

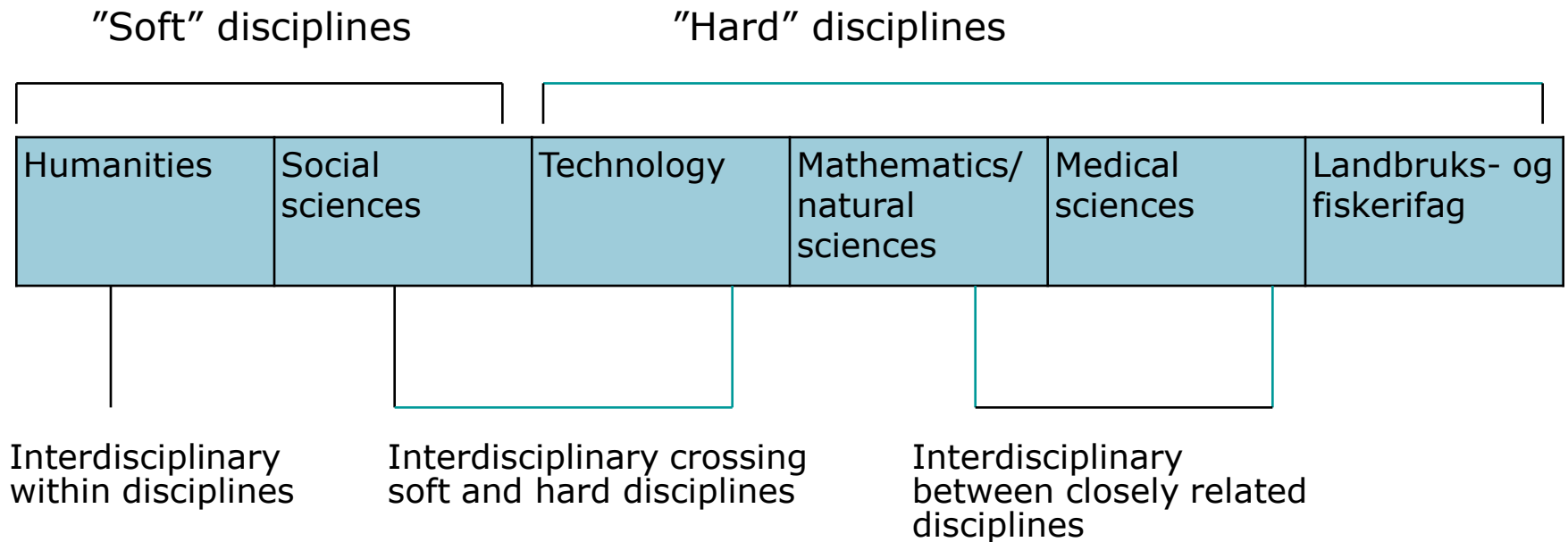
Inter- and transdisciplinarity – from the Research Council's point of view

