



FRIDTJOF NANSENS INSTITUTT
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Fridtjof Nansen Institute (FNI)

is an independent institution
engaged in research on inter-
national environmental, energy
and resource management
politics.



FNI expertise is clustered around the following focal points:

- Global governance and sustainable development
- Marine affairs and Law of the Sea
- Biodiversity and biosafety
- Polar and Russian politics
- European energy and environmental politics
- Chinese energy and environmental politics

Photo: Jan Dalsgaard Sørensen

FNI research

The Fridtjof Nansen Institute specializes in research on political solutions to national and international problems in environmental, energy and resource management. The institute is engaged in academic studies, contract research, investigations and evaluations. The main discipline is political science, but FNI researchers also hold degrees in law, economics, history, social anthropology, human geography and biology, and have special language and regional competence on Russia and China.

FNI's work is characterized by independence and academic integrity. FNI is a private foundation, established in 1958 to conduct research within the interest areas of Fridtjof Nansen and to maintain the property of Polhøgda, Nansen's home. The institute currently has a staff of around 35, of which 25 are full-time researchers.

FNI's sources of funding include the Research Council of Norway, various Norwegian public bodies, business associations and private companies, the European Commission and international research foundations. Annual turnover is around 30 million NOK.

FNI strives to make its expertise available and relevant to users as well as to the public at large. FNI research is published in international scholarly journals and books. The institute also has its own report series and a bi-annual newsletter.

Research activities are clustered around the following six focal points:



Global governance and sustainable development

FNI research on global governance focuses on environmental and health issues and sustainable development. Theoretical studies use regime theory to analyze how agreements are created and made effective. Empirical studies look at the UN's role in global governance, and on key global agreements such as the climate regime.



Marine affairs and Law of the Sea

FNI research focuses on international cooperation and management in the fields of marine pollution and environmental protection, maritime safety, fisheries and whaling. Special regional competence includes the Barents Sea, the Norwegian Sea, the North Sea, the Southern Ocean and the Mediterranean, especially the Adriatic Sea



Biodiversity and biosafety

FNI research focuses on international efforts to ensure conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and fair distribution of benefits from genetic resources. Interaction with trade agreements and intellectual property rights is central. FNI research covers wild genetic resources as well as those of agriculture and aquaculture.



Polar and Russian Politics

FNI's main focus is on Norwegian-Russian relations in the High North, with emphasis on environment, energy, fisheries, marine transport, health, security and jurisdiction. FNI also studies Arctic and Antarctic cooperation in general, as well as environmental and resource management policies in Russia and other post-Soviet states.



European energy and environmental politics

FNI studies energy and environmental policy, both within and outside the EU framework. EU climate policy, including the emissions trading system and promotion of renewable energy, are key topics. Other main topics include energy market regulation and company strategies.



Chinese energy and environmental politics

FNI research on China analyses the country's environmental and energy problems, attempts to understand how environment-related bureaucracy and decision-making works, and analyses China's role in international cooperation on climate change and other environmental and energy issues.





The Nansen Heritage

Fridtjof Nansen (1861–1930) became famous for his exploration of the Arctic, but he also made major scientific contributions and worked as a diplomat. In his later years he worked extensively to help prisoners of war and refugees, and with famine relief. This work was carried out both under the auspices of the League of Nations and on Nansen's own initiative. For this humanitarian effort he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1922.

Nansen saw the shortcomings of existing international structures and was deeply engaged in establishing international cooperation.

FNI Staff (by 1 December 2011)

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Arild Moe, Deputy Director
Geir Hønneland, Research Director
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