



Strategy 2026–2030

Adopted at the board meeting on 01.12.25

Purpose of the CIENS collaboration

CIENS is a strategic collaboration between leading research institutions in the climate and environmental field with affiliation in the Oslo region: CICERO, the Norwegian Meteorological Institute, NIBR (OsloMet), NILU, NINA, NIVA, and the University of Oslo.

CIENS has the following purposes:

1. Disseminate research and other knowledge that CIENS members produce and possess.
2. Through dissemination and events, put current research topics on the agenda, either nationally or internationally through the Partnership for European Environmental Research (PEER) or other channels.
3. Through activities and initiatives in the network, encourage and inspire internal collaboration and to share and build expertise in the network.

Through these purposes, CIENS functions as a tool and an arena that the partners jointly develop to realize goals in the respective institutions. CIENS should prioritize activities that create added value beyond what the individual partners can manage alone. Activities, measures and organization of the work shall contribute to the realization of one or more of the purposes mentioned above. CIENS shall further be characterized by high professional quality and a good understanding of society related to the knowledge we impart and shall through this contribute to placing climate and environment high on the societal agenda in a strategic and trust-inspiring manner.

Focus Areas

Dissemination of solid interdisciplinary climate and environmental research is CIENS' main focus area. Furthermore, CIENS offers internal networks between researchers and for communication staff. CIENS will also, where relevant, work to promote the interests of partners related to EU research through its membership in PEER.

Dissemination and setting issues on the agenda

It is important that CIENS' events demonstrate new knowledge and research needs, in addition to disseminating new knowledge. The physical seminars create meeting places between researchers and users of the CIENS partners' research, as well as meeting places for researchers across the CIENS institutions. The topics for the seminars should be relevant to the users' knowledge needs, and planning the individual events can also be done in collaboration with relevant users. The seminars will, where appropriate, be arranged as joint events with other actors. It is emphasized that the seminars address current topics that contribute to the social debate. All seminars are streamed and the goal is to reach the entire country through these events. The target group for dissemination under the auspices of CIENS is primarily public administration and decision-makers.

CIENS will regularly take on the responsibility of organizing digital seminars under the auspices of the Partnership for European Environmental Research (PEER), and in this way reach a wider European audience. This will be done in cooperation with other PEER partners. CIENS will participate in the annual PEER seminars in Brussels.

CIENS' website and social media channels are primarily used to promote events under the auspices of CIENS, or events where we collaborate with others. The website contains recordings of all CIENS events.

Networks

Internal networks

CIENS' internal networks will contribute to the exchange of knowledge and professional experiences between the partners. The networks will also stimulate the identification of project collaborations that naturally include several CIENS partners. Joint interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary competence-building will also be facilitated, especially aimed at younger researchers. Competence building is central to the networks.

CIENS' board will each year decide whether the individual networks should continue with support from CIENS. The board is expected to have an ongoing dialogue related to evaluating the benefits of ongoing networks, as well as assessing the need for new networks for the best interests of the partners.

External networks

CIENS wants to strengthen professional dialogue with national users related to climate and environmental research. CIENS further seeks to connect national users and stakeholders with the width of environmental and climate research that the CIENS network represents, as a supplement to the individual partner's user contact. CIENS will seek to take an active role in Oslo Science City and be a visible player in Campus Ullevål through members based there.

PEER

CIENS has been a member of the Partnership for European Environmental Research (PEER) since 2013. In 2026 and 2027, CIENS will hold the chairmanship and secretariat responsibility of the organization. The work in PEER means that CIENS will be closer to the development of the 10th Framework Programme for Research in the EU and other relevant EU processes. Through the PEER collaboration, CIENS, on behalf of the CIENS partners, will seek to promote Norwegian interests in environmental, nature and climate research towards the EU. This will be done in collaboration with the Research Council of Norway, the Ministry of Climate and Environment and the Norwegian Environment Agency, as well as facilitate project collaboration with leading European research institutions.

Organization

The board of CIENS will regularly assess what is the most appropriate organization given the activities the board decides will be carried out. The organization should be efficient and flexible. Members of the various groups are chosen based on the purpose to be achieved and the expertise and experience needed to deliver well on the tasks. As much of the available resources as possible should be directed towards activities and initiatives that build on CIENS' purposes.

Time horizon

The strategy period is for the years 2026-2030. The board will have a mid-term evaluation of the strategy in mid-2028 and will make adjustments applicable to the aforementioned strategy period.

Underlying documents

The strategy is followed up through these documents, adopted by the board:

- **Annual action plans and budgets**
- **"CIENS plan for engagement in PEER 2025-2027"**
- **"Role and function description (RFD) for CIENS"**

Partners in CIENS:

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