

## Research plan

Norwegian Constitution Bicentennial 2014  
research initiative



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research initiative**

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# 1. Summary

This research plan describes the strategic focus of the research initiative and forms the basis for the call for proposals for funding in autumn 2010.

The objective of the bicentennial celebration of the Constitution and the related research initiative is to shed light on the importance of democracy and the constitutional state, historically and in the present day, and on future challenges. The research initiative is multidisciplinary, with scientific emphasis primarily on the fields of law, political science and history. Research projects based in other areas of the humanities and social sciences will also be of relevance.

In Norway, the Constitution has historically played an important role in the political development of the country, both directly and as a unifying national symbol. The research initiative is to focus on three thematic priority areas:

- The historical significance of the Constitution for Norway's evolution as a democratic state in a global society. Historical and international perspectives.
- Democratic challenges and dilemmas in Norwegian society, the relationship between law and politics, participation and confidence in democratic institutions.
- Challenges to democracy in a global society. The relationship between national, international and supranational law, and the role and importance of the constitutional state (*Rechtsstaat*) for democracy, welfare development and nation-building.

Three thematic priority areas have been identified for the research initiative but associated topics will also be given consideration. The initiative will provide funding for research projects, conferences and

other events and networking activities. A major portion of the funding available will be granted to research projects.

- Priority will be given to projects that seek to develop comprehensive or fundamental overviews or theories.
- Individual projects may have a historical long-term perspective, focus on one or more specific brief historical periods, discuss theoretically defined topics or discuss contemporary topics outside of any specific historical dimension.
- Relevant research projects may be multi-disciplinary or interdisciplinary or have a more narrowly defined scientific focus. Projects may also vary in scope, ranging from large-scale, integrated projects in which several institutions participate to smaller projects carried out by individual researchers.
- Applicants are encouraged to make projects comparative and/or to include international perspectives.
- The research must be completed so that results can be published and disseminated before or at the latest in 2014.
- In order to be eligible for funding, researchers must already have a basis in areas relevant to the thematic priorities of the research initiative. No funding will be granted for doctoral or post-doctoral fellowships under this initiative, but fellowship-holders who can document that they already possess an independent basis in relevant scientific areas may participate in projects. Grant proposals should seek to incorporate perspectives from current relevant research in Norway, in other countries or internationally, or to expand upon existing projects.



## 2. Background

The expert committee in charge of the research initiative was appointed on 21 May 2010 by the Research Council of Norway at the initiative of the General Committee for the Bicentennial Celebration of the Constitution in 2014. The General Committee was appointed by the Storting (Norwegian parliament) and has overall responsibility for the celebration of the bicentennial anniversary. The committee is chaired by the President of the Storting. The guiding theme for the celebration is the importance of and challenges faced by democracy in our society, and the importance of broad-based engagement and participation in the entire range of democratic institutions. The bicentennial celebration is to have a forward-looking perspective.

The expert committee's terms of reference and other relevant documents may be found on the Research Council's website. [www.forskningsradet.no/grunnlov](http://www.forskningsradet.no/grunnlov)

This document is based on the terms of reference and input and suggestions received during and in connection with the research conference held in Oslo on 17 June 2010. The document is to serve as the basis for the allocation of a majority of the funding designated for research projects and events and some of the funding for networking activities.

### **3. Objective of the research initiative**

The objective of this initiative is to help to shed light on important issues related to the Constitution and democratic governance in the past, present and future. Taking the Norwegian Constitution as its starting point, the research initiative will seek to arrive at general, fundamental descriptions of and theses regarding the Norwegian form of democracy compared with the democratic systems of other times and other states, why democracy has taken its particular form in Norway, how far democracy has come, which general democratic issues have predominated at different times and how these may have been resolved, the impact of globalisation – and in particular Europeanisation – on Norwegian democracy and which distinctive democratic challenges society is facing today.

The research initiative should be instrumental in determining which issues will play a central role in the celebration of the bicentennial anniversary of the Constitution. It is also intended to enhance the standing of Norwegian researchers in the context of Norway's role in the development of democracy and constitutional principles at the international level.

