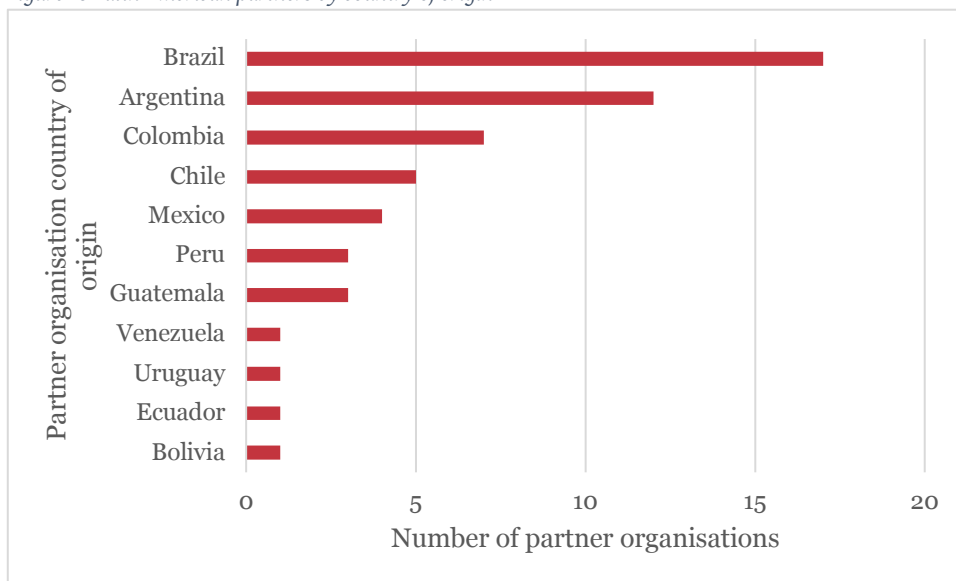
Figure 17 Norwegian partners by type of institution



Source: Project data provided by RCN

A third of the funded projects included at least one formal partner (with an agreement) from Latin America and, of all partnerships, 62.5% were located in Latin America. Partner organisations in Brazil were most heavily represented which aligns with the 2012 country-specific call for proposals. This call received additional funds from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to increase the number of projects with Brazilian partners. Several partner organisations were from Argentina and Colombia with Chile, Mexico, Peru and Guatemala also home to more than one partner. Bolivia, Ecuador, Uruguay and Venezuela each were home to one organisation (Figure 18). The majority of these institutions were universities (or university departments or research centres) or other types of research institutes. Notable exceptions include the Jaguar Conversation Fund of Brazil and the Centro de Atención Psicosocial in Peru, both non-profit organisations.

Figure 18 Latin American partners by country of origin



A list of Latin American partner organisations and projects is provided in the appendix.

Aside from Norway and Latin America, partners also originated from a range of other (mostly European) countries including Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Romania, Russia, Spain, Sweden and the USA. However, only two of these (Great Britain and the USA) featured in the top ten countries of origin for partner organisations, as shown in Figure 19. This shows that the programme aim to achieve its primary and secondary objectives by ‘preferably involving cooperation with Latin American research institutions’ was rightly prioritised over cooperation with institutions from other parts of the world.

Figure 19 Top 10 countries of origin of partner organisations



APPLICATION PROCESS AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

During the programme’s nine-year trajectory, changes have been made to the documentation requirements, many of which have served to make both the application process and the overall quality of the funded projects more robust. However, all of these changes have been across the RCN and therefore outside of the control of the individual programmes. Below, we look briefly at the effects these changes have had on the LATINAMERIKA programme specifically.

Given the importance placed on scientific merit as a criterion for funding projects, for example, the application format is of the essence. Earlier project applications showed a significant variation in the level of detail provided in terms of objective, measurable indicators (most notably publication indicators) and budget allocation and seemed initially to be left up to the project leader’s discretion. Similarly, the final report format for simplified projects in particular was a simple ‘yes/no’ answer on whether objectives had been achieved. For the funded events, the lack of information on speakers, agenda, attendance and any resulting publications or other dissemination makes it difficult to measure the contribution made to the programme objectives. The lack of detail in final reports on project establishment support or pre-project support complicates an evaluation of how effective these funds were in leading to full research projects (a total of four research projects resulted from the first call for simplified projects out of a total of 20 funded pre-projects and project establishment support). Later calls saw a valuable development in the amount of detail required in proposals as well as final reports – though this did not apply to simplified reports. It was useful, for example, that the layout of proposals was in line with the specific criteria required which presumably facilitated the panel’s assessment process. We also note the requirement for all research

projects from the programme launch to provide a detailed dissemination plan which was valuable in enhancing this important objective.

The review process for research projects also underwent some useful shifts throughout the programme period. While earlier projects – both simplified and research – were awarded a grade (on a scale of 1 to 7) by an individual expert with little or no qualitative commentary, the introduction of expert panels in 2009 across the RCN led to a more detailed and robust assessment process. Another change made to the panel reporting requirements in 2012 seems less effective than the earlier reporting format as there was no dedicated space in the form in which assessors were given an opportunity to outline any weaknesses in the proposal. In addition, the grading system changed from a straightforward 1-7 marking system to a mixture of three systems (1-7; A-C and very good/neutral etc).

The 2012 change also removed the requirement for panellists to provide commentary on ‘special points to consider’ which included elements relevant to the programme objectives such as international and national cooperation, relevance relative to the call and the internationalisation of Norwegian research (not to mention important issues related to gender, the environment and ethical considerations).

It is also notable that these detailed assessments were only applied by the RCN to research projects, and the application and assessment process for simplified projects remained relatively straightforward throughout. Although far smaller in terms of financial investment, simplified projects like events and feasibility studies were equally essential in meeting the programme’s secondary objectives, often facilitating significant networking opportunities and the internationalisation of Norwegian research. A more detailed review process would have paid heed to their importance, although we note the point made regularly in the annual reports of the significant administrative burden the panel reviews placed on the programme and that such decisions were the remit of the RCN rather than the programme directly.

Most project leaders responded positively to these administrative requirements. Final project reports included with the RCN form often provided detailed descriptions of outcomes and information on publications and other outputs. Simplified projects funded in later calls included materials such as workshop agendas, attendees and advertising materials, but these were not provided in the earlier simplified calls.

SATISFACTION WITH THE PROGRAMME

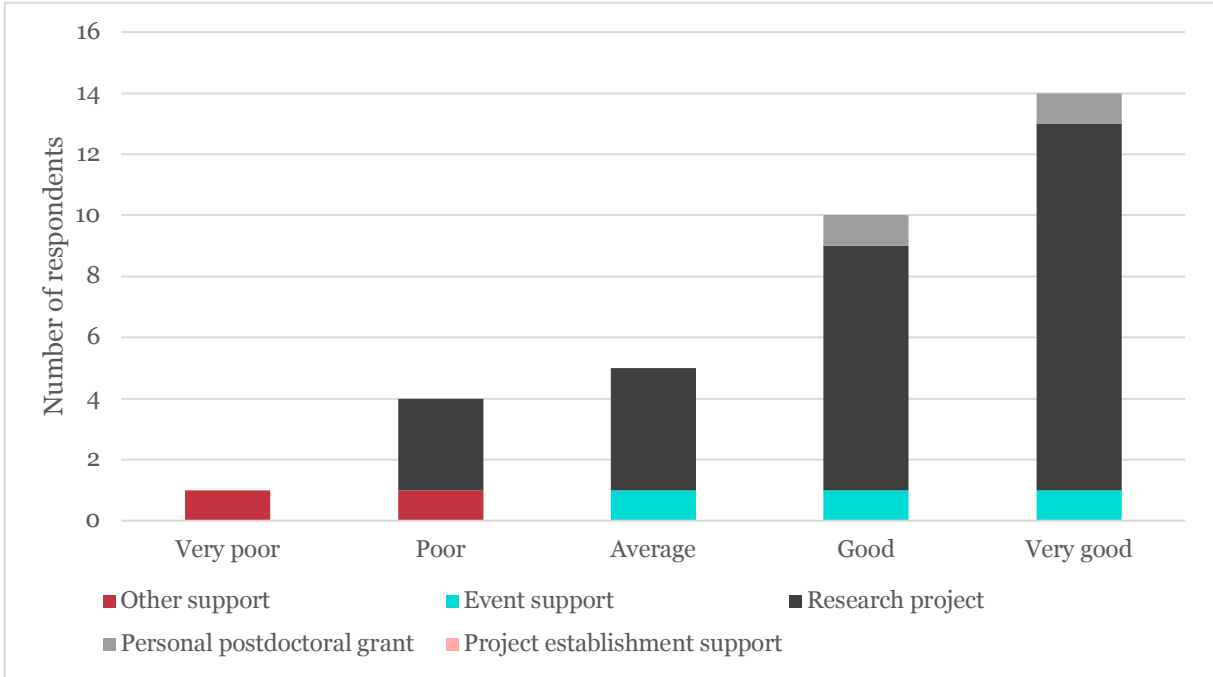
Based on interviews and the survey, it would appear that the majority of participants were satisfied with the way the programme was run as well as with the level of funding that they received. When survey respondents were asked about the one complement that they would like to pay to the programme, many felt that it helped to further research on Latin America and that communications

activities—particularly those organised and supported by NorLARNet, though the RCN also receives mention—were helpful and effective.

