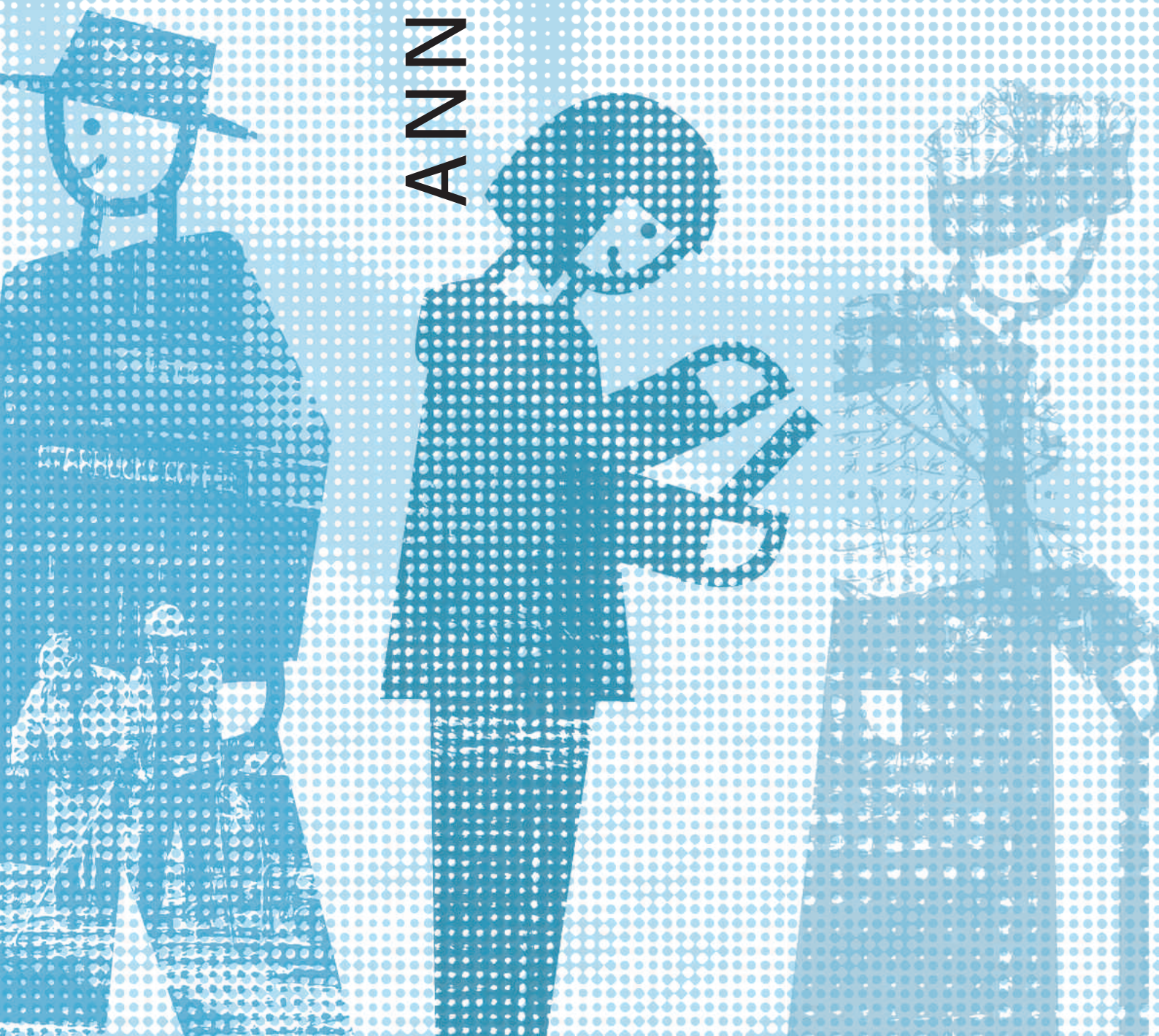


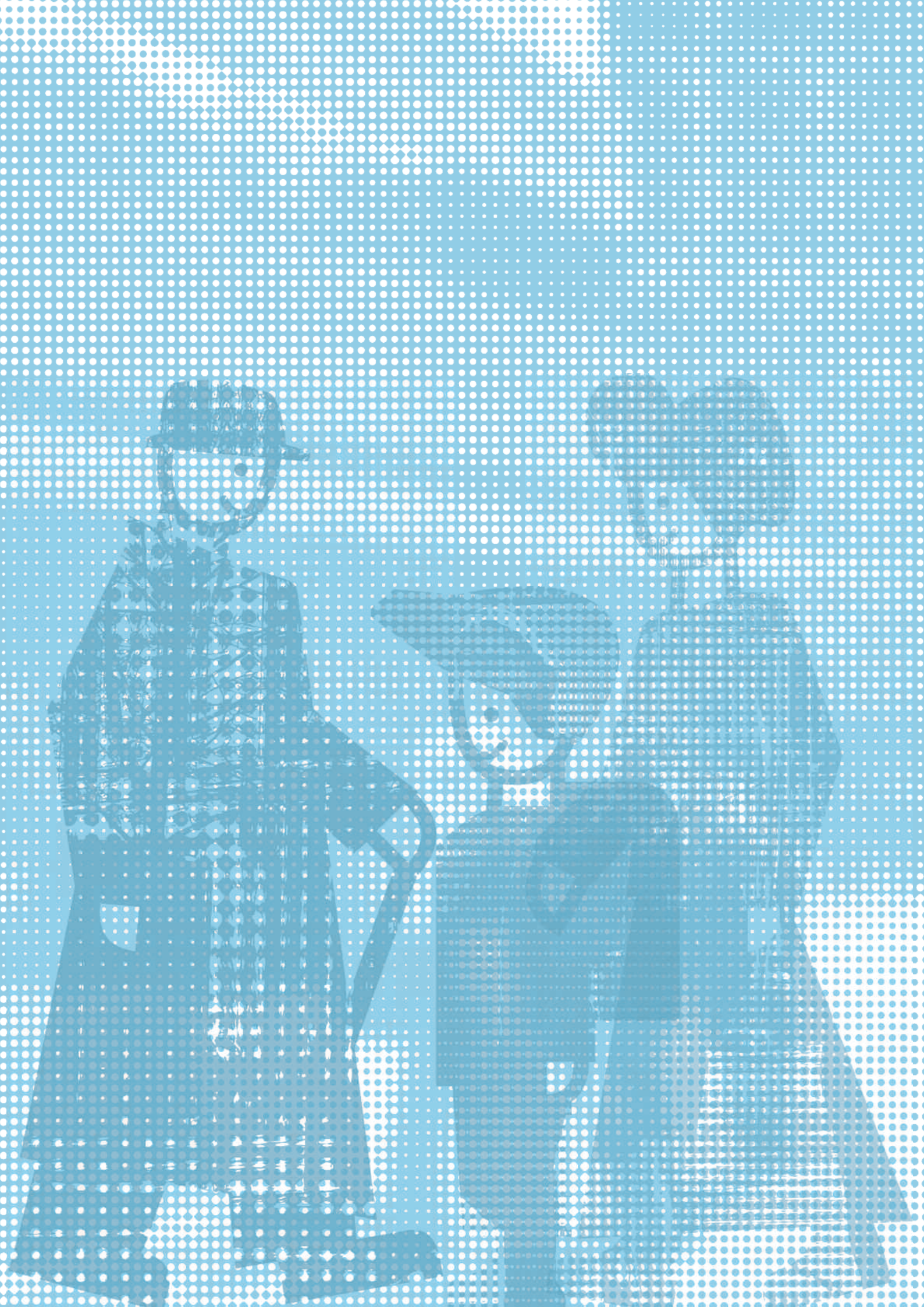
2015

ANNUAL REPORT

NSD

NORWEGIAN CENTRE
FOR RESEARCH DATA





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Report of the Director

The knowledge, on which our future society will be based, is generated through research. Good, relevant data are the most important single factor needed to develop a knowledge based understanding of modern society. Research data must be processed and communicated if its value is to be realised, and it needs to be preserved and made searchable and available to researchers. Such efforts require both expertise and experience. It is this expertise and experience NSD has achieved through 45 years.

