

1. Introduction and framing

1.1 Presentation and strategy

The Faculty of Law, University of Bergen, is situated in Norway's second largest city. The faculty has the third largest study program at the university, with a current student count of 2 510 students. The academic staff counted 72 in 2019, of which 34 full professors.

The faculty is organized as a single academic unit, which means that the entire faculty has only three academic leaders.¹ The human resource responsibility is shared between the Dean and the Vice-Dean. The faculty is divided into 14 research groups, largely with shared leadership. All academic employees are members of one or more research groups. The groups were created in 2005, and the faculty has seen only a small increase in the number of groups.

The research group leaders have the administrative responsibility for communal academic activities and hold the role as the local level commenting body on behalf of the academic community. The PhD candidates are well integrated in the research communities, often operating with a main affiliation to a specific research group which takes responsibility for the social as well as the academic aspects of the PhD period. However, the organization of our research groups is loosely structured, precisely in order to stimulate circulation and an interdisciplinary focus and renewal. The faculty has operated with an intentional strategy of not posing requirements of goal achievement for the research groups as such. The research groups have the possibility to apply for internal funds every calendar year. In assessment of the applications, the extent of, and quality of previous activities, as well as collaboration between groups are emphasized.

In 2009, Dean Ernst Nordtveit appointed a committee to account for the faculty's resource needs for the following ten years.² Based on the committee's report, it was determined that the international norm for teacher per student ratio in high quality law schools appear to be about 1:20. Hence, the committee concluded that the Faculty of Law in Bergen should increase the number of academic positions from 42,5 to 106,8 (94,6) during the following ten-year period. This would mean 64,3 employments (51,1 new permanent positions, including replacements of 9 temporary positions). An increase of academic staff of this magnitude would reduce the ratio of students and academic staff from, at the time, 1:62 to 1:20 (1:23). It was recommended that the ratio between university teachers and total student count should be reduced from 1:49 to 1:20 (1:23) during the following ten-year period.³

The basic funding from the University of Bergen has been stable during the period. Expenses charged as grant funded and externally funded activities (BOA) peaked in 2013 with 19,7 MNOK.

In 2010 academic person-years counted 68,5. The number of person-years saw a slight increase from 2010 to 2019, with a peak around 2015. The number of first-level position person-years with teaching duties (i.e. full professors and associate professors) has been 27,3, 46,5 and 43,69 in the years 2010, 2015 and 2019. The faculty has faced increased competition from the private sector labour market when it comes to permanent staff, particularly due to wage disparities. Overall, the academic staff has increased by four employees since 2010. At the same time, the student count has

¹ Academic leaders have no research duties, and only one of the three has teaching duties.

² Nordtveit, Ernst et.al. 2009. *Ressursrammer for utvikling av Det juridiske fakultet UiB*. Innstilling av 29.01.09 komité oppnevnt med grunnlag i fakultetsstyvedtak 25.06.08. [*Resource frames for the development of The Faculty of Law, UiB*] Report by the committee appointed based on a decision in the faculty board dated June 25th 2008] p. 6

³ Nordtveit, Ernst et.al. 2009. *Ressursrammer for utvikling av Det juridiske fakultet, UiB*. Innstilling av 29.01.09 fra komité oppnevnt med grunnlag i fakultetsstyvedtak 25.06.08. [*Resource frames for the development of The Faculty of Law, UiB*] Report by the committee appointed based on a decision in the faculty board dated June 25th 2008]] p.7

increased by around 400 students. The rate of women in leading positions has seen an increase, from 36,2% of the person-years in first-level positions in 2010 to 45% in 2019.

In 2010, the faculty initiated an extensive strategy process. The committee's report from 2009 mentioned, in addition to the research needs following in the wake of the general juridification of society, more specifically processes of globalization, internationalization of the production of rules of law and out-of-court-settlement:

Concrete circumstances such as the technological development, migration, climate change, and environmental issues which require new models of law, (...) national interests connected to the development of Maritime Law, The High North, rules of global trade and European law development require a significant strengthening of the legal competence in Norway.⁴

The report was foreseeing, and largely corresponds to the government's long-term plan for research published the following year.⁵

Beyond these main lines, the strategy for 2011-2015 allocated specific financial resources to selected academic communities in order to secure a competitive advantage and protect vulnerable academic communities. There was an explicit intention to profile the faculty based on a few selected prominent academic communities. This decision was anchored in the realization that the faculty was at a critical stage regarding growth. The faculty in Bergen has a significantly shorter history compared to Norway's largest faculty of law in Oslo. As national funding systems chiefly fund education, the faculty has during the first decades primarily operated as an institution of teaching with limited personnel resources.

The selection of the academic communities highlighted in the strategy plan for 2011-2015 was based on written assessments from the communities. The following criteria were targeted:

- Researchers holding a PhD in the field and contributing high quality research who have demonstrated ability and willingness to organize a research community and educate or recruit researchers.
- One or more ideas for extensive research projects in collaboration with attractive partners, which may generate external funding within a relatively short time frame.
- Allocation of research funds and/or strong, active partnerships internally or externally which may contribute to position the legal academic community nationally and/or internationally within a short time frame.
- Other indicators for rapid growth and recognition corroborating the notion that the community may become leading in its research field during the course of a few years or during an externally funded project period. This may come about through e.g. national or international evaluations of the research community, quality of research output, and quality of active collaborators.

Upon request, researchers from Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure submitted a comprehensive account of the community, based on the criteria for applications for Centres of Excellence posed by the Research Council of Norway, which showed that they produced high quality research in the entire breadth of the field of Criminal Law. They were highlighted in the strategy with the intention of strengthening the position of the academic community as an international leading research environment.

The academic community of EU/EEC Commercial and Competition Law submitted a report on its own accord, which particularly documented their growth potential due to a possible collaboration with

⁴ Nordtveit, Ernst et.al. 2009. *Ressursrammer for utvikling av Det juridiske fakultet, UiB*. Innstilling av 29.01.09 fra komité oppnevnt med grunnlag i fakultetsstyrevedtak 25.06.08. [*Resource frames for the development of The Faculty of Law, UiB*] Report by the committee appointed based on a decision in the faculty board dated June 25th 2008] p.7

⁵ Se Langtidsplan for forskning 2015-2024 [Long-term Research Plan 2015-2024]

<https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/e10e5d5e2198426788ae4f1ecbbbbc20/no/pdfs/stm201420150007000dddpdfs.pdf>

the Norwegian School of Economics and the Department of Economics at the UiB in addition to a collaboration with the Norwegian Competition Authority, which was to be moved to Bergen. The academic community was highlighted in the strategy due to its growth potential and its documented strategic focus ability.

In agreement with the leadership, an assessment was conducted of the Civil Law community. The field covered, and still covers, major parts of the research-based teaching in the education of Law in Norway. Despite including several of the most prominent scholars in the field, the prospects of recruitment to this academic community at the faculty were considered slim. This is due to the competition with the private sector labour market as well as the limited possibilities for external funding of basic research in Civil Law.

Parts of the strategy working process consisted of an evaluation of the research groups. Accordingly, the following goal was stated for the organization: Strengthen the research collaborations at the faculty; Build up inclusive and attractive communities for researchers at various levels; Contribute to the facilitation of a more systematic research leadership; Create a platform for growth and development of research and projects; Facilitate network building with national and international communities; Strengthen the profiling of staff's contributions to the national and international research frontier.

In the strategy plan for 2016-2022, the faculty chose to continue the general priorities and the specifically mentioned academic fields. The strategy was adapted to the university's plan period and thematic priority areas. Central to the university strategy was the ambition to increase cross-faculty collaboration, particularly in the areas of climate/energy transformation, marine research, and global challenges. Thus, environmental Law was highlighted in the faculty's strategy.

