



AALBORG UNIVERSITY
DENMARK

PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT

Research and Innovation Indicator 2025

(goals for 2026)

Department of Society and Politics

Agreement on the realisation of department strategies on
Collaboration, Visibility, and Openness (Part B)

Prioritised Goals for 2026

At a meeting on 5 January 2023, the Strategic Council for Research and Innovation approved the following three priority areas for realisation of the department's open science parameters. This prioritisation is in line with the goals presented in the [Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment](#) signed by Aalborg University:

AAU Research and Innovation Indicator (Part B):

- Collaboration
- Visibility
- Openness



AALBORG UNIVERSITY
DENMARK

Caseworker:
[Name 1]
Telephone: 9940
Email: [Email]

Date: [Date of letter]
Case No.: [Case No.]

Agreement on realisation of goals pertaining to the AAU Research and Innovation Indicator in 2026

DEPARTMENT
Department of Society and Politics
MONITORING OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATION INDICATOR GOALS
Heads of departments are responsible for the monitoring and reporting on status of progress and results that are presented to the dean's office annually. Likewise, approval of performance agreements for the AAU Research and Innovation Indicator (Part B) takes place in the dean's office. Deadline for approval is the end of December 2025. Every year in June, the VBN-team in collaboration with AAU Innovation issues a report to the department management on the department's overall performance within the indicator's three areas: Collaboration, Visibility and Openness. The department report format contains overall figures for the department as well as more group-specific data.
PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION INDICATOR



Department 2 is formed by a merger between Department of Sociology & Social Work and Department of Politics & Society in January 2026. Building on the research undertaken at those departments, our new department will conduct research that moves the field forward in two interrelated ways: by advancing scholarship and by advancing practice.

Collaboration

We here define “collaboration” as collaboration with actors outside Aalborg University. In line with our research agenda, we will focus on two forms of collaboration:

- “collaboration with practitioners” (in any region)
- “collaboration with research environments” (national and international)

Such collaboration produces a range of outcomes. Here we wish to focus on two:

1) “societal innovation”, that is, innovation that affects society at large, generated in collaboration. It can take many forms, including new products, processes, tools, roadmaps, ideas, concepts, networks, interactive digital platforms and knowledge infrastructures that are generated through exchange and dialogue between collaborators (and can be a pathway to societal impact). More specifically, they include

- new ideas and concepts developed in our research and collaborations with actors outside academia or generated through participation in governmental commissions and panels (leading for instance to new professional practices or guidelines, to capacity building for practitioners and/or policy makers, to development of new models of public service delivery and/or to the development of new policy instruments)
- new networks and events that we co-create with actors outside academia (for instance leading to new partnerships and collective structures that open possibilities for societal impact or leading to development of public agendas and/or public discourse, as seen for instance in museum exhibitions with the potential to shape collective memory and identity)

2) “international co-publications”, that is, research publications authored with colleagues at non-Danish research institutions. Such collaboration generates networking, increased internationalisation and exchange of ideas with the potential for long-term development for all authors involved. Please note that ‘research publications’ here exclude non-peer reviewed publications.

Current status:

Number of collaborations with practitioners (in any region):

Collaboration with practitioners*	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Activity	21	26	20	32	72	171
Project	9	11	13	12	5	50
Publication	40	50	32	37	47	206
Total	70	87	65	81	124	427

*Defined as Non-academic collaboration (all countries)



Number of collaborations with research environments in Denmark:

Collaboration with national research- and educational institutions**	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Activity	19	21	19	19	35	113
Project	7	11	10	6	6	40
Publication	58	66	52	65	68	309
Total	84	98	81	90	109	462

**Defined as Academic and educational collaboration in Denmark

Number of collaborations with research environments in the Nordic region, including Denmark:

Collaboration with research and educational institutions in the northern countries***	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Activity	23	28	32	30	54	167
Project	14	14	16	7	8	59
Publication	86	85	67	86	96	420
Total	123	127	115	123	158	646

***Defined as academic and educational collaboration with countries in the northern countries, e.g. Denmark, Finland, Faeroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

Number of collaborations with international research environments (including the Nordic region):

Collaboration with international research and educational institutions****	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Activity	15	18	22	21	49	125
Project	10	7	8	6	9	40
Publication	60	76	71	75	97	379
Total	85	101	101	102	155	544

**** Defined ad academic and educational collaboration with all countries except Denmark

In terms of the results of collaboration, we do not have data on “societal innovation” yet.

We do however have data on international co-publications (please note that the data for 2025 is preliminary, marked in grey):

DPS and ISSA	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Research publications*	297	258	268	241	206	296
Research publications with international collaboration	60	82	75	76	101	76
Share of publications	20%	32%	28%	32%	49%	26%

***Research Publications** are defined by being Peer Reviewed and with the category Research or Consultancy. Included are the following publication types: *Journal article, Review article, Letter, Conference article in Journal, Article in Proceeding, Book, Book chapter, Report and Report chapter.*



Goals:

Our goals relate to the number of collaborations and to their outcomes. However, it takes time to build collaborations and co-produce outcomes, so our goals are for 2027, not 2026. Our goals are:

1) the number of collaborations:

- collaborations with practitioners: in 2026 we will maintain and consolidate the number of collaborations with international, national, regional and local partners at 125. In 2027 we will increase the number of these collaborative partnerships with 10% (with 2025 as baseline). To realise this goal, we will:
 - discuss collaborations with practitioners at GRUS in 2026 and 2027
 - provide seed-money from the department for network building, with two annual calls for applications
 - evaluate the progress using the scholars' reporting in PURE/VBN
- collaborations with national and international research environments: in 2026 we will maintain the number of collaborations. In 2027 we wish to increase the number of international collaborations with 10% (with 2025 as baseline). This will support other goals at the department, including a stronger internationalisation and the building of network to underpin European funding partnerships. To realise this goal, we will:
 - discuss collaborations with research non-Danish environments at GRUS in 2026 and 2027
 - provide seed-money from the department for international network building, with two annual calls for applications
 - evaluate the progress using the scholars' reporting in PURE/VBN

