



## Call for networks in reindeer husbandry with activities in 2025-2027

The Nordic Joint Committee for Agricultural and Food Research (NKJ) hereby announces a research network call. The aim of the call is to promote Nordic collaboration between researchers in reindeer husbandry by networking activities including workshops, conferences and seminars. Transdisciplinary networks between researchers and stakeholders are encouraged. Deadline for application submission is March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 24:00 CET.

### Overall scope of the call and features of funded networks

Participants in submitted networks should represent at least three countries consisting of *at least* three research institutions in the Nordic\* region. Successful applicants may receive funds from NKJ of up to 300 000 SEK for activities in 2025-2027, covering at most 50% of the total budget for the network.

**Network outputs** should be useful for the Nordic community and should include knowledge exchange across national borders through e.g. arranging workshops, seminars, scientific meetings or open conferences. Networks could also produce peer-reviewed scientific papers, communicate research results, design policy recommendations based on research findings, write large-scale research funding applications, and create or maintain databases or websites.

### Focus areas of the call

Reindeer husbandry is a traditional source of livelihood in the Nordic countries, which has adapted to changes in the economy and societal changes in general. Reindeer husbandry is an important part of the bioeconomy in the Nordic Arctic region, as well as an important part of Sami culture. It is important for food supply, and also contributes to tourism and other economic activities related to reindeer husbandry. Reindeer husbandry is primarily based on the use of pastures all year and is therefore particularly vulnerable to climate change. The availability of pastures during winter seasons, and the quality of pastures, will be changing with variations in temperature. Climate change may bring new challenges to reindeer health, such as new types of diseases or intensified outbreaks of existing diseases.

Reindeer pasture areas are continuously under pressure from other sectors and economic interests. Land-use changes influence the patterns of movement of the reindeer, and the availability of the traditional pastures. Increasing populations of predatory animals is also challenging the traditional use of the pasture areas.

NKJ sees the need for more knowledge and increased cooperation on the impact and

\* Nordic is defined as Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and the autonomous areas of the Faroe Islands, Greenland and the Åland Islands.



consequences of land-use change, as well as the impact and consequences of climate change on the future of reindeer husbandry, including adaptation measures. NKJ is therefore calling for research networks on these topics.

Priority is given to networks that explore these topics, but, networks related to ***other topics in relation to reindeer husbandry*** are also encouraged to apply for funding.

Please download the [application form](#) and submit your application to [NKJ@slu.se](mailto:NKJ@slu.se) by 24.00 CET, of March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at the latest.



## About NKJ

The Nordic Joint Committee for Agricultural and Food Research (NKJ) is a Nordic cooperation body under the Nordic Council of Ministers. The primary objective of NKJ is to contribute, 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 reindeer husbandry, forestry and fishery.

## Scope of the call

The aim of the call is to:

- Facilitate collaboration between researchers in the Nordic countries by networking activities.
- Integrate research on reindeer husbandry into a broader research community.
- Bridge gaps between research and practice.
- Link national research projects which otherwise would be carried out on a national level, but where considerable positive outcomes can be reached through a wider regional scope.
- Encourage Nordic researchers and institutions to apply for funding from larger funds like e.g. Horizon 2020 or similar activities.

## Call conditions

Activities and participation

- Network grants are for activities between June 2025 and June 2027.
- Reindeer husbandry must be the main focus of the network, but the network should also make use of knowledge from related research areas.
- Researchers or communication officers at research institutions are eligible to apply.
- Stakeholders are encouraged to be involved but cannot be main applicants.
- Networks should include participants from at least three different countries consisting of *at least* three research institutions in the Nordic region.
- Each gender must be represented by a minimum of 40% of the participants in the network.
- PhD students and young researchers should be included in the network.
- Cooperation with countries outside of the Nordic region is encouraged.

### Economic framework

- The amount applied for from NKJ can be maximum 300 000 SEK.
- The funding should primarily be spent on networking costs, e.g. costs for arranging scientific meetings, workshops and conferences including accommodation, travel and conference fees but could also cover costs for designing policy recommendations based on research findings, write large-scale research funding applications, creating or maintaining databases or websites (excluding hardware) and communication activities.
- Labour costs are *not eligible* for financing. This includes salary and overhead costs, and the costs of board meetings or other administrative meetings.
- Networks are expected to co-finance at least 50% of the total budget.



- Co-financing can either consist of cash or be in the form of in-kind such as working hours (salaries) or access to infrastructure or other resources.
- 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. web-based meetings to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

### **Communication activities and reporting**

- Network participants are expected to keep NKJ informed about their ongoing activities by inviting the NKJ secretariat to related events.
- Outputs of the network are expected to include publication of findings for dissemination by NKJ in various channels.
- Network participants are expected to report their activities, including expenditures, by August 15, 2027. The reporting template is available on the [NKJ website](#).

### **Proposal submission**

- Applications must be submitted using the [application form](#) available on the [NKJ website](#), to [NKJ@slu.se](mailto:NKJ@slu.se)
- Points to include in the proposal:
  - Aims of the network and strategic area in focus.
  - Planned activities and outcomes.
  - How the network will be beneficial for the Nordic region.
  - Involved participants including research organisations and stakeholders, if applicable.
  - A plan for integrating PhD students and young researchers into the network.
  - A plan to address gender equity.
  - Budget.

### **Schedule**

- Applications must be submitted no later than March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 24:00 CET.
- Decisions will be made and communicated to applicants in April 2025.
- Project participants are expected to submit a final report no later than August 15, 2027. The reporting template is available for download on the [NKJ website](#).

## Evaluation criteria

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

### Quality of the proposal

1. Grade the aims of the network in accordance to issues related to a) reindeer husbandry and climate change adaptation, b) reindeer husbandry land-use change, or c) other aspects of reindeer husbandry.
2. Are the planned activities reasonable and clearly described?

### Relevance of the network

3. Grade the expected publishable outcomes.
4. Grade the other practical outputs.
5. Grade the overall connection between the aims and means.
6. Grade the intentions of the network for increasing synergies in the Nordic region.

### Participation and inclusion

7. Does the activity involve researchers from at least three different Nordic countries?
8. Does the network reach the requirement of 40-60% gender balance?
9. Does the network have an adequate plan to address gender equity?
10. Does the network include PhD students?
11. Does the network have an adequate plan to include and integrate PhD students and young researchers?

### Budget

12. Is co-financing at least 50% of the total budget?
13. Is the budget reasonable considering the planned activities, means and expected outcomes?

## Contact

For further information please contact the NKJ secretariat:

Email: [NKJ@slu.se](mailto:NKJ@slu.se)