Today, NSD is a centre of expertise with a staff of almost 100, and is an important component of Norway's research infrastructure. This is true not only for the social sciences, our traditional point of departure, but also for the humanities as well as medicine and health. This breadth forms the background for NSD's recent change of name, from Norwegian Social Science Data Services to Norwegian Centre for Research Data. It was important for us to retain our "brand name" – NSD, which is deeply rooted in the consciousness of national and international researchers.

As a facilitator of research data, NSD has become an ever more comprehensive collaborator for researchers and students. In the future, NSD will work to strengthen its communication with the research community. This is essential to our social mission, and is therefore given a central place in NSD's new Strategic Plan, which was adopted in 2015. It is in coordinated activity with users that our potential will become reality. Data sharing on the basis of the Open Access principle offers extremely important opportunities to Norwegian research.

This has been, and remains, the basis of all of NSD's activities: data are a common good.


BJØRN HENRICHSEN
Director

NORD-i

The Research Council of Norway has allocated NOK 26 mill to NSD for the development of one of its core activities: archiving and disseminating research data. The Norwegian Open Research Data Infrastructure (NORD-i), which is led by NSD, is to be implemented in partnership with the UK Data Archive and ICPSR (Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research).

Objectives

NSD is a national archive for research data, and is one of the largest of its kind in the world. Its main objective is to simplify access to good, relevant data for research purposes. This is obtained by collecting, processing, facilitating, archiving, maintaining and disseminating data to research communities, and ensuring that data are available in a form that is suitable for research without major legal, economic or practical costs for users. NSD also offers services and advice on data gathering, research design, data analysis, methodology, privacy protection and research ethics.

Organisation

NSD was founded in 1971 as a unit affiliated to the Research Council of Norway. In 2003 it was established as an independent limited company fully owned by the Ministry of Education and Research. NSD's Board of Directors possesses a wide range of professional expertise, as required by its mandate from the Ministry.

National Cooperation

As in previous years, NSD has laid particular stress on cooperating with a number of other institutions, with the aim of delivering and constantly improving its wide range of services for educational and research institutions.

Since 1975, **Statistics Norway (SSB)** and NSD have collaborated formally in facilitating and distributing SSB's data to Norwegian research institutions, thus providing researchers with extremely good conditions compared to those of colleagues in other countries.

Since 1981, the **Norwegian Data Protection Authority** and NSD have collaborated on privacy protection issues to ease the performance of research projects. NSD is the privacy protection official for 139 research institutions. The prime objective of this collaboration is to support institutions in the fulfilment of their legal obligations as regards internal control and quality assurance of their research, while safeguarding the purposes and methods of their research. Among the tasks of the privacy protection official is to perform advance assessments of research and quality assurance projects with respect to the Personal Information Act and the Health Register Act. NSD follows up such projects with regard to changes, extended use and further processing of personal information in connection with project completion.

The **National Archives of Norway** and NSD share a long tradition of informal cooperation in the archiving and reuse of research



PHOTO: KATINKA HUSTAD

«NSD is quite unique in an international context»

Johannes Bergh,
Researcher at
the Institute for
Social Research

Responsible for Election
Studies Databank (held by NSD)

– I use, and have used, NSD in many ways. Studies of parliamentary elections are what I am most involved in, says Johannes Bergh, election researcher at the Institute for Social Research.

NSD maintains a databank of studies from the General Elections of 1957 to 2013, and Bergh regards these as a gold mine. The election study is a research project that analyses elections, their results, voting behaviour and voter attitudes over time. NSD collects and organises the data, election by election.

– I am particularly pleased that the parliamentary elections studies are accessible to both researchers and others. NSD has done a good job in this regard. This is an important democratic resource, says Bergh. In spite of political aims in that direction, making data open and accessible is still not a matter of course in the academic world.

– NSD is quite unique in an international context. Several other countries are trying to make data more available, but none of them has a central body that does so in the same way as NSD in Norway. This means that we have data of quite a different quality than many other countries. Bergh has also collaborated with NSD on developing the School Election Study, which was recently carried out in connection with the 2015 National School Election. He has since used data from this in his work on the trials of voting rights for 16-year-olds.

– The School Election Study has given us a remarkable body of material, especially because this young age group is not particularly well covered in other connections. For me, NSD is quite simply essential, says Bergh.

data. This was formalised in 2014 through an agreement stating that NSD will archive publicly financed research data on behalf of the National Archives.

Since the establishment of NSD in 1971, the **Research Council of Norway** has played a central role with regard to both the scope and quality of NSD's services through its provision of basic and project financing, and by confiding important infrastructure tasks to NSD. For more than 30 years, the responsibility for archiving of data financed by the Research Council of Norway has been with NSD.

On behalf of the **Ministry of Education and Research**, NSD operates the Database for statistics on higher education and provides various services to the Ministry and institutions in the university and college sector, doing so in close collaboration with the Ministry that also supports the task economically.

International Cooperation

Through its involvement in international organisations and its binding collaboration in a large number of projects, NSD contributes to the development of Nordic, European and international infrastructure for the social sciences, humanities and health sciences. This type of cooperation provides access to data and expertise for NSD's users in Norway, while also ensuring that Norwegian researchers can participate in and enjoy access to resources that have been generated at international level. This cooperation also makes data about Norway more accessible as a part of the data used in international analyses.

The most central international organisations of which NSD is a member:

- NSD is the Norwegian *Service Provider* for the Consortium for European Social Science Data Archives (CESSDA), www.cessda.net
- International Federation of Data Organizations for the Social Science (IFDO), www.ifdo.org
- International Social Survey Programme (ISSP), www.issp.org
- Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), www.icpsr.umich.edu
- International Social Survey Programme (ISSP), www.issp.org
- Data Documentation Initiative (DDI Alliance), ddialliance.org

NSD participates in a number of international joint projects that aim to simplify the development of, access to and use of research data across frontiers and languages:



PHOTO: EIVIND SENNESET

«This was the first time I used NSD, but it certainly won't be the last»

Lars Fredrik Svendsen,
Professor of Philosophy,
University of Bergen

Has used data from the "Level of Living" survey in writing "The Philosophy of Loneliness" (2015)

Philosophy and data tend not to head the list of popular ideas of subject combinations. However, data provided by NSD have helped to change such conceptions in Lars Fredrik Svendsen's most recent book project. – I wanted to study the incidence of loneliness and how it has evolved in recent years. Partly on the basis of press reports, I assumed that there had been a certain rise in loneliness. But Scandinavia also has the world's highest percentage of people who live alone, and their numbers are still increasing. I expected that the data would show that we have also become more lonely during the same period of time.

But Svendsen was forced to think again.

– The figures from the "Level of Living" survey show that loneliness is not on the rise. In fact, the figures are quite stable. And many more people than before say that they have a close friend. The data that I got from NSD sent the whole book project in a new and unexpected direction, and I am very pleased about that.

Svendsen is a moral philosopher and expert on Immanuel Kant, and is well known for his series of popular books about ordinary phenomena seen through the eyes of a professional philosopher. Last year's book about solitude is his latest so far. He says jokingly that he took up philosophy in order to avoid empirical data.

– But if you want to diagnose the state of society, you can't just lean back in your chair and make guesses, as this particular case quite clearly demonstrated. This was the first time I used NSD, but it certainly won't be the last.

Nordic Health Data

NSD is collaborating with its sister organisations in Denmark, Finland and Sweden, on the project “Making Nordic Health Data Visible”, which will make it easier to identify and locate health data in the Nordic countries.

Half-way through the project, a pilot web-service that permits metadata to be harvested from a number of sources has already been completed. This will make it possible to search for and find health data in the archives of all the Nordic countries. The service has been designed in such a way that it can also download information from sources outside the Nordic region, and even from other fields than health. Emphasis has been laid on making it as user-friendly as possible via a very simple user interface, and by offering pre-defined keywords and concepts that are particularly relevant to health data.