## 4. Research questions and thematic areas

The research initiative will focus particularly on three thematic priority areas:

- The historical significance of the Constitution for Norway's development as a democratic state in a global society. Historical and international perspectives.
- Democratic challenges and dilemmas in Norwegian society, the relationship between law and politics, participation and confidence in democratic institutions.
- The challenges facing democracy in a global society. The relationship between national, international and supranational law, and the role of the constitutional state and its importance for democracy, the development of welfare and nation-building.

### Thematic priority area 1

The first thematic priority area focuses directly on the Norwegian Constitution and its significance. The term "Norwegian Constitution" encompasses the Constitution signed on 17 May 1814, the November Constitution (which from a Norwegian standpoint was merely an amendment of the 17 May Constitution) and subsequent amendments. This thematic area also covers the conditions that gave rise to the Constitution, both the developments in the history of ideas and the historical events and acts leading up to its adoption, and subsequent political and judicial activities within the scope of and in connection with its provisions.

The Norwegian Constitution was adopted during a period of international constitutional development. In a great many countries, over several decades extending before and after 1800, many draft

constitutions were drawn up in writing and adopted. Between 1776 and 1850, a total of 800 draft constitutions are said to have been framed. The situation in Norway should be studied against this backdrop. The fact that the Norwegian Constitution has endured while most of the others were soon amended or never adopted is particularly noteworthy. Is this due to the content or the linguistic style of the Norwegian constitution, or to unique political constellations in the period that followed? One aspect that invites comparison is the principled formulation of the Norwegian Constitution. The texts of the new constitutions could be both revolutionary and reactionary. The introduction of the modern constitutions raises specific questions relating to continuity in the evolution from the preceding period.

The constitutions were often an expression of the idea of the sovereignty of the people, which must be seen as crucial to the development of democracy. In terms of the history of ideas, the concept of democracy itself is important because from the 18th to the 19th centuries its connotation changed from negative to positive, even though this was no straight-line process. At the same time, the meaning of the concept underwent a shift from direct to representative democracy. It is important to understand the historical dimension of the concept of democracy in order to grasp the constitutional ideology of the time and its relationship to constitutional principles. This type of historical approach is also relevant in relation to the democratic challenges posed by supranationality in our own era. Similar historical processes of change can also be studied with regard to other concepts that were pivotal during the drafting of the Constitution, such as freedom, equality, people, state and nation.

Inherent in the Constitution and the thinking from which it emerged, there was tension throughout the 19th century between liberal constitutional ideas and elements of democratic governance. The democratic system was strengthened through political battles and setbacks, in which popular movements played a key role. The Constitution as an instrument of protection for the Norwegian state within the Swedish-Norwegian union and as the justification cited by the Storting majority in arguments against the Government was to a

certain degree incompatible with the desire for further democratisation, particularly proposals to extend the franchise.

The further historical development of the role of the Constitution in Norwegian constitutional law is another possible topic of study, particularly Norway's constitutional conservatism in the 19th century, which can largely be ascribed to Norway's relationship with its union partner, Sweden, and their joint monarch. At the same time, there was an innate democratic potential in the Norwegian Constitution due to the provisions prescribing that laws could be enacted without royal sanction by passing three Storting resolutions and that constitutional amendments and budget and tax resolutions could also be adopted without royal sanction. Admittedly, the latter issues were highly controversial. Still, the Norwegian separation of powers differed somewhat from the structure laid down in other constitutions. An extension of this is found in the emergence of the Norwegian variant of a parliamentary system that achieved a breakthrough in connection with the impeachment process in 1884, and which was later permanently established and formalised to some extent by constitutional amendments, most recently in 2007.

Traditionally, in European legal systems, the power to establish and implement foreign policy lay to a greater degree with the regent than was the case in other spheres of activity. This imbalance was a particularly important factor in paving the way for the democratic breakthrough. What role did the Norwegian Constitution play in this respect?