Workshop CIENS
March 1st, 2010

Ellen Veie, RCN

RCN – Results from a study on multi-, inter- and transdisciplinary research

Definition of interdisciplinary in the analysis

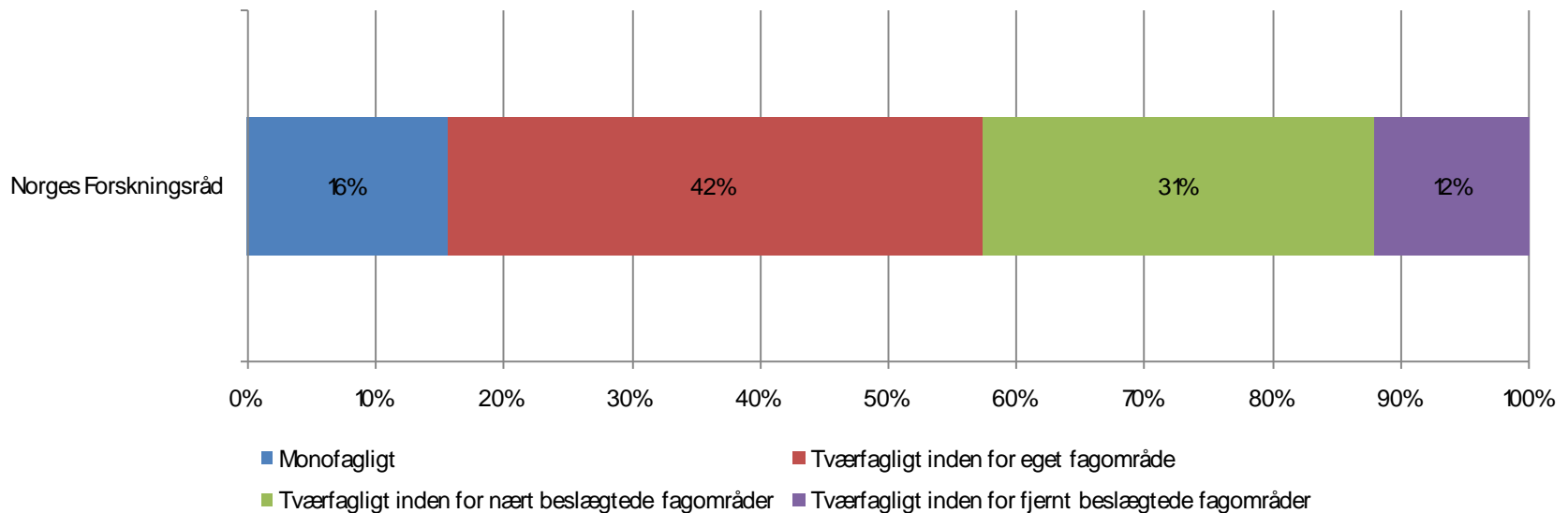


All main research activities are included

	Revised budget 2007
	Mill. NOK. (pct.)
Included in the study:	
<i>Basic research programmes</i>	273 (5 pct.)
<i>Other basic research projects</i>	95 (2 pct.)
<i>Researcher-initiated basic research projects</i>	549 (9 pct.)
<i>User directed innovation programmes</i>	830 (15 pct.)
<i>Action oriented programmes</i>	627 (12 pct.)
<i>Large-scale programmes</i>	939 (18 pct.)
<i>Other</i>	772 (15 pct.)
All activities in the study	4.085 (76 pct.)