As a measure in the university strategy, the University Board decided to pull funds from the faculties' budgets and target the thematic priority areas. In a short-term perspective, this intensified the vulnerability of the faculty's financial situation. The strategic funding would in turn be redistributed to the faculties based on project applications in an internal competition. Thematically speaking, the faculty entered 2016 with little research concentration on the new thematic areas in the university's strategy. One exception was the research connected to migration and global societal changes and the legal protection of vulnerable groups immigrating to Norway – particularly the projects funded by the Research Council of Norway in 2010: *Constitution, welfare state and citizenship, Juridification and social citizenship*; the project *Migration to Norway: Migration flows and regulation* in collaboration with Institute for Social Research; and the project: *Provision of welfare to irregular migrants* where the faculty is partner from 2011. The research in the field of migration flows have increased during the entire period of evaluation (2010-2019) and beyond the funding periods.

1.2 Education: purpose and arrangements

Law studies were introduced at the University of Bergen in 1969 and the Faculty of Law was established in 1980. The Faculty offers an integrated five-year master's programme, and from 2014, a two-year master's programme which is equal to the two final years of the five-year master's programme and admits students with a Bachelor of Law. Annually, between 350 and 380 students graduate with a Master of Law from the two programmes combined, with numbers gradually

increasing from 270 in 2009.⁶ Despite the challenges associated with an increase in student numbers, and an accompanying increase in the students per teacher ratio, the five-year master's programme has been among the three most popular study programmes in Norway⁷ during the entire evaluation period.

Cooperation on student exchange has fostered contact between researchers, and we see examples where relations established through cooperation on student exchange have led to research cooperation. The portfolio of exchange- and study abroad agreements has grown from around 100 in 2009, to a total of 175 bilateral agreements in 2019. The rate of students who spend one or two semesters abroad as part of their degree programme is on average 46% between 2010 and 2019. This is the highest among the law faculties in Norway, and an exceptionally high percentage when compared to the overall national average which is 16 %, with a long-term national goal of 50 %⁸. International relations starting with student exchange have also led to successful roundtable conferences for PhD fellows in both China and India, which give our PhD fellows new perspectives and experience with presenting their project for an international audience.⁹

The teaching staff is primarily composed of permanent positions which require doctoral competence (i.e. associate and full professors) supported by post doctors and PhD fellows ('research fellows' in the table below) with teaching as part of their training and qualification portfolio (the teaching percentage listed in table 1 is the maximum teaching load). The number of academic person-years has seen some variation but with an overall increase from 2010 to 2019, with the number of full professors doubling. From 2015 to 2019, there was a decrease in associate professors (5 person-years), lecturers (2 person-years) and PhD fellows (4 person-years), the latter of which can partly be attributed to the corresponding decrease in externally funded projects.¹⁰

Position	Academic person-years			Typical time spent on teaching, administration, and research		
	2010	2015	2019	Teaching	Research	Administration
Researcher	4	2	1,7	-	95%	5%
Associate professor	11,5	15	10,04	46%	46%	8%
Associate professor II	-	0,2	-	-	-	-
Post Doctor	5,8	2	4,5	24%	72%	4%
Professor	15,8	31,5	33,65	46%	46%	8%
Professor II	0,6	1,2	-	-	-	-
Fellows (PhD)	28,8	26,2	22	22,5%	72,5%	5,0%
Lecturer	2	2	-	72,5%	22,5%	5,0%
Sum	68,5	80,1	71,89			
<i>Enrolled students</i>	<i>2135</i>	<i>2310</i>	<i>2510</i>			

Table 1: Staff composition. Dean, research assistants and other positions not included. Personnel employed on hourly contracts (part-time teachers, assistant teachers etc.) are not included.
Source: Faglige årsverk (styringsparameter) DBH and teaching accounts archive at faculty.

⁶ *The Common Student System*⁶ shows that recruitment to the faculty in the period 2009 to 2019 is mostly from the western and eastern regions of Norway, with respectively 40 % and 50 % of students from these regions, and the counties/urban areas of Oslo (716), Bergen (714), Bærum (312) and Stavanger (183) providing the most students. Student credit production has been high, averaging 50 ECTS credits per year.

⁷ Ranked according to the number of first-time applicants by the Norwegian Universities and Colleges Admission Service. Law at UiO and Siviløkonom at Norwegian School of Economics usually being the other contenders for the top three places.

⁸ [Meld. St. 7 \(2020-2021\) En verden av muligheter — Internasjonal studentmobilitet i høyere utdanning](#)

⁹ See this further elaborated under 2.3.

¹⁰ See section 1.3.

1.3. What is the size and importance of external funding (research grants and assignments from public authorities) for research and education at the institution?

Total faculty expenditures are split in two categories: 1) the annual block grant from the Ministry,

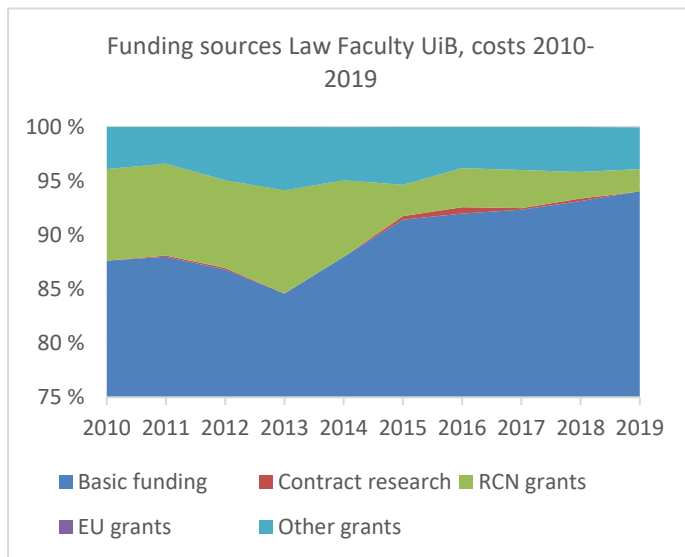


Figure 1: Main funding sources as cost. Source: Institutional financial archives.

while funding from the RCN has declined considerably.

including a performance-based component, and 2) funding through sources such as The Research Council of Norway (RCN), the European framework programmes and other private and public sources, in addition to commissioned research. Most higher education institutions in Norway are state-owned and receives basic funding on a yearly basis.

As figure 1 shows, the composition of external funding for the Faculty of Law at UiB was around 15% of total costs in 2013. From 2015 and onwards, there has been a decline in acquisitions to below 10%. During the evaluation period, the faculty has been successful in securing funding from private and other grants

Funding from The Research Council of Norway

Figure 2 shows the success rate and grants for projects financed by RCN. Upon entering the evaluation period, there were several successful proposals, partly due to the last national evaluation

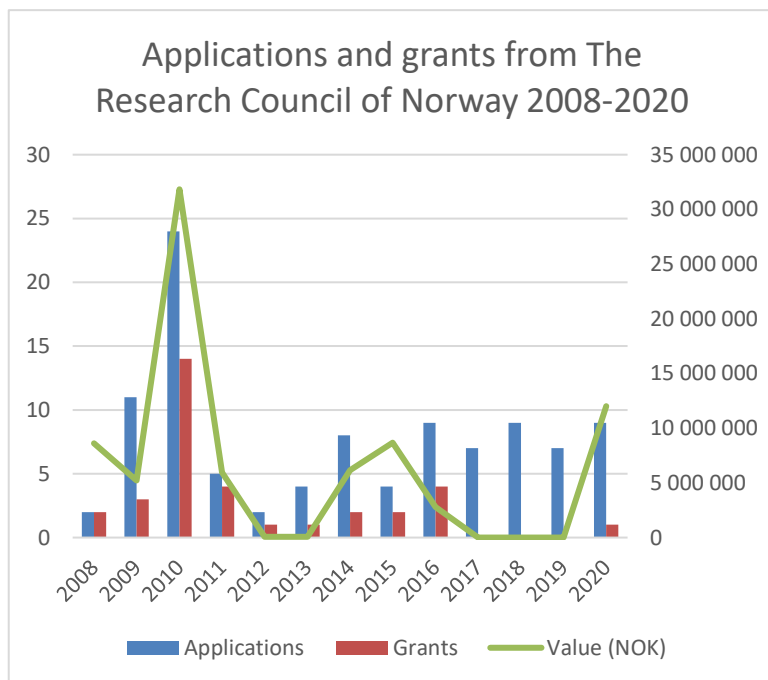


Figure 2: The number of applications, grants and grant value per year from The Research Council of Norway 2008-2020. The grant value shows the value in NOK the year funding was granted. Source: RCN database and institutional archives

of law research resulting in the establishment of the time-limited JUSISP-programme (Institutionalized strategic projects in Law research 2006-2009). The 2010 and 2011 grants were awarded to research projects in Civil Law, Competition Law, Criminal Law and one in relation to the 2014 Constitution Jubilee. In 2015, two research projects were awarded in Administrative Law and Competition Law. There is mainly one research programme in the RCN portfolio which accommodates applications concerning legal research. The programme is called FRIPRO – a funding scheme for independent projects which provides funding for basic, ground-breaking

projects. The faculty has submitted 14 applications to the FRIPRO programme since 2016, and a total of 23 applications to the RCN, but has not been granted any funding as coordinator for larger projects. The trend at the Faculty of Law at UiB seems to apply for law research at other institutions in Norway as well.

