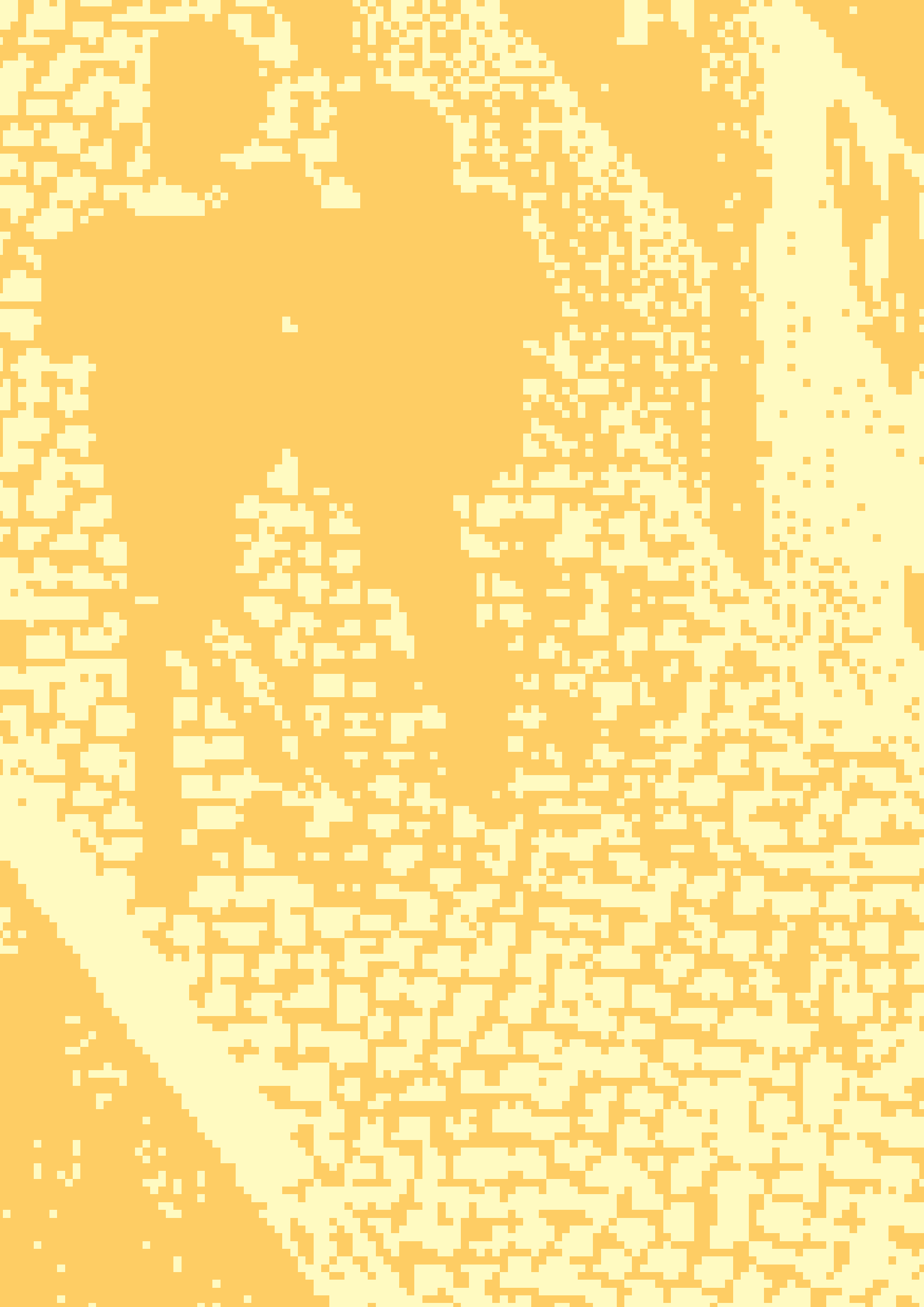


2016

ANNUAL REPORT

NSD

**NORWEGIAN CENTRE
FOR RESEARCH DATA**



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Preface

NSD is a cross-disciplinary research service provider rooted in the research sector and its need for data services. NSD services cover virtually all aspects of the research process. Examples include services relating to the cataloguing of research data and to research and data protection. NSD's data protection division works on behalf of 139 Norwegian research institutions in every field that uses personal data in its research. In terms of archiving, we cover topics such as medicine and health, environment and development, the humanities and social sciences. The Research Council of Norway requires data from the projects it funds in the above-mentioned fields to be archived by NSD.

Following a decision by the Ministry of Education and Research to promote the cross-disciplinary nature of NSD, the company changed its Norwegian name from “*Norsk samfunnsvitenskapelig datatjeneste AS (NSD)*” to “*NSD – Norsk senter for forskningsdata AS*” (NSD – Norwegian Centre for Research Data) in 2016. The original acronym NSD is still used in most contexts. When adopting a new name, emphasis was placed on reflecting the company's current activities and suggesting its forward path. It was important to retain the short form NSD, as it is a long established brand both nationally and internationally.

Supported by the Research Council of Norway, NSD launched a major development project, NORDi, in 2016. The project covers the vast majority of NSD's range of services and will provide students, researchers and institutions with solutions for data storage, access and citation. The project will eventually give our users even better services than today, and it will provide them with world-class access to services. The project is being executed in close cooperation with the users. Solutions and services developed by the project will be put into use as and when they are ready. New systems for data archiving and access have already been put to use by the users. New user support and training modules are being developed alongside the service upgrades. This annual report describes some of the new services that have either been launched or are in the pipeline.

BJØRN HENRICHSEN
Director

What is NSD?

NSD – Norwegian Centre for Research Data is a national archive for research data. It is one of the biggest archives of its kind anywhere in the world. With wide-ranging and multidisciplinary expertise in the form of almost 100 employees, NSD's objective is to make it easier to find and share research data. Access to data is at the heart of modern research infrastructure, and research data is a common good that should be shared. That is the very idea on which NSD is based. The principle of open access, equitable treatment and sharing of research data therefore governs all of the centre's activities. NSD catalogues, processes and disseminates data to research communities in Norway and abroad, and it develops technological tools and solutions. NSD is a national centre of expertise on data protection, and the Data Protection Official for Research is based at NSD. NSD is a limited liability company owned by the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research.

What does NSD do?

NSD provides a wide range of services to researchers, students, administrators, financial institutions and the authorities.

