

Strategy 2022–2026

Adopted by the Board of Directors on 2 June 2022

The partners in CIENS

CICERO, the Norwegian Meteorological Institute, NIBR (OsloMet), NILU, NINA, NIVA, and the University of Oslo, represent Norway's largest, and one of Europe's largest, research communities within the fields of environment, climate and society. CIENS hosts leading research communities in various disciplines in the natural and social sciences.

Purpose of the collaboration

CIENS is a strategic collaboration between independent research institutes. The collaboration will contribute to high-quality and interdisciplinary knowledge about climate, nature and the environment. The network will also be used for joint positioning and influence in processes where the members of CIENS see such collaboration to be in their interest.

Vision

CIENS is a leading collaborative arena for research-based knowledge production and dissemination related to climate, nature, environment, including good environmental solutions, green transformation and sustainable societal development.

Goals for the next strategy period

CIENS shall facilitate relevant, high-quality interdisciplinary research across disciplines and institutions that are part of the CIENS collaboration.

Sub-goal 1: Deliver knowledge to realize the UN's sustainable development goals

CIENS shall support the partners' ability to deliver research knowledge specifically related to the following sustainable development goals:

- Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation
- Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities
- Goal 13: Climate action
- Goal 14: Life below water
- Goal 15: Life on land
- Goal 17: Partnerships for the goals

Sub-goal 2: Deliver knowledge for national climate and environmental goals

CIENS shall contribute to the partners' ability to deliver high-quality, interdisciplinary research-based knowledge to society related to national climate and environmental goals on the following topics:

- Climate
- Biodiversity

- Pollution
- Outdoor life

CIENS will serve as a network arena for the seven partners, and will facilitate meeting places between researchers and users of research. CIENS wants to support achievement of the goals in the Ministry of Climate and Environment's knowledge strategy.

Sub-goal 3: Deliver relevant knowledge at the right time

CIENS shall be a platform for cooperation and dialog with public administration and other actors in society. CIENS will contribute to mobilizing relevant knowledge across disciplines and institutions. CIENS will serve as a dialog partner for identifying future knowledge needs. The broad mix of expertise that the CIENS partners possess makes CIENS a suitable dialog partner on complex societal challenges associated with green transformation.

Means to achieve the goals

Network

CIENS shall contribute to the exchange of knowledge and professional experiences between the partners. The network will stimulate the identification of project collaboration that naturally involves multiple CIENS partners. Arrangements will also be made for joint knowledge development within interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity, aimed particularly at young researchers.

There is a great need for knowledge reviews as a basis for political decisions. CIENS has a breadth of expertise that facilitates collaboration on syntheses related to climate and the environment and to the green shift. CIENS can also enter into a dialog with external actors where there is a need for knowledge reviews.

Nationally

CIENS wants to connect national users with the breadth of environmental and climate research that the CIENS network represents as a supplement to the individual partners' respective user contacts. CIENS will strengthen professional dialog with national users related to climate, environmental and nature research. CIENS will have an active role vis-à-vis Oslo Science City.

Internationally

CIENS is a member of the Partnership for European Environmental Research (PEER). CIENS will work through PEER to create opportunities for project collaboration for its partners with leading European research institutions, focusing particularly on calls from Horizon Europe, promote CIENS partners in specific calls, and promote Norwegian interests in environmental and climate research in the EU, in collaboration with the Research Council of Norway.

Dissemination

Conferences and seminars

CIENS will regularly arrange conferences on topics that are central to the activities of several of the CIENS partners. The conferences will be held in collaboration with other actors and with external as well as internal funding. The possibility of establishing a biennial Oslo Sustainability Conference in collaboration with Oslo Science City/Oslo Sustainability Forum is being explored.

In addition to large-scale conferences, ad hoc seminars will be arranged, usually related to current topics. The seminars can be arranged in collaboration with external actors on the initiative of CIENS itself or of external actors.

Both the conferences and the seminars will serve as meeting places for researchers, public administration, and the business sector.

CIENS' breakfast seminars have been held continuously since 2013 and will continue to be an important dissemination arena in the years to come. The breakfast seminars disseminate research and research results from one or more of CIENS partners. The seminars are also intended to serve as an arena for collaboration between CIENS researchers and between researchers and users. Responsibility for hosting the breakfast seminars alternates among the members, who endeavor to invite speakers from their own institutes, researchers from other CIENS partners and from other research institutions, as well as users of the research-based knowledge that the CIENS network produces.

Online research dissemination

CIENS' website will be further developed to provide more current dissemination. All CIENS events, be they conferences, seminars, etc., will be announced on the website, and recordings from the events will be made available via this site. The seven partners in CIENS collaborate extensively on research projects among themselves. Examples of projects where at least two of the partners collaborate will be published regularly on the website. The presentations will show the breadth of the collaboration and professional activities in CIENS.

CIENS partners:

- CICERO Center for International Climate Research
- Norwegian Meteorological Institute
- Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research (NIBR)/Oslo Metropolitan University
- NILU - Norwegian Institute for Air Research
- Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA)
- Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA)
- University of Oslo