Funding from other sources

The faculty has managed to secure funding for several large research projects in line with the strategic priorities for the period. A characteristic of the identified projects is that they, explicitly or implicitly, require a substantial amount of matching/own funding from the faculty in order to be granted, and most of the projects are within the prioritized/strategic areas of the faculty or UiB.¹¹

During the last three years, the faculty has furthermore received an increasing number of supplements to the basic funding through successful proposals in internal competitions at UiB. This particularly applies to PhD and Post.doc. positions in cross-faculty collaborations within the priority area of climate and energy transformation. These funds are in addition to recruitment positions and buyouts in projects funded by the research programme The Academic agreement.¹²

2. Productivity and research quality

2.1 Development, objectives and priorities the last ten years

On a general level, the faculty's research activity is mostly conducted through informal research collaborations both nationally and internationally, and also across the research groups at the faculty. It has been a conscious choice on behalf of the faculty not to direct the thematic organization of the research. It is a trend during 2010-2019 that researchers increasingly co-author scholarly articles or books with other researchers in Norway, Scandinavia or other countries. Especially in the field of Civil Law, which in this report includes Tort Law, Energy Law, EU/EEA Law, Administrative/Health Law, Family and Succession Law, and law on International Human Rights, Children's Rights and Civil Procedure, researchers from the faculty are members of strong international academic networks and participate in comparative projects, which has resulted in books published by internationally leading academic publishers.

Research collaborations have increasingly resulted in academic anthologies, where researchers from the faculty have led the project as editors. Some selected results from long lasting collaborations are: *The Character of Petroleum Licences. A legal cultural analysis*, Hunter/Sunde/Nordtveit, Edward Elgar Publishing 2000, *The relationship between national and international energy law*. I: Routledge Handbook of Energy Law, Hunter/Herrera Anchustegui/ Crossley and Alvarez (eds.), Routledge 2020 and *Agreement of The European Economic Area – A Commentary*, Arnesen/Fredriksen/Graver/Mestad/Vedder, Nomos 2018, counting 9 authors from the faculty. The results from the collaborations have been remarkable, e.g. anthologies edited by research group on Administrative Law: *Forholdsmessighetsvurderinger i forvaltningsretten*, Søvig (ed.) 2015, the research group on Welfare Law: *Selvbestemmelse og tvang i helse- og omsorgstjenesten*, Østenstad/Adolphsen/Naur/Aasen, Fagbokforlaget 2015, and the research group on Legal Culture: *Comparing Legal Cultures*, Koch/Sunde Fagbokforlaget 2020 (first addition 2018 Koch/Skodvin/Sunde).

¹¹ See attachment 2 and 8 (project list).

¹² The Academic agreement between Equinor and UiB has a scope of 70 MNOK over a 5-year period, 2019-2024.

Moreover, a clear feature of the faculty's research output in 2010-2019 is the increase of international publications. The rate of English language publications has on average been close to 40% during these years.

During the evaluation period, the well-respected academic community in Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure has strengthened its position as internationally leading. In 2019, the academic community is composed of 9 full professors, with an addition of 3 with Criminal Law in their portfolio. There is a high concentration of external funding and several leading professors have during their career received awards for their research contributions. During the evaluation period, Jørn Jacobsen was awarded the Nils Klim Prize for original scholarly work within Criminal Law Theory. The academic community furthermore participates in central international academic debates, particularly within theory-driven research through, among other things, publications on German and English in the distinguished (level 2) journal *Zeitschrift für die gesamte Strafrechtswissenschaft*. The researchers are collaborating with world leading researchers and research environments for example in the USA, the UK, and Germany. Some of the professors also engage in quite extensive interdisciplinary collaboration with world leading academics in medicine, philosophy, and sociology. Moreover, the large research projects have had partners from the Ministry of Justice, The Higher Prosecution Authorities, The Appeal Court of Gulating and judges from other courts, and The National Police Directorate (Norway).

The Competition Law community has during the period gained a position as leading in Europe through the Bergen Centre for Competition Law and Economics (BECCLE) and its interdisciplinary orientation. BECCLE is unique in a Nordic context. During the last five years, it has reached a critical mass with a well-balanced structure of junior and senior researchers, and between economists and lawyers. The centre researchers, particularly those from the Faculty of Law, have succeeded in applying for external, competitive research grants, including projects submitted to the Finance Market Fund: *Towards more stability, competitiveness and predictability in the financial sector* (received 3,2 MNOK) and *EEA Financial Supervision – Norway's affiliation to the European System for Financial Supervision* (received 2,7 MNOK). Several of the researchers within the group have been awarded for their excellent publications and are internationally leading in their respective fields. Halvard Haukeland Fredriksen and Ignacio Herrera Anchustegui were both awarded the Meltzer Fund Award for Young researchers (in 2011 and 2017). Ernst Nordtveit was awarded the Verdienstkreuz am Bande from the German Bundespräsident for contributions to academic collaboration between Norway and Germany. Many of the researchers affiliated with BECCLE belong to the research group on EU/EEA Commercial Law. The research environment collaborates closely with representatives from EFTA Surveillance Authority and the EFTA-Court, and one of co-leaders of the research group is the leader of the Norwegian Association of European Law.

The Rule of Law community has also, particularly in the latter half of the period, made their mark internationally in comparative Constitutional Law and the Role of Courts in society. The research field includes the influence on new technologies on legal method and court procedure. The academic community participates in leading European research communities and has produced several well-respected academic publications in collaboration with leading international researchers in the field. One of the professors has worked on an operational and practical level in the Venice Commission analysing reforms of laws and constitutions based in, among other things, Comparative Law. The researchers in the group have strong collaborations with the courts, the Norwegian National Court's Administration, and the Norwegian Court Commission, where one of the research group leaders is a member.

Within the field of Civil Law the academic community still maintains permanent staff with a very broad and solid competence who have stood out with leading academic monographies and contributions, also prior to 2010. This includes the field of Tort Law and International Private Law. The last years, professors of the community have contributed to the field with monographs made in several editions in the period, which is widely used in both academia and practice. Some of the books also contain academic analyses of a timeless nature with broad interest to the Nordic academic community in Civil Law, see for example Marthinussen, *The problems of competing proprietary rights - An analysis of argumentation structures in property law*, 2019 (first ed. 2016).

During the assessment period, an active community on Civil Procedure has been established. Several of the researchers currently participate in leading international networks.¹³ A fraction of the community is also leading within the interdisciplinary research field of Alternative Dispute Settlement. The research is based on interdisciplinary methods and close cooperation with practitioners and courts.

Based in a solid academic community of Administrative Law and Welfare Law, central academic staff have distinguished themselves on an international level within Health Law. The academic community of Health Law also maintains a clear interdisciplinary direction in research collaborations with leading researchers in Social Sciences and Medicine. The research group engages in collaboration with Helseklage [The National Complain Service for Health Services] and Diskrimineringsnemnda [The Norwegian Anti-Discrimination Tribunal]. Several of the researchers furthermore contribute to research in the field of migration, especially in projects concerning human rights of vulnerable groups and their access to health care both in Norway and Africa. Several of the externally funded projects are based in this research environment.

