

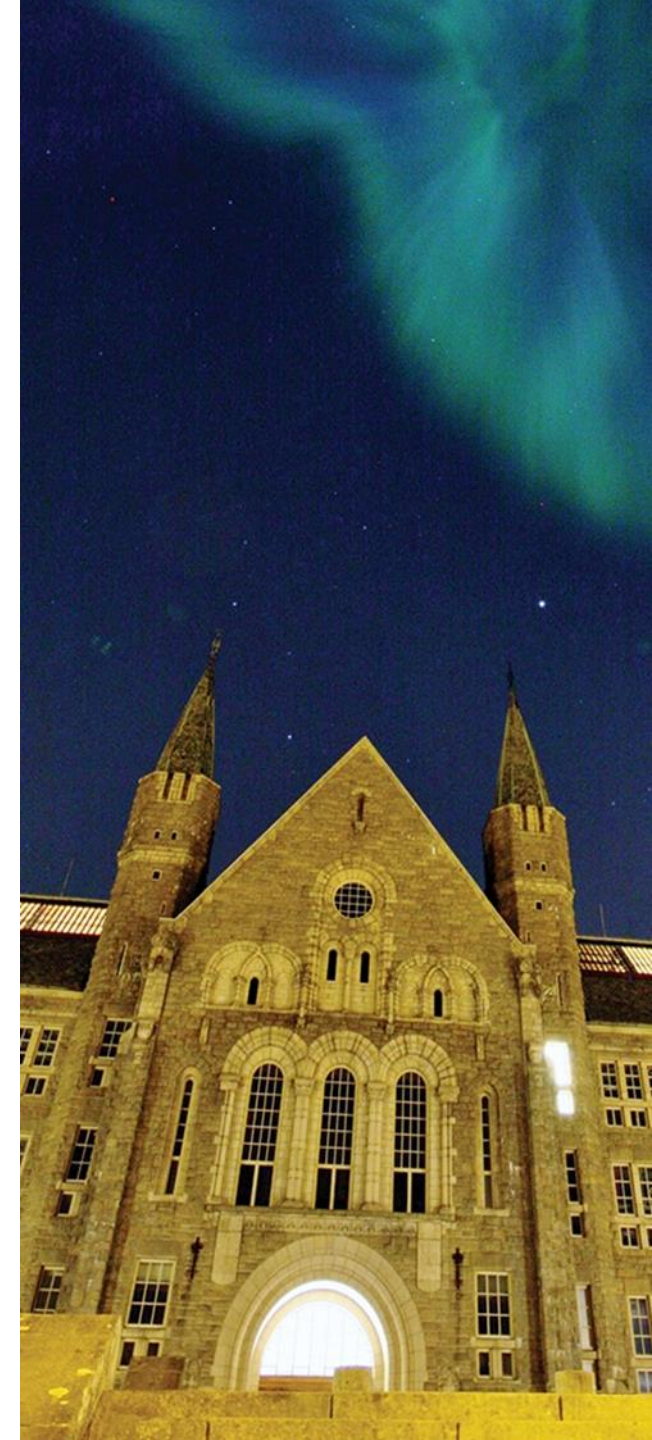


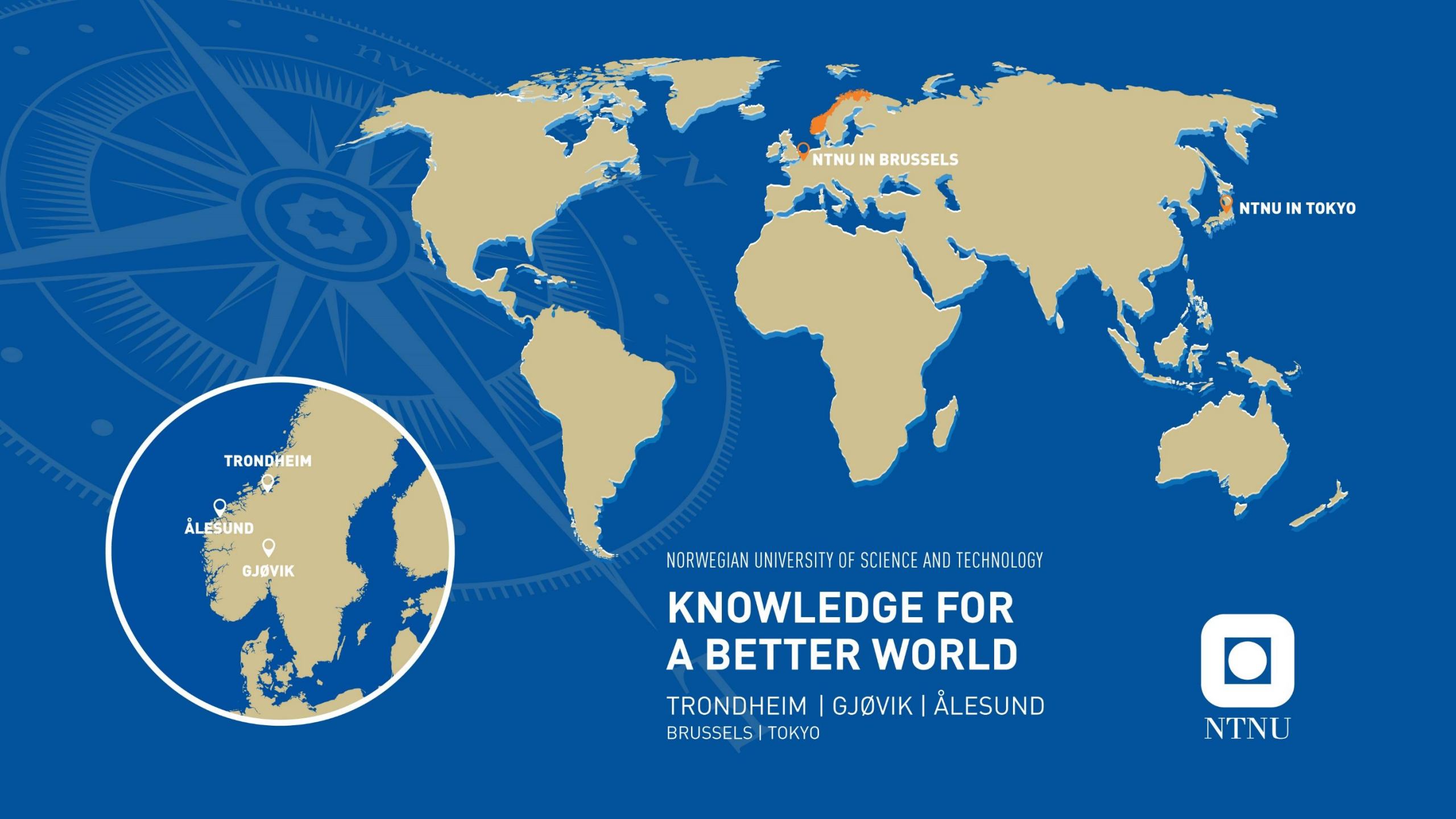
## A Norwegian Research Infrastructure Resource Model

Optimizing the use, and outcomes, of national RIs through international participation

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Lise T. Sagdahl,  
Norwegian University of Science and Technology,  
NTNU, Norway





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# Who will cover operational costs and upgrades?

- Governments
  - RI host institutions
  - Funding agencies
  - Donors
  - Users
- 
- All of the above?



**If the users are going to pay, we have to enable them to do so!**





# Project funding in Norway

**General approach** (small and medium sized RI):

- **Operational costs** and **depreciation costs** should be covered by the **projects** that use the RI.
- These costs are **eligible costs** in all the Research Council of Norway's financing schemes.