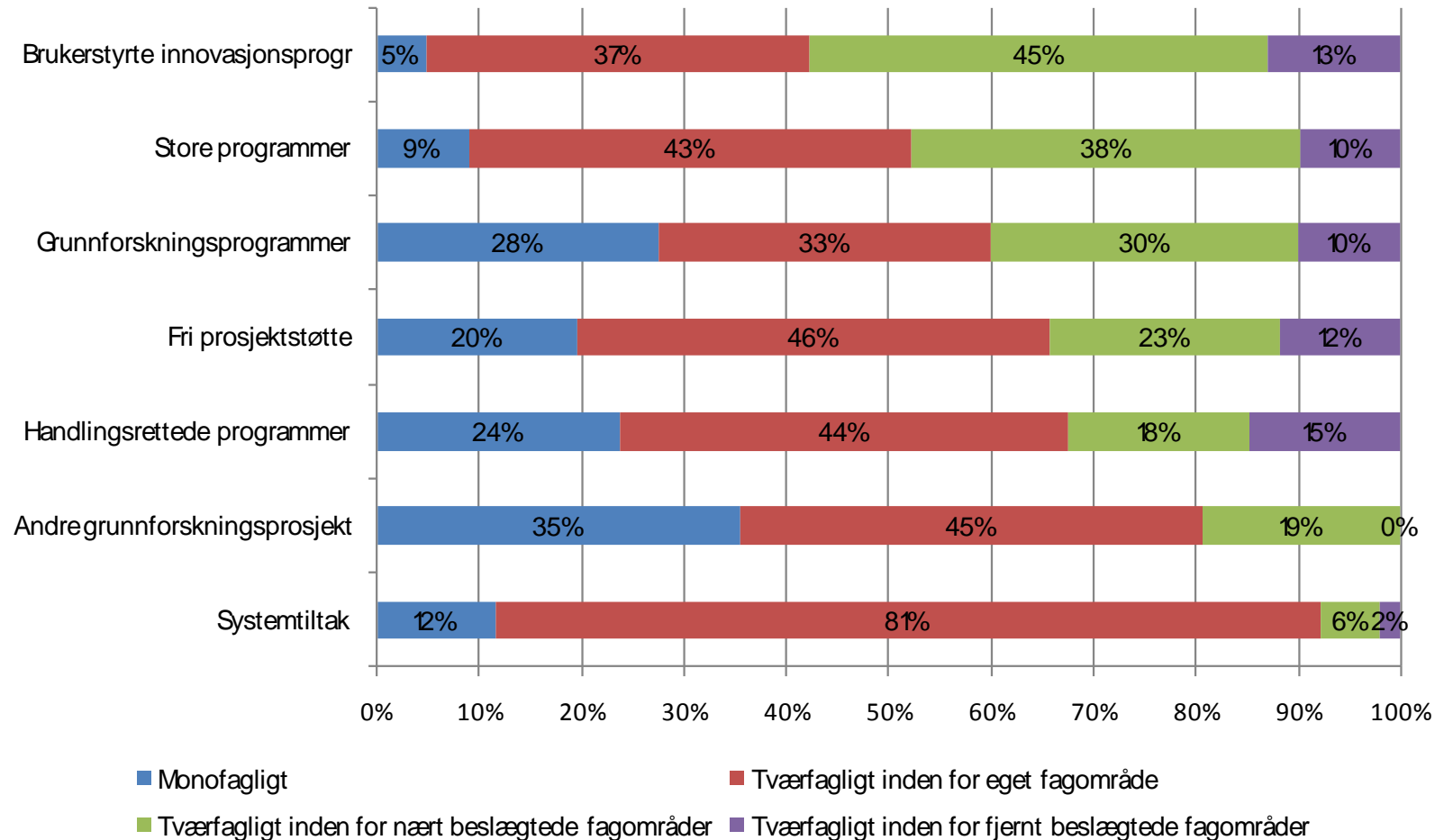
Multi-, inter- and transdisciplinary projects – overall result