The two-year project, which will end in September 2016, is led by NSD and is financed by NordForsk.

- *CESSDA Strengthening and Widening (CESSDA SaW)* is an infrastructure project whose participants include CESSDA and European archives both within and external to the CESSDA collaboration. The aim of the project is to strengthen and expand collaboration, raise the quality of the archives that already form part of CESSDA and enable archives that are not currently incorporated in CESSDA to fulfil CESSDA's membership requirements. The project is financed by the European Union (Horizon2020).
- *Synergies for Europe's Research Infrastructures in the Social Sciences (SERISS)* is an infrastructure project in which the European Social Survey (ESS), the Survey for Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE), CESSDA, Generations and Gender Programme (GGP), the European Values Survey (EVS) and the WageIndicator Survey participate. The aim of the project is to draw up common supranational solutions to challenges related to survey design, data collection and data management. The project is financed by the European Union (Horizon2020).
- *CESSDA Metadata Harvesting Tool* is funded by CESSDA, and forms part of CESSDA's work plan. NSD coordinates this project and is responsible for a significant part of its development efforts.
- *CESSDA Metadata Management Project* is funded by CESSDA, and forms part of CESSDA's work-plan. The aim of the project is to implement a standardised metadata design that can be used for all the data resources in the CESSDA Product and Service Catalogue.
- *Making Nordic Health Data Visible*, is a network project in which the Danish, Finnish, Swedish and Norwegian social science data archives participate. The aim of the project is to study the prerequisites for a common portal for Nordic health research data. The project is financed by NordForsk and is led by NSD.
- *Data without Boundaries (DwB)*, was a cooperative project financed by the European Union in which European public statistics services and social science data archives participated. Its aim was to offer European researchers the best possible access to official data across international borders. This project came to an end in 2015.
- *The International Social Survey Programme (ISSP)* was established in 1984, and has 50 participating nations. The aim of the project is to carry out an annual cross national interview based survey of a central social science topic.
- *The European Social Survey (ESS ERIC)*, is a comparative interview based survey of values, attitudes and socio-economic conditions across more than 30 European countries. NSD holds the data archive and disseminates data for the ESS.
- *Current Research Information System (euroCRIS)*, is a forum for users of ICT in the fields of research information systems.

Services

NSD supplies services for researchers and students, research institutions, funding institutions and the authorities. Its services include access to international archives, archiving services, personal privacy services, software development and other support functions. NSD organises the National School Elections. As national infrastructure for research data, NSD offers services that liberate resources and capacity of executive research activity in the sectors, in step with changes in needs and conditions.

Data Archive

As national infrastructure for research data, NSD offers a comprehensive range of services to the university and college sector. The acquisition of data from producers such as researchers who generate data in the course of their research projects, documentation, quality assurance, and making such data suitable for re-use and long-term data storage, are therefore central aspects of NSD's activity. Other types of activity in this area include central tasks and functions that have been formulated in Norwegian and European research policy, for example in OECD's guidelines and the Research Council of Norway's policy on making research data generally available (Oslo, 2014). The activity is predicated on the principle of open access to research data, which has always been an important aspect of NSD's work and orientation.



A tool for Research

In 2015, NSD adopted a new major strategic plan that will provide the Company with guidelines for its activities during the coming four years (2016–2019). The plan is also intended to act as a general guide to the prioritisation and allocation of resources to different purposes, and the assessment of NSD's achievements in specific areas.

The Strategic Plan has been given the title: "A Tool for Research".

A significant amount of data archived by NSD has been generated or gathered in the course of projects financed by the Research Council of Norway. NSD also archives interview based surveys and a number of other types of data generated by Statistics Norway and other producers of data, such as international questionnaire surveys, universities and colleges, the institute sector and opinion polling institutes.

NSD's tasks as a national archive of research data financed by the Research Council of Norway has resulted in research projects in the humanities, social sciences, health and medicine, and environment and development being contractually required to deposit their data with NSD.

Statistics on Higher Education and Research

NSD's **Database for statistics on higher education (DBH)** is a central source of information on Norway's tertiary education sector, covering universities, colleges and vocational colleges, libraries and student welfare organisations. Data and data services provided by DBH are the foundation of a wide range of guidance data for policy design in this sector, and of statistics that can be adapted to meet a wide range of requirements. DBH contains data

and statistics about students, education, research, personnel, museums, area use, economics and company data. The data are easily available for research in these sectors, as well as for planning at both central ministry level and locally for individual institutions.

The reporting of data from Norwegian educational institutions is coordinated with SSB, the Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT), the Norwegian State Educational Loan Fund and the Norwegian Directorate of Health. Services have been developed that offer key figures and ready-made graphic material that can be downloaded automatically from DBH and presented on the educational institutions' own web-sites. Specially adapted statistics and web services have been developed for NOKUT, the Directorate of Health and The Ministry of Education and Research, among others.

A current topic in 2015 that concerned the university and college sector was student dropout rates, which generated a fair number of media reports in the course of the year. For the first time, precise dropout rates of Ph.D. students have been drawn up. NSD has collected individual data for this group from 2005 until the present day.

NSD's Municipality Database

The Municipality Database is regularly updated with new data, and at the end of 2015 it contained information about every single Norwegian municipality over a period of 250 years. The database comprises a large collection of data, including comprehensive documentation, the possibility of putting together time series with standardised units, and presenting data in thematic maps.

NSD's Ecclesiastical Database

NSD's Ecclesiastical Database comprises official statistics of baptisms, confirmations, marriages, funerals, etc. at individual congregation level. The information, which is gathered via KOSTRA, is available on NSD's website, and is used by researchers and by the Church of Norway in its reports.

The School Election

As usual, in connection with the municipal and county councils' elections in 2015, NSD organised the national School Election on behalf of the Norwegian Directorate of Education. The 2015 School Election was the 15th to be held since the series started in 1989, and it attracted the highest ever number of participants. Media coverage was also greater than ever before, since journalists, election researchers and other observers regard the School Election as an important indicator of the way the wind is blowing for the ordinary election that takes place the following week. NSD increased the scope of its contact with the media before, during and



PHOTO: JAN FREDRIK FRANTZEN

«We feel that we are looked after very well by NSD»

Heidi Johansen,
“Seventh Tromsø Survey”,
Project Manager

Has used NSD as data protection official and to develop questionnaires and technical solutions

What do you do when the population of an entire town are to be asked about their health? Just how do you get 33,000 out of 73,000 people to agree to respond to several hundred questions? And what about personal privacy and data protection issues?

– This is certainly a major task, and one that NSD has helped us to tackle efficiently and professionally, says Heidi Johansen, Project Manager of the Seventh Tromsø Survey.

The Tromsø Survey is Norway’s oldest and most wide-ranging population survey; it has been ongoing for 40 years and is unique at an international level. The survey elicits health data that provide basic information about risk factors, prevention and treatment of a wide range of illnesses.

– As our privacy protection official, NSD piloted us safely through our efforts to obtain the relevant concession from the Norwegian Data Inspectorate. We have dealt with a case officer who is both helpful and very competent, so we feel that we are looked after very well by NSD, says Johansen.