**Exceptions:**

- The RCN may in some cases allocate **basic funding of operational costs of large-scale RI.**



# How do we determine the cost of use of an RI?

## **The Research Infrastructure Resource Model (RIR-model)**

- Developed in 2013
- Implemented in 2015 for RIs hosted by Norwegian universities, including all roadmap infrastructures.

*Based on ideas in “Non-paper on direct costing of large research infrastructures” from the European Commission, 2013.*

# Developing a costing methodology for RI

- **Full cost** approach
- **Collaborate**



- **Minimize bureaucracy**
- **Keep it as simple as possible**, within laws and regulations
- **Careful implementation** to avoid barriers for unfunded projects



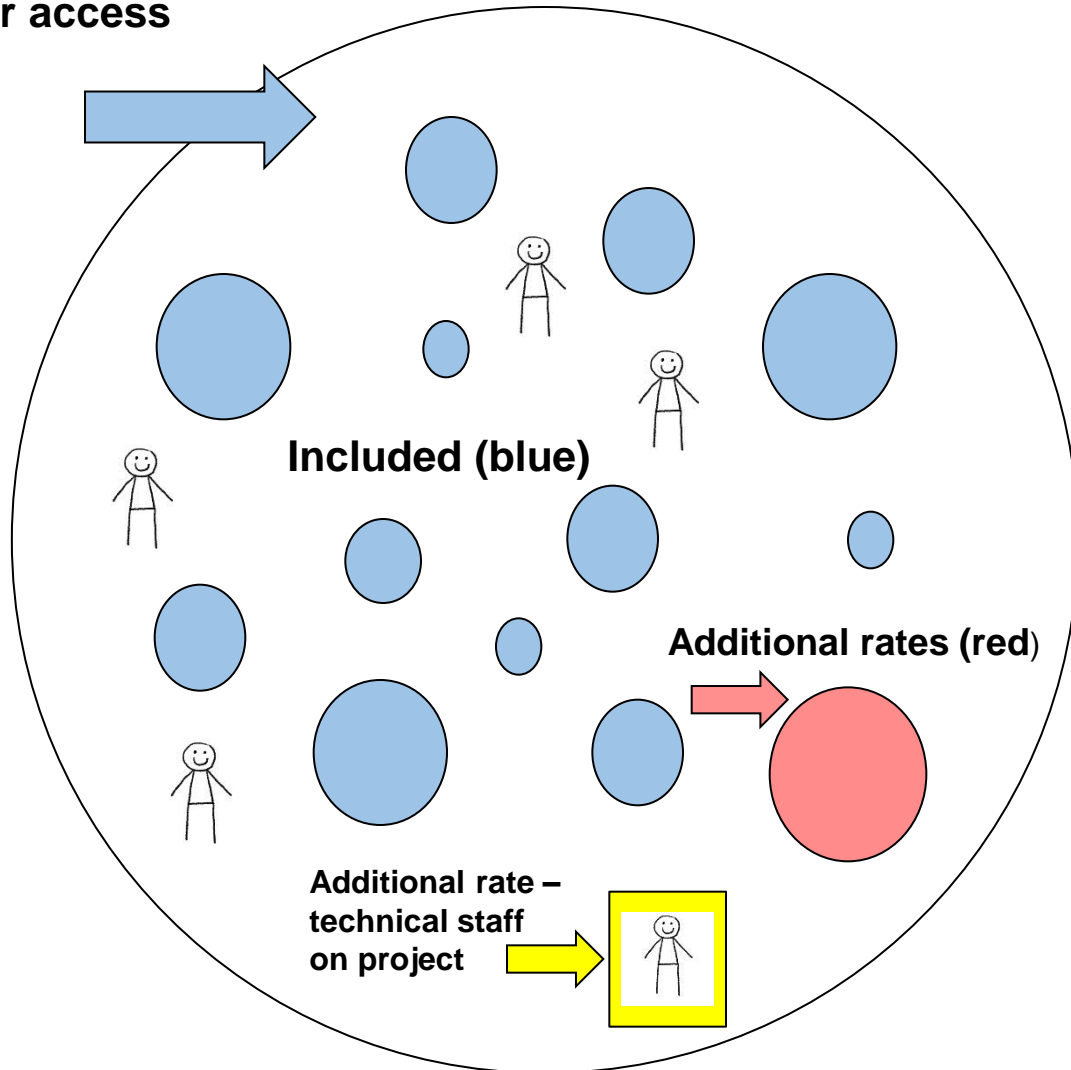
# Types of costs in the RIR-model

1. **Space** – rental and building related costs for research space such as laboratories and workshops
2. **Scientific equipment** – depreciation costs
3. Common operating **consumables** and **service-/maintenance** contracts, i.e. shared costs for all users
4. **Technical support** – personnel costs for the technical support staff needed to keep the research infrastructure operational





Rate for access



$$\text{Price} = \frac{\text{Cost}}{\text{Capacity}}$$

The **capacity** equals the total number of user hours a RIR is designated for in a normal operating phase.

**Flat rates** per year based on average use.

# Benefits of RIR model

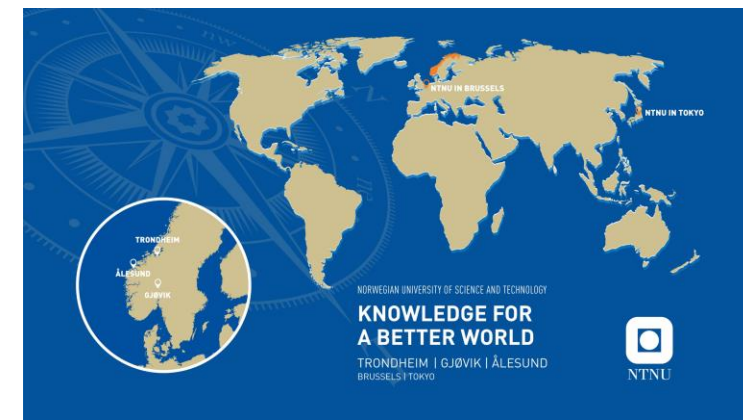
- Project financing from major funders now includes RI costs
  - *enables users to pay, stable funding if the RI is used*
- Common methodology for calculating prices – can be used for all RIs
  - *transparency and simplification, but trust is key*
- Better data for strategic management information