Several of the faculty's academic communities are agenda-setting on an international level in comparative research. The research group in Legal Culture has contributed a range of international publications and has active international collaborations, especially with the UK and Germany, with books published by well renown publish houses.¹⁴ The research on Legal History has been carried out within a framework of strong national and international collaborations of a broad and interdisciplinary nature. The faculty furthermore conducts internationally influential comparative research in Children Law in collaboration with outstanding researchers from social sciences and legal researchers from other countries.¹⁵

During the strategic period 2016-2022 the faculty has developed a strong and leading research environment on Natural Resources and Energy Law. The research focuses on sustainable development and societal goals, energy transition and renewable energy. The Faculty is a partner in the UiB Bergen Offshore Wind Centre.¹⁶ The community at the University of Bergen has, especially during recent years, developed a remarkable number of large research applications, and the researchers are currently participating in several applications for funding of Centres of Excellence. All of the faculty's researchers working within this field are formally affiliated with the Centre for Climate and Energy Transformation at the Faculty of Social Sciences. Other partners are Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, the Norwegian School of Economics, Bergen Municipality, Vestland County Council, County Governor of Vestland, the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research in Bergen, Equinor, and the Norwegian Society of Graduate Technical and Scientific Professionals. Several of the senior researchers collaborate with partners from leading universities in the US, the

¹³ See <https://www.uib.no/fg/sivilprosess/139492/model-rules-civil-procedure>.

¹⁴ Koch/Helland, *Nordic and Germanic Legal Methods*, Mohr Siebeck 2014.

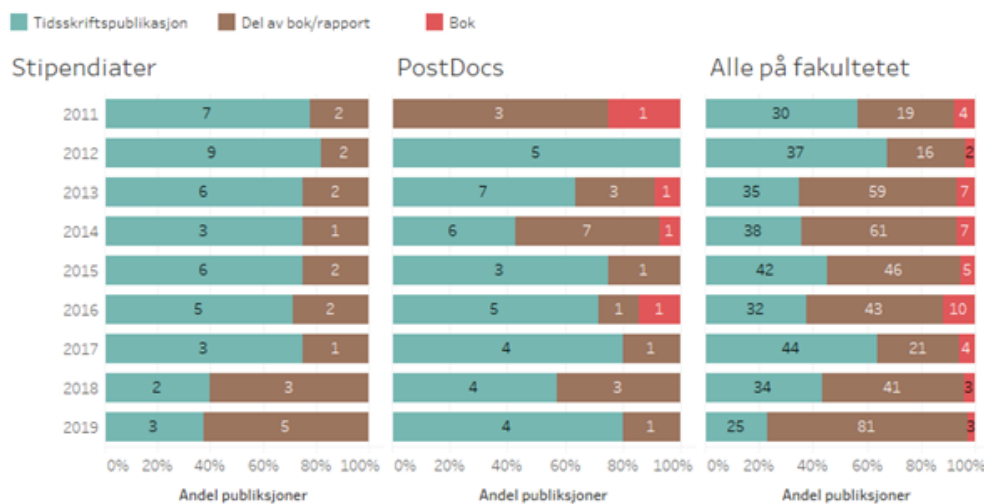
¹⁵ See for instance *Children's Rights and International Discrimination Law*, Skivenes/Søvig, Routledge 2019.

¹⁶ <https://www.uib.no/en/bow>

UK, Spain, Germany and Australia. The leader of the group has recently founded the International Association of Energy Law (IAEL).

The faculty as a whole does also have a considerable article output. Figure 3 shows the number and rate of publications per publication format for PhD candidates, post doctors and the faculty as a whole.

During the latter half of the assessment period, the faculty established an extensive project on Tax



Law, based in the research group on Tax Law, in collaboration with excellent research communities at the Norwegian School of Economics¹⁷, the Norwegian Tax

Figure 3: Publication patterns for PhDs, PostDocs and faculty staff. Source: Cristin, the bibliometrics group at the University Library

Administration, and the regional tax authorities of Western Norway (Skatt Vest). The research network is now leading in a national and Nordic context. The project is a result of the steady growth in PhDs within Tax Law in 2010-2019.

External funding from both RCN and Trond Mohn Foundation (previously Bergen Research Foundation) has had a significant impact on the extent as well as the quality of the research within the faculty's prioritised areas in the strategies from 2011-2022. This particularly applies to those fields that have been prioritised based on their strength and their growth potential. The funding has laid the grounds for more research time and a higher research output. The priority areas Criminal Law and Commercial Law have been assessed by international expert panels, which support the results of the priority areas. The final evaluation of the project *The functionality of the criminal justice system* of January 2018, states:

SAC (scientific advisory committee) is of the opinion that the project has – by and large – fulfilled its ambitious aims. In some regards the project has even attained an excellent fulfilment of the aims.

The project has benefitted strongly from the research environment at the faculty, and the Faculty has been greatly enforced by the research carried out within the project. As a result the research environment within criminal law and criminal procedure at the Faculty today is internationally outstanding. There is no equivalent in the Nordic countries. In the view of the SAC members there is no doubt that the project holds a significant part in this great achievement.

An international expert committee appointed by the Trond Mohn Foundation conducted a mid-term evaluation of the project Police and Prosecution Law in 2019. The committee stated the following:

A central objective of the research project is to strengthen and further develop the faculty's research on and academic community of Police and Prosecution Law. This research field has a longstanding

¹⁷ <https://www.nhh.no/en/research-centres/nocet/> and the department of audit and financing.

tradition in the faculty, which must be regarded leading in its field, including teaching, staff and research.¹⁸

The continuous contact and more or less informal collaborations which take place between the project contributors and representatives from the field of practice – including the project contributors networks and affiliations to guest researchers (from the legal domain), presumably creates an extraordinary degree of societal impact, matched by few other research projects.

BECCLE has been evaluated on two occasions – in 2016 and in 2020. In the evaluation of 2020, the following is stated:

This Committee notes that the legal researchers and the economists now have almost equal number of publications, implying that BECCLE has been able to build a strong research team consisting of both lawyers and economists.

Out of 59 journal articles published by the community's researchers since 2015, 29 of the articles are published in Law journals. 50 of the articles are published in international journals, of which 25 are level 2.

2.2 The institution's areas of strengths and priorities in a future perspective up to 2030

This section is presented in chapter 6.

2.3. Recruitment and PhD programme¹⁹

In the period 2010-2019, the faculty has produced 50 doctoral-dissertations and 1 Dr.philos, demonstrating the span of thematic orientation and concentration in several fields.²⁰ 29 of the dissertations were authored by men, 22 by women. All of the dissertations in Civil Law were authored by women, a field which traditionally has been researched by men, while in Tort Law and Legal Theory/Method, all of the authors were men. Apart from this, the distribution of women and men in the different fields is more or less equal. However, the majority of male candidates is reflected in the gender distribution of permanent positions.

Thematically, Criminal Law has the highest number of doctoral dissertations. The community additionally covers Criminal Procedure, Police and Prosecution Law, and EU Criminal Law, while being theoretically and methodologically innovative and moving in an interdisciplinary direction towards medicine, philosophy, psychology, and social sciences. Continuous project activity across has resulted in good revenues and stable recruitment. The EU/EEA Market and Competition Law has also delivered a continuous output during the period. The academic community has tight connections to economic disciplines, and the interdisciplinary competence has become a trademark attracting PhD-candidates.²¹ High dissertation output within Civil Law, Tax Law, Tort Law, and Civil Process reflects the faculty's strategic effort through both strategy periods for the last ten years. These academic communities represent basic fields of Law where the faculty is recognized for its research as well as

¹⁸ «Komiteen bemærker alligevel, at rekruttering af kompetente personer til retsvidenskabelig forskning er en stor og ganske vanskelig udfordring for stort set alle juridiske fagmiljøer i de nordiske lande. Det skyldes bl.a., at jurister traditionelt har haft en bred vifte af attraktive arbejdspladser, mens universitetet i det mindste i visse kredse har været opfattet som mindre prestigefuldt. Det afspejler sig typisk også i lønniveauet, således at universitetsansatte jurister tjener mindre end jurister i stillinger på tilsvarende niveauer i det offentlige og navnlig i det private.»