Research data archive

NSD catalogues all kinds of quantitative and qualitative research data. According to the Research Council of Norway, "the project manager is obliged to submit a copy of all research-generated data/results data and all other documentation required to reuse the data (metadata) to the Norwegian Centre for Research Data (NSD) for archiving". This applies to "projects relating to the social sciences, humanities, medicine and health, the environment and development research".

NSD archives contain data from as far back as the 18th century up until the present day, covering topics ranging from meteorology to political systems. Much of it is generated or collected through projects funded by the Research Council of Norway. Data from Statistics Norway is archived and disseminated to the research sector by NSD. The agreement between NSD and Statistics Norway gives Norwegian researchers access to a large number of social surveys. This is unique in an international context. NSD also catalogues and disseminates data from a number of other sources such as international interview-based surveys, higher education, institutes and polling agencies. NSD has an agreement with the National Archives of Norway on storage and access to research data from the government sector, including sensitive personal data.



PHOTO: SONJA BALCI/HIOA

“NSD is a neutral institution that offers continuity.”

Marijke Veenstra is a research manager at NOVA (part of the Centre for Welfare and Labour Research at Oslo and Akershus College of Applied Sciences), where she is working on the NorLAG study.

Has worked with NSD to build infrastructure for life course data

Veenstra conducts research on life course perspectives. In doing so, she is also helping to build the foundations for future research. These foundations are made up of large volumes of processed data made available by NSD.

Together with her colleagues at NorLAG, Veenstra is behind one of the biggest and most complex interview-based surveys ever conducted in Norway. The survey is designed to gather information about the society in which we live by studying aspects of significant life events and circumstances such as work, pensions, family, care and quality of life.

“15,000 participants are given questionnaires and monitored over time. More than 5,000 variables are applied. Data was collected in two separate rounds – first in 2002-2003 and then in 2007-2008. A third round is now underway,” Veenstra says.

Statistics Norway collects the data, and NSD catalogues it and prepares it for the researchers. Veenstra has for a long time worked closely with NSD to build a stable infrastructure through the Access Life Course Database.

“The good thing about NSD is that they combine knowledge of research with the ethical aspects of sharing data. It’s good to know that the data is safe in the hands of NSD,” Veenstra says.

The collaboration on infrastructure is yielding results: More than 100 external users have accessed the NorLAG data. That makes it one of the most widely used databases for social research in Norway. When the third phase of the project begins to take shape, other NSD infrastructure projects such as NORDi and RAIRD will also start to bear fruit.

“NSD is a neutral institution whose continuity means it is safe to share data to the benefit of the research community,” says Veenstra.

The Norwegian State Administration Database

NSD's State Administration Database holds a large collection of data on the Norwegian civil service. It includes information about ministries and agencies from 1947 up until the present day as well as processed information about panels, boards and committees and their members for the period 1980–1997. Statistics on state employees are particularly sought after and frequently used by researchers, the civil service and the media.

Statistics Norway data from NSD

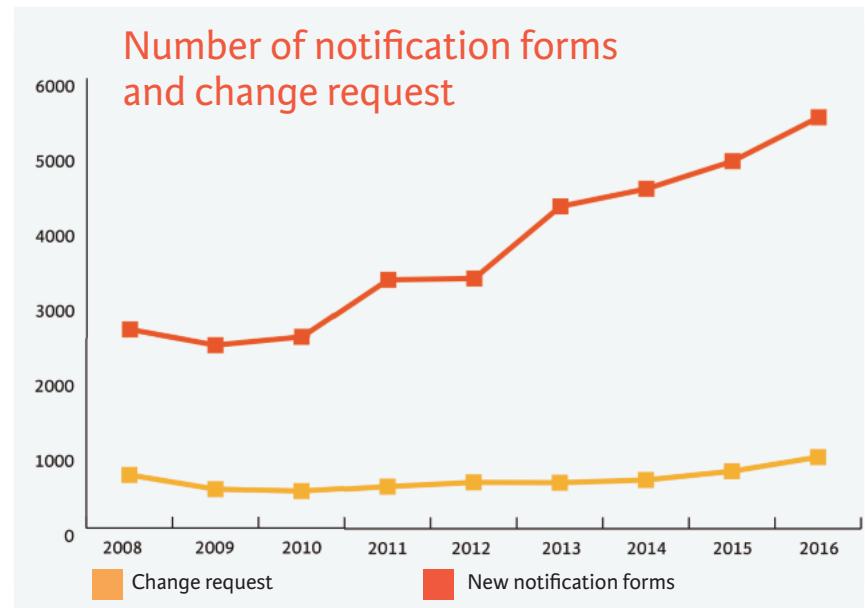
Since 1975 NSD and Statistics Norway have collaborated on the processing and distribution of data from Statistics Norway to Norwegian research communities. This arrangement gives researchers and students access to data prepared for research and analysis free of charge. The data includes a large number of national interview-based surveys on a scale that is unique in an international context.

The Regional Database

Information about all of Norway's local authorities spanning 250 years is held in the Regional Database. This is a large collection providing extensive documentation. It enables time series to be created with standardised units and data to be presented in thematic maps available from the archive. The database contains 381,061 pieces of information about every Norwegian municipality.

Access to data

When data is deposited with NSD, it goes through an extensive process of systematisation and controls before being prepared for publication on the NSD website. As a national centre for important research data, NSD continues to improve and simplify the way in which researchers can freely access data. The Research Council of Norway's guidelines stipulate that "research data should be made accessible to all relevant users, on equal terms, as long as there are no legal, ethical or security-related reasons to preclude this" (*Open Access to Research Data: Policy for the Research Council of Norway, 2014*).



Data Protection Official for Research

NSD is a national centre of expertise on data protection and serves as Data Protection Official for 139 research and educational institutions. Among them are all of Norway's universities, specialised and state-owned university colleges, private university colleges, hospital trusts, hospitals and a number of independent research institutes and centres of expertise. NSD provides guidance to researchers and students and offers advice to institutions required by law to conduct internal controls and quality-assure their research. The institutions can keep track and carry out controls of their research using the online *Meldingsarkivet* tool, which contains case files on all registered projects. In 2016 the Data Protection Official received 5,489 new project notifications, an increase of 585 on the previous year. NSD also received 955 change requests.

Statistics on higher education

NSD's Database for Statistics on Higher Education (DBH) is a key source of information on the tertiary education sector in Norway,



PHOTO: NJORD V. SVENDSEN/NSD

Are mock school elections more than just a bit of fun? Yes, they are, according to Julie Ane Ødegaard Borge's research. The national school elections, which have been held by NSD since 1989, reinforce our democracy.

