



Call for NKJ activities in 2018-2019: Digitization

Deadline for application submission is Wednesday, **February 28th 2018 at 12:00 CET**.

The aim of the call is to promote Nordic collaboration among researchers from the agricultural sectors by networking activities including conferences and seminars.

Background

Sweden will lead the work of the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2018. The starting point for the presidency is the UN Global Development Agenda (Agenda 2030), but broken down to concrete measures, as well as the use of new technology and digitization in our industries.

Nordic agricultural cooperation will define and realize sustainable development in the green sector. Based on the possibilities of digitization, the Swedish Presidency for the agricultural sector will focus on sustainable management of biological resources, increased competitiveness, resilience and reduced climate impact from primary production and diversified rural economics.

This gives a lot of opportunities for activities. How can utilization of digitization contribute to increased degree of innovation, more efficient use of biomass and a more resource-efficient agricultural sector? Thereby even a greater climate benefit from agriculture? Development of cooperation on knowledge and innovation systems in Nordic agriculture. Link to ICT, gender equality and diversity in the sector as well as new entrepreneurs. In what way can a connected rural area lead to rural companies including agriculture, to participate to a greater extent in collaborations and knowledge exchanges with other actors.

Scope

- This call has a **special interest** in funding activities related to **the digitization in the agriculture sector**.
- The **focus** is on how utilization of digitization can contribute to sustainable management of biological resources, increased competitiveness, resilience and reduced climate impact from primary production and diversified rural economics.
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Call description

The aim of the NKJ call is to:

- increase North European regional synergy within agriculture and food research (*)
- establish better contact between the agriculture and food research(*) communities in the Nordic countries
- strengthen North European agriculture and food research(*) and networking
- (*) Including animal health and welfare and reindeer husbandry.
- The aim is to encourage Nordic researchers and institutions, apply for funding from larger funds like e.g. Horizon 2020 or similar activities.
- It's very important that the application is clear on who's going to be involved in the networking activities. We encourage early contacts between participants so that the application can be clear on this point.

- The applications are expected to contribute to the strategic goals of the NKJ and to promote competitiveness and innovativeness of Nordic countries.
- NKJ will in this strategy period, 2015-2018, focus on three thematic focus areas: climate change, globalisation and the transition to the bio economy.
- The NKJ-strategy 2015-2018 can be found here: <http://nordicagriresearch.org/policy/strategi/>

About NKJ

The primary objective of the Nordic Joint Committee for Agricultural and Food Research (NKJ) is to contribute to promote and coordinate a knowledge-based agriculture and food sector in the Nordic countries. To meet this end, NKJ encourages and provides support to joint Nordic cooperation within agriculture and food research, including forestry and fishery.

Economic framework

- Network grants are for maximum 2 years. The total budget for the call is 500 000 SEK.
- The maximum applied amount per one network should be approx. 200 000 SEK
- A self-financing component of at minimum 50% of the total budget of the network is required
- The funding supports network activities such as travel and meeting costs, and related networking cost, e.g. costs of guest lecturers, printed material, database costs or website cost (excl. hardware). The funding cannot be used for salaries.
- Cost-efficiency: Applicants are encouraged to ensure that the cost-per-person in the network application is reasonable. In addition to physical meetings applicants are encouraged to make use of other means of meeting, e.g. video-conferences and web-based meetings to reduce travel costs and CO2 emissions.

Call conditions

- Applications have to be submitted in English. Applications must be submitted by email using the **application form, available on NKJ webpage**, to the NKJ secretariat (NKJ@slu.se). The currency in the applications should be SEK.
- The network should aim for concrete results, in this case applications for fundings from larger funds, large-scale project applications, which contribute to the overall goals of the Nordic Council of Ministers.
- A self-financing component of a minimum 50% of the total budget of the network is required.
- The main applicant need to be a researcher/communicator at a research institution/ organization.
- The main applicant should be supplemented by at least two additional applicants, from other Nordic countries**.
- Applications must include researchers or research groups from at least three of the Nordic countries**.
- Cooperation with other regions, such as the Northwest Atlantic region, Europe and the Baltic Sea region is seen as positive. Funding can however not be paid directly to non-Nordic countries.

- Network activities should describe the expected Nordic synergies within agriculture and food research.
- Letters of support with information of financial co-funding from non-Nordic participants must be included.
- PhD students and/or young researchers are encouraged to be participating in the network.

** Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Denmark, Finland including Åland Islands, Faroe Islands and Greenland.

Schedule

- The call is announced December 11th 2017 on the NKJ website and by mailing lists.
- Applications must be submitted no later than 12:00 CET on February 28th 2018.
- Decisions will be made in Mars 2018 and communicated to applicants in April 2018.
- Next NKJ call for activities will be announced in spring 2018.

Evaluation criteria

The applications are assessed by selected members of the NKJ board. The evaluation criteria are described below. The secretariat of NKJ compile the results of the evaluations and prepare a proposal. Based on the proposal a decision on the selection is made at NKJ Board meeting.

Quality of the application

- Are the planned activities clearly described?
- Does the network have a working program /clear aim of activity?

Economic framework

- Is the self-financing component of 50% within the limits of the total budget of the network?
- Is the additional funding for non-Nordic participants documented?
- Is the requested budget necessary for the implementation of the project and is it properly justified?
- Is the activity in line with the amount applied?
- Is the amount applied within the funding frame?

Expected outcome

- Does the activity aim to produce other outputs, e.g. an EU project application or another large-scale application?
- Does the activity aim to organising an open conference, infrastructure services (e.g. database, dissemination activities)?
- Does the network produce a publishable output of its topic/area?
- Does the network commit to submit a policy brief in the final report?

Relevance

- Is the activity/topic relevant to the objectives of the call text of NKJ strategies
- Does the activity increase regional synergy in the Nordic and North European regions?

Composition of the network

- Does the activity involve relevant and named collaborating partners in at least three Nordic countries?
- Does the network involve young researchers/PhD students?
- Does the network have a plan for involving young researchers/PhD students?
- Does the network have an even gender balance (40-60%)?
- Does the network have a plan for an even gender balance?
- Does the network involve stakeholders?
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Contact

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