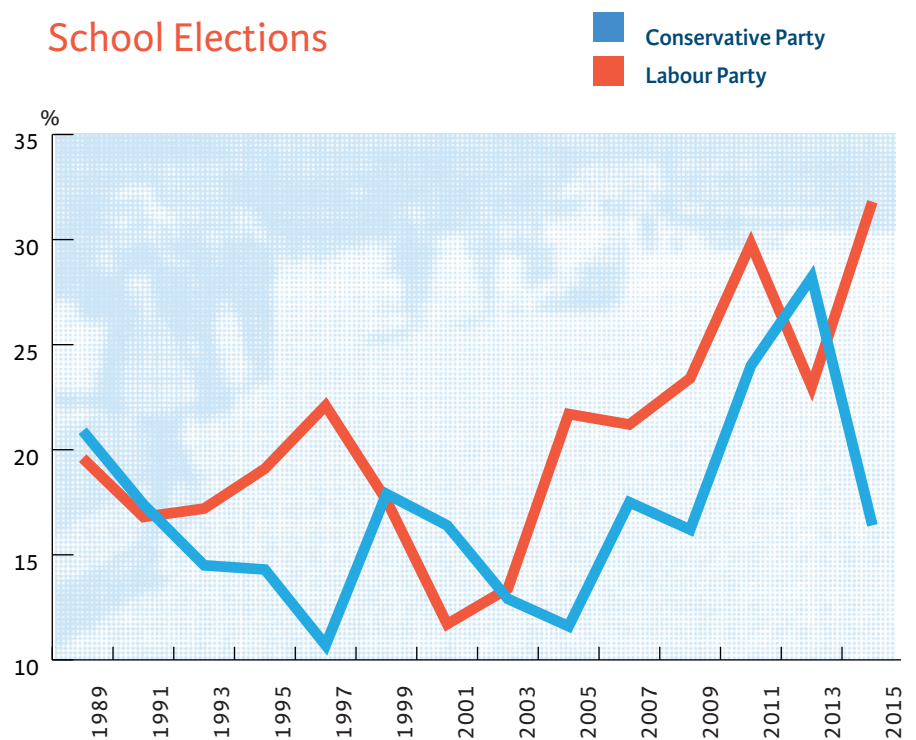
In collaboration with the Tromsø Survey, besides taking care of privacy concerns, NSD has drawn up digital questionnaires and a new digital map of the body. NSD also operates these services. Johansen believes that NSD’s staff have played a decisive role in ensuring that data acquisition went smoothly, resulting in a response rate of almost 100 per cent. Behind all this lies a comprehensive resource-intensive process.

– Good research depends on good data. NSD’s development staff were on the job night and day to get everything ready in time, and their attitude to service provision was impressive. NSD’s people are simply very good collaborators, and that is a factor whose value cannot be overestimated, says Heidi Johansen.

after the election. The ever-growing digital media and use of social media probably contributed to the greater coverage and higher participation rate. In 2015, the Labour Party enjoyed its best results ever, while the Conservatives, the big winners in 2013, made major losses.

The School Elections are a tool for safeguarding Norwegian democracy by stimulating political interest and competence in young people. Besides being an extremely important arena for the political parties' youth organisations, the School Elections provide practical experience and an opportunity to participate in debates and the political conversation. The School Election Survey, which is also carried out in connection with the Election, showed that interest in politics is on the rise among young people. The Survey asked students a number of questions about current social issues, while a parallel survey was carried out among a representative sample of the adult Norwegian population.

School Elections



Interview Surveys

European Social Survey

The European Social Survey (ESS) is an academically driven cross national interview-based survey that is carried out every second year. In 2014/2015, the seventh round of this survey covered 21 countries.

The ESS surveys comprise a core module that is repeated in every round and that contains socio-economic and demographic ques-

tions, in addition to central social topics such as social capital, trust, political sympathy and values. Each round also includes modules that cover specific topics; in this round, these were democracy and health.

In 2015, NSD's work on the ESS was characterised by the processing and publication of data and documentation from the seventh round. The first edition of data from 15 countries was published in October 2015, while the second edition, which will include all 21 countries, will appear in May 2016.

Since ESS was launched in 2001, NSD has played a part in its central organisation and is a member of its Scientific Core Team. NSD is responsible for the archiving, processing and distribution of data and documentation, and for running ESS' official website: www.europeansocialsurvey.org.

July 2015 saw the launch of the "Synergies for Europe's Research Infrastructures in the Social Sciences (SERISS)" project, which is a cooperative effort involving ESS ERIC, CESSDA AS, SHARE ERIC and three other partners. The project is financed by Horizon 2020. NSD is also heavily involved in two ESS ERIC work-packages: "A survey future online? Constructing a cross-national probability based web panel system" and "Interactive tools for cross-national surveys".

Data from ESS is widely used in research and teaching all over the world, and by December 2015, more than 60,000 people had downloaded ESS data from NSD. In 2015 itself, a total of more than 13,000 persons from 127 countries had downloaded data at least once. Norwegian researchers and students are keen users of ESS, and in 2015, Norway was ranked eighth in the list of user countries, with 550 individual downloaders.

The International Social Survey Programme


The International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) has almost 50 members, was established in 1984. NSD became a member in 1989, when it performed the "Work Orientations" survey in Norway. In 2015, NSD carried out this survey for the fourth time. In doing so, NSD ensured that cross-sectional data are available from 1989, 1995, 2005 and 2015, where the most important topics are included in all four rounds.

Privacy Protection Services

NSD is the Privacy Protection Official for 139 research and educational institutions, including all universities, research and state colleges, private colleges, several health authorities, hospitals and a number of independent research institutes and competence centres.



Numbers of users of ESS-data in 2015 Top 10

	Germany	1548
	The Netherlands	1065
	Great Britain	1023
	Belgium	741
	USA	739
	Poland	714
	Spain	581
	Norway	550
	Italy	533
	Switzerland	491

eVIR

The Research Council has provided NOK 10 mill to the eVIR project, which will develop the use of video in research. The project is led by the University of Oslo and partnered by NSD, whose role will be to develop and operate the video-data archive and at the same time taking care of ethical and legal issues.

NSD supports these organisations with information regarding privacy protection in research. Projects reported to NSD are assessed, in order to ensure that the researchers involved can satisfy relevant legal requirements at the start of their project, while it is under way and when it comes to an end. NSD offers advice regarding internal control and the description of routines. NSD also helps institutions to maintain an overview and perform control of their own research via the Internet-based Notification Archive, which is a tool for institution staff that is responsible for control and documentation of how personal information is used in research.

NSD's users have requested services associated with the follow-up of projects that are submitted to the regional committees for medical and health research ethics. In 2015, NSD therefore carried out a pilot project regarding the documentation of health projects in the Notification Archive. Taking the results of this pilot project as a point of departure, NSD is currently drawing up a set of procedures that can be offered to all our user institutions.

As part of the Privacy Protection Official's guidance efforts, in 2015 we produced a comprehensive new set of information material in Norwegian and English on privacy protection and internal control. Personell from the Privacy Protection Section gave a number of talks and wrote several articles on privacy protection and research in the course of the year.

For some years, NSD has collaborated with the National Research Ethics Committee for the Social Sciences and Humanities (NESH) and the National Research Ethics Committee for Science and Technology (NENT) in holding seminars for researchers on current topics. In December 2015, the topic of the seminar was data sharing, which attracted around 110 people.

