



Norwegian Ministry  
of Education and Research

# Norwegian White Paper "Quality Culture in Higher Education"

Gro Beate VIGE, Senior Adviser

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# Overview

- Norwegian higher education – numbers
- Recent policy initiatives
- White Paper on Quality Culture in Higher Education
- Long-term Plan for Research and Higher Education
- New funding scheme from 2018
- Way forward



University of Tromsø and Aurora Borealis

## Higher Education in Norway – 2018 data

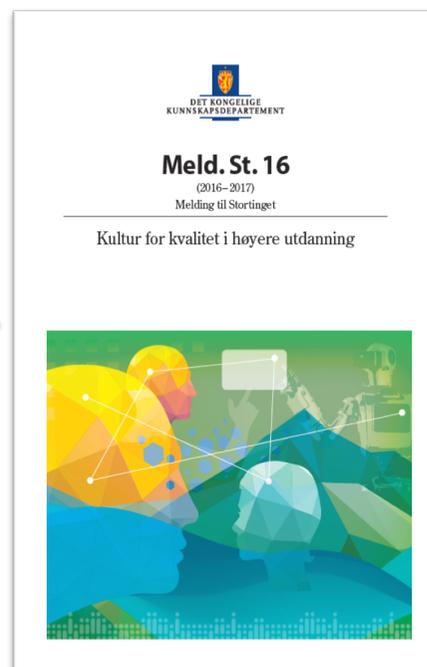
- 280 000 students (all Ministries)
- 259 000 students (Min. of Ed. and Research)
  - of whom 40 500 (15 %) at private HEIs
  - 60 % are female
- + 10 774 at ph.d. level (2017)
- 48 127 graduates (B + M)
  - 31 429 bachelor or similar + 118 short cycle
  - 16 580 master or similar
- 38 400 staff (of whom 15 750 qual. academic and 7 500 recruitment posts, incl. post-doc)



University of Oslo, Domus Media



# 2014–2018: From Long-term Plan to Structure to Quality to renewed Long-term Plan



# Quality measures HE



University of Oslo, frieze, Domus Media

- *Centres of Excellence in Education (SFU)*
  - since 2010, at present 8 centres. New call 2019
- *Student Barometer* since 2014, a national survey of ALL 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year HE students on perceived educational quality
- 2016, spring – *revised regulations* concerning quality of studies (tightening of requirements for the master's and ph.d. levels)
- 2017 – NOKUT's supplementary regulations concerning requirements for (re)accreditation of study programmes revised
  - both in force February 2017



A young man and woman are looking at a book together. The man is wearing a blue shirt and the woman is wearing a grey sweater. They are both looking at the book with interest.

## Aims of White Paper no. 16 (2016–2017) *Culture for Quality in Higher Education*

- More engaging studies and more ambitious goals for student achievement
- Students included in academic community
- Clear aims and streamlining of education programmes
- Varied teaching and assessment methodologies
- Better co-operation with business and industry
- High pedagogical competence of academic staff
- Better recognition of teaching and learning



# Four main approaches to improve quality in higher education



Reward for teaching excellence



Peer review of education



Competitive funding scheme



Indicator portal



# White Paper: Long-term plan for Research and Higher Education 2019–2028 (LTP)

Overall aims:

- Enhanced competitiveness and innovation capacity in Norwegian business and industry
- Tackling major societal challenges
- Developing research communities of outstanding quality



# LTP: Thematic priorities and investment plans

## Thematic priorities:

- Oceans
- Climate, environment, and clean energy
- Public sector innovation for better and more efficient services
- Enabling and industrial technologies
- Civic protection and social cohesion in a globalised world

## Spending commitments 2019–2022 in three investment plans:

- NOK 800 million on new technologies
- NOK 450 million on R&D supporting innovative and adaptive businesses
- **NOK 250 million on improving quality in higher education**
  - 85 million in 2019



# New funding scheme from 2018

Based on *Culture for Quality*, and Long-term Plan

## "programme for student-active learning" :

- 40 mill. NOK in 2018 call for projects that will develop, explore, evaluate and make use of student-active learning methods and assessment methods encouraging learning
- Open to all fields and disciplines
- Projects should relate to whole study programmes, or major courses or modules
- Max. NOK 5 mill. per project – 3-year period
  - next call in 2020



# Diku: New government agency from 2018

Diku: Norwegian Agency for International Cooperation and Quality Enhancement in Higher Education

A merger of

- Centre for internationalisation of education (Erasmus+ NA)
- Programme for artistic research
- Norway Opening Universities (digitalisation)

[See <https://diku.no/en>](https://diku.no/en)



# Way forward

- A new white paper on international student mobility
- A new white paper on co-operation between working life and higher education, and relevance of higher education programmes



Photos: Tone Flood Strøm





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**Thank you!**



Photo: Tone Flood Strøm