Of the critiques offered of the programme, the one mentioned most often—as one might expect—was unhappiness over the fact that it was ending. But perhaps more concretely, one of the other themes in the critiques of the programme are over its scope, particularly the focus on the social sciences over the natural sciences. This bias in programme funding is largely explained by one critical criteria in the evaluation of potential projects. As one member of the administration mentioned during an interview, it was a nearly annual discussion point, but members of the Board and the administration would continually come back to the point that they wanted projects to have “societal implications”. This debate took place so often, it was nicknamed the “volcano discussion”—namely, if someone said they wanted to study a volcano and it happened to be in Latin America, would this make it relevant? In essence, the programme board felt the answer was no because in order to make the volcano study relevant for funding, it should have an emphasis on resilience of nearby communities, disaster planning and warning systems, etc. and not just the volcano itself. This would mean that projects with a “pure” natural science perspective would not be awarded funding in the LATINAMERIKA programme.

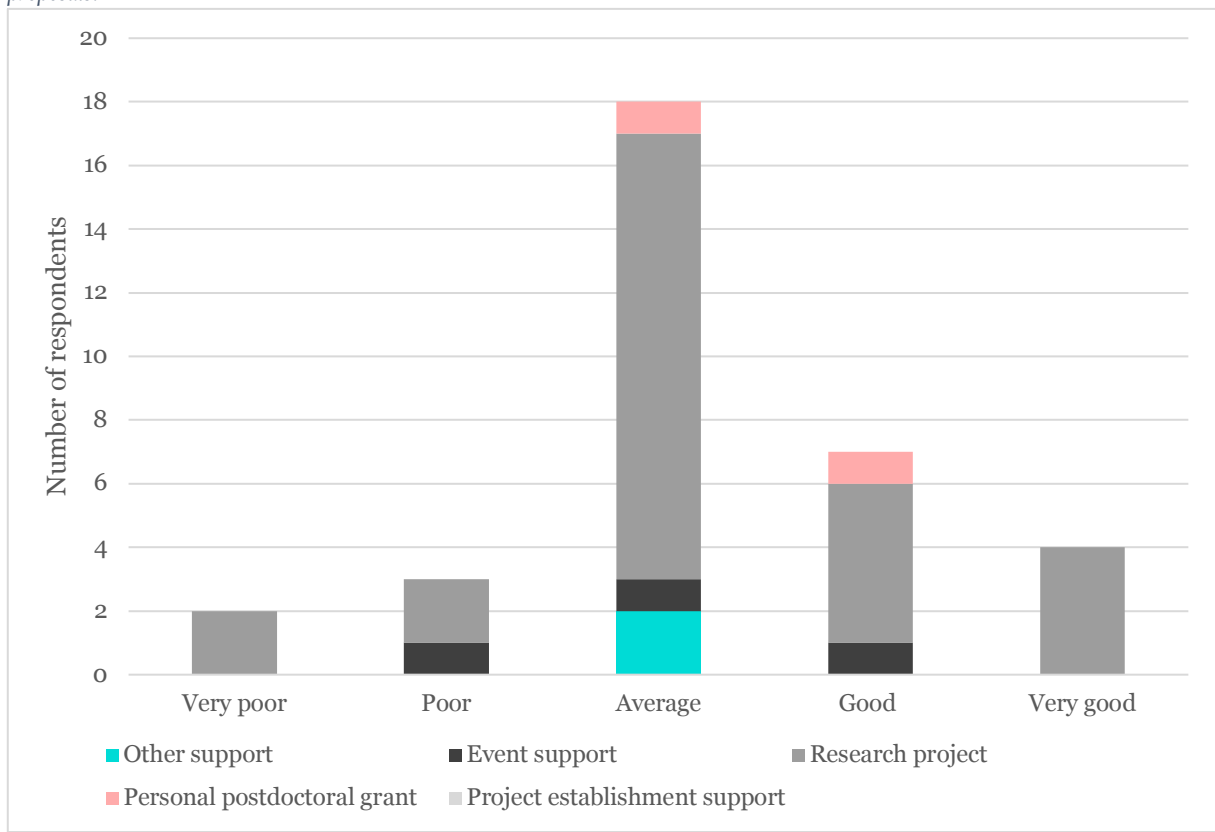
Despite this minor criticism, overall satisfaction remains, as shown in the survey results. Generally speaking, funding levels were seen as very good by participants, even after some negotiations that led to lower levels of funding for projects. The only critique that was heard over the course of the evaluation was concerns over the overlap between the fiscal year-end of the RCN with that of various universities, which could lead to additional administrative burden for project leaders. Two project leaders commented, for example, that financial statements needed to be submitted in October, but that university fiscal periods run to December and January, meaning that the projects would need to produce two sets of annual statements.

Figure 20 Survey question: How adequate was the level of funding available to accomplish the goals for your project?



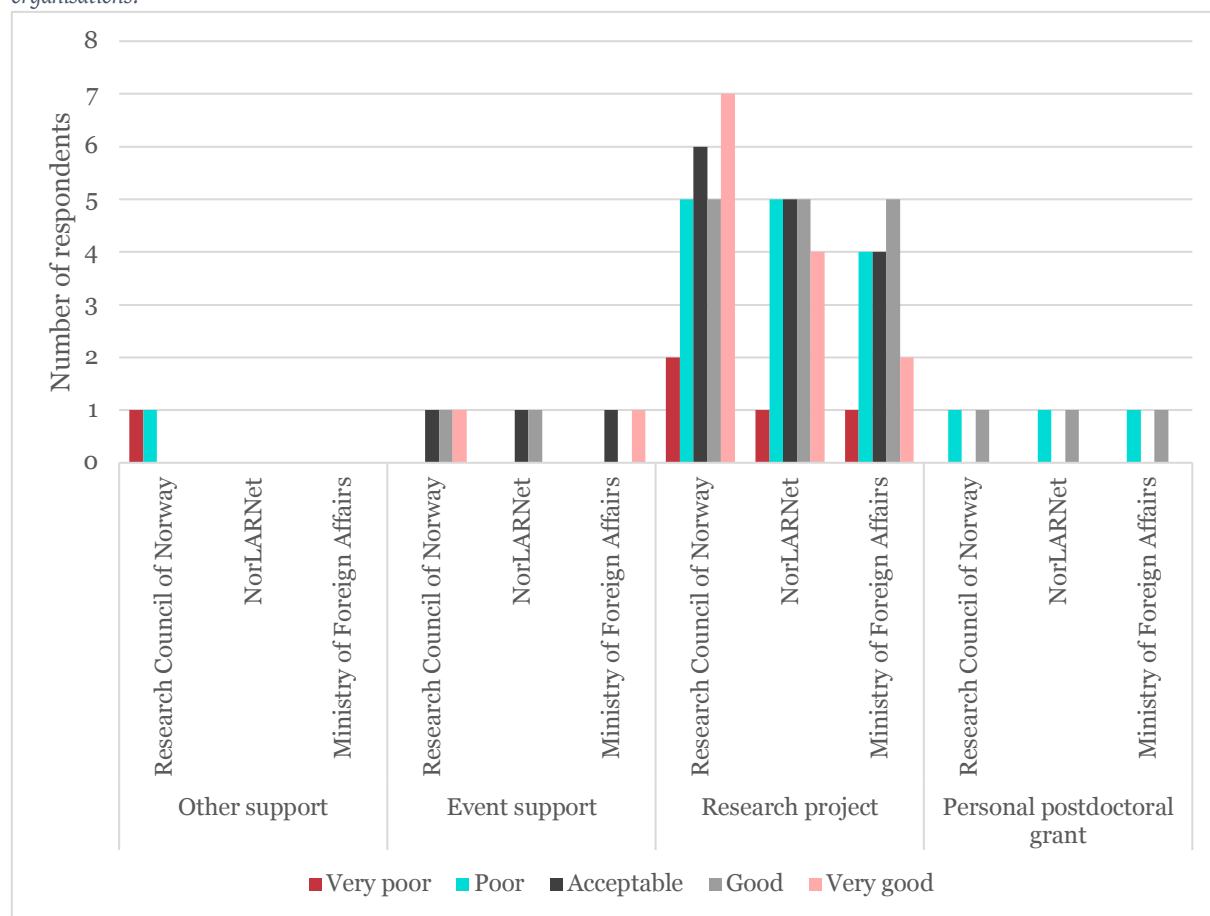
In terms of the level of administration in comparison to other programmes which project leaders participated in, they found it generally to meet the average. Interviewees also generally had very little to say about the administration—other than to pay complements to the two individuals who were assigned to manage the programme on a day-to-day basis. Project leaders and Board members alike generally found them to be responsive and helpful.