"My analyses show that pupils who vote in the mock school elections are more inclined to vote in a parliamentary or local election taking place in the same year than those who do not vote in the school election," says Ødegaard Borge. She completed her PhD at the Department of Comparative Politics at the University of Bergen in 2016 with her thesis entitled "Creating Democratic Citizens? An Analysis of Mock Elections as Political Education in School".

Ødegaard Borge conducted both qualitative surveys (interviews and observations in class) and quantitative analyses. For the latter she relied on NSD data from mock school elections held between 1989 and 2013. A school election survey is conducted in every election year in partnership with the Norwegian Institute for Social Research. In 2015 more than 30,000 pupils from 139 different schools responded to the survey.

"This is a fascinating collection of data not seen in any other country. The data is extensive and varied and should be used more widely to study not just mock school elections but also attitudes amongst young people in general," according to Ødegaard Borge. In addition to her thesis, the analyses have been published in the scientific journal *Politics*.

"I hope to be able to conduct more research using the data from the school election surveys. NSD has responded to my research with interest and enthusiasm. My work would not have been possible without NSD's unique data," says Ødegaard Borge.

"My work would not have been possible without NSD's unique data."

Julie Ane Ødegaard Borge, researcher at the Department of Comparative Politics, University of Bergen.

Has used the NSD school election surveys when working on her PhD

The Opinion Polls Archive

The Opinion Polls Archive contains more than 50,000 questions asked in the period 1964 up until the present day. The data is freely available for analysis through the analysis tool Nesstar. The data is provided by the polling agencies TNS Gallup, Re-sponds Analyse, ACNielsen Norge, Opinion and Ipsos MMI.

Election Surveys

National election surveys from 1957 to 2013 are freely available from NSD. Election surveys are held after parliamentary elections in order to study tendencies and trends, motivation, voting and turnout.

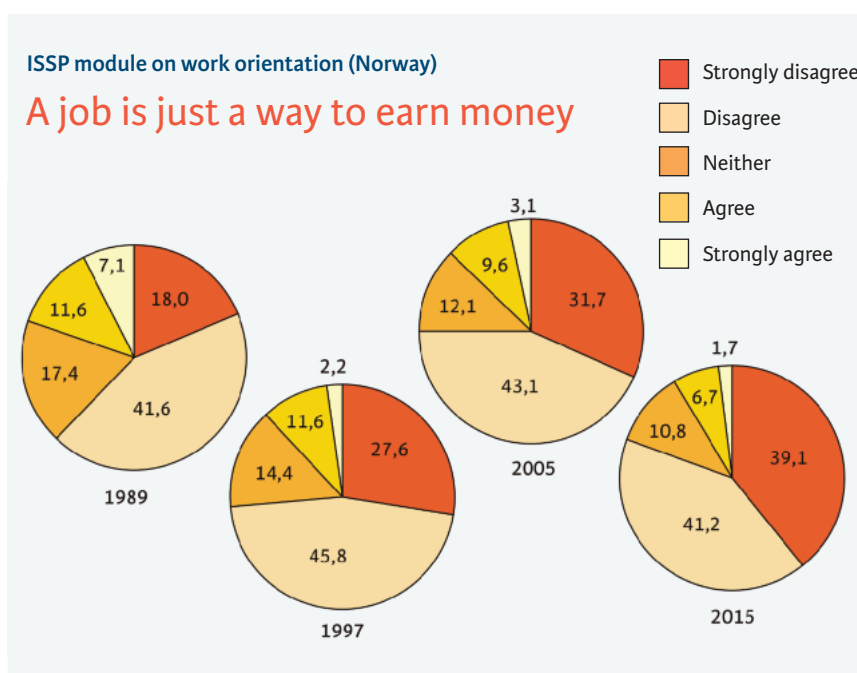
The Ecclesiastical Database

NSD's Ecclesiastical Database contains official statistics (collected by KOSTRA) on baptisms, confirmations, weddings, funerals etc. at a parish level. The data is freely available on the NSD website.

including universities, university colleges, specialised colleges, libraries and student unions. Data and data services from DBH provide a wide range of analytical data for use in policy design in the sector along with statistics for a variety of purposes. DBH contains data and statistics on students, education, research, staff, museums, floor space, finances and companies. The data is freely accessible for use in research into the sector and for planners both at ministry level and locally at the individual institutions. Reporting of data from Norwegian educational institutions is co-ordinated with Statistics Norway, the Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT), the Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education (NIFU), the Norwegian State Educational Loan Fund and the Directorate of Health. Tailor-made statistics and online services have been developed for organisations such as NOKUT, the Directorate of Health and the Ministry of Education and Research.

Interview-based surveys

The **European Social Survey (ESS)** is the most extensive and widely quoted social survey in Europe. NSD is responsible for processing, storing and distributing data and documentation. All the data is free to use and freely available from the date of publication. NSD has been a member of the Core Scientific Team (CST) ever since the ESS was launched in 2001. NSD also runs the official ESS website (europeansocialsurvey.org), where all the data and documentation are distributed. In 2016 ESS data was downloaded by 14,494 users from 124 different countries. The ESS is an ERIC (European Research Infrastructures Consortium) – a legal framework for European research infrastructures.



The **International Social Survey Programme (ISSP)** allows researchers to study Norway from a global perspective. Forty-five countries are currently signed up to the ISSP. The first survey was carried out in 1985, and NSD joined in 1989. In 2016 NSD conducted its “Role of Government” survey for the fourth time. As a result, the survey – which is the most widely used ISSP survey – now offers cross-sectional data from 1990, 1996, 2006 and 2016.

People from 36 countries have been helping researchers to understand Europe for 15 years.