RCN Multi-, inter- and transdisciplinary projects – overall result

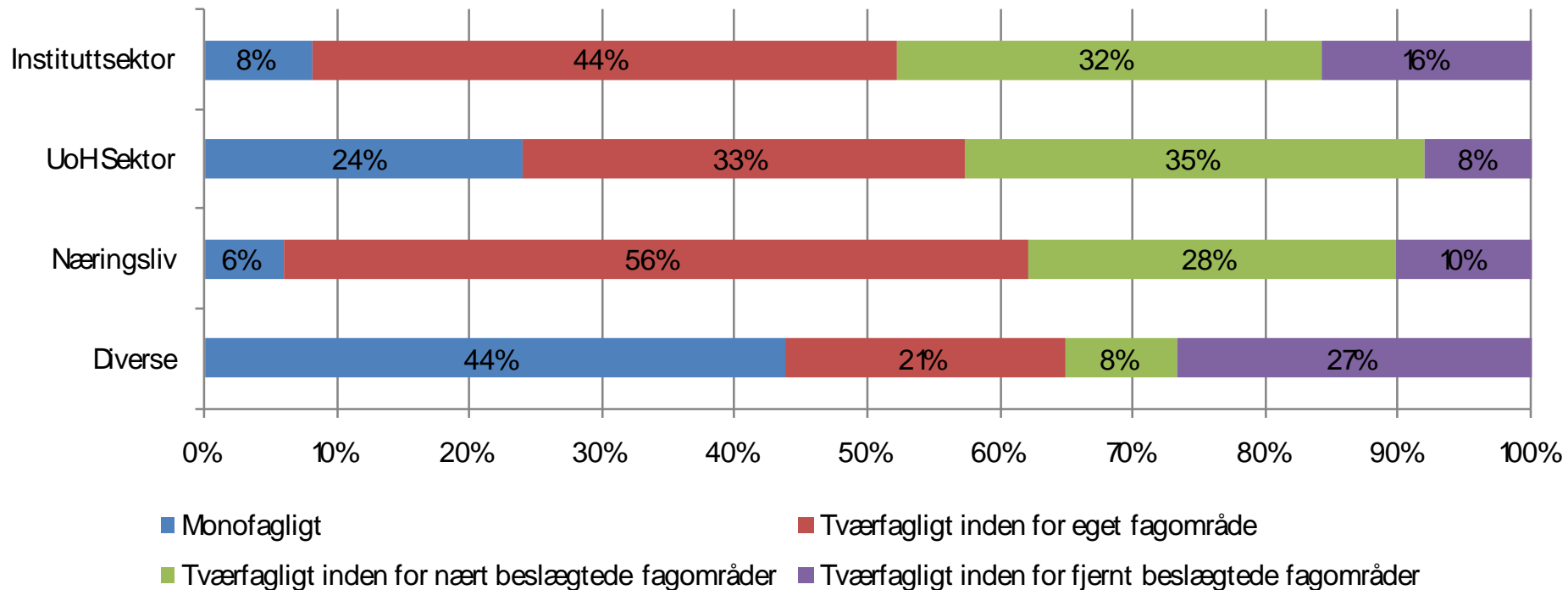


Source: DAMVAD, Tværfaglighed i projekter under Norges Forskningsråd, 2008
N=1322

