



**NORWEGIAN CENTRE FOR VIOLENCE
AND TRAUMATIC STRESS STUDIES**

How can research influence policy making to prevent violence against women and protect victims?

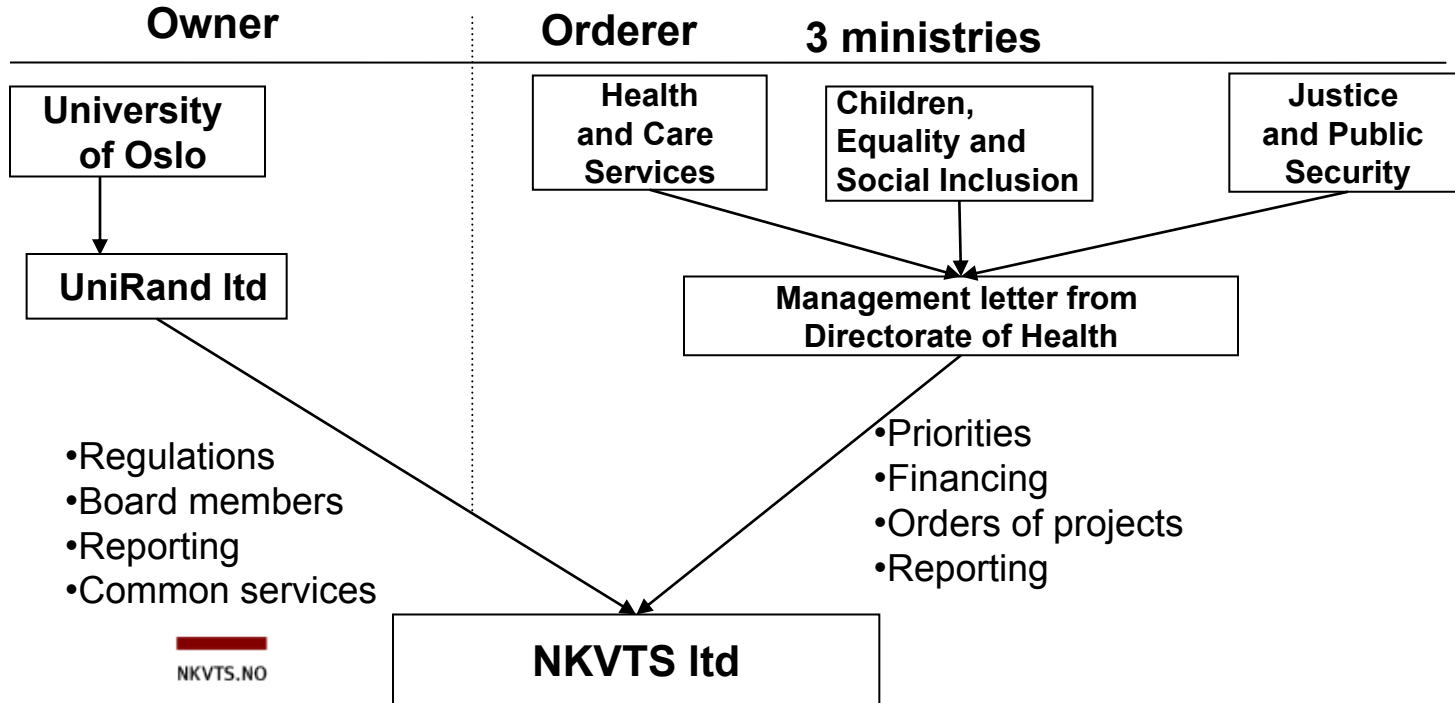
Some Norwegian experiences

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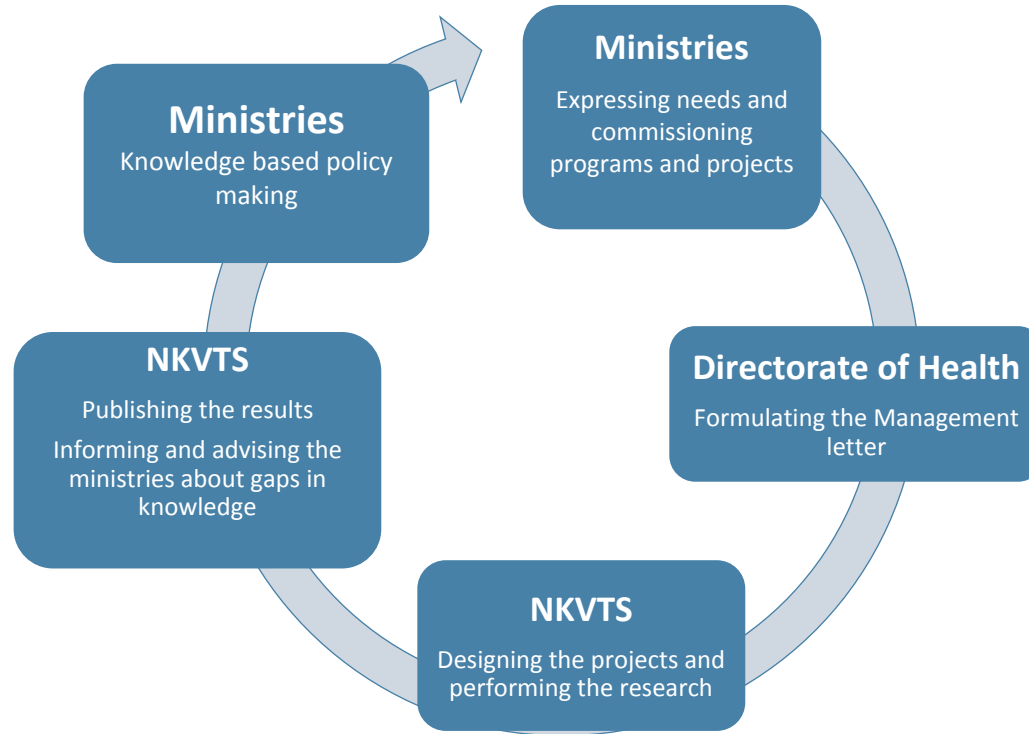
NKVTS