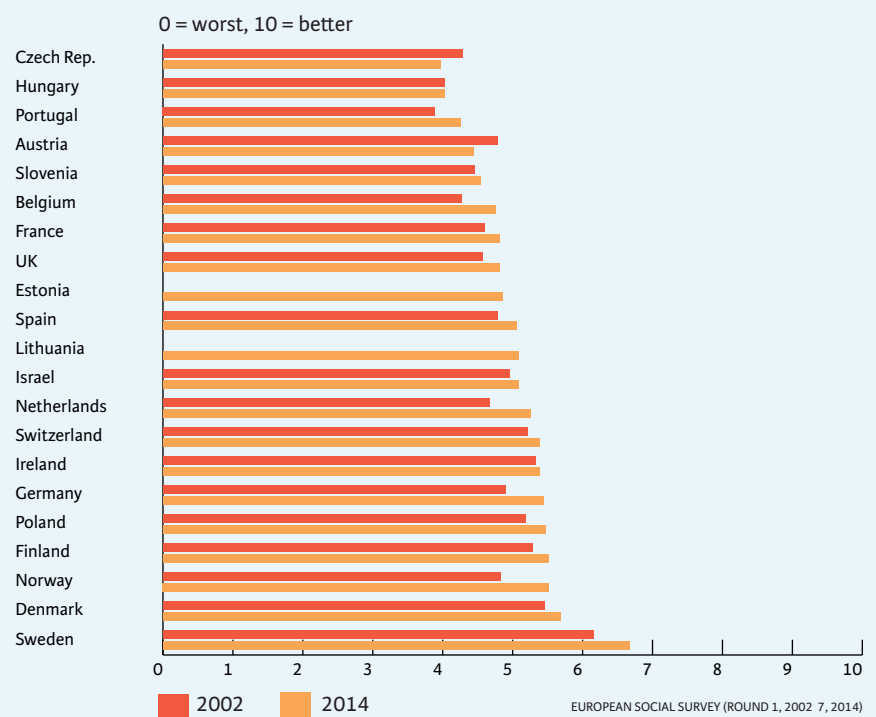
Most people in Denmark and Norway are content with their lives. Bulgaria, meanwhile, is at the opposite end of the scale. Education is a factor in our attitudes towards Muslim immigrants. Swedes, Germans, Frenchmen and Norwegians are more positive about immigration than are people in the Czech Republic, Estonia and Poland. These are some of the findings from the European Social Survey (ESS).

Since 2002 more than 340,000 people from a total of 36 countries have answered questions about their views and opinions on a range of topics. The answers result in data that helps researchers to understand Europe. Data collected in round 7 was published in spring 2016. In addition to recurring questions about socio-economic issues, demographics, social capital, trust, political leanings etc, round 7 also included specific modules on health, inequality and views on immigration.

The ESS reached a milestone in 2016, when its user no. 100,000 registered on the website. That was an increase in registrations of 20,000 compared with the previous year. Germany has the largest number of registered users. Norway is number seven on the list with around 5,200 users. Researchers from across the world are registered users of the website. The ESS is also frequently quoted by the media, organisations and authorities in several countries.

“The ESS reached a milestone in 2016, when its no. 100,000 registered on the website.”

Country made better or worse by migration?



NSD NORDi: Finding, using and sharing research data is set to become easier. The user services of the future are in the making.

“Haven’t got the time.” “Complicated.” “Unnecessary.” “Why should I share my data?” These were some of the answers when in 2014 the Research Council of Norway investigated why many researchers are still reluctant to share their research data. At the same time, Norway, the EU and many other countries have adopted the open access principle: publicly funded research and data should be made as accessible as possible.

In 2014 the Research Council of Norway implemented a new policy recommending that all data be shared. Measures to help achieve this were also presented. The most important new tool is the proposed introduction of mandatory data processing plans. Existing contractual obligations to archive research data will be retained to ensure that research results can be re-examined and used for new research in the future.

In 2016 the EU decided that all data from publicly funded research must be made freely available from 2017 onwards – in line with the goals of Horizon 2020.

At present, only a small proportion of data generated from research is deposited and shared in professional, open archives. This means most data is not available for future research. Both researchers and society at large are missing out on a significant and highly important resource.

Removing barriers

This is the backdrop to NSD NORDi (Norwegian Open Research Data Infrastructure), which launched in 2016. The project is funded by the Research Council of Norway and conducted in close collaboration with the Norwegian research sector. International participants are the UK Data Archive in Essex and the ICPSR in Ann Arbor (USA), both global leaders in building modern e-infrastructure for research data.

Over a period of five years (2016–2021), the project will develop user services for the future in partnership with the users themselves and across different disciplines. The goal is to remove the obstacles to sharing research data that many researchers encounter. It should not take long to share or find research data. It should not be complicated. It should be natural and necessary,

“In 2016 the EU decided that all data from publicly funded research must be made freely available from 2017 onwards – in line with the goals of Horizon 2020.”

not only because research policy dictates it: sharing gives researchers better access and wider networks, and research is made more visible and accessible to more people.

The project has formed a user group with representatives from different research institutes and fields of research. A panel of researchers and representatives of various research administrators will also test selected services.

Services for students, researchers and institutions

- **Data archive and publication (visibility):** NSD upgrades and builds partially new infrastructure for the entire process from data storage and curation to publication and reuse. Each data set is assigned a DOI (Digital Object Identifier), documented and given a standard reference to better enable correct citation of the data set. NSD supports open standard licences but also has long-standing experience of and secure procedures for processing data sets with user restrictions due to data protection or copyright reasons.
- **Integration with secure research platforms:** NSD develops solutions and services for secure and simple archiving of data from secure research platforms such as RAIRD, TSD and SAFE. The solutions also simplify secondary use of archived sensitive data on secure research platforms.
- **Training and support:** NSD seeks to create a culture for and expertise on sharing data seamlessly, effectively and securely. In order to reach researchers across different disciplines and institutions, NSD's NORDi project will establish a training programme for researchers looking to collect, analyse, archive and publish/share their own data and for those involved in teaching at the various institutions (researchers, tutors, librarians and research administrators). NSD will offer training and support in the form of websites, e-learning and courses at NSD and at the institutions. These services will provide training and support on data processing, documentation of research data and secure storage.
- **My Page:** Designed to provide guidance on how to process research data, including tools for generating data processing plans. Researchers and students will be able to access "My Page", which contains a summary of projects, data under analysis, status of deposited data, data protection services, data storage plans, stored searches, support services and user statistics. Deposited data sets will be assigned a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) and can be cited in articles.

- **Services for research institutions:** Research institutions will be able to view a summary of all data deposited and published by its own researchers along with statistics on downloads, reuse and citation of data. The institutions will also be able to access the actual data sets. Existing services from the Data Protection Official for Research and the Database for Statistics on Higher Education (DBH) will be improved further and integrated in the user interface currently being developed by NORDi for the institutions. As well as an online portal, all services will have APIs capable of communicating with the institutes' own systems. This will enable automated archiving and extraction of data and metadata as well as reporting to the institutions' own systems.

Researchers, students and institutions are all in need of user-friendly solutions for storing, accessing and citing research data. This need is at the heart of the development programme that is now underway.