Registers of Publications

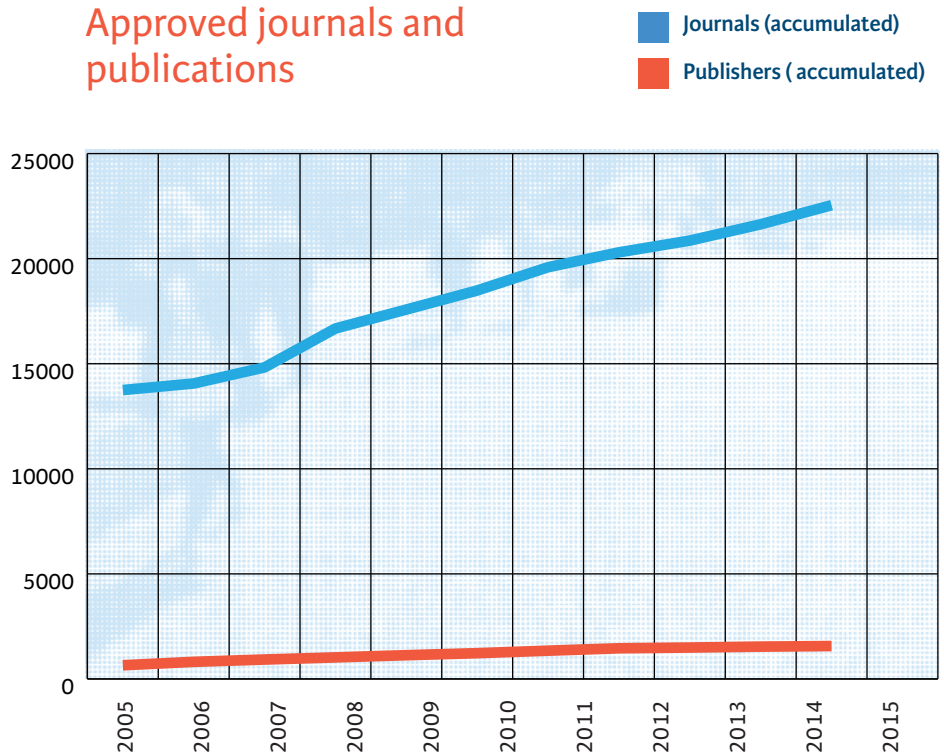
NSD operates and administers two registers related to academic publishing; the Norwegian Register for Scientific Journals, Series and Publishers and ERIH PLUS, both of which list several thousand academic journals, book series and publishers from all over the world. Academic publication channels are approved in accordance with formal criteria established by NSD, and are allocated a quality designation according to their academic ranking by relevant peer-groups. Important requirements include a high level of academic competence in their editorial offices, and the use of peer reviews.

The Norwegian Register for Scientific Journals, Series and Publishers is administered by NSD, is an overview of publications and publishers that are regarded as being of academic quality. In

Norway, publishing via an academic channel has financial implications for the institution to which the researcher belongs. Other Nordic countries have built up similar registers of publishing channels along the lines of the Norwegian model. The Nordic countries are currently discussing the development of a cooperative model that could simplify work on these registers.

ERIH PLUS, the European Reference Index for the Humanities (ERIH) and Social Sciences (PLUS), is an academic authorisation list, originally set up by the European Science Foundation (ESF). NSD has operated the register since July 2014, and in December 2015 it was moved to NSD. The register comprises some 7.000 approved channels.

Approved journals and publications



ICT and Software Development

NSD develops technology and guidelines for research related gathering, processing and use of data. The aim of this activity is to continuously develop and improve the potential for documenting, archiving and reusing data.

In 2015, significant efforts were made into dealing with problems related to data gathering processes. The largest project concentrated on a system for decentralised collaboration on the development and use of questionnaires in major longitudinal international projects. NSD also develops solutions for the automatic collection of data and metadata, as a foundation for the dynamic updating of joint European metadatabases and search services.

In 2015, NSD focused on an archiving portal, an improved system for guided documentation and archiving of research data.

Remote Access Infrastructure for Register Data (RAIRD)

In 2015, in collaboration with Statistics Norway, NSD continued its efforts on technology development in the RAIRD project. The ambition of RAIRD is to develop a functional web-based research tool for register data that will develop new technology for the storage, processing and analysis of extremely large and complex data collections. The aim is to ease and increase researchers access to register data while taking legal issues into consideration. The project will give solutions for inter-active exploration and analysis of such data.

The work of RAIRD and other projects continue NSD's long tradition of developing general solutions and individual components that can be used in connection with other tasks.

Communication

The main aim of NSD's efforts in communication is to highlight, profile and promote our services for the research community. Our most important channel of communication is our website. For this reason, we continuously improve and update our pages so that they will function optimally with regard to our services. In 2015, NSD inaugurated a process of upgrading our website, and nsd.no was given a renovated and tidier image. These efforts will be continued and extended in 2016.

NSD's staff enjoys wide-ranging contact with users via lectures, courses and seminars. Many give talks, teach and contribute through written contributions in Norway and abroad. This direct line to our users is an important resource for communication, which will be better exploited in the future.

Board, Councils and Committees

Board

Chair of the Board

- Petter Aasen, Rector, The University College of Southeast Norway

Members

- Elin Haugsgjerd Allern, Professor, University of Oslo
- Torbjørn Hægeland, Director, Department of Research, Statistics Norway
- Knud Knudsen, Professor, University of Stavanger
- Eva Stensland, Associate Professor, UiT The Arctic University of Norway
- Lis Tenold, Special Adviser, NSD, Employees' Representative
- Ove Andersen, Special Adviser, NSD, Employees' Representative

Deputy Member:

- Toril Aalberg, Professor, NTNU

Participation in national boards and committees:

- The Council for Confidentiality in Public Administration and Research, Bjørn Henrichsen, Member
- Statistics Norway, Statistics Council, Atle Alvheim, Member
- KOSTRA, Working Party for the Church Sector, Kristina Nicolaisen, Member
- Current Research Information System in Norway (CRISin), Knut Kalgraff Skjåk, Board Member
- The Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions, Publications Committee, Rolf Halse, Observer
- HISTREG, Historical Population Register for Norway, Users' Group, Dag Kiberg, Member
- The Research Infrastructure Norwegian Marine Data Centre, Vigdis Namtvedt Kvalheim, Member
- Forum for Vocational Statistics, Kristin Gåsemyr, Member and Maren Saxe, Secretary

Participation in international organisations:

- International Federation of Data Organizations for the Social Science (IFDO), Vigdis Namtvedt Kvalheim, Board Member
- Data Documentation Initiative Alliances (DDI Alliance) Scientific Board, Vigdis Namtvedt Kvalheim, Member
- Simple Data Description Team of DDI Moving Forward, Ørnulf Risnes, Member
- European Social Survey (ESS ERIC), Core Scientific Team (CST), Bjørn Henrichsen, Kirstine Kolsrud and Knut Kalgraff Skjåk, Members

- European Social Survey (ESS ERIC), Bjørn Henrichsen, Deputy Director (Strategy)
- EU COST Action IS1004 WEBDATANET, Knut Kalgraff Skjåk, Norwegian Representative, Kirstine Kolsrud, Alternate Member
- European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI), Bjørn Henrichsen, Norwegian Delegate
- ESFRI Social and Cultural Innovation Strategy Working Group, Bjørn Henrichsen, Member
- CESSDA Board of Directors, Bjørn Henrichsen, Chair
- NordForsk's high-level Advisory group on research infrastructure, Vigdis Namtvedt Kvalheim, Member
- DDI Controlled Vocabularies Working Group, Hilde Orten, Member
- DDI Survey Design and Implementation Working Group, Kirstine Kolsrud, Member

Reference group for interview surveys

- Knud Knudsen, Professor, University of Stavanger
- Ola Listhaug, Professor, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim
- Ann-Helén Bay, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences.

Reference group for Database for Statistics on Higher Education:

- Britt Elin Steinveg, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Chair
- Beth Linde, Østfold University College, Member
- Bjørn Erik Rasch, University of Oslo, Member
- Aslaug Hellesøy, Board of Hordaland County Vocational Schools, Member
- Tore Tungodden, University of Bergen, Member
- Martha Torvik, Sør-Trøndelag University College, 1st Deputy Member
- Klas Rønning, Norwegian School of Economics, 2nd Deputy Member
- Marianne Nordli Hansen, University of Oslo, Personal Deputy Member to Bjørn Erik Rasch
- Joar Nybo, Ministry of Education and Research, Observer
- Magnus Strand Hauge, Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education, Observer
- Anne Marie Rustad Holseter, Statistics Norway, Observer
- Stig Slipersæter, The Research Council of Norway, Observer
- Vidar Røeggen, The Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions, Observer

Forum for Vocational Statistics

- Knut Erik Beyer-Arnesen, National Unit for Career Guidance
- Bård Inge Thun, National Unit for Career Guidance
- Joar Nybo, Ministry of Education and Research
- André Kristiansen, Ministry of Education and Research
- Rita Aanerud, Statistics Norway
- Siv Frost, Norwegian State Educational Loan Fund
- Christin Drangslund, Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education
- Øyvind Alseth, Norwegian Directorate of Health
- Kristin Gåsemyr, NSD
- Maren Elise Saxe, NSD

