

NVE's strategy for international development engagements

Strategy for international development engagements and assignments coordinated by NVE's International Department¹ for 2017-2021.

NVE's international development assistance is rooted in NVE strategy for 2017-2021:

"NVE will contribute to the government's target for Norway being a key driver for a greener global development. NVE will contribute in capacity- and institution building in selected partner countries, with particular emphasis on renewable energy and sustainable management of natural resources"

Priority of programmes

NVE will prioritize cooperation's which are in line with the Norwegian government's prevailing policies for international assistance primarily within the scope of NVEs national responsibilities.

Working areas and framework conditions

The overall priority for all programmes is that NVE's involvement makes a difference, with focus on achieving sustainable results and goals. NVE shall give priority to areas which fall under NVE's mandate and responsibility in Norway where NVE can draw on experience seen from a public management perspective. Capacity building is the process of further strengthening the capacities of individuals and organizations to make effective use of national resources, in order to achieve their own sector goals on a long term and sustainable basis.

In order to ensure efficient and sustainable capacity development it is important that a minimum set of framework conditions are in place in partner institutions. A key requirement is that NVE's partner institutions to a certain degree must have identified and filled key positions which can act as counterparts for the defined working areas to ensure efficient and sustainable transfer of knowledge. A risk assessment shall assess to which extent satisfactory framework conditions are in place, and ensure that challenges for successful transfer of knowledge are considered in the programmes' design. During the inception phase it is desirable to incorporate capacity building activities to maintain the commitment and assess capacity within the partner institution.

For programmes or working areas which fail to meet defined results, NVE shall in cooperation with partner organisations actively seek constructive solutions with the aim to improve the efficiency of the programme. If a challenging situation is not resolved, NVE shall initiate a dialogue with the aim to end the programme or working area.

Level of activities

Experience from work abroad is an important contribution to increase the perception and understanding of the organisation and management of NVEs responsibilities. Many of those involved also find it rewarding and meaningful to assist NVE partner institutions in their pursuit towards sustainable development. International work draws on key expertise in NVE. It is therefore important to find a balance in the organisation as a whole between national and

¹ Institutional cooperation/technical assistance as development aid, institutional cooperation through bilateral agreement, EEA- and Norway grants programmes, assignments for international organisations/partners (relevant for NVEs Hydrological Department)

international responsibilities. The current international volume (16-18.000 hours per year) is considered to be a good balance for NVE and this activity level should be continued. Before entering into new programs, NVE shall always assess if there is sufficient internal capacity to undertake additional and new work.

The use of NVE long term advisors shall be considered when seen favourable to the programme. The first priority is to recruit long term advisors within the organisation, but also external candidates may be considered.

NVEs' international work shall continue to be externally financed and not through NVE's allotment in the national budget. Main financial sources are the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' budgets and EEA- and Norway Grants.

Organisation

NVE's international capacity building is organised and coordinated through the International Department. The International Department shall manage and coordinate the programmes together with partner institutions and carry out cost and quality control of projects and programmes during execution. A major part of the assistance shall be carried out by staff from NVE. However, NVE will also draw on external expertise for working areas where NVE is temporarily short of capacity. When using external assistance NVE shall ensure relevant procurement processes, involve partner institutions, coordinate their input, and perform quality control if necessary.

Safety and Security for NVE personnel

NVE shall provide a safe working environment for its staff working abroad. To increase the awareness on the safety abroad, NVE will maintain and further develop safety guidelines and arrange mandatory safety courses for all personnel working in countries where it is considered that a special focus on safety is necessary.

Cross Cutting Issues

In all our partner countries NVE will contribute to integrate cross cutting issues such as gender, climate and environment in our programs/projects.

Anti-corruption

NVE together with its partner institutions will cooperate on preventing corruption and misuse of funds within and through our programs. If any indication of corruption or misuse of resources related to the programs is revealed, NVE will immediately inform internally in NVE and our partners and discuss how to investigate the specific case. NVE employees working on international projects must in advance familiarize themselves with NVE's internal reporting policy regarding financial mismanagement and other irregularities.

Communication

Information about international work will be actively communicated, both internally in NVE and externally, in accordance with NVE's prevailing communication strategy.

NVE will strive to secure good communications with the Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norad, Financial Mechanism Office and donors related to our programs.