Milestones in 2016

- A new search portal for research data from NSD has been launched (beta version). All data from the various NSD archives will eventually be made available here to allow researchers and students to easily identify and download relevant data using an open access system.
- A new service for depositing data with NSD has been launched. Data and documentation files can be uploaded using a simple drag-and-drop function. NSD catalogues all kinds of digitalised research data – both quantitative and qualitative. Each data set or collection is assigned a unique DOI, a permanent identifier that can also link metadata to research data. This makes the researcher's data (and publications) more accessible, visible and citable.

Once the project's seven work packages have been unwrapped, it is not just the technical infrastructure that will have been renewed. We are also building a secure framework and a culture for sharing data.

We have only just started the five-year project but are already well on our way to making research data a common and accessible good. NSD will ensure secure storage, thorough documentation and access to legible data now – and for the next century.

“NSD will ensure secure storage, thorough documentation and access to legible data now – and for the next century.”



FOTO: ANN KARENE RASMUSSEN/HØGSKULEN I VOLDA

“They are always solution-driven.”

Erik Fooladi
is an associate professor at
Volda University College.

Has used the Data Protection Official for
Research at NSD when researching subject
didactics

Natural scientists may come to rely on NSD, too. Let’s say you know all there is to know about organometallic chemistry. Then you start taking an interest in subject didactics and get a job as a researcher on the teacher training programme at Volda University College. There you develop a project that straddles the subjects of nature and culture: The kitchen as a learning platform and food as an approach to teaching and promoting natural science.

“It meant I had to adopt methods from the social sciences. I’m studying texts and exercises written by the students, and I’m conducting an online survey. That’s where the issue of personal data processing comes in. This was new to me. As a chemist, I would work with molecules – which have neither free will nor personality,” says Erik Cyrus Fooladi.

Fooladi turned to NSD.

“I was half expecting to meet a strict research bureaucracy. But no, what I found was goodwill, accurate and swift feedback – both verbal and written. I don’t think many other public agencies can demonstrate as good a balance as NSD between being pragmatic while still sticking to the principles. They are always solutions-driven,” says Fooladi.

To someone who is first and foremost a chemist with little experience of the methodologies used in the social sciences, the attitude he was met with was important.

“It has made me feel more confident about the work I do and helped improve quality,” says Fooladi.



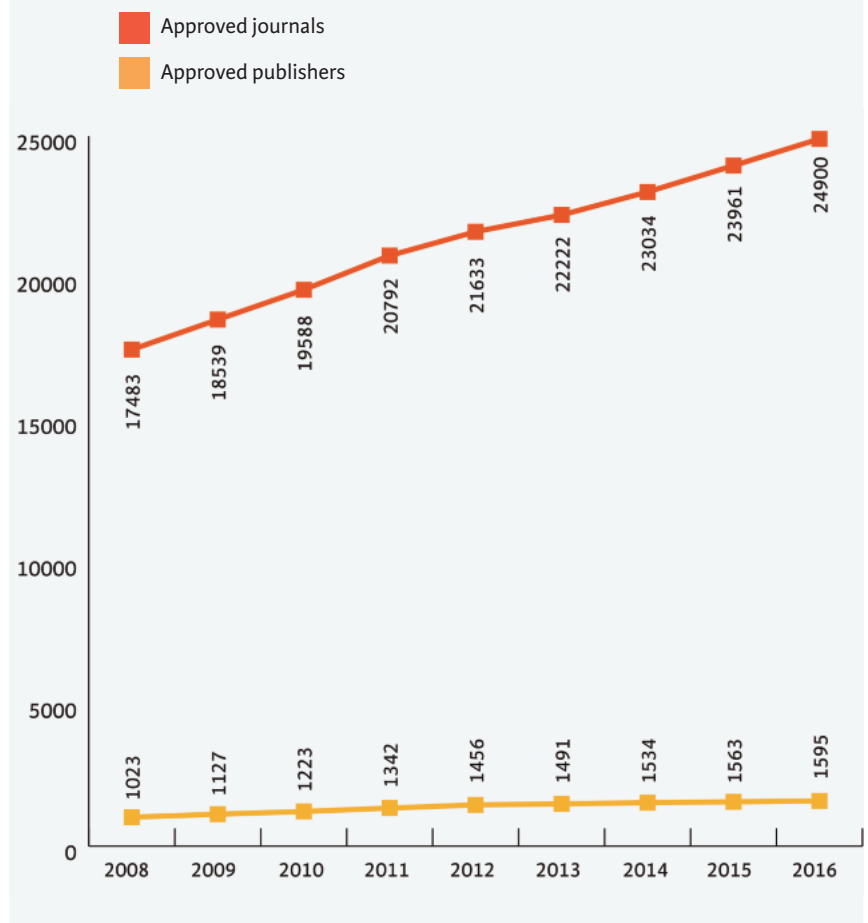
NSD and the Research Council of Norway

Since 1981, NSD has been responsible for archiving data from projects funded by the Research Council of Norway. Its archiving obligations have been written into the contract terms and conditions. The Social Science Research Council and the Research Council for the Humanities were pioneers in this field as far back as the early 1980s when they adopted rules on the submission and reuse of data processed with funding from the Research Council of Norway. In 1995 the Research Council decided that NSD should hold the archives for projects receiving funding from its environment/development and medicine/health funding schemes. According to the Research Council's general terms and conditions for R&D projects, "archiving will be carried out by the Norwegian Social Science Data Services (NSD)" for "projects in the fields of social science, humanities, medicine and health, and environmental and development research". By agreement, NSD provides long-term storage and distribution of data for research purposes – including personal data – to all universities and university colleges, national research institutes and health trusts etc. that use NSD as their data protection official. According to the Research Council of Norway's terms and conditions, the project owner must ensure that all research-generated data, including data that forms the basis for publications, is stored in a secure digital archive.

Publication registers

NSD runs and manages two publication registers: the Norwegian Register of Scientific Journals, Series and Publishers and the European Reference Index for the Humanities and Social Sciences (ERIH PLUS). The registers list tens of thousands of science journals, book series and publishers from across the world. Scientific publication channels are approved for indexing subject to a set of formal criteria. NSD's Norwegian Register of Scientific Journals, Series and Publishers provides details of publishing credits and enables funds to be allocated to the institutions based on their publishing output. ERIH PLUS is a Europe-wide register for research within the humanities, social sciences and European languages. Two online publication services are in development: a Nordic list of publication channels and a Norwegian publication indicator.