- Established January 1.th 2003
- Fields of expertise:
 - Violence and abuse in close relationships (including genital mutilation)
 - Disasters, terror and stress management
 - Forced migration and refuge health
- Main goals:
 - To conduct research on high international level
 - To disseminate research through developmental and information activities, education, consultation and supervision
 - To deliver relevant knowledge to policy-makers, authorities, researchers and practitioners.
- Employees: Approx. 90 researchers and staff.
- Budget 2017: Approx. 10 mill €

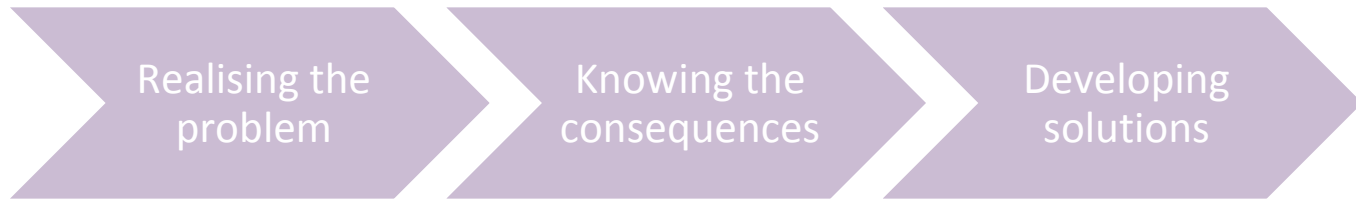
NKVTS: The organizational model

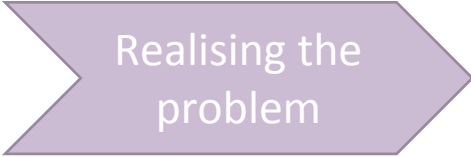


Process behind the Management letter



The three phases of our research influencing the policymaking





Realising the
problem

- **Safety, violence and quality of life in Norway. A national prevalence study**
 - Violence against women:
 - Severe physical violence from partner: 9,2 %
 - Rape from partner: 3,8 %
 - Lifetime rape: 9,4 %
 - Childhood abuse:
 - Sexual abuse before age 13 years, or violent rape before 18 years, or severe physical violence from parents: 13 %

Knowing the consequences

- **Violence and health. An analysis of two regional health surveys.**

- **Current psychological problems**

	Non abused	Abused in childhood only	Abused both in childhood and as adults
Depression and anxiety	7 %	18 %	30 %

- **Somatic diseases diagnosed first time as adults:**

	Non abused	Abused in childhood
Fibromyalgia	5,4 %	10,4 %
Chronic bronchitis	1,4 %	2,6%
Asthma	5,3 %	9,4 %



Developing
solutions

- **Assessing abuse during pregnancy, screening for violence during prenatal checkups**
 - **2005 – governmental hearing of new manual for midwives – should not ask about violence – not enough knowledge about effect**
 - **Prevalence study 2005: 4 % of women with children reporting being abused during pregnancy**
 - **Health studies: Abuse during pregnancy can have severe consequences for both mother and child**
 - **Our proposal: let us develop more knowledge**

Assessing abuse during pregnancy, screening for violence during prenatal checkups

- **NKVTS given the task to test system of screening**
- **Project in four municipalities: Midwives screen all pregnant women during one year**
 - **451 women screened**
 - **Violence during pregnancy: 1,8 %**
 - **Physical violence last year: 2,5 %**
 - **Sexual abuse last year: 0,9 %**
 - **Physical violence lifetime: 7,3 %**
 - **Sexual abuse lifetime: 4,4**

Assessing abuse during pregnancy, screening for violence during prenatal checkups

Resistance to screening

1. Re-traumatizing?

- Questionnaire to all the screened women:
 - 0,4 % would not answer screening questions
 - 4,2% found questions somewhat or quite unpleasant, but answered
 - 92 % felt it was OK or very positive to be asked
 - 3,3 % would not say how they felt
- Interviews with the midwives:
 - Better relations with the pregnant women

2. Not enough evidence of preventive effect of screening

- WHO recommends screening if system for follow-up
- RCT study by McFarlane et.al showed positive effects of screening revictimization
- Educating local health personnel in working with abused women
- Setting up a consultant team to support and advice health personnel

Implementing the solution

- **Publishing report recommending screening as routine part of prenatal checkup**
- **Media coverage**
- **Minister of health decision: Screening to be part of prenatal checkup**
- **Directorate of health commissioned to formulate regulations for the maternity care**
- **Working group with representatives of medical doctors' association, midwives association, psychologists association, national organization of victims. NKVTS was asked to assist with further information from international studies**
- **Representatives of medical doctors' association still negative – not enough evidence screening prevented violence**
- **New report from National Institute for Health and Care Excellence recommending screening**



 HelseDirektoratet

Nasjonale faglige retningslinjer
IS 2181

Retningslinje for svangerskapsomsorgen

- hvordan avdekke vold


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Thank you!