Figure 21 Survey question: How would you rate the amount of administration required to apply for the grant compared to other grant proposals?



When it came to support for dissemination and communication activities, the programme fared well, with most project leaders happy with the role that the Research Council, NorLARNet and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs played in assisting researchers. The survey also showed that fewer participants responded about the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' role, which should hardly be considered surprising.

Figure 22 Survey question How would you rate the support that you received for your communications activities from the following organisations?



OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS

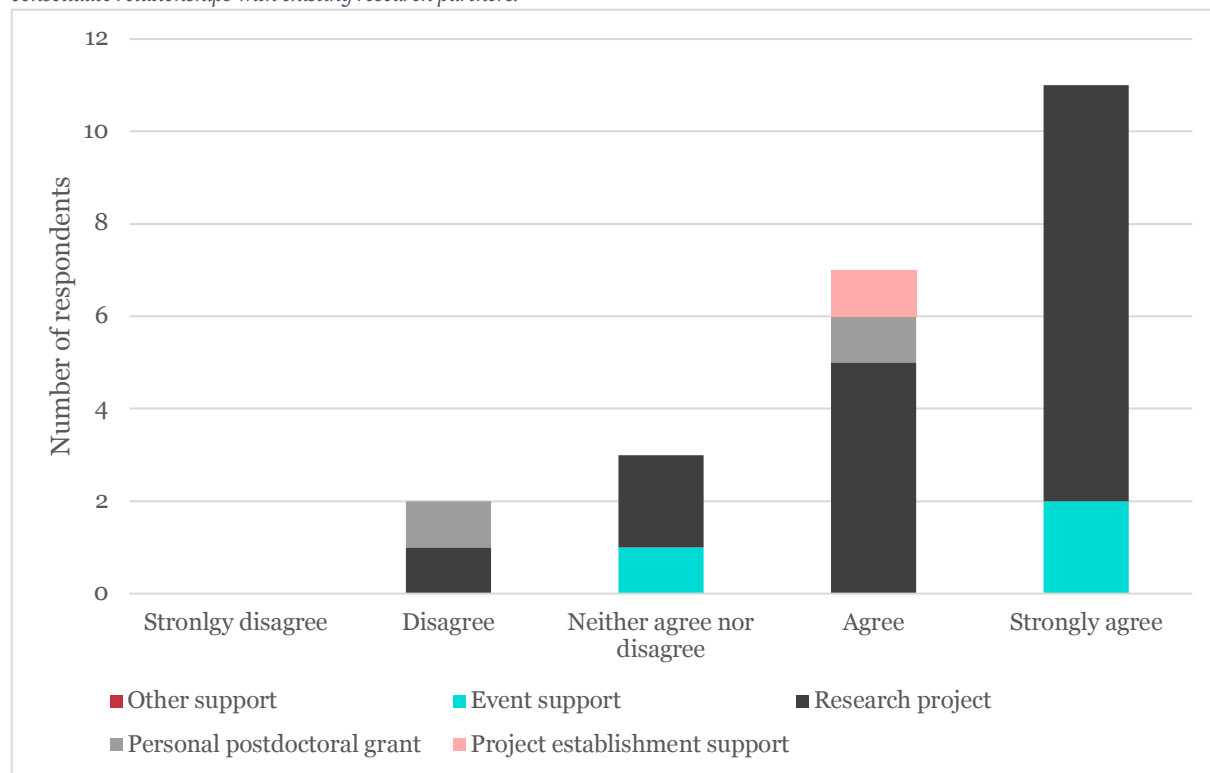
Examining the outcomes and impacts of the programme, given that some projects are only just reaching conclusion now, relies as much on intent of researchers to continue working together as on additional co-operation that may be taking place. For this reason, this part of our analysis has relied primarily on survey data from project leaders with some supplementary information and context gathered through interviews.

STRENGTHENING OR CREATING PARTNERSHIPS

When asked whether project partners had worked with new Norwegian institutions for the first time, of 35 respondents, only six indicated that they were working with other Norwegian institutions for the first time in this project. From a collaboration perspective, it would appear that the greater outcome of the programme has been in strengthening existing relationships rather than forging new ones (both of which are equally important endeavours). This perception would seem to be further reinforced by another question from the survey, where respondents were asked whether they

thought that the LATINAMERIKA programme helped to consolidate existing research partnerships (with no respondents strongly disagreeing with this statement).

Figure 23 Survey question: How much do you agree with the statement, “The Research Programme on Latin America was very helpful to consolidate relationships with existing research partners.”



The usefulness in strengthening partnership can be seen in the fact that the majority of project partners had only worked together for less than four years, with 12 projects having worked with their partners for 2-4 years, while eight had worked with each other for less than two years.

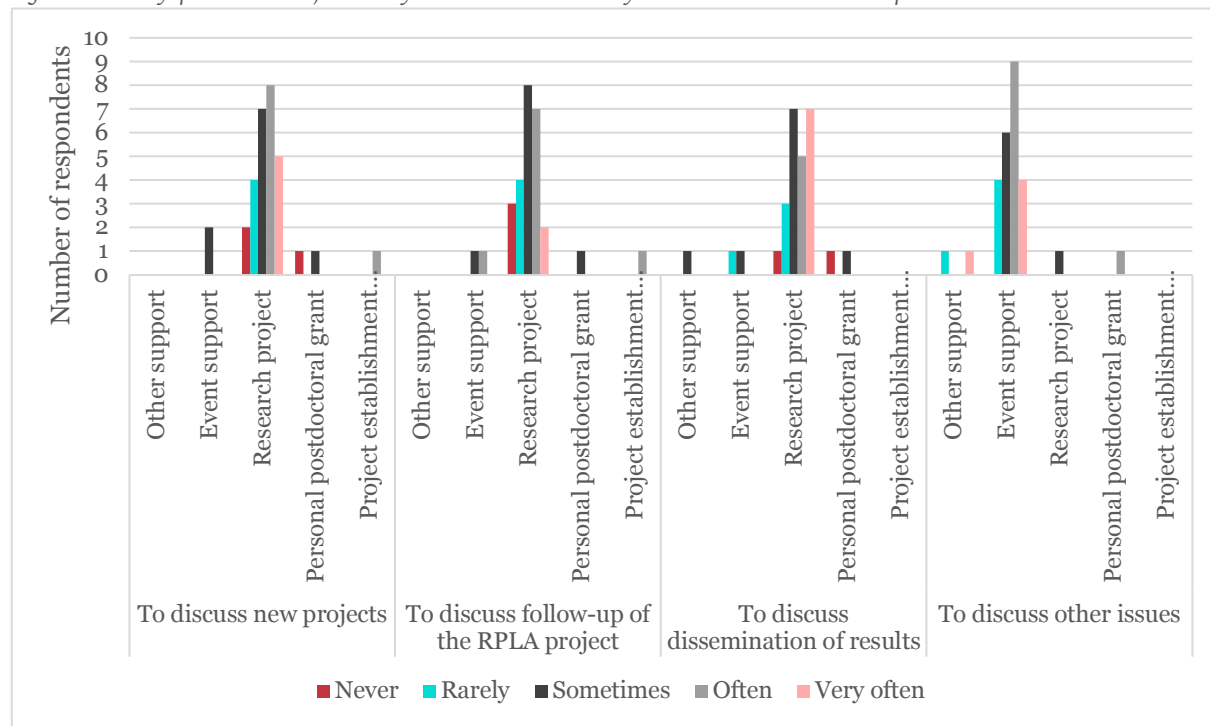
While the programme seems to have achieved better results with existing partnerships rather than forming new ones, it did open new research paths for many researchers. Of the 32 researchers that answered the question about whether their research was in a new field rather than an existing one, 17 indicated that they had taken a new path with their funding project. The following shows the types of project leaders that had indicated they would take a new path:

- Other support, 1 respondent
- Event support, 1 respondent
- Research project, 14 respondents
- Personal postdoctoral grant, 1 respondent

In terms of communication with project partners from Latin America, of the approximately 30 respondents who answered the question on continued communication with their Latin American

partners, a majority continued their communication, both to discuss new projects as well as dissemination of results.