Approved journals and publishers



Communications

Communication with research communities is crucial to demonstrating and promoting NSD's mandate and the tasks it performs on behalf of the sector. The main aim of NSD communications is to put the institution on the map through increased co-operation with the research sector and increased use of NSD services.

NSD underwent a name change and got a new logo in 2016. Along with its website, this is the cornerstone of NSD's external communications. Work on the website will gather pace in 2017 in light of NSD NORDi project (see page 12), including a general overhaul of technical solutions, functionality, structure and content.

In spring 2016 the *NSDnytt* newsletter was given a new content structure and a new design. *NSDnytt* will be published biannually in spring and autumn. Media liaisons and better accommodation of journalists resulted in a series of media stories in 2016, especially regarding new data from the ISSP (see page 9) and ESS (see page 9). NSD was referenced 165 times in 2016 (source: Retriever). Around 60 per cent of the media coverage was online, 37 per cent in print and the remainder on TV and radio. Scientific publications, especially in the higher education sector, accounted for almost half of the reports. Just under 40 per cent of the coverage was in the national and regional press. The DBH was referenced 128 times in 2016.

NSD staff frequently deal directly with users in the form of user support by telephone and email, lectures, meetings, courses and seminars. This direct line to the users is essential in order to identify their needs and strengthen the relevance and usefulness of NSD. NSD NORDi is once again a key element with its focus on training, guidance and a comprehensive package of training modules to cover the entire research process.

Partners

NSD is a key player in the development of Nordic, European and international research infrastructure thanks to its extensive collaboration with national and international institutions.

National

Universities and university colleges work with NSD on the archiving of data and data protection, amongst other things.

Statistics Norway and NSD have conducted a formal collaboration ever since 1975 on the processing and distribution of data from Statistics Norway to Norwegian research communities. This has significantly improved working conditions for Norwegian researchers compared with their colleagues abroad.

The Norwegian Data Protection Authority and NSD have worked together since 1981 to protect privacy in ways that do not preclude projects from being carried out.

The National Archives of Norway and NSD have for a long time co-operated informally on the archiving and reuse of research data. The collaboration was formalised in 2014 in the form of an agreement that sees NSD catalogue publicly funded research data on behalf of the National Archives.

The Research Council of Norway has played an important role ever since NSD was set up in 1971 in terms of the scope and quality of NSD's services thanks to its base funding and project funding and by assigning key infrastructure projects to NSD. NSD has been responsible for archiving data from projects funded by the Research Council of Norway for more than 30 years.

The Ministry of Education and Research awards grants to NSD's Database for Statistics on Higher Education (DBH), which supplies services to both the Ministry and higher education institutions.

International

CESSDA AS (Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives) oversees pan-European research infrastructure for the social sciences. NSD is the Norwegian service provider.

ESS ERIC (European Social Survey) is a large European survey with more than 100,000 users. NSD is responsible for storing, processing and distributing data and documentation from the ESS, and it also runs the official survey website. ESS has been granted status

as an ERIC (European Research Infrastructures Consortium) – a legal framework for European research infrastructures.

ICPSR (Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research) is an international consortium made up of more than 750 academic institutions and research organisations. NSD is a member along with the University of Bergen, the University of Oslo, the Arctic University of Norway and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology. The ICPSR is the world's largest data archive for the social sciences, and it also offers educational resources. The ICPSR is based at the University of Michigan.

IFDO (International Federation of Data Organisations for the Social Sciences) works to facilitate research through co-operation across countries, regions and continents. NSD is a member.

Projects

eVIR

NSD is a partner on the eVIR project (e-infrastructure for Video Research) run by the University of Oslo. The goal is to create a national infrastructure for research that uses video data and to develop flexible and secure solutions which protect privacy. The project aims to build storage solutions that are available and accessible across different institutions. NSD provides data archiving facilities to the project and lends its expertise on data protection, the organisation of metadata and the structuring of data for reuse. eVIR is funded by the Research Council of Norway.

RAIRD

RAIRD (Remote Access Infrastructure for Register Data) is a collaboration between NSD and Statistics Norway with an ambition to develop a functional online research tool for register data. The aim is to simplify and improve access by researchers to register data without compromising privacy. The RAIRD solutions are based on interaction between register databases, metadata services, security, anonymisation and authentication services and a powerful statistics and analysis interface. The year 2016 saw RAIRD progress from concept development to consolidation and focus on security, scalability and the operation and management of the platform. RAIRD is funded by the Research Council of Norway.

CESSDA SaW

CESSDA SaW (Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives – Strengthening and Widening) is an infrastructure project involving CESSDA and European archives in and outside the

CESSDA partnership. The aim of the project is to strengthen and broaden the partnership, to improve the quality of archives already part of CESSDA, and to enable archives outside CESSDA to meet the criteria for CESSDA membership. NSD manages one of the work packages in CESSDA SaW. The project is financed by the EU (Horizon 2020).

SERISS

SERISS (Synergies for Europe's Research Infrastructures in the Social Sciences) is an extensive European research project aiming to break down barriers to exchanging research data and to develop new forms of data collection in social research. The project is part of the EU's programme for research and innovation, Horizon 2020. NSD manages a work package looking into the legal and ethical challenges faced by comparative social research with particular focus on survey data and the use of new types of data.

CRONOS (CROss-National Online Survey)

NSD plays a key role in the CRONOS project (CROss-National Online Survey). Its goal is to explore the possibility of setting up a cross-national internet panel based on probability samples. Data collection and samples will be administered across national borders using a centralised system run by NSD. Respondents will be recruited in connection with the personal interviews conducted as part of the ESS (European Social Survey). Recruitment and data collection takes place in three countries: Estonia, Slovenia and Great Britain. NSD runs the panel database, prepares the questionnaires, and issues communication and reminders for a total of six surveys a year. NSD also provides a data archive for the project. CRONOS is part of the project Synergies for Europe's Research Infrastructures in the Social Sciences (SERISS), which is funded by the EU (Horizon 2020).

CESSDA Metadata Harvesting Tool

The CESSDA Metadata Harvesting Tool is funded by CESSDA and is part of CESSDA's Work Plan. NSD co-ordinates the project and is responsible for a considerable proportion of the development work.

CESSDA Metadata Management Project

The project is funded by CESSDA and is part of CESSDA's Work Plan. The aim is to develop, promote and implement a standardised metadata design to be applied to all data in the CESSDA Product and Service Catalogue.