¹⁹ Section 2.4 *If available, labour marked* is included in 3.3. We have started from the categories suggested in the template and created a table showing where the candidates are currently employed.

²⁰ Attachment 1, table 4.

²¹ In 2016, Malgorzata Cyndecka received the European State Aid Law Quarterly PhD Award for the best PhD thesis in the field of EU/EEA State aid law. In 2017, Ignacio Herrera Anchustegui received *Concurrences'* award for best dissertation on Competition Law and was awarded the 'Scholar-In-Residence-Program award' by the American Bar Association, in addition to receiving the Meltzer award for young researchers in 2018.

its teaching. The doctoral dissertations within Civil Law are considered long standing basic research and contribute strongly to the development of the field. All of the dissertations are published in well-established Norwegian publishing houses.

The field of Legal Theory and Method also has a solid number of doctoral dissertations in their portfolio, all of them are interdisciplinary. Interdisciplinarity has been a priority in both strategic periods, and we draw on research developed in this group to lay the grounds for law researchers' engagement in interdisciplinary activities, e.g. Synne Sæther Mæhle's research on methodological challenges in big data.²² The leaders of the research group, Jørn Jacobsen and Synne Sæther Mæhle, are also leaders of respectively the PhD programme and of the Student Research Course, something which contributes to the creation of close connections to the candidates across legal fields and thematic organization. The Student Research Course is an efficient recruitment channel for the PhD programme, and considering the [increased influx here](#), the recruitment basis for research seems to be headed towards a bright future in the coming years. Since 2018 the research group has been developed with the aim of functioning as a resource for the PhD fellows; currently the bulk of the members of this group are PhD candidates.²³

34 out of 51 dissertations submitted during the period are published as monographies – 8 of which in international publishing houses such as Brill and Wolters Kluwer.²⁴ While other disciplines have seen a tendency towards article-based dissertations or the publishing of dissertation chapters as articles subsequent to the defence, publishing dissertations as monographies is both common and considered worthy of recognition at the faculty. The PhD candidates are encouraged to pursue this option, and they receive support – including funding – from the academic community. This tradition speaks to the important position of the monography in this discipline. An explicit objective is to produce works of reference in the practical legal domain and for the courts responding to the societal tasks of Law. The monography is a key entity because it speaks to anyone and everyone applying legal knowledge, while at the same time providing a broad and deep understanding of complex problems within a field of Law. Students are introduced to the monograph through curricula. It reaches a national as well as a Nordic public, at times also a global one. It is included in in-service legal training.²⁵ The publishing of a dissertation is considered an important contribution to the field which great impact upon future career.²⁶ Still, there is a considerable article output among the candidates. We have registered 64 published journal articles and book chapters by active PhD fellows during the period, 6 of which have been published in level 2 journals. The journal with the highest number of publications from the faculty is the Norwegian journal *Lov og rett*. There are 11 international journals on the list of publication channels, including *Common Market Law Review* and *European Law Journal*.

In 2019, the PhD study programme (ECTS production) in Law saw a major reorganisation with the objective of further quality improvement. The programme went from a structure with two main courses (the Basic Course and the Perspective Course) to a module-based organization, which is

²² Synne Sæther Mæhle, «Rettsvitenskap, tverrvitenskap og stordata om helse» i Anne Kjersti Befring og Inger-Johanne Sand (red.), *Kunstig intelligens og big data i helsesektoren: rettslige perspektiver*, Gyldendal 2020 s. 216 (s. 208-230), s. 216, informed the definition of interdisciplinarity in the Action Plan (attachment 5): "In this action plan, interdisciplinarity is understood as collaborations across disciplinary boundaries beyond the fields within Law studies by: Utilizing knowledge contributions from other disciplines in analyses of a legal questions or research problems and basing the formulation of a research question on more than one discipline – typically in order to understand or solve grand societal challenges".

²³ About ¼ of our current candidates are working on projects connected to interdisciplinarity or collaboration with other institutions in the legal domain.

²⁴ Attachment 1, table 5.

²⁵ After Jørn Jacobsen in group conversation on the quality of research and on the characteristics of Law studies.

²⁶ This is also documented in several of the impact-cases in attachment 3.

structured as seven thematically organized courses, each with its own course coordinator. This way, the candidates are trained in the diverse methodologies of Law, perspectives of legal theory, empirical perspectives in legal studies, text quality, dissemination of legal research, and role understanding and project development. The programme intends to ensure that the candidates both learn the craft of Law, develop necessary tools to develop research careers and engage in the international research milieu. We would like to emphasise the PhD seminars on Chinese Legal Culture arranged at the Nordic Centre, Fudan, in Shanghai as a part of the faculty's efforts towards China. The previous seminar was arranged in 2018 under the title *Chinese Law studied from a Nordic viewpoint*.²⁷ We will also mention research collaborations and student exchange with the National Law University, New Delhi, India.²⁸ In recent years, the PhD programme has been further upgraded in terms of internationally leading resources. In 2019, Lee Epstein, Professor II at the Faculty of Social Sciences gave a workshop for our PhD candidates and students at the Student Research Course. Sanne Taekema at the Erasmus School of Rotterdam became an associate of the PhD programme as a professor II in 2020.²⁹ Taekema is one of the editors for the renowned journal *Law and Method* (Dutch publisher Boom), and in that function she arranges academic seminars within the journal's scope of topics. The faculty has also made institutional agreements with the University of Surrey regarding PhD training and programme development.

The PhD programme has seen a general growth, and currently counts 47 candidates. Out of these, 30 are employed at the faculty, out of which 21 are funded through the basic funding.³⁰ Out of those enrolled in the PhD programme during the last decade, more than half stay in academia, and about 30% achieve permanent positions in the Faculty of Law (see Table 2). Although there are only 6 more dissertations authored by males compared to females, the table shows that those transitioning from PhD position to permanent position are almost exclusively male, while women hold the majority of temporary positions at the faculty. The Faculty has specific measures designated to the career development of women, such as seminars, mentoring and the opportunities for earlier research leaves to qualify for professorships. All of our PhD candidates achieve relevant positions in public or private sector, and there are several examples of candidates entering leading positions in the private and public sector. During the course of the last decade, a PhD degree in Law has received increasing recognition in the labour market outside of academia.

Employment after PhD-degree - 51 degrees in period 2010-2019

Categories	Description of employment	Number of PhD candidates		
		total	m	f
<i>Academia - UiB Faculty of Law</i>	Professor	9	8	1
	Associate professor	8	6	2
	Post doctor	3		3
<i>Academia outside UiB</i>	Professor	2		2
	Associate professor	9	4	5
<i>Public sector outside academia</i>	Judge	3	1	2
	Lawyer	2	1	1
	Public servant	2		2
<i>Private sector/industry/organisations</i>	Lawyer/legal manager	9	7	2
<i>Independent worker</i>	Consultant	1	1	

²⁷ Annual or biannual

²⁸ PhD workshops in 2016 and 2017 funded by SIU.

²⁹ Sæther Mæhle is also course coordinator for the module on legal theory in the PhD study programme.

³⁰ Five candidates are fully or partly funded through external funding from RCN, TMS and the Norwegian Bar Association. One candidate is an industrial PhD where the funding is divided between RCN and the Norwegian Tax Administration, Western Norway Division. Eight of the candidates enrolled at the faculty PhD program are employed at another educational institution or enterprise.