Figure 24 Survey question: How often have you been in contact with your Latin American research partner?



POTENTIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROGRAMME

As a 10-year commitment of funding, the Research Programme for Latin America is very unusual in its longevity, providing researchers a long-term opportunity to engage with the topic at hand. While the programme can and should be judged on its outputs, such a long commitment also raises questions on whether a sustainable result was achieved. Will knowledge, researchers, and institutions continue to work on topics around Latin America and even thrive after the initial injection of funds or will researchers slowly shift to other subjects? Interviews with members of the administration of the Research Council of Norway demonstrated that the expectation was that a 10-year programme should lead to a group or community able to source funds from other areas, though this might include other programmes funded by the Council itself.

As one would expect, project leaders (and even a few Board members) expressed a desire for funding of the programme to continue, worrying that the lack of institutional focus of the programme would mean that new communities had not had an opportunity to become embedded and self-sustaining. With that said, 10 years is a considerable commitment when benchmarked against a global standard for funding. Extended funding for NorLARNet beyond the 10-year commitment, combined with the

intention of many of the project leaders to continue working within their partners, would seem to indicate that the community has some chance to continue in some form.

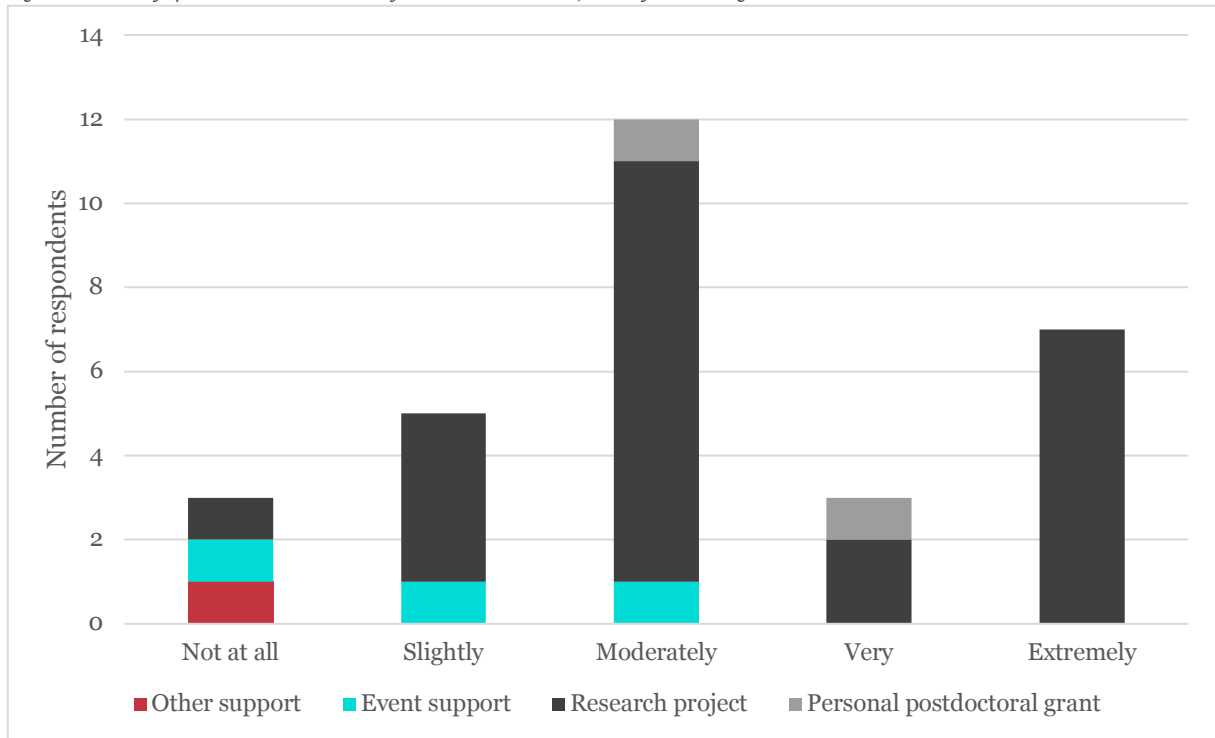
In a survey of project leaders, respondents were asked whether they intended to apply for funding on subjects around Latin America from another source other than the Latin American programme. Of the 38 respondents to this question, 17 indicated that they had applied for other projects. The vast majority of those individuals, however, applied for other projects from the Norwegian Research Council. Other funding mechanisms that project leaders were pursuing include:

- European Research Council, 3
- Other European source, 3
- Other European country (“Member State”), 2
- Brazilian Research Council, and the Federal University of Sao Paulo, 1
- Meltzerfondet, 1
- Other international source, 1

When asked about further funding sought by project leaders and their partners, of 36 respondents, only nine said that they would continue to seek funding unrelated to the LATINAMERIKA programme area from sources either inside Norway or in the European Union (with two outside of the European Research Area).

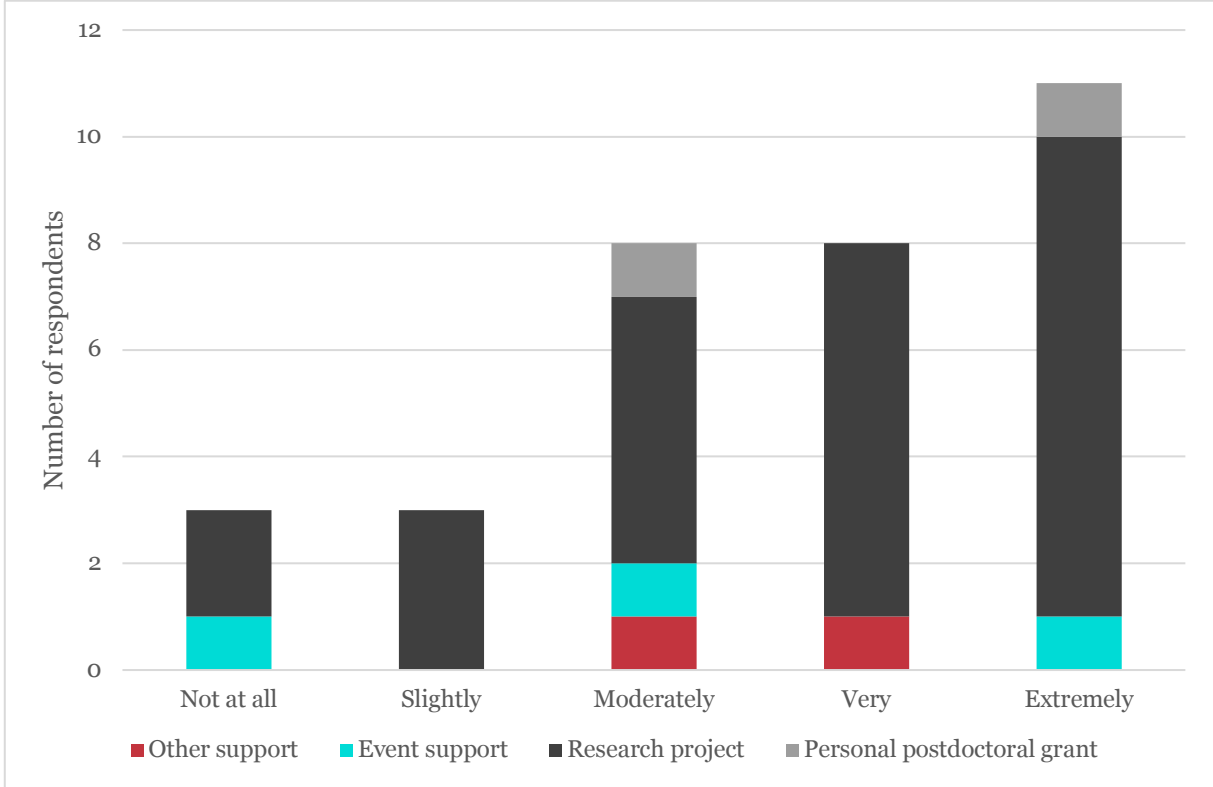
In terms of institution building, survey respondents generally felt that the programme provided benefit in attracting more researchers in Latin American studies, with the majority stating that it provided moderate support.

