



Call for NKJ activities in 2020-2021: Antibiotics resistance – One Health

Deadline for application submission is September 30th 2019 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.

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.

Background of the call

Sweden lead the work of the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2018. The starting point for the presidency was the UN Global Development Agenda (Agenda 2030), but broken down to concrete measures, as well as the use of antibiotics in our sector.

Nordic agricultural cooperation will define and realize sustainable development in the green sector. Animal health and human health are interlinked. The increase in resistance development to antimicrobial agents and the spread of resistant bacteria poses a global threat to humanity and animal health.

The increased use – and abuse – of antimicrobial medicines in both human and animal healthcare has contributed to an increase in the number of disease-causing microbes that are resistant to antimicrobial medicines used to treat them, like antibiotics. Resistant bacteria arising in humans, animals or the environment may spread from one to the other, and from one country to another. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) does not recognize geographic or human–animal borders. This makes AMR a growing threat that could lead to as many as 10 million deaths a year and over €85 million in losses to the global economy by 2050.

Addressing the rising threat of AMR requires a holistic and multisectoral approach – referred to as One Health – because antimicrobials used to treat various infectious diseases in animals may be the same or similar to those used for humans.

This emphasizes the importance of a “One Health” holistic approach to the growing problem of resistance to antimicrobial agents through the cooperation between sectors,

spanning from human and animal health, to food, agriculture, aquaculture and the environment, in order to ensure consistent and effective treatments whilst maintaining a low level of resistance development in adjacent sectors.

In the Nordic Region, we are experienced in keeping the use of antibiotics in agriculture at a low and responsible level because we know that usage can push the development of resistant bacteria. Yet the problem of resistance is international, and this is why we would like to share our experiences so as to tackle the problem internationally.

The call is co-funded from by the Swedish Research Council National research programme on antibiotic resistance.

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
- encourage Nordic researchers and institutions, apply for funding from larger funds like e.g. Horizon 2020 or similar activities.

Scope of the call

- This call has a special interest in funding activities related to antibiotic resistance in the perspective of One Health.
- The focus is on how low, or no, use of antibiotics can contribute to One Health including improved human and animal health, food security, sustainable management of biological resources, increased competitiveness, resilience and reduced climate impact from primary production and diversified rural economics.

Call description

- It's very important that the application clearly states the participating partners and who is 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.
- [The NKJ strategy 2019-2021 can be found here](#)

Economic framework

- Network grants are for maximum 2 years. The total budget for the call is 1 400 000 SEK.
- The maximum amount sought from NKJ should be approx. 400 000 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 or OH costs.
- 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.

(*) Including animal health and welfare and reindeer husbandry.

Call conditions

- Applications have to be submitted in English using the application form, available on NKJ webpage, to the NKJ secretariat (NKJ@slu.se).
- The currency in the applications should be in 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, <https://www.norden.org/en/publication/co-operation-programme-2017-2020>.
- Co-financing corresponding to at least 50% of the total budget of the network is required.
- The main applicant need to be a researcher/communicator at a research institution/organization in the Nordic** countries.
- 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.
- Network activities should describe the expected Nordic synergies within agriculture and food research.
- 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

- Applications must be submitted no later than September 30th 2019 at 12:00 CET.
- Decisions will be made in autumn 2019 and communicated to applicants in late 2019.

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
- Does the project have clear aims?
- Are the planned activities clearly described?
- Relevance
- Is the project relevant in a Nordic setting?
- Will the project activity increase synergy in the Nordic region?
- Is the project relevant to the special interest of this call in funding activities related to antibiotic resistance in the perspective of One Health?
- Composition of the network
- Does the project include participants from at least three Nordic countries?
- Does the project meet the requirement of a 40-60% gender balance? o Does the project have a plan for ensuring effective gender equality? o Does the project include PhD students and young researchers? o Does the project have a plan to include and integrate young researchers/PhD students?
- Expected outcome
- Will the project activities generate publishable outcomes?
- Do the participants aim to generate other outputs, e.g. open conferences, large- scale applications, policy recommendations, infrastructure services (websites, databases, statistics using big data) or other practical outputs?
- Is the overall connection between the aims and means viable?
- Economic framework
- Are the activities in line with the amount sought?
- Is the self-financing component at least two thirds of the total budget?
- Is the budget reasonable considering the aims, means and expected outcomes?

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?

Contact

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