To some extent, the 1814 Constitution was an expression of a programme for a new society. One research task of interest could be to study this type of social planning and the extent to which the programmes were carried out, such as the adoption of new law codes and free enterprise.

The Constitution had a unifying effect on the nation and helped to build a sense of national community. At the same time, the country was divided into different regions and local communities. The extent to which this was reflected in the differing approaches to the

Constitution and the national institutions, both in 1814 and later on, could be a topic for research. This also applies, for that matter, to the regions' varying orientations towards different foreign countries (Sweden, the UK, Russia, Denmark and later Finland).

The Nordic perspective is distinctive in international historical terms, because the foundation for the modern Nordic region, i.e. the territories and, to some degree, their constitutions, was laid in the period 1809-1815. The Norwegian Constitution is part of this Nordic picture. It must be seen in relation to both Denmark and Sweden, and can be compared to Finland's situation in relation to Russia. Since 1814, peace has reigned between the Nordic countries, which prior to that had regularly waged war on one another. Another Nordic-oriented topic is the degree to which the Norwegian Constitution at times served as a political model for Norway's neighbours.

A new constitutional period emerged after 1989, perhaps especially in Europe following the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. Many new constitutions have been drafted and adopted. Furthermore, the constitutional status of supranational systems such as the EU is a subject of debate. This evolution invites comparative investigations of what are perceived to be central constitutional issues today, and of how the Norwegian, and possibly other older constitutions address such issues. This topic is relevant under both Thematic Priority Area 1 and Thematic Priority Area 3.

In addition to regulating Norway's internal political structure, the Norwegian Constitution also contains provisions regarding Norway's independence in Article 1, regarding its relationship to foreign states, both the competence to conclude treaties and provisions governing warfare, and regarding its relationship to international organisations (Article 93). In connection with the celebration in 2005 of the centennial anniversary of the peaceful dissolution of the Swedish-Norwegian union, considerable research was conducted on the substance of the union, which was a foreign policy and, more particularly, a security policy arrangement. It therefore also strongly regulated Norway's relations with other countries, although the Storting gradually developed its own brand of foreign policy,

especially in the form of a foreign trade policy, and gradually also a security policy (for instance through the arbitration movement). Little research has been carried out on the Storting's foreign policy. On the whole, Norway's relations with other states and international organisations, both around 1814, and in a more long-term perspective up to the present, as well as relevant analyses of the current situation are important secondary aspects relating to the Constitution. A line can be drawn to the issue of the EEA Agreement and Norway's other agreements with the EU and potential EU membership, all of which are research questions which chiefly belong under Thematic Priority Area 3.

Another possible topic that bears on the significance of the Constitution is the study of all the proposed constitutional amendments that have been presented over the years and that were not adopted, and the degree to which the adoption of these proposals might have changed the course of history.

## **Thematic priority area 2**

The second thematic priority area addresses democratic challenges and dilemmas in Norwegian society, exemplified by the relationship between law and politics, as well as participation and confidence in democratic institutions. These must be interpreted as challenges and dilemmas primarily at the national level because the international dimensions are specifically targeted under Thematic Priority Area 3. In an analysis, however, it will not always be possible to maintain a clear distinction between the national and the international level.

The classic conflict between law and politics emerges in the interface between the Constitution's protection of established positions, both property and activities, and the need for new statutory regulation, such as the abolition of exclusive rights to economic activity and control of hydroelectric power, legislation prohibiting construction work on private property close to the sea, nature conservation legislation and the like. In the last few decades, the conflict between law and politics

has taken on other attributes through what has often been called the judicialisation of politics. There are at least three dimensions to this process. Firstly, it can be said to indicate a trend in which rights, such as the right to welfare goods, are established in statutory form so that they are no longer subject to the discretion of politicians or experts. Secondly, it represents a way of looking at the effect of the strengthened, expanding protection of human rights, which gives individuals expanded rights vis-à-vis the state. The current effort to assess whether expanded human rights protection should be made a constitutional right in Norway to some extent brings this discussion back to a national level. Thirdly, there is the dimension relating to the impact of EEA legislation, which Norway is obliged to implement under the EEA Agreement. This imposes numerous limitations on the Constitution's general legislative competence, and thus on business policy and the regulation of the relationship between state, municipalities and the market. In addition, there are other EU-related agreements which also affect Norwegian legislation.