Figure 25 Survey question: How much has your institution benefitted by attracting more researchers in Latin American studies?



Project leaders, on a personal level, also generally found the programme helpful to their career goals, expressing high levels of satisfaction with the programme. At the same time, PhD students who had worked on projects have continued work in their field in 13 projects surveyed, five of whom had moved to associate professorships.

Figure 26 Survey question: How helpful has the funding and project been to furthering your own career goals?



4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 CONCLUSIONS

The following section provides a short summary of conclusions that can be drawn on the main evaluation questions based on the analysis of the previous chapter.

DOES THE PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTE TO THE EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS?

The two indicators used to evaluate this research question have been perceptions of the network before and after the start of the programme and perceptions of the relevance of the thematic areas of the portfolio. On the first indicator, there have certainly been some positive movements, with NorLARNet creating an important forum for Latin American researchers to present their results and a strengthening of existing networks as shown in the survey data. Individual interviews helped to corroborate the assertion that the programme has helped to strengthen networks of Latin American researchers.

On perceptions of the relevance of the thematic areas, as mentioned in the analysis, some within the network expressed reservations about the social scientific leanings of the projects. However, these leanings were intentionally built into the programme, as described earlier, and as such do not take away from the success of the programme in funding and bringing to fruition relevant projects.

DOES THE PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTE TO CREATING SUSTAINABLE RESEARCH COMMUNITIES IN NORWAY ON LATIN AMERICA?

As mentioned in the previous chapter, the notion of “communities” has been somewhat contentious, with the programme board downplaying its importance as an objective of the programme. While community building may not have, in the end, been an overriding goal of project design and selection, some useful results have come out of the programme around developing research communities. Survey results illustrated in the previous chapter show that researchers will continue to work together and that nearly 50 percent of researchers will seek further project funding from other sources to continue research. As well, the fact that project leaders found the programme useful to their careers should help researchers stay within the field of Latin American studies, which presents further support for a sustainable community. Finally, continued support from project leaders for NorLARNet is a further indicator of a desire for people who have participated in the programme to continue to interact past the funding period.

DOES THE PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTE TO THE INTERNATIONALISATION NORWEGIAN RESEARCH ON LATIN AMERICA

Arguably, given that the programme helped to reinforce existing partnerships more than in helping to forge new ones, the programme has not been a strong vehicle for *further* internationalising Norwegian research. The percentage of projects with *new* international partners is relatively low

(even though existing partnerships are quite international), and the field-weighted internationalisation score for the project leaders has not shown any increase over time. One could argue, however, that it has helped to maintain its existing international presence, which may have decreased without the programme.

DOES THE PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTE TO ENHANCING KNOWLEDGE FOR RELEVANT NORWEGIAN USER GROUPS

The programme, particularly those projects with more innovative and expansive dissemination plans, has helped contribute to enhancing knowledge for relevant Norwegian user groups. It should be noted, however, that project selection did not involve a specified plan for the level of targeting for each user group, and as such, it was not possible for the evaluation team to draw solid conclusions on the level of knowledge gain for individual user groups.

HAS THE PROJECT PORTFOLIO ENHANCED CONNECTIONS WITH COLLABORATING COUNTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS IN LATIN AMERICA

As mentioned earlier, the project portfolio has helped to strengthen connections with researchers and their institutions in Latin America. These partner institutions were located in a range of Latin American countries, which is a positive facet of the programme. Partners were mostly academic institutions – which is logical given the focus of the programme – while certain projects also involved other types of institutions including companies and non-profit organisations. As such, the overall result is enhanced connections with Latin American countries and their institutions.

DOES THE PROJECT PORTFOLIO PROMOTE INTER- AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY PROJECTS

One of the main critiques from project leaders and interviewees of the LATINAMERIKA programme was the lack of projects in the natural sciences, with at least half a dozen survey respondents complaining about support for the social sciences. From the perspective of the objectives, however, it remains very difficult to fault the execution of the programme itself. As mentioned in the previous chapter, one of the guiding principles behind selecting a project was that it have some societal relevance as well as have specificities of Latin America.

In addition, the portfolio analysis showed that the majority of projects could be defined as multidisciplinary, even if that was through the representation of different disciplines with the field of study of social sciences. Project applicants were obviously encouraged by the calls to emphasise multi-disciplinarity in their proposals. This is another of the programme's many achievements.

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF THE RESEARCH PROGRAMME ON RELEVANT USER GROUPS AND THEIR SATISFACTION

As had been evidence in the report, the programme has exercised an impressive level of communication, both within and outside of the programme, particularly in its engagement with local media. This engagement with media has not shown up in higher levels of discussion around Latin America in the popular press; however, as mentioned in the report, decreases in mentions of Latin American are likely influenced by broader trends in international news gathering, which would be far outside of the scope of this programme to influence.

Levels of satisfaction with the programme were shown to be high, with stakeholders expressing satisfaction in interacting with the administration of the programme as well as with other key stakeholders.

HOW APPROPRIATE IS THE FUNDING TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS OF THE PROGRAMME?

Having enjoyed a unique 10-year funding period, this programme has been provided with adequate funding to achieve its goals. Project leaders that were interviewed indicated that they considered funding to be adequate, an assertion that was backed up with the survey results, as evidenced in the previous chapter.

HAS THE PROGRAMME BOARD BEEN EFFECTIVE?

The programme board has been, based on interviews and the survey, effective with their hands-on approach to managing the project, working well with the administration and showing care about not just the evaluation of project proposals, but ensuring successful delivery of those projects. The evaluation team notes that having no Norwegian academic representation, while helpful for avoiding conflicts of interest, did lead to a sharp learning curve for the Board in understanding the Norwegian academic landscape.

4.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

ALIGNMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES WITH THE INTERVENTION LOGIC

As mentioned in the introduction to this evaluation, the intervention logic for the programme derives from a desire to enhance knowledge of Latin America, which was considered particularly relevant given the importance of Latin America to Norway when the programme began. Annual reports specifically mention progress being made to “strengthen interest in and research on Latin America” and a few interviewees within the programme mentioned an objective around a desire to “build capacity” in Latin American studies. The 2016 Annual Report, for example, also states that “[t]he importance of competence-building and recruitment has been highlighted in order to achieve the programme’s primary objectives.” However, the primary objective—reinforced by the first secondary objective—makes clear that the mechanism for creating an interest in Latin America and building that competence comes out of high-quality, international research first and foremost. Interviews with Board members also make clear that the objective of high-quality research was foremost in evaluators’ minds when determining whether an application would receive funding.

The idea that this programme was designed to build a community of researchers has been, however, a point of debate amongst the evaluation team and various stakeholders, with some arguing that the programme is rather designed to create a “milieu” that promotes Latin American research and that the focus has been, from the beginning, one of only research excellence which happens to fall under the umbrella of Latin America. The evaluation team acknowledges the view of the Programme Board that the primary and secondary objectives of the programme can be thought of in terms of ‘triage’—

that the first goal of the programme was to identify good quality research, and in cases where the funding could not cover the costs of all identified programmes, then the secondary criteria would allow the Programme Board to further specify which projects were worthy of funding and which were not, including dissemination.

However, a reading of the programme documentation as well as the interviews with various stakeholders show that the secondary objectives were viewed, at least by some, as more than sorting criteria. At the very least, there was a view that the programme had other purposes beyond simply funding excellent research. On several occasions, interviewees mentioned that the context for the funding came from “development aid budgets”. As well, it was made clear to the evaluation team that some projects, with funding managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, should generally have a “wider social impact” before funding would be considered, given this funding avenue. These comments would seem to indicate that the programme was designed to achieve wider goals, which could be better incorporated into complementary primary objectives rather than the hierarchy of objectives as currently stated.

For example, interviews with project leaders, NorLARNet, and Board members make clear that some of the more successful projects in bringing increased awareness of the Latin America come out of innovative ways of communicating results. One such project, *The Integrated assessment of oil spill impact and recovery on Brazilian coastal habitats*, had Brazilian researchers produce a film about the results for public dissemination. Another; *Contested Powers: Towards a Political Anthropology of Energy in Latin America*, held a photographic exhibition (though in the UK) to present some of the findings from their work. The primary goal of the programme is, after all, to enhance knowledge about Latin America in general, not in a strictly academic sense. One might consider making two primary objectives with dissemination taking on an equally important primary role, possibly supported by a more robust dissemination plan (as discussed further in section 4.4).