RAIRD Board

- Vigdis Namtvedt Kvalheim, NSD, Chair
- Elisabeth Nørgaard, Statistics Norway
- Rune Gløersen, Statistics Norway
- Torbjørn Hægeland, Statistics Norway
- Knut Kalgraff Skjåk, NSD
- Ingunn Stangeby, The Research Council of Norway

RAIRD User Group

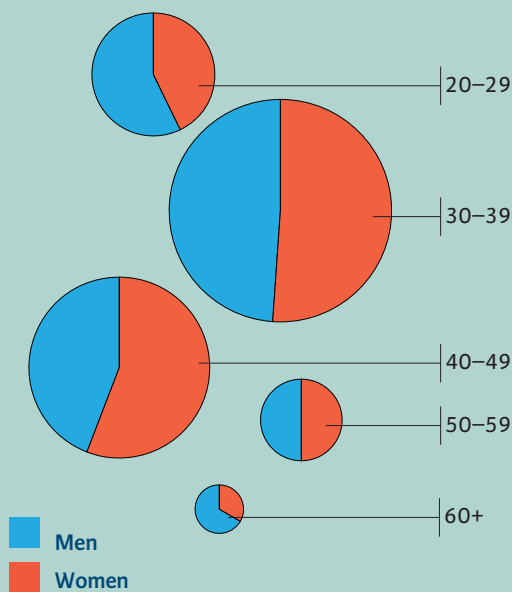
- Ingeborg Foldøy Solli, University of Stavanger Business School
- Marianne Røed, Institute for Social Research
- Thomas Sevenius Nilsen, Norwegian Institute of Public Health
- Espen Bratberg, University of Bergen
- Thomas Lorentzen, University of Bergen
- Arne Mastekaasa, University of Oslo
- Stein Emil Vollset, University of Bergen
- Bjug Bøyum, Norwegian Institute of Public Health
- Trond Døskeland, Norwegian School of Economics
- Kjell Salvanes, Norwegian School of Economics

Report of the Board for 2015

NSD Norwegian Centre for Research Data was established in 1971 as a national research infrastructure; since 2003, it has been organised as a limited company wholly owned by the Ministry of Education and Research (KD).

NSD's objective is to archive and manage data and provide a range of services to the research sector. The company performs its operations within its assigned areas of competence in collaboration with national and international partners. The company is headquartered in Bergen.

Age/Gender 2015



Activities

As in previous years, the activity of NSD has been organised in accordance with NSD's national responsibility for performing central data and infrastructure services for the Norwegian research community. NSD has operated on a broad national and international basis to ensure that researchers and students have access to data and data services. On a European level, NSD plays a central role in several major European projects that are constructing a joint data infrastructure for the social sciences and the humanities.

NSD's revenue increased by 4 per cent from 2014 to 2015. In 2015 there were performed 86 man-years of work, including that done by part-time students. The corresponding figure for 2014 was 78.

Financing

NSD has a number of different sources of income. Its main grants are provided by the Research Council of Norway, government ministries, the university and college sector and the European Union. The Research Council of Norway financed 17 per cent of our activities via its basic grant and 29.8 per cent of our total income when project support is included. In 2015, income by source (2014 figures in parentheses) was 29.8% (24.6%) from the Research Council of Norway, 24.6% (24.0%) from government ministries, 29.3% (31.1%) from other public and private sector project sponsors, and 15.7% (16.5%) from European Union projects and other sales and contract research income.

Academic activities and information dissemination

NSD's main task is to provide information about and disseminate data and various aspects of the use of data. In order to perform these tasks, NSD's staff need to have extensive contact with users as part of the day-to-day activity. They also frequently give lectures at courses and seminars, and help to train staff and students in the university and college sector, for example in methodology, ethics and privacy protection.

Contact with our users in order to ensure that NSD's range of activities meets the needs of the research community, is greatly emphasized.

The Internet is NSD's most important channel of communication, and is the core range of services that we are intended to provide.

Work environment and physical environment

NSD's staff occupy an office environment in which computers are the most important tools. Short-term sick leave has risen somewhat in comparison with the previous year, but long-term sick-leave has remained stable. Short-term sick-leave was 1.6% in 2015, against 1.1% in 2014, while long-term sick-leave was 2.2%, against 2.0 the previous year. No injuries or accidents were reported. Our activities have not contaminated the external environment.

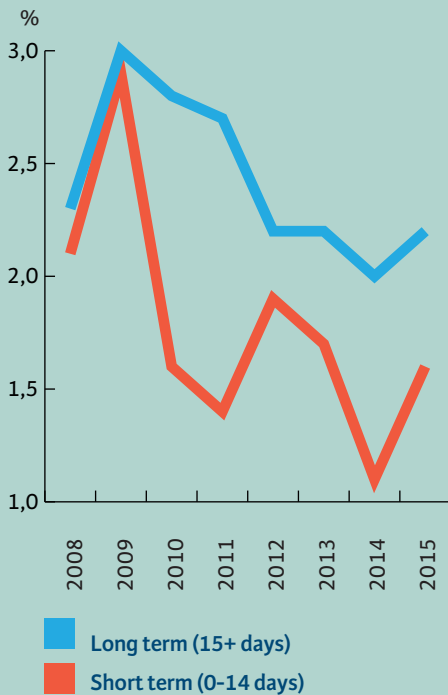
Staff by age and gender

The gender distribution of staff shows a slight overrepresentation of women. The management group comprises five women and seven men. NSD aims to achieve an equal representation of both genders as well as diversity in its employees, and encourages qualified candidates to apply for positions, irrespective of age or cultural and ethnic background.

Annual statement of accounts and disposition of results

The Board expresses great satisfaction with the professional result for 2015. The financial result for 2015 is positive. NSD is in a good financial position and the prospects for the future of the company are good. The Board confirms that the conditions for continued operation are present. The Board wishes the company to be based on a solid equity capital position and therefore proposes that the company's result of NOK 3,203,945 for 2015 should be allocated to Other Equity. In accordance with our statutes, no dividend will be paid.

Sick Leave 2015



PETTER AASEN
Chair of the Board

KNUD KNUDSEN
Member of the Board

EVA STENSLAND
Member of the Board

ELIN HAUGSGJERD ALLERN
Member of the Board

TORBJØRN HÆGELAND
Member of the Board

LIS TENOLD
Member of the Board

OVE D. ANDERSEN
Member of the Board

BJØRN HENRIKSEN
Director

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

	NOTE	2015	2014
OPERATING INCOME AND EXPENSES			
Operating income	8	65,519,648	62,987,975
Total, operating income		65,519,648	62,987,975
Salaries and social costs	2,9	53,280,082	41,904,520
Deprecation tangible fixed assets	3	365,233	303,240
Other operating expenses	2	10,124,203	9,189,398
Total, operating expenses		63,769,517	51,397,158
Operating profit/loss		1,750,131	11,590,817
FINANCIAL ITEMS			
Interest income		607,854	1,180,663
Other financial income		884,911	768,335
Interest expenses		2,770	130
Other financial expenses		36,181	19,467
Net financial items		1,453,814	1,929,400
Profit/loss for the year		3,203,945	13,520,217
ALLOCATION OF PROFIT/LOSS			
Allocated to other equity		3,203,945	13,520,217
Total, allocation of profit/loss	4	3,203,945	13,520,217

BALANCE SHEET DECEMBER 31

	NOTE	2015	2014
ASSETS			
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets			
Fixtures and fittings	3	739,425	796,983
Total, tangible and fixed assets		739,425	796,983
Financial fixed assets			
Payment in advance	7, 10	318,194	388,903
Total, financial fixed assets		318,194	388,903
Total, fixed assets		1057,618	1,185,886
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors			
Trade debtors		7,082,979	7,023,368
Other debtors	7, 10	450,014	284,640
Total, debtors		7,532,993	7,308,008
Bank deposits, cash in hand etc.	5	70,243,215	62,123,106
Total, current assets		77,776,208	69,431,114
Total assets		78,833,826	70,616,999

