

National Environmental Research Institute

– an institute on the move

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NERI is a research institute under Denmark's Ministry of the Environment



National Environmental Research Institute



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The National Environmental Research Institute (NERI) is a research institute under Denmark's Ministry of the Environment. NERI was established in 1989, and its mission is to provide a sound and informed scientific foundation in Denmark for making decisions related to policy on nature and the environment. NERI gathers, processes and assesses information on nature and the environment and uses this information as the basis to provide independent, professional consultancy to Denmark's public policy-makers and administrators.

NERI'S FIELDS OF EXPERTISE

NERI's scientific work is organized within six fields of expertise and includes research, monitoring and consultancy. These fields are interdisciplinary across NERI's nine scientific departments and comprise key elements of its strategy and programme of work.

ATMOSPHERIC ENVIRONMENT

- Monitoring of ambient air quality
- Air pollution and human exposure
- Deposition of air pollutants
- Development of techniques for modelling air pollution

AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT AND NATURE

- Monitoring the aquatic environment
- Nutrient dynamics in the aquatic environment
- Quality of the aquatic environment
- Sustainable utilization of aquatic resources
- Modelling the structure and function of aquatic ecosystems
- Restoration of lakes and watercourses

TERRESTRIAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURE

- Monitoring of the terrestrial environment and nature
- Soil quality and critical loads
- Terrestrial biodiversity, habitats and landscapes
- Wildlife ecology
- Nature and environment in the coastal zone

THE ARCTIC AND GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTS

- Pollution in the Arctic region and long-range transport of pollutants from Europe and Asia
- Monitoring of the Arctic environment and nature
- Environmental impact assessment of raw material extraction, especially in Greenland
- Global environmental change

RISK ASSESSMENT OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES AND BIOTECHNOLOGICAL PRODUCTS

- Exposure to and fate of xenobiotics
- Terrestrial and aquatic ecotoxicology
- Survival and fate of genetically modified plants and animals
- Survival and environmental effects of genetically modified and naturally occurring microorganisms

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

- Analysis of policy on agriculture and the environment
- Analysis of policy on energy and the environment
- Environmental economics and sociology
- Integrated environmental information and reports on the state of the environment
- Air emission inventories
- Coordination of the monitoring of nature and the environment in Denmark

NERI'S STRATEGY

NERI's emphasizes three important aspects that permeate priority-setting and carrying out scientific work:

- the relevance of the scientific work and the results;
- ensuring high quality in the scientific work and results; and
- effective management and priority-setting.

NERI strives towards ensuring relevance and quality in its scientific efforts. One way quality is ensured is through publication in fora that conduct international peer review. This ensures that NERI's consultancy is of high quality and is independent of political and economic interests. This provides public policy-makers and administrators with the optimum scientific foundation for policy decisions relating to nature and the environment.

NERI has comprehensive databases on nature and the environment. These data comprise an important basis for the consultancy NERI provides to its clients.



SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

NERI has entered into partnership agreements with numerous research institutes and universities in Denmark and abroad that focus on related scientific fields. The purpose of the agreements is to promote relevant research projects and to strengthen the education of young researchers. NERI has numerous Ph.D. students and other students affiliated at all times and contributes to teaching at Denmark's universities.

NERI participates in numerous international research projects aiming to solve transboundary environmental problems relating to air pollution, marine pollution, the Arctic environment, global change in climate and the environment and other challenges. In addition, NERI participates in environmental assistance projects in central and eastern Europe, Asia and Africa. NERI is Denmark's National Focal Point for the European Environment Agency. Finally, NERI participates in scientific working groups and commissions under the European Union, the United Nations and other international organizations and conventions.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND FUNDING

NERI is led by a Board of Governors with overall responsibility for NERI's strategic management. External researchers, clients and NERI staff are represented in the Board of Governors. NERI's Director General is responsible for daily management. NERI's activities are funded by appropriations from the annual Finance Act and through external grants for research projects from such sources as the Danish Research Councils, the European Union, the Ministry of the Environment and private sources.

NERI's Web site provides information on the organizational structure, activities, scientific results, scientific data, news and publications. The address is www.dmu.dk.