Other	Deceased	1	1	
	Research administration UiB	1		1
On leave/unemployed/unknown		1		1
Total		51	29	22

Table 2: Employment and positions after completing PhD. Source: Interviews and research

3. Relevance of research on education

3.1 Discipline, legal research and education: learning principles, methods and legal reasoning

The faculty has since 2010 produced an increasing amount of research-based curriculum, used in-house in teaching as well as in teaching at other institutions. The mandatory courses, contain solid scholarly contributions developed over several years. These publications are used at all levels of the study programme and include the following curriculum literature: *Fra Mæhle/Aarli, Lov til Rett [From the Law to the Court]*2016,2017; *Giertsen, Avtalerett [Contract Law]*2012,2019; *Aall, Rettsstat og menneskerettigheter [The rule of Law and Human Rights]*2011,2015,2018; *Koch/Sunde, Comparing Legal Cultures, 2015 with Skodvin/2020; Strandbakken, Økonomisk familierett [Economic Family Law]*2018; *Giertsen, Kontrakter: Ytelse og pris [Contracts: Obligations and Costs]*2019; *Marthinussen, Tredjemannsproblemene – Om Formuerettslige argumentasjonsmønstre [The problems of competing proprietary rights – an analysis of argumentation structures in Property Law]; Øyen, Straffeprosess [Criminal Procedure]* 2016,2019, *Kjelby, Påtalerett [Prosecution Law]*2017,2019; and *Grønning, Husabø, Jacobsen, Frihet, forbrytelse og straff [Liberty, Crime and Punishment]*2016,2019.

Well established and widely recognized scholarly publications which have stood the test of time are also in use in curricula. We note Eivind Kolflaath's *Språk og argumentasjon -- med eksempler fra juss 2004 [Language and argumentation -- with examples from law]* in the first-year study programme; articles on Property Law by Ernst Nordtveit and Ingunn Elise Myklebust in second-year studies³¹; chapters from Rune Sæbøe's *Motregning 2003 [Offsetting]* in third-year studies; and further articles in Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure and Civil Law in fourth-year studies.

Since 2013, the faculty has made great investments in establishing the Dragefjellet Centre of Learning and Communication. One of the film projects to receive the most attention from students and peers is the [biltur med metodediskusjon](#) [road trip with methodological discussion]. During his period as vice-dean of Education and later vice dean of digitalisation, Knut Martin Tande facilitated a more interactive teaching structure and culture – an effort for which he received several awards.³² Jan-Ove Færstad has also been crucial in this work and achieved the status as Excellent Teaching Practitioner in 2020 for these efforts among other things. He has also, together with Johan Giertsen, developed the immensely popular [Kontraktrettsfredag](#) ['Contract Law Friday'], which is a recorded dialogue between Giertsen, Færstad and a student. This initiative was awarded UiB's local prize for quality in education in 2018.³³

During their fifth and final year, the students can choose to write either a 30 ECTS or a 60 ECTS master's thesis. In addition, motivated and talented students are encouraged to apply for the 70 ECTS master's thesis research option, which is a student research programme particularly targeting students who are considering a career within academia. The research option was established as a

³¹ Amongst others, «Høgsterett si rolle ved utviklinga av rettar til fast eigedom», artikkel i Skoghøy m.fl. (red) Jubileumsskrift for Høyesterett til 200 års-jubileet 2015, s. 765-801. [Invited article in book published by the Norwegian Supreme Courts in relation to its 200 years anniversary – on The Supreme Courts Role in developing Norwegian Land law].

³² UiBs Learning Environment Award in 2016 and the Special Award for teaching (nominated by Juridisk studentutvalg) in 2014.

³³ *The Juristmållaget [The lawyers' association for Nynorsk] presented the faculty with their award for providing active support to students writing in nynorsk ['New Norwegian']³³* in 2018.

pilot in 2017, and from 2018 with support from the Research Council of Norway.³⁴ The Faculty of Law is currently the only institution of Law included in this programme. The course aims at increasing the student's awareness of the relevance of scholarly methods and the general education with regard to transferrable skills to other legal professions.³⁵ The courses on the programme also include research training, and some of the courses are a part of the PhD programme at the faculty.

In recent years, the faculty has seen an increase in English language specialisation courses which are closely connected to the research at the faculty, for example Human rights, Energy Law, Commercial Law, Company Law and Legal Philosophy. To provide a selection of some of the newer results of the growing research communities, these courses now include: *Law of the Seas and its uses; Privacy and data protection - GDPR, EU and EEA State Law; International and Comparative Energy and Climate Law; Comparing Legal Cultures in Europe; Competition Law; and International Criminal Law.*³⁶

In the latter half of the period, interdisciplinary study programmes have been initiated, such as the course *Constitution and politics* in collaboration with the Department of Comparative Politics at UiB. TVEPS [Centre for Interprofessional Work-Place Learning] is a recent collaboration between the faculties of Medicine, Psychology and Law at UiB, and the Faculty of Health and Social Sciences at the Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, Fjell Municipality and Bergen Municipality with the objective of developing an inter-professional perspective. We also note that international education agreements – such as the collaboration between the faculty and Chinese universities granted funding by SIU in 2016 – have led to more research collaboration with Renmin Law School.

3.2 Absorbing and adopting law and legal research methods

One of the national indicators to review the connection between research and education from a student perspective is NOKUT's analyses of the Student Barometer, where one of the measuring points is how the students perceive educational quality. The Student Barometer shows that students at our faculty, as well as the other institutions offering master's in law, are only medium satisfied (score 3,2 on a scale 1-5) with the knowledge they have attained on scholarly method and research.³⁷ It is worth mentioning that the survey is sent to second-year and fifth-year students.

The faculty has initiated a range of efforts to the effect of increasing student awareness of the role of research. Research groups have invited students to participate. Due to a systematic effort, 19 highly qualified students applied for the Student Research Course in 2019. There has also been an increase in student requests in general of participating in research groups. The research group on Information and Innovation Law has entered a formal collaboration with the faculty's largest student association (Innorett) with a member count of 170 on projects within research and education connected to technological development and innovation, including collaborations with Medicine, Information Science, and Informatics.

There has also been an increase in the use of research assistants; teaching assistants have to a greater extent been connected to the research community; and in the action plan³⁸ is a measure to utilise teaching assistants in the general dissemination concerning the role of research in Law training. We also note that some of our master's students publish academically. *Bergen Journal of*

³⁴ The institution covers programme expenses while the RCN provides student grants (stipend) based on the credits they achieve in the programme.

³⁵ The review of the Research Course is authored by programme coordinator Professor Synne Sæter Mæhle.

³⁶ For an overview of courses offered: <https://www.uib.no/en/jur/22938/course-overview#courses>

³⁷ See background material for JUREVAL sent to the institutions from NOKUT.

³⁸ See attachment 5 for Action Plan 2021-2022.

Criminal Law & Criminal Justice, Tidsskrift for rettsvitenskap [Journal of Law], and Tidsskrift for erstatningsrett [Journal of Tort Law] are some relevant publication channels here.

The focus on student active research and digitalisation during recent years have informed Diku's decision of funding the faculty and Jan-Ove Færstad's project *Bedre læring, bedre jurister [Better teaching, better lawyers]*. The project will increase the use of digital tools to promote student active learning and has planned new opportunities for integrating research in teaching for the faculty as a whole.

4. Dissemination, communication and societal relevance

4.1. Societal relevance of law, for public and private legal contexts: what type of outward oriented activities does the institution/the academic staff engage in?

The societal relevance of research is clearly visible in that most of our researchers write academic publications about current law. This is also the case for most of the doctoral dissertations. The publications are frequently used in public administration and the general legal domain, and many key publications are also utilised by our students.

The most prominent requests for researchers are usually a result of the recognition achieved in the boundary between research and practice. This dimension reflects an understanding of quality which is unique to Law compared to other disciplines at the university. In a survey including the entire academic staff in preparation for the JUREVAL (see attachment 5 for an outline of the survey and attachment 6 for survey results), we asked the faculty researchers about their view of the perception of quality in the community, among colleagues and peers. *Publishing in leading academic journals* is at the top of the list, while the second place goes to *chairing law committees* – which receives a higher score than e.g. leading large projects.³⁹

Conversations with researchers in the aftermath of the survey have informed us that the conception of 'peers' is not limited to academic peers, but rather includes the entire professional field. The perception of academic contributions is also a broad one. For example, participation in law committees is viewed as important scholarly contributions to various fields of Law. At the same time, it is reported that many researchers associate project development with administration, reporting, and evaluations at the cost of research time and in-depth scholarly work. Research itself is not very resource demanding, meaning that project applications largely generate research production by way of added personnel. Traditionally, legal scholarship consists of individual research contributions with a low degree of co-authorship. In this sense, project grants are not crucial for the individual researcher to be able to conduct their research.