Today the issue of minority rights poses a democratic dilemma. The Norwegian Constitution long contained provisions that excluded certain groups from the community or from the country. As from 1814, Jews, Jesuits and monastic orders were banned from the country. Jews were granted entry in 1851, but the other groups were not admitted until much later. Full religious freedom was not established until 1964. It will be important to further explore the dimension of the Constitution relating to religions or beliefs, both its earlier form and the way this dimension may still be embedded in constitutional thinking.

Questions concerning the significance of citizenship will also be of interest: for instance, only Norwegian nationals have the right to hold certain offices. How has thinking as regards the significance of citizenship been manifested in the Constitution in the past?

More recently, a provision has been added concerning special rights for an individual group. Since 1988, the Sami people have enjoyed special constitutional protection of their language, culture and way of life. Other minorities have not been granted corresponding status.



What is the significance of this provision in principle? To what degree should constitutions have universal rules or provide for differential treatment?

These issues largely concern participation. The challenges related to participation in, and confidence in, democratic institutions have both historical and contemporary dimensions. Historically, they concern in part the demands for and the right to participation, particularly the right to vote and eligibility to run for political office, and in part the exercise of the right to vote and representation in the exercise of public office. This is related, among other things, to the popular movements' demand for expanded suffrage and to minorities' demands for the right to participation. In our day and age, there are also certain issues relating to the right to vote, since only Norwegian nationals are entitled to vote in general elections. In county council and municipal council elections, on the other hand, the right to vote is extended to persons other than Norwegian nationals.

An integral aspect of the issue of participation is forms of political activity. Open Storting meetings represented a new level of public debate of political issues, but the requirements of freedom of assembly and freedom of political expression had to be met before there could be said to be general political openness. And as recently as in 2008, the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg handed down a judgment against Norway on account of its prohibition of political advertising on television.

Although the issue of confidence in institutions is linked to the right to participate, full voting rights do not necessarily mean that the level of confidence is high. Among other things, confidence in political institutions appears to vary in the different Nordic countries despite the fact that the political systems are very similar. This invites comparative studies, at least at Nordic level, and analyses of the essential prerequisites for well-functioning participation in and confidence in the systems.

## Thematic priority area 3

The third thematic priority area addresses democracy's challenges and opportunities in a global society. This is related in part to the international process of judicialisation referred to under Thematic Priority Area 2 above. Since World War II, international treaties between states have evolved into supranational arrangements. This applies in particular to the evolution of the EU, with which Norway has a complex relationship through the EEA Agreement and other EU-related treaties. Democratic theory was largely developed on the basis of nation-states and federal systems of government. Supranationality in the EU, based on a common, general treaty and competence to enact legislation for the community, combined with the requirement that EU law takes precedence over national law, including national constitutions, raises thorny theoretical and practical issues in relation to democratic governance theory. What can democracy mean in such a context? The further need for international governance in relation to global environmental problems brings these questions even more to the fore. This trend raises problems with regard to the legitimacy of international bodies and norms, while also highlighting the natural legitimacy afforded by the Norwegian Constitution.

From a constitutional viewpoint, the process of international integration is putting the traditional distinction between domestic and foreign policy to the test. In the theory of separation of powers, foreign policy has basically always been the remit of the executive power and has thus been further removed from democratic control. But when the topics that have traditionally been domestic policy issues are discussed and, to some extent, decided in international and supranational bodies, new arrangements are required in the system of governance. Which alternative links between law and democracy can be identified? And are there framework conditions at the supranational level that could help to offset the negative consequences of globalised capitalism for national democracy?

