



The JUREVAL Evaluation Committee

### **Terms of Reference, Evaluation of Legal Research in Norway (JUREVAL)**

The board of The Faculty of Law, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, mandates the assessment committee appointed by the Research Council of Norway (RCN) chaired by Professor Henrik Palmer Olsen (Copenhagen University) to assess The Faculty of Law, UiT, based on the following Terms of Reference.

#### **Assessment**

(Alternativ 1: Opprinnelig mandattekst)

You are being asked to assess the quality of research and its relevance for education and wider society of the research conducted by The Faculty of Law, UiT, as well as its strategic targets and the extent to which it is equipped to achieve them. You should do so by judging the unit's performance on three assessment criteria (a. to c.) below. Be sure to take into account current international trends and developments in science and society in your analysis.

(Alternativ 2: Forslag fra UiB)

You are being asked to assess the quality of research and its relevance for education and wider society of the research conducted by the Faculty of Law, UiT. The assessment must take into consideration the local context, using the strategic targets at the evaluated institution as framework for the analysis and final report. You should do so by considering the unit's performance on three assessment criteria (a. to c.) below. In your analysis, please take into account relevant international trends, which in the case of Law must include National/Nordic developments in science and society.

- a. research production and quality;
- b. relevance for education;
- c. societal relevance;

For a description of these criteria, see Section 2 of the JUREVAL protocol. Please provide a written assessment on each of the three criteria. Please also provide recommendations for improvement. We ask you to pay special attention to the following three aspects below in your assessment:

1. UiT, The Arctic University of Norway is organised into eight faculties, each of which is comprised of a diversity of disciplinary perspectives and academic cultures. The UiT Law faculty is one of three faculties in Norway offering a 5-year integrated master's degree based on a broad scoped research portfolio within a variety of Law disciplines.
2. The Faculty of Law's vision for its research activity is to contribute to and develop legal scholarship of high international quality. In addition, our strategic goal over the period

2010 – 2020 has been to build international expertise on research and teaching within these disciplines:

- a) Law of the Sea and Environmental Law
- b) Sami Law and Indigenous Law

In addition, we would like your report to provide a qualitative assessment of The Faculty of Law, UiT, as a whole in relation to its strategic targets. The committee assesses the strategy that the research unit intends to pursue in the years ahead and the extent to which it will be capable of meeting its targets in research and society during this period based on available resources and competencies. The committee is also invited to make recommendations concerning these two subjects. Finally, the committee is asked to make a reflection on matters of research integrity and diversity as defined in section 2 of the JUREVAL protocol.

### **Documentation**

The necessary documentation will be made available by the JUREVAL secretariat chaired by Research professor Vera Schwach ([vera.schwach@nifu.no](mailto:vera.schwach@nifu.no)) at the Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education (NIFU)

The documents will include at least the following:

- report with standardised analysis and indicators commissioned by RCN
- self-assessment based on a template provided by the JUREVAL secretariat at NIFU
- relevant information related to the strategic research areas mentioned under item 2 above

### **Interviews with representatives from the evaluated units**

Interviews with The Faculty of Law, UiT, will be organised by the evaluation secretariat at NIFU. Such interviews may be organised as a site visit, in another specified location in Norway or as a video conference.

### **Statement of impartiality and confidence**

The assessment should be performed in accordance with the *Regulations on Impartiality and Confidence in the Research Council of Norway*. A statement of the impartiality of the committee members has been recorded by RCN as a part of the appointment process. The impartiality and confidence of committee members should be confirmed when evaluation data from The Faculty of Law, UiT, is made available to the committee and before any assessments are being made based on these data. RCN should be notified if questions of impartiality and confidence are raised by committee members during the evaluation process.

### **Assessment report**

We ask you to report your findings in an assessment report drawn up in accordance with a format specified in the attached template. The committee may suggest adjustments to this format at its first meeting 23 September 2020. A draft report should be sent to The Faculty of Law, UiT, and RCN within 15 September 2021. The Faculty of Law, UiT, will check the report for factual inaccuracies; if such inaccuracies are detected, they will be reported to the committee and to RCN no later than two weeks after reception of the draft report. After you have made the amendments judged necessary, a corrected

version of the assessment report should be sent to the board of The Faculty of Law, UiT, and the RCN no later than two weeks after all feedback on inaccuracies are received from The Faculty of Law, UiT.

Finally, the assessment committee is asked to provide an assessment of Norwegian legal research at the national level in a separate report paying specific attention to:

- Strengths and weaknesses of the discipline in an international context;
- General resource situation regarding funding, personnel and infrastructure;
- PhD-training, recruitment, mobility and diversity;
- Research cooperation nationally and internationally;
- Alignment of research capacity and educational activities
- Societal impact and the functions of the disciplines in society.

This national level assessment should be presented to the evaluated units and RCN within 15 October 2021.