The index of side activities (sidegjøremålsregisteret⁴⁰) provides some insight into society relevant functions of researchers. We particularly note Eirik Holmøyvik who occupies an important international position as a member of The Council of Europe's European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission); Tore Lunde, who through extensive activity in commissions such as the Konkurransklagenemda [Board of Appeal for Commercial Competition], the Market Council, and the Norwegian Board of Appeal for Industrial Property Rights has demonstrated his position as

³⁹ See question 9 in survey results in Attachment 7. Here we would like to emphasise that in the survey, we have based our indicators on the academic communities' presumed criteria of success. For example, we have started from the premise that the majority conduct dogmatic legal research (quite close to practice). Although the results were originally intended for internal use only, we found that the survey shows interesting tendencies which may be useful for politicians and decision-makers in the field of knowledge production.

⁴⁰ Annually published by UiB at: <https://www.uib.no/om/81720/sidegj%C3%B8rem%C3%A5l-ved-uib>

an authority in the field of Commercial Law; and Rune Sæbø, who has been appointed Supreme Court Judge in four periods during the last ten years. However, the index (sidemålsregisteret) is not comprehensive. In the above-mentioned survey, we therefore encouraged the academic staff to list their appointments and commissions. All members of our permanent staff report that they have contributed in one or more appointments due to their professional competence during the period. Several report more than five such appointments. Taken together, this demonstrates a solid societal impact which is not reflected in public records, such as the government's database of boards and committees 2010-2019, which has only recorded 35 appointments from the faculty.

National data favour participation in law committees. Our data demonstrate a significantly greater variation of activities and impact range. Here we mention e.g. Linda Gröning's appendix to NOU 2014:10 *Skyldevne, sakkyndighet og samfunnsvern* [Accountability, forensic expertise, and the protection of society]⁴¹; Magne Strandberg's appendix to the NOU 2011:13 *Når sant skal skrives* [If truth be written]⁴²; Berte-Elen Konow's report to the Ministry of Justice on the Cape Town Convention and the question whether Norway should join an international convention on international security interests in mobile equipment⁴³; and Bjørn Henning Østenstad's appendix to NOU 2011: 9, *Økt selvbestemmelse og rettsikkerhet* [Increased autonomy and legal protection]⁴⁴, all of which have had concrete impact on legislative work.

The faculty strategy states that the faculty researchers "... shall be at the frontier when it comes to disseminating knowledge about the rules of law, the legal state, and the role of law in society". The long-term objective of the action plan for dissemination⁴⁵ is that researchers at the faculty will be visible nationally as well as internationally in the field of Law. The faculty has focused on the following target groups in particular: 1) General society (including edited media and social media) 2) Legal institutions (fields of practice) 3) The legal community (peers) 4) Law students 5) Politicians and research funding institutions. Extensive dissemination has resulted in The Meltzer Research Fund Award for Excellence in the Dissemination of Research awarded to Jørn Øyrehaugen Sunde in 2012 and to Hans Fredrik Marthinussen in 2018. Marthinussen also received the regional newspaper Bergens Tidende's award "Debater of the year" in 2017.

The documentation of high-quality dissemination⁴⁶ corresponds to the instructions from RCN and has been organized in target groups of public experts; political organisations; public administration; public and private enterprises and business organisations; civil society and the media. A characteristic quality of the selected examples of dissemination is their ability to reach out broadly and across target groups. During the last five years, social media activity has increased, and we have seen high Twitter activity by e.g. [Jessica Schultz](#), [Hans Fredrik Martinussen](#), [Ignacio Herrera Anchustegui](#) and [Torger Kielland](#). Researchers participating in law committees disseminate broadly and critically both during and subsequent to such work, thus contributing to transparency in public processes. Here we would like to highlight Ragna Aarli's exceptional dissemination activity related to the Domstolkommisjonen [Norwegian Court Commission] not only in the media, but also through public lectures and debates. Furthermore, several researchers work at the boundaries between law and politics, particularly when it comes to Administrative Law. Ingunn Elise Myklebust contributes to

⁴¹ Attachment 3 impact case 2.

⁴² Attachment 3 impact case 3.

⁴³ Attachment 3 impact case 11.

⁴⁴ Attachment 3 impact case 5.

⁴⁵ Attachment 4.

⁴⁶ Attachment 1, table 6.

the debate on coastlines and marine areas, Sigrid Eskeland in natural resources and Environmental Law.

The 15 impact-cases are meant to demonstrate how knowledge-transfers from a research context to a societal context involve a change or an improved use of research-based knowledge.⁴⁷ In the process of producing impact-cases we have noticed that the time-scope for the research's societal impact varies from case to case. In some cases, an article will have an almost immediate impact on political processes and decisions or proposals, as in Eirik Holmøyvik's case where an article published in late 2018 impacted discussions and measures in Storting on the legal status and use of parliamentary resolutions.⁴⁸ In Halvard Haukeland Fredriksen's case, recent academic work contributed to the Norwegian Court of Appeal's refusal to follow the EFTA Court's lead in the E-16/16 Fosen-Linjen I of 2017.⁴⁹ These cases have in common that the researchers have taken on an active role in disseminating the research-results to relevant target groups: Holmøyvik by sending his research article to the Administration in the Norwegian Storting; Fredriksen with a blogpost in the specialised blog www.anbud365.no.

Other cases exemplify a longer time span for the impact to occur. Anneken Sperr shows in her narrative how her doctoral thesis on judicial review of decisions by the public administration in Norwegian and German law has had impact across the field of judicial practice and academia internationally through the course of a decade, as well as influencing a legislative process in Germany on judicial mediation.⁵⁰ Ernst Nordtveit shows how his research efforts in Civil Law, international protection of indigenous peoples, Environmental and Planning Law and economic analysis of law during the last two decades influenced a recent report he wrote for the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, which resulted in the Government's decision to propose several amendments to the Mineral Act.⁵¹ Both cases trace the societal impact back to monographies (doctoral dissertations) published some time ago, stressing the importance of monographies for developing both scholarship and judicial practice.

We hope that the RCN and the committee will consider the actual and normal impact of legal studies on society through well-established dialogue, interaction and collaboration with relevant societal actors and institutions.⁵²

4.2 Contribution to the achievement of societal goals

Please review 1.1 and 2.1 for research activities corresponding with the priorities within the scope of the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, as well as the SDGs.

During the last ten years research at the faculty has, to an increasing extent, contributed to solving societal challenges, both regionally, nationally, and internationally. This is true especially within UiB's three strategic areas – marine research, global challenges, and climate and energy transition, which correspond to national strategic areas and goals for research; e.g. the priority list from the Ministry

⁴⁷ See Sivertsen, Gunnar & Ingeborg Meijer 2020. Normal versus extraordinary societal impact: how to understand, evaluate and improve research activities in their relations to society? Research evaluation. Vol. 29. Is. 1 pp. 66-70, p. 67 // D'Este, P et. al. 2018. How Do Researchers generate Scientific and Societal Impacts? Towards Analytical and Operational Framework. Science and Public Policy, 45. Pp. 753-63.

⁴⁸ Attachment 3, Impact-case 9.

⁴⁹ Attachment 3, Impact-case 1.

⁵⁰ Attachment 3, Impact-case 10.

⁵¹ Attachment 3, Impact-case 12.

⁵² See Sivertsen, Gunnar & Ingeborg Meijer 2020. Normal versus extraordinary societal impact: how to understand, evaluate and improve research activities in their relations to society? Research evaluation. Vol. 29. Is. 1 pp. 66-70, p. 67 // D'Este, P et. al. 2018. How Do Researchers generate Scientific and Societal Impacts? Towards Analytical and Operational Framework. Science and Public Policy, 45. Pp. 753-63.

of Justice and Public Security and the government's long-term plans for research. Several publications and projects contribute to research that has to do with the sustainable development goals, and researchers at the faculty across a wide range of law fields are sought after in interdisciplinary projects within complex societal challenges. We mention only a few of the last publications contributing to the international research field: Julie Gjørtz Howden's PhD dissertation *The Community of Interest Approach in International Water Law: A Legal Framework for the Common Management of International Watercourses* (2020), Jessica Schultz's article *An end to Asylum? Temporary protection and erosion of refugee status* (2020) and Ronny Gjendemsjø and Ignacio Herrera Anchustegui's article *Regulating the food supply chain in Europe and the Unfair Trading Practices Directive* (2019).