The debates on a democratic deficit in the EU acquire a special dimension where Norway is concerned due to Norway's special affiliation with the EU through the EEA. Norway does not participate in the EU's decision-making bodies other than in connection with preparatory processes and, if relevant, as a party to negotiations. At the same time, Norway is in practical terms bound by all the rules adopted with regard to the internal market, except in respect of fisheries and agriculture. Economic and monetary cooperation also lie outside the EEA agreement. This democratic paradox invites closer analysis.

At the interface between the Constitution and supranational systems is Article 93 of the Constitution, which provides a basis for decisions regarding the transfer of constitutional powers to international organisations. Analysing this provision and its limits in a comparative perspective is a potential topic for research.

The role and significance of the constitutional state (*Rechtsstaat*) in respect of democracy, welfare development and nation-building are linked to some extent to the aforementioned international dimension, assuming a constitutional state is perceived as a requirement that norms must be firmly established as frameworks for social development and political action. In Norwegian historical and social science debate, the *Rechtsstaat* discussion has been pivotal to the understanding of the character of Norway as a state *bureaucracy* in the 19th century. A constitutional state can also generally be understood to mean a state governed by law and not by an autocratic ruler. Another approach to the concept of a constitutional state is the legal concept of rule of law, which in turn is related to traditional human rights standards. All these meanings are indicative of the dual function of constitutions: to establish a basis for the actions of the state and to set limits for such actions, both between the various government bodies and between citizens and government bodies. By analysing the relationship between the constitutional state, democracy and welfare development, it will be possible to frame a theory as to the optimal combination of these components, both real and theoretical, that most people would agree belong to a well-organised state. Historically, all these three elements are present in the building

of the Norwegian nation as we know it. Thus the analysis will also be able to contribute to a general understanding of the formation of Norway over a period of 200 years.

## Other topics

In addition to the three thematic priority areas that are to be covered by the research initiative, other topics relating to the Constitution and the bicentennial celebration will also be considered for funding. The following examples may be mentioned: the Norwegian Constitution appears to have occupied a more central place in the collective consciousness of the nation than in most other countries, except for the US. If this is the case, a comparative study of the question should be carried out in order to identify the causes. Another striking characteristic is that Norway's national day commemorates the day the Constitution was signed, and not some other historical event. Sweden, for instance, celebrates the Swedish flag day, which did not originate in the adoption of a constitution, Denmark celebrates both its Constitution Day and its Queen's birthday, Finland, Iceland and the US celebrate their declarations of independence, France celebrates the storming of the Bastille and Germany the Day of National Unity (*Tag der Deutschen Einheit* (1990)). In the UK, the celebration of the Queen's birthday is a kind of national day. Is the key role of the Norwegian Constitution and the way its contents are perceived determinant for what can or should be called the Norwegian identity? Another obvious topic would be to research the way the Constitution has been celebrated on earlier occasions, from the 25th anniversary celebration up to the present. Such research calls for broader humanistic and social science perspectives than those already mentioned. These could, for instance, be a historical sociological approach or interdisciplinary cultural research.

As may be seen from the review of the thematic priority areas, a variety of subjects may be involved in the study of all three areas. For some projects, it is also clear that a multi-disciplinary or interdisciplinary approach could produce significant results.

## 5. Scientific perspectives

While law, political science and history are the main subjects in the research initiative, valuable contributions are also to be found in other humanities and social science subjects.

Within the field of law, the traditional disciplines of constitutional law and international law will be particularly important. Among newer disciplines, EU and EEA law, human rights law, WTO law and international environmental law will be especially relevant. An understanding, based on legal history, of the Constitution and the premises on which it is based, and of the role played by the Constitution (both the 17 May Constitution and the November Constitution) subsequent to 1814, will also be relevant. A constitution establishes or maintains the structure of a state, defining its main bodies and distributing government functions among them. It also draws the dividing lines between individuals and the state. The division of political power between government bodies is a key focus in the study of democratic governance. Constitutional issues relate particularly to the relationship between individual and state, but also concern the enforcement functions of government bodies. Treaties have imposed constraints on states both before and throughout the last 200 years. In the past two decades, this tendency has been taken to a different level in qualitative terms, particularly as a result of the process of European integration and the transformation of human rights law in Europe. Traditional perceptions of government and international law must thus be considered in a different light. The legal interplay between new norms of this type and the associated institutional systems are among the most important legal issues of our time. A number of other research questions in the interface between law and political science are emerging in the wake of this trend.