Board, panels and committees

Board of directors

Chair

- Petter Aasen, rector of the University College of Southeast Norway

Board members

- Elin Haugsgjerd Allern, professor at the University of Oslo
- Torbjørn Hægeland, director of research at Statistics Norway (until November 2016)
- Knud Knudsen, professor at the University of Stavanger
- Eva Stensland, associate professor at the Arctic University of Norway
- Lis Tenold, special advisor at NSD, employee representative
- Ove Andersen, special advisor at NSD, employee representative

Deputy board member

- Toril Aalberg, professor at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology

Committees appointed by NSD

Reference group for the Database for Statistics on Higher Education

- Tore Tungodden, University of Bergen, chair
- Beth Linde, Østfold University College, member
- Ingrid Sogner, University of Oslo, member
- Ellen Rye, University College of Southeast Norway, member
- Ingeborg Marie Østby Laukvik, National Council for Tertiary Vocational Education, member
- Trond Bergene, National Council for Tertiary Vocational Education, personal deputy for Marie Østby Laukvik
- Andreas Slettebak Wangen, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, member
- Joar Nybo, Ministry of Education and Research, observer
- Magnus Strand Hauge, Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT), observer
- Anne Marie Rustad Holseter, Statistics Norway, observer
- Stig Slipersæter, Research Council of Norway, observer
- Vidar Røeggen, Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions, observer

Advisory group for ERIH PLUS

- Professor Milena Žic Fuchs, head of the Scientific Review Group for the Humanities, European Science Foundation (ESF)

- Professor Alain Peyraube, director of Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) France
- Professor Gunnar Sivertsen, Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education (NIFU)
- Dr Nina Kancewicz-Hoffman, consultant, European Science Foundation (ESF)
- Professor Stefan Hornbostel, German Centre for Higher Education Research and Science Studies (DZHW)
- Associate Professor Cláudia S. Sarrico, Lisbon School of Economics and Management (ISEG)

RAIRD project board

- Vigdis Namtvedt Kvalheim, NSD, chair
- Torstein Bye, Statistics Norway (until December 2016)
- Elisabetta Vassenden, Statistics Norway
- Brendan Slater, Statistics Norway
- Knut Kalgraff Skjåk, NSD

RAIRD user group

- Ingeborg Foldøy Solli, UiS Business School
- Marianne Røed, Norwegian 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

NORDi user group

- Ingunn R. Sørli, Norwegian Institute for Social Research
- Kirsti Klette, Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions (deputy: Torgeir Christiansen, Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions)
- Live Håndlykken Kvale, the Science Library at the University of Oslo
- Katrine Weisteen Bjerde, CERES
- Andreas Ortmann Jaunsen, Sigma2
- Alexander Refsum Jensenius, University of Oslo
- Gunnar Grendstad, University of Bergen
- Ole Myhre Hansen, National Archives of Norway
- Koenraad De Smedt, CLARINO, University of Bergen

Report of the board of directors

NSD – Norwegian Centre for Research Data (*NSD – Norsk senter for forskningsdata AS*) was established in 1971 as a national infrastructure organisation for research. Since 2003 it has operated as a limited liability company owned by the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research. NSD's object is to provide data management and services to the research sector. Working with national and international institutions, the company shall engage in research and development relating to its object. The company is based in Bergen.

Activities

As in previous years, NSD's operations have centred around the company's mandate to provide important data and infrastructure services to the Norwegian research sector. NSD has taken a broad approach both nationally and internationally to secure access for researchers and students to data and data services. NSD plays a key role in several major European projects aiming to build shared data infrastructure for the social sciences and humanities. The company's revenues increased by 7.7% between 2015 and 2016. A total of 89 FTE's were completed during 2016, including part-time student employees. In 2015 the figure was 86.

Funding

NSD receives funding from several sources. The bulk of the funding comes from the Research Council of Norway, government ministries, the higher education sector and the EU. The Research Council of Norway funded 16% of the activities through its base funding and 28.2% of the total funds when including project funding. Funding in 2016 can be broken down as follows (2015 figures in parentheses): 28.2% (26.4%) from the Research Council of Norway, 24.5% (24.6%) from government ministries, 25.6% (27.5%) from other public and private sources, 16.2% (13%) from EU projects and other international projects, and 5.5% (8.5%) from sales and commissions.

Professional activities and dissemination

NSD's main task is to disseminate and provide information about data and various aspects surrounding the use of data. In order to meet its objective, NSD staff therefore need to engage broadly with users in their day-to-day work. NSD staff also give talks at courses and seminars, and they help train staff and students in the higher education sector in matters such as methodology, ethics and data protection. User liaison is important in order to ensure that NSD's activities remain relevant to the needs of the research

sector. The internet is NSD's most important information channel, and it constitutes the core of the services that NSD is mandated to provide.

Working environment and natural environment

NSD staff work in an office environment with computers as their main tool. Short-term sickness absence stood at 2.6% and long-term sickness absence at 3.3% in 2016. No injuries or accidents were recorded. The enterprise has not polluted the natural environment. NSD strives to achieve a gender balance.

Employees by age and gender

The gender distribution shows a slight predominance of women (54%) amongst the workforce. The NSD management team comprises 5 women and 7 men. Diversity is important to NSD, and it encourages qualified candidates to apply regardless of age, cultural or ethnic background.

Annual financial statements and allocation of profit

The board is very satisfied with the professional results achieved in 2016. The company made a profit in 2016, and its future prospects are good. The board can confirm that the requirements for the going concern assumption have been satisfied. The board is committed to ensuring adequate equity and therefore proposes to allocate NSD's profit for 2016 of NOK 2,275,991 to other equity. As stipulated in the articles of association, no dividends will be paid.