This is not to downplay the importance of academic excellence and rigour, or even the importance that the programme has (inadvertently) had in helping to further institutionalise Latin American research in Norwegian universities. However, the stated objectives are far broader than an academic view of knowledge.

If this programme were to be re-launched in some form in future, the evaluation team would recommend a stronger definition of the intervention logic, clearly laid out in an ex-ante evaluation with criteria against which the programme will be measured. Further thought could also be given to the mechanisms to furthering those goals, which can then filter down into finer grained criteria for project selection. It could be clearer whether the programme is focussed on strengthening institutions, developing research capacity or communities, or communicating those results to a wider audience.

And in relation to that wider audience, it would be good to better define and potentially prioritise those audiences that the programme intends to reach. As has been made clear by the excellent work being done by NorLARNet as well as some of the more creative projects, the programme has been able to reach out to many audiences. However, there is no getting around the fact that spreading projects across all target audiences from any academic discipline from any country in Latin American threatens to dilute the sustainability of the programme, as resources are spread widely, reducing its overall impact. This breadth of geography and academic discipline has been advertised as a strength of the programme, and the evaluation team can certainly appreciate the flexibility afforded to the programme, allowing it to focus on funding the best research (which is, after all, the primary objective of the programme); however, the evaluation team still believes that the programme could benefit from either clarifying the importance of various secondary objectives or eliminating those objectives all together and simply discuss other issues like dissemination under the category of selection criteria rather than being a specific objective.

THE ROLE OF NON-ACADEMIC REPRESENTATION

As mentioned earlier in this evaluation, the composition of the Programme Board was made up of nine non-Norwegian members along with one representative of the Ministry and another representative of the Norwegian private sector. Based on conversations with the Board, representation from non-academic Board members was viewed in a positive light, providing added context to the final decision to select a project. It is the view of the evaluation team that communication on the Programme Board was good and that all members provided added value.

As more than one Board member attested, however, advice provided by both the Ministry and the private sector representative was secondary to the objective of funding research to improve awareness of Latin America (another form of “triage”, as mentioned in the previous section). This form of representation leaves open a number of questions.

Generally, the RCN has a practice of including representatives from the private sector on programme boards of relevant programmes. This has been done in order to provide a different perspective (societal value for example) than the purely academic when a programme decides on which projects should be awarded funding and to bridge the gap between academia and the private sector.

The greater question remains, however, about the systematic interaction between the user groups for which the programme is intended and those that receive representation on the Programme Board. The evaluation team is very sympathetic to the importance of the voice of the private sector and to the wider context in which the interaction between various stakeholders in Norwegian society. Our point remains, however, that providing the private sector a seat on the Programme Board should bring with it a clearer reflection of their role within the objectives of the programme. This could be an additional secondary objective, such as:

- Funding projects which can provide technical and social knowledge of interest to Norwegian business;
- Funding projects which provide added visibility to research being done in sectors important to Norway and its business community; or
- Funding projects that provide economic data of use to Norway and its business community.

To reiterate, the evaluation team is not suggesting that the Programme Board should be expanded to include all user groups, nor is it suggesting that the RCN ignore its role as a funding body for research. The evaluation team is also not suggesting that the private sector did not serve a positive function in this Programme Board—as mentioned above and to reiterate here, it provided helpful insights into project selection. Given the primary objectives and even the intervention logic for the programme, the evaluation team wants to emphasise that this is not a “bug” of the programme nor should this be read as a critique. But at the same time, if private-sector representation is going to be specifically called for, we would expect that at least some secondary objectives of the programme would clarify their role further. Every member of the Programme Board should fill a role in meeting the stated objectives of the programme, and the evaluation team would suggest that the role of the non-academic members of the Board could be further clarified.

MORE THOUGHT TO INSTITUTIONS OR INSTITUTIONALISATION

Nearly every stakeholder with whom we spoke mentioned the important work that was being done by NorLARNet in helping to meet both the primary and secondary objectives of the programme. However, as mentioned by Benedicte Bull, who leads NorLARNet, some of the success of the network in reaching out to the media and engaging in its dissemination mandate comes down to personal contacts—if Dr. Bull were to step down from her position, it remains unclear whether NorLARNet could continue to function effectively into the future.

The universal praise that the evaluation team heard from all individuals consulted would appear to show the importance that new institutions can have in any new programme. These institutions can provide a path to sustainability, as shown in the desire of many stakeholders to keep NorLARNet running, even when funding from the RCN stops. It is institutions such as this one that provide a mechanism for the continued communication of ideas, providing an impetus for research in the field to continue after the programme shuts down. If the programme had only been a series of individual projects, the likelihood of achieving some form of sustainability would have been lower.

Of course, not all “institutions” are alike. Some members of the Programme Board have expressed reservations about an “empty office” somewhere that would not serve a useful function. But, in the view of the evaluation team, we see institutions to be ones like NorLARNet, which are more important as institutions that bind researchers together and help to spread research. In the case of NorLARNet, this remains largely a virtual space with face-to-face gatherings to bring people together in research conferences, seminars, courses, and guest lectures. The evaluation team, however, contends that a

more permanent physical space could further enhance the institutionalisation of Latin American studies, and to further embed that research with other user groups, if done the right way. Science diplomacy can provide a useful example.

A CLEARER FOCUS ON A COMMUNITY OF RESEARCHERS

One point of contention in this evaluation was over the idea that the programme was intended to develop and build on a single or multiple research communities under the umbrella of Latin American studies, as mentioned earlier in this evaluation. The conviction of some members of the Programme Board and the administration was that “community” in a Norwegian context, despite its mention in programme documentation, should be signified to connote a relatively loose group of individuals who work on the same topic. The desire, the evaluation team was told, was not to create a coherent group out of researchers with diverse interests. In other words, the goal was not to focus on building a social network with a high level of interconnectedness.

Despite concerns over the term “community” and how one would choose to define it, the success of NorLARNet shows that the network has brought together disparate researchers under the umbrella of Latin America. Interviewees and survey respondents, in singling out the network as one of the main outcomes of the programme and one of its most visible successes, demonstrate that some form of community building has been taking place and that it would be good to acknowledge the importance of this community (or communities) and to focus on how to help it to flourish. Arguably, the fact that NorLARNet funding may continue after the programme period is a tacit acknowledgement of the good work being done in building a community of Latin American researchers.

The evaluation team would argue that the programme could focus further on how they would define the community or communities that they are looking to support, and to incorporate those ideas into the objectives of the programme.

ALLOCATIONS OF FUNDS

There are some observations to be made regarding the allocation of funds over time.

The first two calls for proposals in 2008 led to 30 projects being funded. A total of NOK 36.05 million (18% of the total programme budget) was allocated to 23 simplified projects and 7 research projects. Of the 16 successful projects from the first call in 2008 ‘Project Establishment Support, Pre-project Support and Support for Events’, 13 did not receive the amount of funding initially applied for. Instead, project leaders were asked to reduce the scope of activities to fit in with the funding available. This included three event support projects, six project establishment support initiatives and four pre-projects.

As this was the first year of the programme, the desire to fund a high number of projects is understandable. This was particularly the case because there was significant lead time involved in designing and implementing the LATINAMERIKA programme. As such, expectations were high for

the programme to show early results which partially drove the desire to fund a significant number of projects right from the beginning. In addition, the programme was time-limited (10 years) so it was important that projects be allocated funding early on to avoid going significantly beyond the programme period. However, in certain cases, the adjusted project design led to the reduction – or removal – of funds for travel or fellowships. Such activities relate directly to one of the programme’s secondary objectives – to encourage internationalisation of Norwegian research. By the second call of 2008 – and in all subsequent calls – there was a new emphasis on forming partnerships which meant it was important that travel budgets stayed intact to encourage knowledge sharing and temporary fellowships. Another example of how learning was applied successfully is that pre-projects were only featured in the first two calls in 2008. This was because the applications showed that there was little need for support to develop proposals and that this funding would be more usefully allocated to research and personal scholarship grants.

While understandable, this ‘front-loading’ reduced opportunities for further lessons such as the two mentioned above to be observed and absorbed in the programme’s trajectory. That is to say, because 30 of the 69 projects were allocated funding in this early period, there was less scope to adjust future calls and allocate more budget to future projects based on early experiences.

