

The Faroese Research Landscape



Annika Sølvará, June 2016

The Faroe Islands

- 18 islands out in the North Atlantic, 17 inhabited, total area 1,396 km²
- A self-governing nation under the external sovereignty of the Kingdom of Denmark. together with Greenland
- Population 49,000, 20,000 in Tórshavn
- National Language is Faroese, Danish is compulsory in school
- The population is well-educated. Education is free for everyone. 800 students at the University.
- Not member of EU, but fisheries and trading agreements with the EU.
- Members of NATO due to the Danish membership, but no military
- Main industries: Fisheries and fish farming (90%), expanding tourist industry



The Research Institutions

► Public institutions

- Fróðskaparsetur Føroya – University of the Faroe Islands
- Havstovan – Faroe Marine Research Institute
- Fiskaaling – Aquaculture Research Station
- Jarðfeingi – Earth and Energy Directorate
- Søvnlandsins – Faroe Islands National Heritage
- Deildin f. Arbeiðs og Almanahaitsu – Dept. of Occupational and Public Health
- Landssjúkrahúsið & Ílegusavnið – National Hospital & Genetic Bio bank
- Umhvørvisstovan – The Environment Agency
- Heilsufrøðiliga Starvsstovan – Faroese Food and Veterinary Agency
- Búnaðarstovan – Agricultural R&D

► Industrial R&D

- iNOVA Research Facilities plant (Biosciences, DNA).

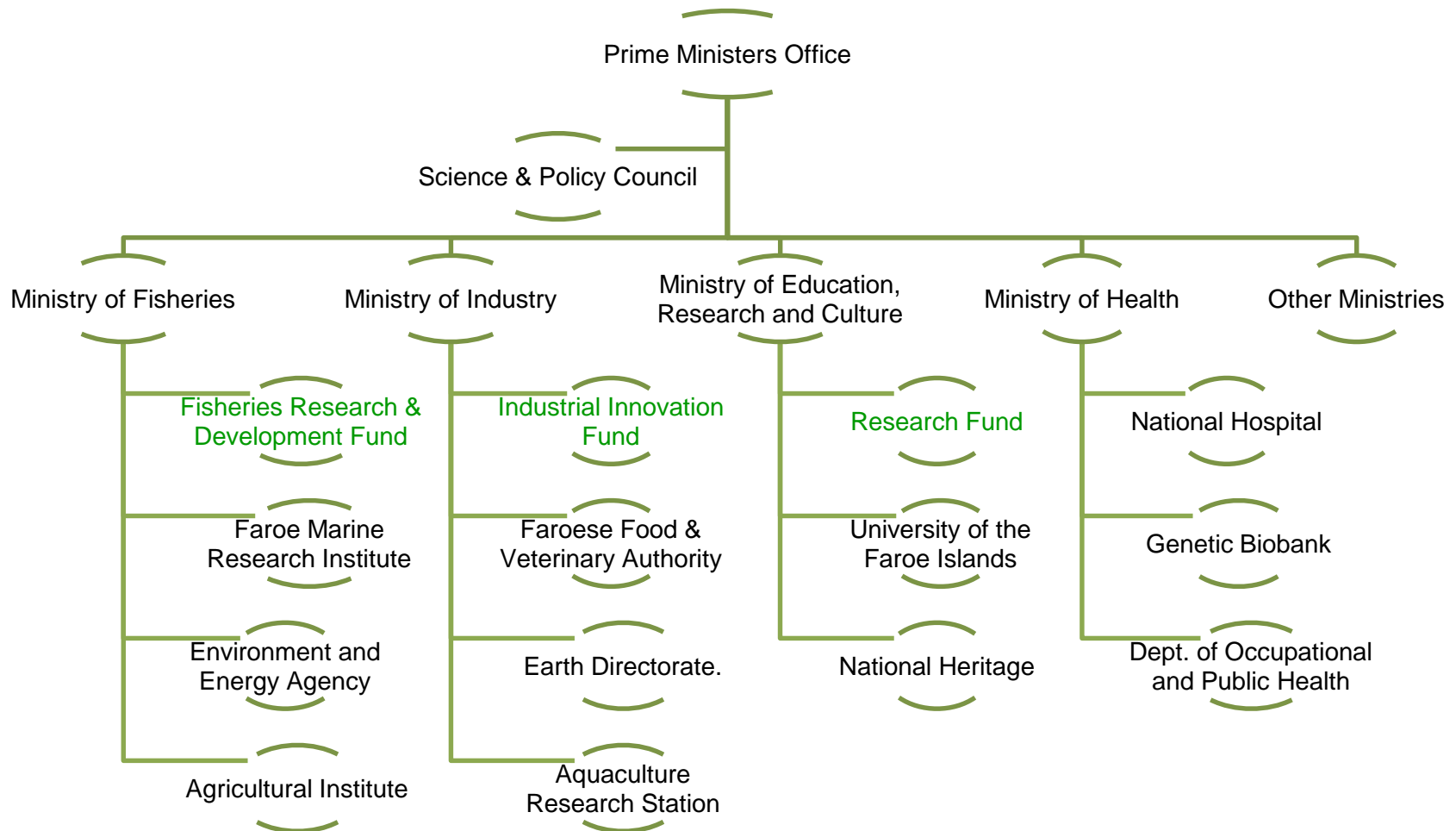
► Research funding bodies:

- Granskingargrunnurin – Research Fund – 1 m. € (2016)
- Fiskivinnuroyndir – Fisheries R & D – 0,5 m € (2016)
- Vinnuframi – Industrial Innovation Fund – 0,4m. € (2016)





Organization





The Research Council

- Established by law (1996, 1999, 2001, 2006, under revision soon)
- Lead by the Board and the Director
- Full time staff 2.7
- Main working areas
 - Administration of the Research Fund (all areas), the Health Research Fund and Science Publication Fund
 - Advisory role to the government and industry on matters of research policy
 - EU research cooperation (FP7/Horizon 2020)
 - EURAXESS
 - Other international cooperation: NordForsk, TFI, ERAC
 - Dissemination of research



Funds for research

- Open calls in the Research Fund
 - Yearly application deadline
 - 1 m. € in 2016
 - 10-15 projects granted each year
 - All types of projects
 - Open to all nationalities, research must be done in the Faroe Islands or in cooperation with Faroese institutions and be relevant to the Faroese society

- Strategic calls in the Health Research Fund
 - Funds from the private health insurance system that was changed to a public system in 2012
 - 3.7 m € will be spent in 4-6 years, strengthening the health sector in the Faroe Islands
 - Open to all nationalities in principle, but all funds must be spent in the Faroe Islands



National Research Strategy

- Based on the national research strategy by the Science Council, the Research Board recommended six focus areas rooted in strong areas and input from the research community
 - How do we prepare ourselves to handle the consequences of climate changes?
 - From where will we get energy in the future?
 - How do we manage and utilize the marine resources in the best way?
 - How do we utilize and develop our resources into new and more industries?
 - How do we find and utilize knowledge on human health?
 - How do we equip the population for future challenges?



FP7 and Horizon 2020

- The Faroe Islands joined FP7 in June 2010
- By ultimo December 2013 Faroese research institutions and companies had been granted several projects. The success rate was much higher than average for all associated countries
- National agreement to continue in Horizon 2020
- Horizon 2020 agreement signed December 2014, confirmed in the Faroese Parliament April 2015
- Focus on utilizing the mobility and network programmes
- Close cooperation with the NCP networks in the Nordic countries, especially Iceland and Denmark
- Ten projects (2.7 m €) granted so far in Horizon 2020: SC, RI, ITN, SME



Research Infrastructure Status

- First mapping underway, will be followed by a Road Map
- Funding from the national budget to the public institutes, no special allocation for RI
- No formal cooperation agreement between institutes on RI, but, lots of informal cooperation
- Limited industrial research, hence limited industrial RI
- Available public RI
 - Research Vessel 40 years old, new will be built within 4 years
 - Labs: Research Park iNOVA www.inova.fo, University of FI, National Hospital, Food Security Institute
 - Biobanks, national cohorts, diagnostic databases etc.
 - Databases: Biological, oceanografic, meterological, language, culture etc.
- Faroese participation in a few Nordic and EU RI projects
 - Interact - Eurofleets2

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THE FAROESE RESEARCH COUNCIL