5. Mandate for each institution

The points 1-4 in the mandate form the context for the self-evaluation and are processed throughout the text.

6. Conclusion

When the size of the budget was approved by the university board in November 2020, the Faculty of Law received the message that it could not expect any increase in the basic funding from 2022, which means that the budget will finance the same number of academic personnel as in 2015/2016. As a result, the faculty will not be able to hire more staff in permanent positions, unless staff currently employed in these positions resign from their job or retire. The faculty at UiB has, compared to the Faculty of Law in Oslo, 49 % of the person-years at their disposal, despite having a student count of about 80 % (2020) of the equivalent programme at the University of Oslo.

The vulnerability resulting from the limited financial elbow room, is further amplified by the strong competition from the general labour market. Two associate professors and two full professors in the field of Civil Law have moved on to better paid positions in public and private sector in 2018 and 2019. Research suffers when we see a clear decline in staff. It is also expected that several full professors in Civil Law will retire during the course of the next five years. Recruitment to this academic field is very challenging. Although the faculty has earmarked permanent positions in this field, the employment processes have drawn out due to a lack of applicants. The faculty perceives the supply of well-qualified applicants as limited in every research field. One of the reasons for this is that the faculty is situated in the periphery, geographically speaking. Based on this knowledge, the faculty has put great efforts in order to stimulate recruitment to the PhD programme, among other things by establishing the Student Research Course and announcing stipends and temporary positions for students working on projects.

The Ministry of Justice allocates funding for legal research based on the Ministry's own list of priority areas. The focus has been on effectivity in the chain of criminal procedure and on migration. This means that the strategy of the Ministry covers only a quite narrow area of Law. Yet, it is clear that the faculty's strongest academic communities have delivered research on a high international level on a broad spectrum and relatively wide span in almost all of the priority areas for the Ministry's strategies during the last decade.

In Norway, particularly compared to Sweden, there are few private organisations and enterprises of any significant scale funding free legal research based on excellence. One exception is the Academic agreement, founded by Equinor in collaboration with UiB. The faculty has, as shown in section 1 and 2, received several grants from this funding instrument. Another exception is the Norwegian Seafood Research Fund (FHF) and other private sector funds. The faculty has initiated a collaboration with the

industrial association Maritime Bergen, but so far, the collaboration has only provided the basis for a study programme developed by the Norwegian Centre for Chinese Law.

The faculty has worked systematically towards fulfilling the objective in the strategy of establishing world-class academic communities and facilitate for researchers to participate in world-class international networks. This is a long-term effort. As shown, the faculty has seen a great increase in full professorships during the ten-year period. The new generation of professors has during the assessment period strongly impacted the most successful academic communities, both in terms of the quality of research and in further developing the academic communities.

The greatest challenge for the faculty in the years to come will be to facilitate the targeting of these professors' capacity towards a more intensive research concentration, and to make available time for them to exercise academic leadership as well as research training and the promotion of career development of young talents in research groups and projects. In addition, there is a severe need for a greater critical mass of senior researchers in all academic communities, with the exception of the Criminal Law community, in order to ensure a higher degree of external funding and sufficient capacity for supporting talents within the communities. On a short-term basis, this need requires a considerable boost of the faculty's financial basis through successful proposals for extensive externally funded projects such as a Centre of Excellence, or a continuous and stable strengthening of the basic funding. One measure is an ERC-proposal expected from the Criminal Law community in 2022. BECCLE will also submit a large-scale proposal to the RCN in February 2021.

In recent years, great efforts have gone towards putting in place a systematic plan for the advancement of the careers of younger researchers. UiB has developed a post doctor policy which is systematically implemented as a plan in all appraisal interviews with postdocs and associate professors. Also, several of the faculty's talented young researchers have participated in the UiB Momentum Programme, which is dedicated to supporting the most talented young researchers at UiB. Due to the size of the faculty in terms of person-years only one of the researchers at the Faculty of Law is eligible to participate each year. In addition, the faculty has hired internationally recognised mentors from the candidate's fields of research to promote their research career within a timeframe of one year. Part of the assignment of the professor IIs is to contribute to the career development of young talented researchers. Recently, a measure to this effect has been to appoint top researchers from recognised institutions abroad to professor II positions dedicated to support the development of research communities with the objective of becoming internationally leading in their field. The faculty has achieved extra funding for three professor II positions of this kind in 2020. It is a policy at the faculty to have a gender balanced professor II portfolio, two of the three professors are women.

The faculty has also made a considerable effort during the last two years towards establishing large research projects. We currently have two scholars planning to submit proposals to the European Starting Grant in 2022. One of our top researchers, will also apply for the ERC Consolidator Grant. In 2020 Linda Gröning laid solid ground for the proposal as she received funding for a research project in the RCN programme ("Welfare, Culture and Society" - Researcher Project for Scientific Renewal). Gröning was also granted funding from RCN as partner in two other interdisciplinary projects in 2020.

According to the faculty's strategy, a proposal of a Centre for Excellence (SFF) will be submitted by 2022. The faculty has worked on a proposal for the funding of a Centre of Excellence under the title REFORM. The proposal received support from the UiB leadership, and it was submitted to the RCN before the deadline November 18th, 2020 with the following objectives:

REFORM will produce solid understandings of the contemporary development of legal orders and the need for reform these are facing. Through a unique blend of innovative theoretical studies, cross-

disciplinary methodological work, and empirical case studies of legal development and legal change in i.e. security, markets and environment. This is combined with a concentration on certain internationally shared core issues for legal regulation, i.e. internationalisation of society, global and powerful firms, and emerging technologies.

The two previously mentioned scholars appointed as applicants to the ERC Starting Grant in 2022, have also been appointed principal investigators in two additional proposals for Centres of Excellence submitted to the RCN from respectively the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences and the Faculty of Medicine.⁵³ Both scholars have participated in the Momentum Programme – the UiB career development programme for early-stage researchers.

The UiB priority area climate and energy transformation has allocated several positions – a PhD-fellow and a post doctor are currently funded.⁵⁴ In addition, a proposal submitted by a professor to the Academic agreement has been granted funding for a PhD position within the field of offshore wind.⁵⁵ The position was occupied in 2019. As mentioned, the faculty has furthermore received funding for a tenure-track position from the climate and energy transformation priority area with a specific focus on offshore wind. Recently, a proposal was submitted for the funding of a centre for offshore wind as a part of a collaboration with heavy-weight industrial partners. This proposal was unfortunately not approved. The coalition will pursue other possibilities.

Recently, the faculty has furthermore been granted funding for a PhD position within the UiB priority area global challenges. The project is carried out in close collaboration with researchers from the Faculty of Medicine. The project is anchored in the research group in Welfare Law and focuses on maternal health. It will contain a comparative and empirical dimension comparing Ethiopia and Norway. In the autumn of 2020 grants from the RCN, the faculty furthermore received an ample partner grant in a project coordinated by the Faculty of Medicine which will strengthen the faculty's research concentration and output in this field.

To sum up a newer general development is the increasing interest for legal research among research communities in other disciplines. This is both due to the strategy of the University of Bergen, and a result of a more general trend in academia. The thematic profile of the Faculty of Law has during the evaluation period become clearer, but it is still broad compared to other Nordic law faculties in cities of about the same size and with about the same number of students and academic personnel.

⁵³ Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences project working title: RESPONSE – enabling widespread use of hydrogen as an energy carrier in society. Faculty of Medicine has the working title: Center for personalized systems medicine in endocrinology (ENDO4P).

⁵⁴ Project title post.doc: “*Causes and Consequences of the Legal Architecture of Climate Politics (LEG-ARCH)*” Project title PhD: “*The role of business entities in combatting plastic marine pollution*”.

⁵⁵ Project title: “*Designing a Refined Legal Framework for Offshore Winding the North Sea Basin (DeWindSea)*”.