2) the results of our collaborations:

- "societal innovation": we wish to identify five such cases in 2027. At least two cases will be with in collaboration with regional partners outside academia. To realise this goal, we will:
 - discuss "societal innovation" at GRUS in 2026 and 2027, collecting cases and experiences
 - examine whether the department, faculty and university offer sufficient administrative support for building and maintaining regional, national and international collaborations, based on the input from GRUS and the five case studies
 - evaluate by producing five detailed case studies that describe the societal innovation aspect of each case by documenting the innovative aspect; how the research was developed; who the collaborators and partners were; how the research was used; and what changes (in processes, mindsets, practices etc) have been obtained. When VBN/PURE has implemented a quantitative measure for innovation and impact, we will use that.
- "international co-publications": in 2027 we wish to increase the number of international co-publications with 10% (using the average for the period 2023-2025 as the baseline). To realise this goal, we will:
 - discuss "international co-publication" at GRUS in 2026 and 2027
 - provide seed-money from the department for international network building, including visits from co-authors, with two annual calls for applications
 - discuss "international co-publication" in the department's Early Career program in 2026, with presentations from other scholars in the department
 - evaluate the progress using the scholars' reports in PURE/VBN



Visibility

We wish to promote the visibility of the department's research in relation to two groups, namely international researchers and the Danish general public.

International researchers: to ensure our research the academic attention it deserves, we will increase our research's international academic visibility by raising the number of publications in highly cited and high-ranking international publication channels. This is related to our goal of increasing the number of international co-publications.

The Danish public: to ensure our research the broad attention it deserves, we will increase our research's visibility in the Danish public sphere by raising the number of mentions of our research in Danish and international media (as recorded by PURE/ VBN through press clippings).

Current status:

We do not have the required data relating to the department's international publication channels at this point. The VBN team currently offers publication-centred data with top-citation percentiles, but they cannot be used as a planning tool, and journal-centred data (using CiteScore and SNIP) but these do not adequately reflect subfields; furthermore, the lists of top-cited journals change markedly year by year, making them less helpful for developing publication strategies. We therefore need to develop new measures for evaluating our performance in international publication channels; we will do so together with the VBN team (see below).

In terms of press clippings, we do have useful data (please note that the data for 2025 is preliminary, marked in grey)

DPS and ISSA	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of press clippings	678	900	799	832	671	488

Goals:

In terms of the number of publications in highly cited and high-ranking international publication channels, we have two goals in 2026. Firstly, we will generate discussions in each research group about international publication channels, resulting in a field-specific "publication channel map" from each group in which the central highly cited and high-ranking international publication channels are mapped and ranked. This will be done with the support of the VBN team. Secondly, we will work with the VBN team to develop measures for evaluating our performance in international publication channels. In 2027, it is our aim to increase the number of publications from our department in highly cited and high-ranking international channels. To realise this goal, we will:

- discuss publication channels at GRUS in 2026 and 2027, with a particular focus on the publication channels available to each research group. The VBN team will assist in this work
- discuss international publication channels and publication strategies with Early Career scholars in 2026 and 2027
- work closely with the VBN team in spring 2026 to develop a useful evaluation tool within the SCOPUS framework used by the VBN team



We will also increase the number of mentions in Danish and international media in 2026 with 5% (using the average for the period 2023-2025 as the baseline). This requires more scholars to include this aspect of dissemination in their work. To realise this goal, we will:

- work with AAU Communication to discuss opportunities for targeted individual collaborations
- encourage scholars to use the media training courses offered by AAU Communication
- address the issue at all future GRUS meetings, starting in 2026
- highlight the issue at staff meetings in spring 2026 and autumn 2026 with presentations from three scholars from the department who will share their experiences with Danish and international media
- highlight the challenges of media appearances: some colleagues have found that communicating certain research topics can generate very negative and unwanted responses. We will discuss potential strategies and the available support at a staff meeting in 2026
- create an overview of how many scholars from the department appeared in which media in 2025 to see how we may increase the proportion of "new" faces in the media

Openness

We will operationalise "Openness" as Open Access publications. Publishing in OA ensures that our publications are accessible to a larger readership and strengthens their visibility and impact. However, we will only prioritize OA when/if it does not conflict with the two above-mentioned objectives and does not require resource allocation from the department.

Current status:

Note that due to the validation period, the VBN team can only provide data with a two-year delay: these are the preliminary results for 2026 (based on 2024 publications):

OA Status	Number of publications**
● Realised	81
● Unused	16
● Blocked	28
Grand Total	125

OA Status	Share of publications
● Realised	65%
● Unused	13%
● Blocked	22%
Grand Total	100%

Goals:

For the 2026 publications, the goal is to reduce the percentage of articles with "unused potential" to 8%. To achieve this, we will:

- discuss OA publications at GRUS in 2026
- continuously address OA at research committee meetings in order to maintain focus on the issue and identify potential barriers
- evaluate progress by reviewing reports via PURE/VBN



AALBORG UNIVERSITY
DENMARK

APPENDICES

APPROVAL

The section of the agreement concerning the performance agreement for the AAU Research and Innovation Indicator was approved at a meeting between the department management and the dean's office
Click or tap to enter a date.