BALANCE SHEET DECEMBER 31

	NOTE	2015	2014
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
EQUITY			
Paid in equity			
Share capital	4	5,000,000	5,000,000
Reserve for valuation	4	2,378,127	2,378,127
Total, paid in equity	4	7,378,127	7,378,127
Retained earnings			
Other equity	4	25,652,794	22,448,849
Total, retained earnings		25,652,794	22,448,849
Total equity		33,030,921	29,826,976
LIABILITIES			
Accounting allocations			
Provisions for pensions	9	12,556,351	12,277,546
Total, accounting allocations		12,556,351	12,277,546
Current liabilities			
Trade creditors		2,513,371	1,293,495
Public duties payable		3,388,612	2,867,727
Other short-term liabilities	6	27,344,571	24,351,254
Total, current liabilities	10	33,246,554	28,512,476
Total, liabilities		45,802,905	40,790,023
Total, equity and liabilities		78,833,826	70,616,999



PETTER AASEN
Chair of the Board



KNUD KNUDSEN
Member of the Board



EVA STENSLAND
Member of the Board



ELIN HAUGSGJERD ALLERN
Member of the Board



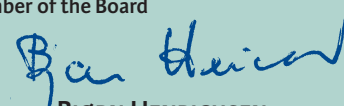
TORBJØRN HÆGELAND
Member of the Board



LIS TENOLD
Member of the Board



OVE D. ANDERSEN
Member of the Board



BJØRN HENRICHSEN
Director

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2015

NOTE 1 ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES

This Financial Statement has been set up in accordance with the Accounting Act and good accounting practice. The accounting principles employed are described in the following paragraphs.

A) OPERATING INCOME AND COSTS

Income consists for the most part of grants and income from projects. Our services are entered as income as they are delivered. Payments received for activities that have not been performed by the end of the year are therefore entered on the Balance Sheet as Prepaid income and are classified as Other short-term liabilities.

Costs are entered according to the matching principle, i.e. they are entered in the same period as the earnings with which they are associated.

B) CURRENT ASSETS/SHORT-TERM DEBT

Current assets and short-term debt comprise items that are due for payment within one year of Balance Day, plus items related to the flow of goods. Current assets are valued at the lower of historical cost and estimated real value.

C) FIXED ASSETS/LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

Fixed assets are items intended for long-term ownership and use, and their value is entered at their historical cost. Fixed assets with a limited economic lifetime should be written down in accordance with a sensible depreciation plan. Fixed assets should be written down to their real value in the event of a loss of value that is not expected to be merely transient. Such depreciation should be reversed if and to the extent that the conditions leading to depreciation no longer exist.

Long-term liabilities are entered at their nominal value when the liability was incurred.

D) FOREIGN CURRENCY

Financial items in foreign currencies are entered at the rate of exchange in effect at the end of the financial year.

E) TAX

As the company is a not-for-profit enterprise, it is not liable to pay tax, in accordance with paragraph 2-32 of the Tax Act.

F) PENSIONS

The company is required to operate an occupational pension scheme in compliance with the Act on Mandatory Occupational Pension Plans. The company's scheme meets the requirements of the Act, and employees are enrolled in the Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund. The scheme is a performance-related plan. All liabilities are assessed in the light of the total pension funds in the pension scheme, and their estimated value is corrected every year in accordance with actuarial estimates. The periodised employment tax is classified as a part of net pension liabilities. The employment tax, calculated as the net annual cost of pensions, is entered as a cost together with the cost of the pensions themselves.

G) CASH-FLOW ANALYSIS

The cash-flow analysis is drawn up according to the indirect method. Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash, bank deposits, and other liquid short-term deposits.

H) IMPORTANT RENTAL CONTRACTS

The company's rental contracts are regarded as operational rental agreements, and rental costs are treated as current operating costs.

NOTE 2 PAYROLL EXPENSES, NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES, FEES, LOANS TO EMPLOYEES, ETC.**Payroll expenses**

<i>Amounts in NOK</i>	2015	2014
Salaries	37,466,515	33,828,329
Accrued holiday allowances	4,781,417	4,201,902
Social security tax	6,016,327	5,384,482
Pension costs, incl. negotiated pensions	4,552,457	-2,074,626
other benefits	463,366	564,433
Total	53,280,082	41,904,520
Average number of full time equivalent positions	86	78

Remuneration to managerial staff	SALARY	PENSION	OTHER BENEFITS
Director	1,096,611	21,367	5,494
Board	340,000	0	0

Neither the director nor the Board have a right to a bonus, percentage of surplus or options, nor to special payments in the event of termination of employment or elected position.

Auditor

A fee of NOK 83,603 has been entered as a cost for legally required audit, plus NOK 43,765 for other services.

NOTE 3 LONG-TERM OPERATING ASSETS

<i>Amounts in NOK</i>	INVENTAR	IT-UTSTYR	SUM
Historical cost 01.01.	1,531,837	3,042,296	4,574,133
Additional acquisitions	160,911	146,764	307,675
Acquisition cost per 31.12.	1,692,748	3,189,060	4,881,808
Accumulated depreciation per 31.12.	1,318,472	2,823,912	4,142,384
Book value per 31.12.	374,276	365,148	739,425
Depreciation for the year	101,223	264,010	365,233
Economic lifetime	10 year	3 year	
Depreciation schedule	Linear	Linear	

NOTE 4 EQUITY CAPITAL

<i>Amounts in NOK</i>	SHARE CAPITAL	SHARE PREMIUM FUND	OTHER EQUITY CAPITAL	SUM
Equity capital per 01.01.	5,000,000	2,378,127	22,448,849	29,826,976
Profit/loss for the year			3 203 945	3 203 945
Equity capital per 31.12	5,000,000	2,378,127	25,652,794	33,030,921

The share capital consists of 5,000 shares, each with a face value of NOK 1,000. The Ministry of Education and Research owns 100% of the shares.

NOTE 5 BONDED DEPOSITS

Of NSD's bank deposits, NOK 2,759,878 are bonded deposits in connection with tax deductions.

NOTE 6 OTHER CURRENT LIABILITIES

<i>Amounts in NOK</i>	2015	2014
Unpaid holiday pay	4,705,616	4,102,194
Periodised project payments	20,211,324	18,732,591
Other current liabilities	2,427,631	1,516,469
Total	27,344,571	24,351,254

NONOTE 7 PAYMENTS IN ADVANCE

NSD has paid rent in advance as a means of financing the refurbishment of the premises that the company rents. The advance is entered in the profit and loss accounts for the duration of the lease, which is 15 years..

<i>Amounts in NOK</i>	2015
Advance paid in connection with refurbishment	9,013,609
Unused refurbishment funds returned to NSD	-256,677
Grants received from Research Council of Norway	-7,500,000
Net	1,256,932
Share of rent for previous yearsr	-868,029
Share of rent for 2015	-70,709
Advance payments per 31.12.	318,194
Other advance payments of operating costs	450,014
Total advance payments	768,208

NOTE 8 BREAKDOWN OF INCOME

<i>Amounts in NOK</i>	2015	2014
Funding from the Research Council of Norway	21,136,851	17,900,560
Funding from government ministries	16,109,000	15,110,000
Other public- and private-sector grants	19,596,247	19,581,375
Income from sales and contracts	8,677,551	10,396,041
Total	65,519,648	62,987,975

NOTE 9 PENSIONS

<i>Amounts in NOK</i>	2015	2014
Earned pensions for the year	3,542,482	3,411,945
Effects of year's changes in pension plans	0	-5,211,890
Interest paid on pension liabilities	1,562,551	2,063,827
Expected return on pension funds	-1,259,239	-1,526,092
Administration costs	135,248	126,057
Net pension costs before employment tax	3,981,042	-1,136,153
Employment tax on pension costs	561,327	-160,198
Pension expense before unrecognized adjustments	4,542,369	-1,296,351
Actuarial loss	983,224	69,638
Recognised longevity adjustment 1943-1953 cohorts	0	0
Recognised increase in pensions to retirement pensions	0	0
Cost of pensions, entered in profit and loss account	5,525,593	-1,226,712