Another positive observation is that - while maintaining a broad geographic and disciplinary spread - the programme was flexible and innovative in finding some diverse ways to allocate funding. To examine some of the calls with specific features: the 2012 call which was open to applications related to all Latina American countries benefited from a NOK 5 million grant for projects focused specifically on Brazil (four such projects were allocated funding). In addition, a decision was made to fund projects through two EU networks (EULAST and ERANet-LAC). The projects funded in these calls appear to have led to robust international collaboration and internationalisation of results. This was again thanks to the emphasis in later calls on forming partnerships with Latin American organisations. As such, these projects were also successful in meeting the programme’s secondary objectives and these decisions are to be applauded. It is particularly notable in the case of the joint call with EULANEST that Norway was included alongside larger countries like France and Germany and countries with a more obvious connection to Latin America (Spain and Portugal). That Norwegian partners were included in two of the seven projects selected (out of a total of 65 proposals) speaks to how the programme elevated Norway’s standing on this research platform.

The projects funded generally contributed to the programme’s secondary objectives of ensuring longer-term perspectives on research in Latin America through the funding of several doctoral and postdoctoral candidates. Of the 69 funded projects, eight were personal scholarships (11%) which corresponds with the statement in the work plan that ‘the programme may to a limited degree provide support for individual doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships, as well as individual projects led by senior researchers.’ That the majority of the calls specified the support provided for postdoctoral fellowships is clear evidence of this and, in total, 19 doctoral and postdoctoral

scholarships resulted from the programme, including both direct scholarships and those funded as part of wider research projects. A number of doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships that were funded suffered delays due to maternity and sickness leave which was highlighted regularly in the annual reports. In general, the programme responded flexibly to these individual needs and it is positive that some grants included funding for families to join researchers on projects. Any issues related to the frequency of such leave being taken seems to be related to the wider Norwegian system for postgraduate students and post-doctorate fellows, rather than the programme design.

It is positive that a wide range of partnerships were supported by the programme and there appears to be a good mix of existing relationships that were bolstered and new connections that were forged by the programme.

APPENDIX A SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

After running for nearly ten years, the Research Programme on Latin America is approaching its end. To learn lessons on how future iterations of the programme could improve, the Technopolis Group--commissioned by the Norwegian Research Council--would like to ask you a few questions about your experiences with the programme. As a recipient of funding, we very much hope that you can take the 10-15 minutes necessary to fill out this survey.

Research networks

In which regions of the world did you have research partners prior to this project?

Check all that apply

Please choose **all** that apply:

- Europe
- Central Asia
- Africa
- East Asia and the Pacific
- Latin America
- South Asia
- Middle East
- North America

From which regions do your new partners work?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'New partnership' at question ' [NETExisting]' (For how long had you worked with your project partners BEFORE the start of this project with Research Programme on Latin America?)

Check all that apply

Please choose **all** that apply:

- Europe
- Central Asia
- Africa
- East Asia and the Pacific
- Latin America

- South Asia
- Middle East
- North America

[] For how long had you worked with your project partners BEFORE the start of this project with Research Programme on Latin America?

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- New partnership
- Less than two years
- 2-4 years
- More than 4 years

[] Why did you not work with new partners?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was NOT 'New partnership' at question '3 [NETExisting]' (For how long had you worked with your project partners BEFORE the start of this project with Research Programme on Latin America?)

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- No need. The partners covered all necessary aspects/capacities of the project
- Unable to find other partners (please indicate below why)
- Other (please indicate below)

Make a comment on your choice here:

[] To what extent do you agree with the following statement: The Research Programme on Latin America was very helpful to consolidate relationships with existing research partners.

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was NOT 'New partnership' at question '3 [NETExisting]' (For how long had you

worked with your project partners BEFORE the start of this project with Research Programme on Latin America?)

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

How did you come into contact with your partners for this project?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'New partnership' at question '3 [NETExisting]' (For how long had you worked with your project partners BEFORE the start of this project with Research Programme on Latin America?)

Check all that apply

Please choose **all** that apply:

- Previous project
- Introduction through RCN
- Introduction through colleague
- Met at conference
- Other:

Since your project finished, how often have you been in contact with your Latin American research partner?

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Very often
To discuss new projects	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To discuss follow-up of the RPLA project	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To discuss dissemination of project results	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To discuss other matters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Did you work with other Norwegian institutions for the first time on this project?

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Yes
- No

Which national institutions have you worked with?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Yes' at question '8 [NETNational]' (Did you work with other Norwegian institutions for the first time on this project?)

Check all that apply

Please choose **all** that apply:

- Universities, specialised university colleges and university colleges
- Public research institutes
- Health trusts/hospitals
- Independent research institutes
- Museums
- Nordic research-performing institutions
- Other public institutions
- Other:

Sources of funding

Have you applied--with or without your partners--for more funding on projects for Latin America from another source?

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Yes
- No

Where did you apply for this funding?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Yes' at question '10 [NetMoreLA]' (Have you applied--with or without your partners--for more funding on projects for Latin America from another source?)

Check all that apply

Please choose **all** that apply:

- Norwegian Research Council
- Regional body
- Member State
- European Research Council
- Other European source
- Other:

Approximately how much funding have you won?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Yes' at question '10 [NetMoreLA]' (Have you applied--with or without your partners--for more funding on projects for Latin America from another source?)

Check all that apply

Please choose **all** that apply:

- Less than EUR100,000
- EUR100,000-249,999
- EUR250,000-499,999
- More than EUR500,000
- Other:

Have you and your partners from this project applied for funding from other organisations unrelated to Latin America?

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Yes
- No

Where did you apply for this funding?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Yes' at question '13 [NETMoreFund]' (Have you and your partners from this project applied for funding from other organisations unrelated to Latin America?)

Check all that apply

Please choose **all** that apply:

- Norwegian Research Council
- Regional body
- Member State
- European Research Council
- Other European source
- Other:

Approximately how much funding have you won?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Yes' at question '13 [NETMoreFund]' (Have you and your partners from this project applied for funding from other organisations unrelated to Latin America?)

Check all that apply

Please choose **all** that apply:

- Less than EUR100,000
- EUR100,000-249,999
- EUR250,000-499,999
- More than EUR500,000
- Other:

How likely is it that you will make a grant application in the future?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'No' at question '13 [NETMoreFund]' (Have you and your partners from this project applied for funding from other organisations unrelated to Latin America?)

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Very likely (80-100%)
- Somewhat likely (40-60%)
- Unlikely (20-40%)
- Very unlikely (0-20%)
- Don't know

Doctorate & Postdoc

Have PhD students working on this project continued to work in the field of study?

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Yes
- No

How many students have continued their work in the field?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Yes' at question '17 [DOCStudents]' (Have PhD students working on this project continued to work in the field of study?)

Only numbers may be entered in this field.

Please write your answer here:

-

In what positions do the students now work?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Yes' at question '17 [DOCStudents]' (Have PhD students working on this project continued to work in the field of study?)

Check all that apply

Please choose **all** that apply:

- A postdoctoral position
- Assistant professor
- Associate professor
- Full professor
- Public sector employee
- Private sector employee
- Other:

Have postdocs working on your project continued on in the field of study?

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Yes
- No

□ How many postdocs continue to work in the field?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Yes' at question '20 [DOCPost]' (Have postdocs working on your project continued on in the field of study?)

Only numbers may be entered in this field.

Please write your answer here:

-

□ In what positions do the postdocs work?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Yes' at question '20 [DOCPost]' (Have postdocs working on your project continued on in the field of study?)

Check all that apply

Please choose **all** that apply:

- Another postdoc
- Assistant professor
- Associate professor
- Full professor
- Public sector employee
- Private sector employee
- Other:

Communication

□ How would you rate the support that you received for your communications activities from the following organisations?

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Very poor	Poor	Acceptable	Good	Very good
Research Council of Norway	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
NorLARNet	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

In your project dissemination activities, what groups did you manage to reach?

Check all that apply

Please choose **all** that apply:

- Other academics
- Norwegian Policy-makers
- Latin American Policy-makers
- Other Policy-makers
- Popular press
- Other:

Which stakeholder groups do you or will you keep in contact with after the project is complete?

Check all that apply

Please choose **all** that apply:

- Other academics
- Norwegian Policy-makers
- Latin American Policy-makers
- Other Policy-makers
- Popular press
- Other:

How did you first hear about the programme?

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Colleague at my institution
- Colleague at a partner institution
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Research Council of Norway
- An event
- Other

Satisfaction

[]How adequate was the level of funding available to accomplish the goals for your project?

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

1 being inadequate and 5 being fully adequate

[]Did the funding for your project further an existing research agenda or did it cause you to open a new research path?

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Existing research
- New research

[]How would you rate the amount of administration required to apply for the grant compared to other grant proposals?

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- 1

technopolis_[group]

- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

1 is more onerous, 3 is average, and 5 is very light

How helpful has the funding and project been to furthering your own career goals?