PETTER AASEN
Styreleder



KNUD KNUDSEN
Styremedlem



EVA STENSLAND
Styremedlem



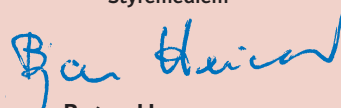
ELIN HAUGSGJERD ALLERN
Styremedlem



LIS TENOLD
Styremedlem



OVE D. ANDERSEN
Styremedlem



BJØRN HENRIKSEN
adm. dir.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

	NOTE	2016	2015
OPERATING INCOME AND EXPENSES			
Operating income	8	70 208 418	65 519 648
Total, operating income		70 208 418	65 519 648
Salaries and social costs	2,9	56 145 522	53 280 082
Deprecation tangible fixed assets	3	286 504	365 233
Other operating expenses	2	10 620 096	10 124 203
Total, operating expenses		67 052 123	63 769 517
Operating profit/loss		3 156 295	1 750 131
FINANCIAL ITEMS			
Interest income		311 731	607 854
Other financial income		53 421	884 911
Interest expenses		0	2 770
Other financial expenses		795 456	36 181
Net financial items		-430 305	1 453 814
Profit/loss for the year		2 725 991	3 203 945
ALLOCATION OF PROFIT/LOSS			
Allocated to other equity		2 725 991	3 203 945
Total, allocation of profit/loss	4	2 725 991	3 203 945

BALANCE SHEET DECEMBER 31

	NOTE	2016	2015
ASSETS			
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets			
Fixtures and fittings	3	691 233	739 425
Total, tangible and fixed assets		691 233	739 425
Financial fixed assets			
Payment in advance	7, 10	247 484	318 194
Total, financial fixed assets		247 484	318 194
Total, fixed assets		938 718	1 057 618
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors			
Trade debtors		8 379 203	7 082 979
Other debtors	7, 10	563 885	450 014
Total, debtors		8 943 088	7 532 993
Bank deposits, cash in hand etc.	5	69 139 117	70 243 215
Total, current assets		78 082 204	77 776 208
Total assets		79 020 922	78 833 826

BALANCE SHEET DECEMBER 31

	NOTE	2016	2015
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		7 378 127	7 378 127
Retained earnings			
Other equity	4	28 378 784	25 652 794
Total, retained earnings		28 378 784	25 652 794
Total equity	4	35 756 912	33 030 921
LIABILITIES			
Accounting allocations			
Provisions for pensions	9	12 351 114	12 556 351
Total, accounting allocations		12 351 114	12 556 351
Current liabilities			
Trade creditors		3 640 019	2 513 371
Public duties payable		3 228 132	3 388 612
Other short-term liabilities	6	24 044 745	27 344 571
Total, current liabilities	10	30 912 897	33 246 554
Total, liabilities		43 264 011	45 802 905
Total, equity and liabilities		79 020 922	78 833 826



PETTER AASEN
Styreleder



KNUD KNUDSEN
Styremedlem



EVA STENSLAND
Styremedlem



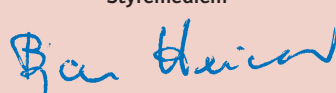
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Styremedlem



OVE D. ANDERSEN
Styremedlem



BJØRN HENRIKSEN
adm. dir.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2016

NOTE 1 ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES

This financial statements have 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>	2016	2015
Salaries	39 876 484	37 466 515
Accrued holiday allowances	5 257 330	4 781 417
Social security tax	6 401 594	6 016 327
Pension costs, incl. negotiated pensions	3 937 305	4 552 457
Other benefits	672 810	463 366
Total	56 145 522	53 280 082
Average number of full time equivalent positions	89	86

Remuneration to managerial staff

	SALARY	PENSION	OTHER BENEFITS
Director	1 148 133	21 876	4 392
Board	387 900	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 67 700 has been entered as a cost for legally required audit, plus 25 538 for other services.

NOTE 3 LONG-TERM OPERATING ASSETS

<i>Amounts in NOK</i>	INVENTAR	IT-UTSTYR	SUM
Historical cost 01.01.	1 692 748	3 189 060	4 881 808
Additional acquisitions	205 952	32 361	238 313
Acquisition cost per 31.12.	1 898 700	3 221 421	5 120 121
Accumulated depreciation per 31.12.	1 421 264	3 007 624	4 428 888
Book value per 31.12.	477 436	213 797	691 233
Depreciation for the year	102 792	183 712	286 504
Economic lifetime	10 år	3 år	
Depreciation schedule	Lineær	Lineær	

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	25 652 794	33 030 921
Profit/loss for the year			2 725 990	2 725 990
Equity capital per 31.12	5 000 000	2 378 127	28 378 784	35 756 912

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>	2016	2015
Unpaid holiday pay	4 986 928	4 705 616
Periodised project payments	18 339 081	20 211 324
Other current liabilities	718 736	2 427 631
Sum	24 044 745	27 344 571

NOTE 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>	2016	2015
Advance paid in connection with refurbishment	9 013 609	9 013 609
Unused refurbishment funds returned to NSD	-256 677	-256 677
Grants received from Research Council of Norway	-7 500 000	-7 500 000
Net	1 256 932	1 256 932
Share of rent for previous years	-938 738	-868 029
Share of rent for 2015	-70 709	-70 709
Advance payments per 31.12.	247 485	318 194
Other advance payments of operating costs	563 885	450 014
Total advance payments	811 370	768 208

NOTE 8 BREAKDOWN OF INCOME

<i>Amounts in NOK</i>	2016	2015
Funding from the Research Council of Norway	19 773 281	17 314 208
Funding from government ministries	17 210 000	16 109 000
Other public- and private-sector grants	17 979 036	18 046 934
Project funding from the EU and other international organisations	11 351 616	8 503 144
Income from sales and contracts	3 894 486	5 546 362
Sum	70 208 418	65 519 648

NOTE 9 PENSIONS

<i>Amounts in NOK</i>	2015	2014
Earned pensions for the year	4 022 114	3 542 482
Effects of year's changes in pension plans	0	0
Interest paid on pension liabilities	1 484 720	1 562 551
Expected return on pension funds	-1 552 163	-1 259 239
Administration costs	158 352	135 248
Net pension costs before employment tax	4 113 023	3 981 042
Employment tax on pension costs	579 936	561 327
Pension expense before unrecognized adjustments	4 692 959	4 542 369
Actuarial loss	315 700	983 224
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	5 008 658	5 525 593

<i>Amounts in NOK</i>	2016	2015
Pension liabilities per 31.12.	70 203 497	64 753 370
Pension assets per 31.12	49 849 141	45 029 981
Employment tax on net pension liabilities	2 869 964	2 780 998
Net pension liabilities including employment tax	23 224 320	22 504 387
Actuarial profit not entered in profit and loss account	-9 529 540	-8 718 700
Estimated deviation from employment tax	-1 343 665	-1 229 337
Pension liabilities, including employment tax, entered in balance sheet	12 351 114	12 556 351

<i>The following conditions were used as a basis for the above calculations:</i>	2016	2015
Discount rate	2,60 %	2,30 %
Return on pension funds	3,60 %	3,30 %
Salary growth	2,50 %	2,50 %
Annual anticipated adjustment of old-age pensions under payment	1,50 %	1,50 %
Annual anticipated adjustment of G-rate	2,25 %	2,25 %
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 2016

Petter Aasen
CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Bjørn Henrichsen
DIRECTOR