In the field of political science, focus will be given to research on the functions of the central branches of government as defined by the Constitution, and the way these functions have changed. Given today's globalised context, where many of the parameters for

democracy and the development of law are set outside the borders of the nation-state, research that takes account of the interplay between global and national development will be important. Cooperation between legal and political science approaches will also be particularly relevant. The study of democratic elements and practices in the context of democratic governance will be of central importance. To what extent can the constitutions adopted in 1814 be characterised as democratic and how have they developed in the course of the following two centuries? Electoral systems and public debate and their function in mobilising or curtailing popular participation are relevant factors in this connection. To what extent is the Constitution's separation of powers realistic in relation to actual power structures today, at the international political level, in terms of the internal division between markets and politics, and in relation to the judicialisation of these relations, through the complex processes of European integration in particular. More general democracy theory perspectives are also appropriate here insofar as they also relate to the Norwegian type of democratic governance and constitutional and welfare state.

In the field of history, political history will be of key importance. A key task in this context is to provide a synthesised interpretation of the conditions giving rise to and the results of the events in 1814, with focus on the framing and maintenance of the Constitution as the core element. This could incorporate both the fundamental framework relating to the history of ideas and the complex interplay between international and national scopes of action and the actions of the various players within this. The Norwegian Constitution was adopted in a year that came at the very end of the revolutionary and Napoleonic era, before the Restoration took hold in Europe in 1815. The Norwegian political system was developed, or rather was achieved, with considerable effort, in an unusual situation in which a relatively democratic constitution was combined with a union monarchy. This invites comparative analyses of the evolution of nation-states. From a historical viewpoint, the development of the right to vote is of key importance. In 1913, women, too, were granted the general right to vote in parliamentary elections. Only at that point might it be said that all the prerequisites for democratic governance

were established. However, historical research on the evolution of the right to vote and social inclusion could provide important insights, possibly in combination with political science perspectives. Furthermore, a great deal of what has already been said on the subject of law and political science will apply to in the field of history as well.

Humanities and social science subjects other than those mentioned above may also provide a basis for research on the main issues, either in independent projects or as part of an inter-disciplinary project. The extent to which the subjects help to shed light on the thematic priority areas will be decisive.

## 6. Strategic perspectives

This research initiative addresses major, important issues, and 2014 is not far off. However, many of the main research questions relating to the initiative are being or have been addressed in other contexts, through national and international research activities and studies. Research activities carried out in the lead-up to 2014 must build further on knowledge acquired through already existing or completed efforts – by taking these one step further, testing or criticising their findings, or by relating these directly to ongoing projects.

There is reason to believe that research to be carried out in other countries, both at the general level and in connection with current and forthcoming bicentennial celebrations of various important events that occurred during and after the Napoleonic Wars, can serve as a source of valuable input. The committee wishes to emphasise that it is crucial to view Norwegian constitutional research in a comparative perspective, and that links to international research and research groups will be essential in this respect.

Links to a number of relevant research projects, both concluded and ongoing, may be found on the research initiative's website [www.forskningsradet.no/grunnlov](http://www.forskningsradet.no/grunnlov).



## 7. Overall priorities and guidelines

In allocating funding for projects, the Research Board of the Division for Science is seeking to provide support for projects related to all three thematic priority areas, but there is no stipulation that all the issues mentioned in section 4 above must be covered. Projects that are related to the three thematic priority areas in other ways than those described above will also be eligible for funding. Priority will be given to approaches that are directly related to the Norwegian Constitution, and not just to Norwegian history in general. Importance will also be attached to ensuring that some of the projects granted funding incorporate international and/or comparative perspectives. Cooperation with international research groups will also be an important criterion.

