

PRIO In Brief

Founded in 1959, the International Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO) is an independent research institute known for its effective synergy of basic and policy-relevant research. In addition to such research, PRIO conducts graduate training and is engaged in the promotion of peace through conflict resolution, dialogue and reconciliation, public information and policymaking activities. The Institute's working language is English.

PRIO has an international staff of approximately 70. More than 50 of these are researchers, including doctoral candidates, while the Institute maintains an administrative/support staff of 12. Within the Norwegian setting, PRIO staff stand out for their high levels of professionalism and their academic productivity. The Institute's governing board consists of five external appointees and two staff members. PRIO is an equal opportunities employer and values staff diversity.

Research at the Institute is multidisciplinary and concentrates both on the driving forces behind violent conflict and on ways in which peace can be built, maintained and spread. Projects carried out at the Institute are organized within three programmes and one centre: the Security programme; the Ethics, Norms and Identities programme; the Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding programme; and the Centre for the Study of Civil War (CSCW). The latter is a long-term, interdisciplinary initiative that was awarded Centre of Excellence status and core funding (for the period 2002–2011) by the Research Council of Norway. Cutting across the Institute's programmes are research teams with particular expertise in three priority areas: migration, gender and energy. The diversity of disciplines at PRIO creates a thriving research community that attracts both scholars and funding from around the world.

The Institute owns two international peer-reviewed journals – *Journal of Peace Research* and *Security Dialogue* – both of which are edited at PRIO and published by Sage Publications in London. The Institute also publishes reports and policy briefs. Institute researchers maintain high levels of productivity in the form of peer-reviewed articles in top international journals and books with reputable academic publishers.

At PRIO, academic research and engagement in peace processes go hand in hand: all peacebuilding engagements are rooted in solid research competence and feed into ongoing research – and ultimately to published academic work. The Institute's policy-relevant findings are in high demand among international bodies (the UN, the World Bank), NGOs, the media and governments, including a number of Norwegian ministries.

The Institute is located in modern research facilities in central Oslo. It maintains a separate office in Nicosia: the PRIO Cyprus Centre (PCC). The PCC is committed to research and dialogue aimed at contributing to an informed public debate on key issues relevant to an eventual settlement of the Cyprus problem. Researchers attached to the PCC include both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots.

Budgeted turnover for PRIO as a whole in 2008 is approximately 75 million Norwegian kroner (just under €10 million). The Institute has a bottom-up and project-based budget model, where all research engagements depend on the acquisition of external funding. PRIO staff are skilled at combining research innovation with project-development initiative. Major sources of funding include the Research Council of Norway, Norwegian government ministries, and a variety of international organizations and foundations.