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**VESTLANDSFORSKING**  
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**Nordic Centre of Excellence:  
Beyond the Gender Paradox –  
Women's Careers in Technology-Driven Research and Innovation  
In and Outside of Academe**

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# Partners

## 1) Core academic/research partners

- Uppsala University (coordination)
- Tampere University
- Western Norway Research Institute

## 2) External partners

Many external partners, incl. HumLab (Umea U), Førde municipality, Swedish Secretariat for Gender Research, Norwegian Centre for E-health Research, Innovation Norway, Empiros, Wittgenstein archives (Bergen), Council for Gender Equality Finland, etc.





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# NCoE Beyond the Gender Paradox

20 Million Norwegian Kronor (approx 2.2 million euros)

5 years

January 2017 start





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# NCoE Beyond the Gender Paradox

- The gender paradox: despite numerous equality initiatives, economic + status inequalities between women and men persist, even in the Nordic countries.
- Such inequalities now mediated by:
  - changing career patterns, esp. in new technology-driven contexts
  - technologization
  - marketization
  - regionalization
  - globalization





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## Underlying assumptions of NCoE's work

- Science-society contract is changing – knowledge production occurs both in and outside of the university + actors move between the two
- New public sector management has entered universities (enhanced business model of the university), diversely developed in different countries
- Cross-sectoral working as requirement + desire

***All this impacts on knowledge producers across sectors***





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## NCoE's objective

Investigate + enhance women's careers in technology-driven research + innovation cross-sectorally  
(private/public/voluntary)





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## 4 research pillars

1. Regional science + innovation actors and structures
2. Research-intensive science + innovation contexts
3. E-health research, innovation and implementation as a cross-disciplinary field
4. Digital humanities as a cross-disciplinary field





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## 2 interconnected research foci

1 women's careers in innovation regions (in sparsely and densely populated areas)

2 the effects of digitalization on female-dominated research and work areas (e-health, digital humanities)





## Work of NCoE over next 5 years includes

- Action research in selected companies in research + innovation regions (partly derived from previous work in projects such as EU-funded FESTA) across Nordic region
- Qualitative data collection (mixed methods, ethnographic, interview-based) on professional life narratives of women and men working in technology-driven careers
- Solution oriented, dialogic, comparative research: Gender equality toolkit, online resources, network development, mentor program, etc.
- Inter/national PhD courses on relevant methodological and substantive issues
- And much more. . .





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## Some anticipated outcomes

- Evidence-based understanding of women's career opportunities within the new science-society contract
- In-depth data on and analysis of women's careers in new professions (e-health, Digital Humanities, etc.)
- Action-research derived shifts in gendered employment in technology-driven companies as pilots for further development
- Enhanced networking for women across technology-driven work contexts





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## NCoE Beyond the Gender Paradox

Thank you for your attention!

We look forward to reporting our results and  
debating these with you in the future.