  - *more realistic planning of new RIs*
- Awareness of costs - sustainability
  - *regulates the “cry for more, bigger and better”*
- Clarity on state aid issues (Europe)
  - *Maximum 20 % economic activity*

# Challenges

- **Change the culture** from "low-cost" to "full cost»
  - *activities are seemingly more expensive*
- **Defining capacity** of RI
  - *who pays for idle/unused time?*
- **Time recording/booking** systems
- Keeping the **transaction costs** low, avoiding unnecessary administration
- **National model** - not all foreign users/projects have funding
  - *host institutions will often provide funding based on excellence*



# Summary



- “The Norwegian RIR model” provides a **simple methodology** to calculate RI costs for most RIs.
- If RI costs would be considered **eligible costs** in **all financing schemes**, we can **focus on the science** and **maximize the use and value** of RIs through **international** participation.

# Thank you!

## **More on the model:**

[https://www.uhr.no/\\_f/p1/i7917a849-7f91-49c4-9e66-55d715c525ba/a\\_norwegian\\_research\\_infrastructure\\_resource\\_model\\_270214.pdf](https://www.uhr.no/_f/p1/i7917a849-7f91-49c4-9e66-55d715c525ba/a_norwegian_research_infrastructure_resource_model_270214.pdf)

## **Contact:**

Lise T. Sagdahl, NTNU,  
[lise.sagdahl@ntnu.no](mailto:lise.sagdahl@ntnu.no)

### **A Norwegian Research Infrastructure Resource Model**

**A methodology for declaring the costs and pricing the use of research infrastructure in externally funded projects at Universities and Colleges**

Abbreviated version of a report from a national work group commissioned by  
The Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions.

February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014