Multi-, inter- and transdisciplinary projects – main activities

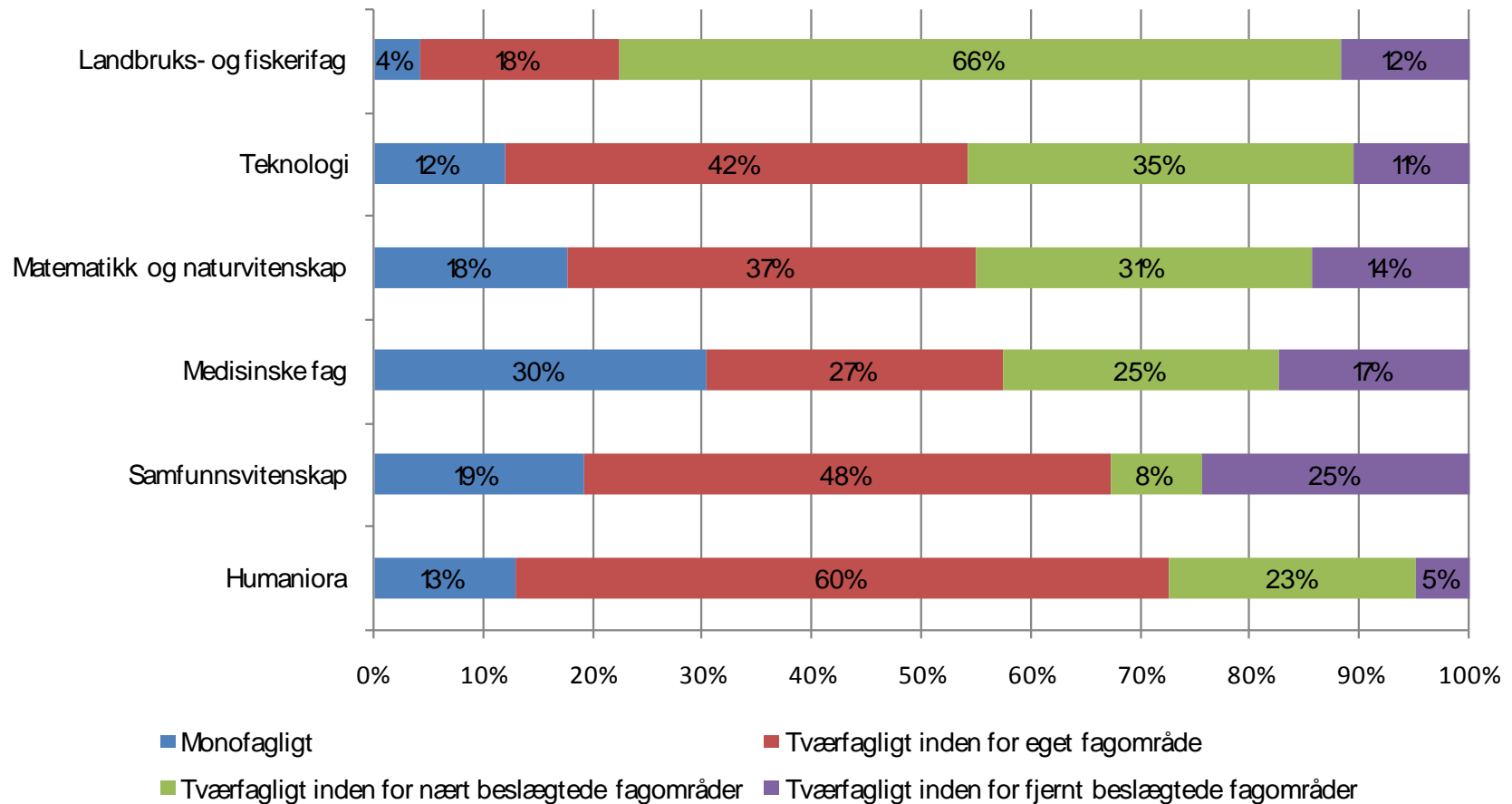


Multi-, inter- and transdisciplinary projects across sectors (contract partner)



N=409 for Instituttsektor, N=520 for UoH Sektor, N=321 for Næringsliv og N=71 for Diverse.

Multi-, inter- and transdisciplinary projects across disciplines



N=1321.

Concluding remarks

- User directed innovation programmes more interdisciplinary than large scale programmes – also across remote disciplines
- Action oriented programmes more monodisciplinary than research-initiated basic research projects
- The institute sector is more interdisciplinary than universities/high schools and industry
- Agriculture and fisheries highest degree of interdisciplinary projects
- Social sciences highest degree of interdisciplinarity across remote disciplines

RCN – Challenges ahead

Main challenges in research policy

- The white paper on research – Klima for forskning – stresses that research must meet societal challenges
 - Globalisation adds to the challenges ahead
- The increasing complexity in research and technology increases uncertainty and unpredictability
 - Research, technology and society are increasingly intertwined



Higher need to cope
with interdisciplinary
challenges



Need for a more open
dialogue with society about
research and technology

The role of RCN – when is it necessary to stimulate interdisciplinarity?

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
Needs are defined	Needs are defined	Needs have to be defined
Different researchers find each other	Need stimulus for researchers to cooperate	Transdisciplinary groundbreaking research



Main focus on alternative 2: needs are defined, but the potential for innovative research questions involving researchers across disciplines are not explored in an optimal way

Need for new ways to evaluate research projects?

- Do we have the right systems and mechanisms to evaluate interdisciplinary projects?
- How stimulate innovative and groundbreaking research?
- Possible changes:
 - From evaluation as control mechanism to learning processes
 - Increase the use of interdisciplinary panels, coaching and dialogue
 - Increase the size of research projects
 - Better integration of social sciences and humanities in technology/natural sciences-based programmes
 - Stimulate integrated projects as opposed to multi-disciplinary projects



Openness and dialogue

RCN funding mechanisms – explore possibilities across the organisation

- Establish new interactive arenas for cooperation between RCN and different external stake holders
 - Workshops to develop challenging calls for proposals
 - Arenas for dialogue between projects in related fields within and across programmes
- Synergy, cooperation, different perspectives – how to go from goals to practice?