In order to be eligible for funding, researchers must already have a basis in areas relevant to the thematic priorities of the research initiative. No funding will be granted for doctoral or post-doctoral fellowships under this initiative, but fellowship-holders who can document that they already possess an independent basis in relevant scientific areas may participate in projects. Grant proposals that seek to incorporate perspectives from current relevant research in Norway, in other countries or internationally, or that seek to expand upon existing projects, will be viewed in a favourable light. A description of how such research will be incorporated into the project must be included in the project description. Grant proposals may include the short-term engagement of a certain number of researchers, for example, to continue research activities already underway.

Projects may be carried out by individual researchers or larger, more extensive research groups. Funding may also be sought for events such as national and international researcher conferences. Grant proposals for such activities must include a description of how the

conference relates to the research initiative's thematic priority areas and its role in the dissemination of results.

The fact that the research initiative is being implemented in connection with the bicentennial celebration of the Constitution sets certain limitations. In order to be considered for funding, the projects must be able to be completed such that the research findings may be published and disseminated no later than in 2014. When assessing grant proposals, importance will be attached to the documented ability of the applicants to carry out projects in accordance with established time schedules and to communicate the results of their research. The expert committee will organise seminars and other meeting places for participants from projects funded under the research initiative relatively quickly. The aim of these measures will be to allow results and basic knowledge that may be of interest across the projects to be presented at an early stage.

## **8. International cooperation**

The expert committee aims to establish international cooperation with relevant research initiatives in other countries for the purpose of linking these to activities under the research initiative. Cooperation with other Nordic countries is one obvious starting point, but other European countries, as well as the US, are also relevant partners. Applicants should also try to identify partners and involve them in the projects for which they are seeking funding.

## 9. Communication and dissemination activities

The expert committee will draw up a plan for communication and dissemination activities at a later date. The plan will provide a basis for effective communication between the various projects that are awarded funding. It is essential that those receiving funding under the research initiative take part in the seminars and meetings of researchers initiated by the committee. The plan will also provide a foundation for communication with the Storting's General Committee for the Bicentennial Celebration of the Constitution. Researchers involved in projects being carried out under the initiative may also be invited to participate in relevant activities in this respect. In addition, one of the objectives of the research initiative is to promote broad public debate both in the lead-up to and during the anniversary year, through the implementation of a series of public-oriented dissemination activities. These could take the form of the presentation of research findings to groups and institutions involved in organising events in connection with the bicentennial celebration, for example. Applicants should indicate the potential role of their proposed project in communication and dissemination activities.

# 10. Organisation of the research initiative

## Expert committee and secretariat

The overall responsibility for the research initiative lies with the Research Board of the Division for Science, which has appointed an expert committee to lead the initiative. The expert committee acts on behalf of the Research Council and is charged with ensuring that the research initiative meets its designated objectives and that these are implemented within the parameters approved by the division research board.

The expert committee has been appointed until the end of 2014 and comprises the following members:

Professor *Ola Mestad*, Centre for European Law, University of Oslo, Chair

Professor *Astri Andresen*, Department of Archaeology, History, Cultural Studies and Religion, University of Bergen, Deputy Chair

*Helge Jordheim*, Researcher, Department of Literature, Area Studies and European Languages, University of Oslo

*Helene Sjursen*, Research Professor, ARENA – Centre for European Studies, University of Oslo

Professor *Bo Stråth*, Academy of Finland Distinguished Professor in Nordic, European and World History, University of Helsinki

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# **11. Budget and timeframe**

The research initiative has a budget of NOK 40 million for the four-year period. Of this, NOK 25 million is set aside for research projects and large-scale scientific events. A further NOK 10 million will be dedicated to networking activities by the relevant research groups. The remaining NOK 5 million will be allocated by the expert committee to cover the costs of the activities/events it itself chooses to initiate.

The call for proposals for research projects will be issued on 1 September 2010 with a deadline for submission of grant proposals of 13 October 2010.

The deadline for submission of grant proposals for funding of scientific events/conferences and networking measures will be open-ended.



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