



Stipendiatororganisasjonene i Norge

Your ref. \_\_\_\_\_

Our ref.: 20121128-0002

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## **Point of view regarding the KD Høring - utvalgsinnstilling om samisk forskning og høyere utdanning, "Langs lange spor"**

The Association of doctoral organizations in Norway would like to present its reply to the request of the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research (KD) for a point of view regarding the hearing "Utvalgsinnstilling om samisk forskning og høyere utdanning, 'Langs lange spor' ".

First, we consider that the document suggests many good proposals which are summarized in Chapter 1, and we would like to congratulate the author for these.

Second, regarding the suggestion to earmark PhD positions for Sami research financed by the institution's own money we propose that these positions should be funded by extra funds to avoid down prioritization by the respective institution. In addition, there is a danger that Sami research is defined narrowly as research conducted by Sami students or Sami speakers, and to limit Sami research increasingly to the Sami University College in Kautokeino. There should be a greater focus on forwarding research including Sami issues, indigenous issues and minority issues in all fields of research and in English language as well. Perhaps there is such a focus already in the report, but in the recommendations that is not really reflected.

Moreover, we think that it is important to integrate higher education Sami research in the existing programmes of the Norwegian Research Council (NFR). It is also important to find good routines for a closer collaboration between the NFR and the Sami Parliament, in order for the research to meet the need and development of the Sami society.

SiN understands the importance to ensure that a critical mass of PhD candidates is admitted to a PhD program in order to assure the quality of the research environment. However, we also understand the specific challenge of the Sami University College when it comes to the requirement to have 15 PhD candidates as a basis for a PhD-programme. We therefore support the suggestion for an exception to this requirement.

Finally, we support the suggestion of a stronger focus on how Norway can contribute to international collaboration between indigenous peoples within research, education and development.

Sincerely yours,

on behalf of SiN,

Melania Borit.

President,

The Association of doctoral organizations in Norway.

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