Of which employment tax on adjustments entered in profit and loss account 0

<i>Amounts in NOK</i>	2015	2014
Pension liabilities per 31.12.	64,753,370	62,669,002
Pension assets per 31.12.	45,029,981	36,937,271
Employment tax on net pension liabilities	2,780,998	3,628,174
Net pension liabilities including employment tax	22,504,387	29,359,905
Actuarial profit not entered in profit and loss account	-8,718,700	-14,971,393
Estimated deviation from employment tax	-1,229,337	-2,110,966
Pension liabilities, including employment tax, entered in balance sheet	12,556,351	12,277,546

<i>The following conditions were used as a basis for the above calculations:</i>	2015	2014
Discount rate	2.30 %	2.50 %
Return on pension funds	3.30 %	3.20 %
Salary growth	2.50 %	2.75 %
Annual anticipated adjustment of old-age pensions under payment	1.50 %	1.75 %
Annual anticipated adjustment of G-rate	2.25 %	2.50 %
Employment tax	14.10 %	14.10 %
Expected remaining time in employment	11	11

NOTE 10 SPECIFICATIONS OF RECEIVABLES AND LIABILITIES

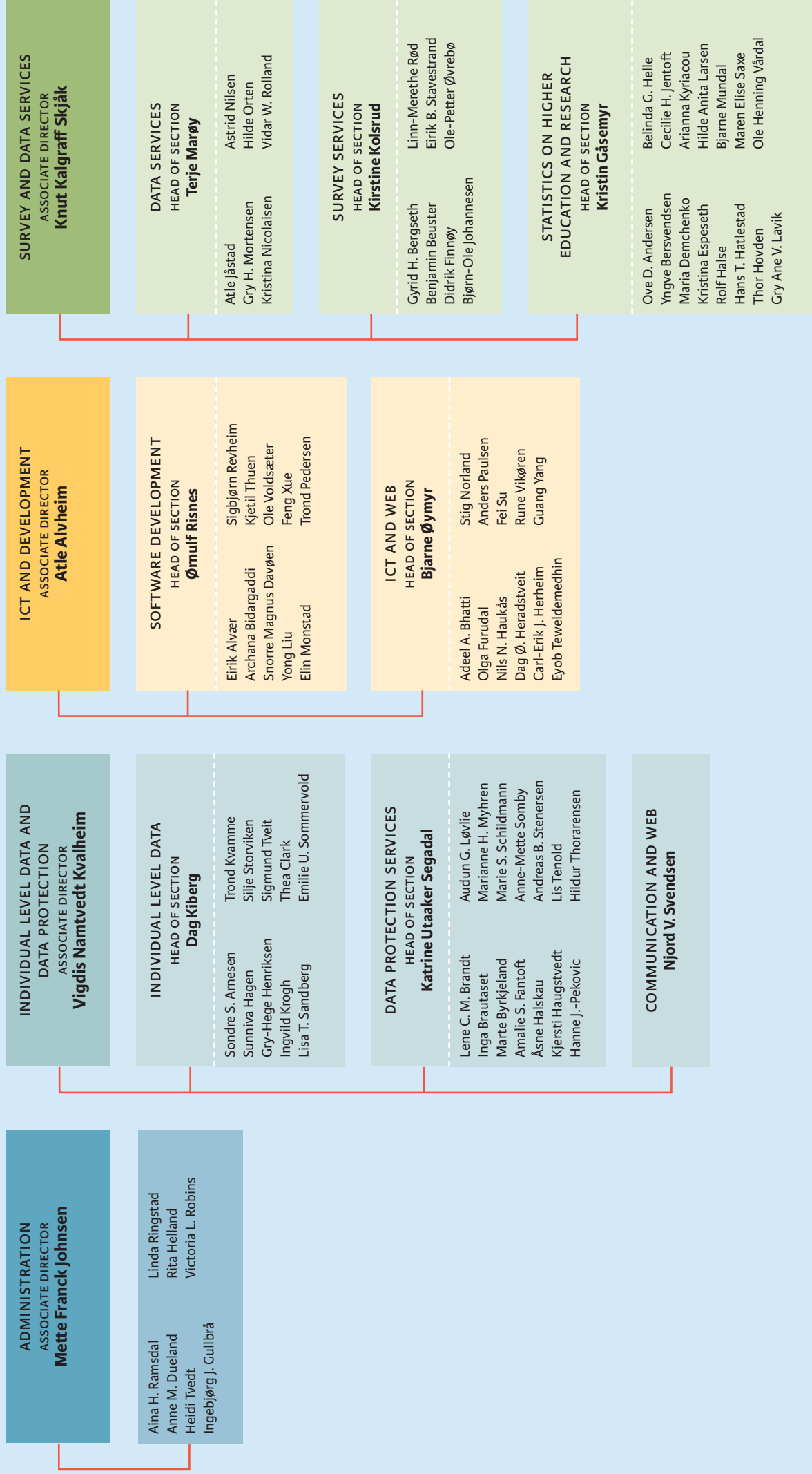
Receivables that are due later than 12 months ahead: NOK 247,485.

Liabilities that fall due more than five years after the end of the accounting year: NOK 0.

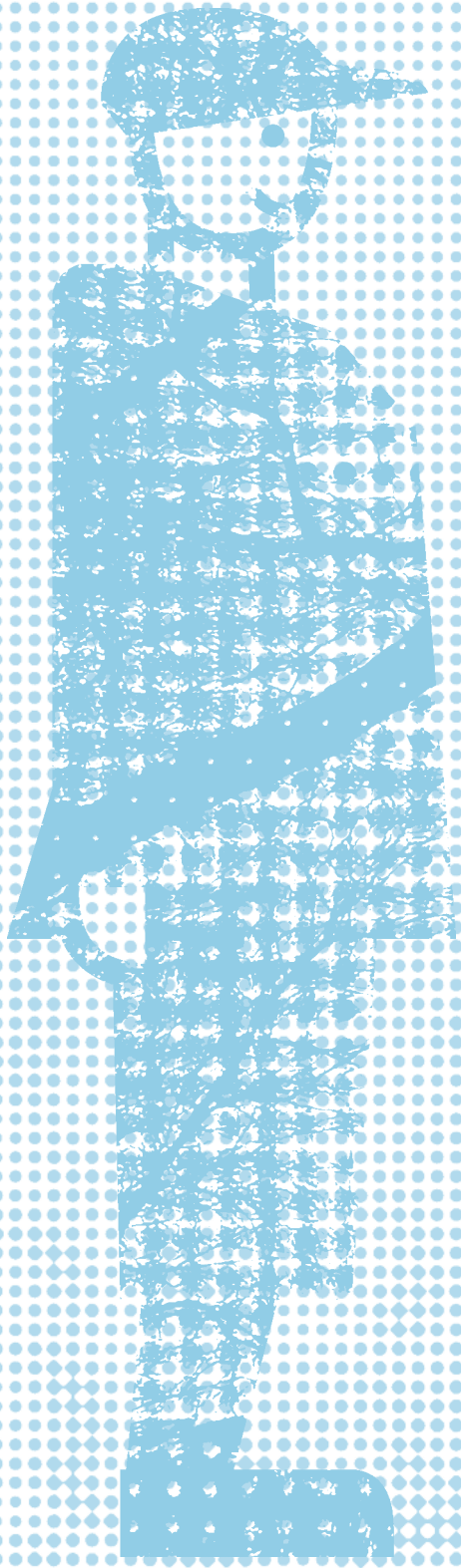
ORGANISATION MAP PR DECEMBER 31 2015

Petter Aasen
CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Bjørn Henrichsen
DIRECTOR







NSD

NORWEGIAN CENTRE
FOR RESEARCH DATA

Harald Hårfages gate 29, NO-5007 Bergen, NORWAY, nsd@nsd.no, www.nsd.no