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

1 being not at all helpful, and 5 being very helpful

If the Research Programme on Latin American were to continue, would you recommend it to your colleagues?

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Yes
- No

How much has your institution benefitted by attracting more researchers in Latin American studies?

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

1 being not at all, and 5 being a lot

Interdisciplinarity

Did you collaborate with partners in an academic discipline other than your own for this project?

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Yes
- No

Please indicate your academic discipline

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Yes' at question '33 [IDCollabNew]' (Did you collaborate with partners in an academic discipline other than your own for this project?)

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Geography
- History
- Languages and literature
- Philosophy
- Theology
- Anthropology
- Economics
- Law
- Political science
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Earth sciences
- Physics
- Computer science
- Mathematics
- Statistics
- Engineering
- Medicine and health sciences
- Other

Please indicate the academic disciplines of your partner institutions

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Yes' at question '33 [IDCollabNew]' (Did you collaborate with partners in an academic discipline other than your own for this project?)

Check all that apply

Please choose **all** that apply:

- Geography
- History
- Languages and literature
- Philosophy
- Theology
- Anthropology
- Economics
- Law
- Political science
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Earth sciences
- Physics
- Computer science
- Mathematics
- Statistics
- Engineering
- Medicine and health sciences
- Other:

Why did you not collaborate with partners from another academic discipline?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'No' at question '33 [IDCollabNew]' (Did you collaborate with partners in an academic discipline other than your own for this project?)

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- No need. The project took place well within the confinements of one discipline
- Unable to find partners from other disciplines
- Other

How much did the programme encourage you to seek out partners from other disciplines?

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

1 is not at all, while 5 is very strongly.

4.3 Other

If you were to pay one compliment to the programme, what would it be?

Please write your answer here:

If you could make one recommendation for improvement to the programme, what would it be?

Please write your answer here:

APPENDIX B LATIN AMERICAN PARTNER ORGANISATIONS BY COUNTRY

Argentina	Gender and Agricultural Change in Argentina: The Impact of Gene Modified Soybean Revolution	Instituto de Desarrollo Economico y Social (IDES)
	Desired immigrants - Frustrated Adventurers? Norwegians in Latin America, 1820 - 1940	Centro de Estudios e Investigacion Universidad Nacional de Quilmes
	Reconceptualising Transitional Justice: The Latin American Experience	Centro Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS)
	Beyond Words: Implementing Latin American Truth Commission Recommendations	Centro Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS)
	Marine Ventures. Comparative perspectives on the dynamics of human approaches to the seascapes of Tierra del Fuego and Norway.	CONICET CADIC
	Dealing with the past: Victims' experiences of transitional justice in Argentina and Peru	Equipo Argentino de Trabajo y Atención Psicosocial
	ERA-netLAC Cave ice microbiom: metabolic diversity and activity in response to climate dynamics and anthropogenic pollution CAVICE (DCC-0178	National Scientific and Technical Research Council (Proimi / CONICET-Tucuma
	Abortion Rights Lawfare in Latin America	Palermo University, Law Faculty
	Gender and Agricultural Change in Argentina: The Impact of Gene Modified Soybean Revolution	Universidad de Belgrano
	Poverty, Language and Media - The Cases of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico	Universidad Nacional de Salta
Universidad Nacional de San Juan, Argentina		
Universidad Nacional de Tucuman, Argentina		
Bolivia	Contested Powers: Towards a Political Anthropology of Energy in Latin America	CIDES - UMSA Universidad Mayor de San Andres
Brazil	SUSAQUA-BRAZIL - Marine aquaculture as a sustainable green industry in Brazil	Aquaculture Network of Americas (RAA)

Cities against poverty: Brazilian experiences	CEBRAP Centro Bralileiro de Analise e Planejamento Brazilian Cener for Anal
Violence and child rights in Brazil: Can the cycle of violence be broken?	Escola Paulista de Medicina Universidade Federal de São Paulo
Integrated assessment of oil spill impact and recovery on Brazilian coastal habitats	Federal University of Parana
Abortion Rights Lawfare in Latin America	Fundacao Getulio Vargas (FGV)
Brazils Rise to the Global Stage (BraGS): Humanitarianism, Peacekeeping and the Quest for Great Powerhood	Igarape Institute
Contested Powers: Towards a Political Anthropology of Energy in Latin America	Institute for Society, Population and Nature (ISPN
Who owns it? - Land claims in Latin America: their moral legitimacy and implications	Instituto de Estudos Brasileiros Universidade de Sao Paulo
Sustainable landscapes: from conflict to coexistence. Does jaguar conservation conflict with environmental justice in Brazil?	Jaguar Conservation Fund
Cities against poverty: Brazilian experiences	Observatorio das Metropoles Pontificia Universidade Catolica de Sao Paulo
Brazils Rise to the Global Stage (BraGS): Humanitarianism, Peacekeeping and the Quest for Great Powerhood	Pontificia Universidade Catolica do Rio de Janeiro, Instituto de Relacoes I
The developmental state reloaded: Brazilian industrial policy in the XXIst Century.	Universidade Candido Mendes
Brazils Rise to the Global Stage (BraGS): Humanitarianism, Peacekeeping and the Quest for Great Powerhood	Universidade Catolica de Santos (UniSantos)
Poverty, Language and Media - The Cases of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico	Universidade Federal da Integracaô LatinoAmericana
SUSAQUA-BRAZIL - Marine aquaculture as a sustainable green industry in Brazil	Universidade Federal do Espirito santo - UFES, Department of Oceanography a
	Universidade Federal do Paraná UFPR
	Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte - UFRN

Chile	Who owns it? - Land claims in Latin America: their moral legitimacy and implications	Observatorio Ciudadano
	ERAnet-LAC, METHAnogenic Biodiversity and activity in Arctic and Subantarctic Ecosystems affected by climate change. (METHABASE) (DCC-92)	Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Valparaiso
		Universidad de Magallanes
	Reconceptualising Transitional Justice: The Latin American Experience	Universidad Diego Portales
ERA-netLAC Cave ice microbiom: metabolic diversity and activity in response to climate dynamics and anthropogenic pollution CAVICE (DCC-0178	University of Antofagasta	
Colombia	Rainforest degradation, oil palm agriculture, and the world's hottest hotspot of biodiversity	Alexander von Humboldt - Institute for Research on Biological Resources
	Reconceptualising Transitional Justice: The Latin American Experience	DeJuSticia
	Extracting justice? Exploring the role of FPIC, consultation and compensation related to socio-environmental conflicts in Latin America.	Proceso de Comunidades Negros (PCN), Colombia
	Natural Resource Management in Amazonian Indigenous Reserves	Tropenbos International Colombia
	Poverty, Language and Media - The Cases of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico	Universidad de Antioquia, Colombia
	Healthy Schools: Reducing dengue and diarrheal diseases in primary schools in Colombia	Universidad El Bosque Instituto de Salud y Ambiente
	Poverty, Language and Media - The Cases of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico	Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Colombia
Ecuador	Extracting justice? Exploring the role of FPIC, consultation and compensation related to socio-environmental conflicts in Latin America.	Observatorio de conflictos ambientales, Universidad Tecnica y Particular de
Guatemala	Contested Powers: Towards a Political Anthropology of Energy in Latin America	Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales
	Reconceptualising Transitional Justice: The Latin American Experience	Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales
	Beyond Words: Implementing Latin American Truth Commission Recommendations	FLACSO - Programa de Estudios sobre Derechos Humanos
Mexico	Extracting justice? Exploring the role of FPIC, consultation and compensation related to socio-environmental conflicts in Latin America.	CIESAS - Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropologia So

	Who owns it? - Land claims in Latin America: their moral legitimacy and implications	Instituto de Investigaciones Filosóficas - Universidad Autónoma de México
	Poverty, Language and Media - The Cases of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico	Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey Universidad de Guadalajara, Mexico
Peru	Dealing with the past: Victims' experiences of transitional justice in Argentina and Peru	Centro de Atención Psicosocial
	Reconceptualising Transitional Justice: The Latin American Experience	IDEHPUCP Pontificia Catholic University of Peru
	Beyond Words: Implementing Latin American Truth Commission Recommendations	Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Instituto de Democracia y Derecho
Uruguay	ERAnet-LAC, METHAnogenic Biodiversity and activity in Arctic and Subantarctic Ecosystems affected by climate change. (METHABASE) (DCC-92)	Instituto de Investigaciones Biológicas Clemente Estable
Venezuela	Contested Powers: Towards a Political Anthropology of Energy in Latin America	Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Científicas

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