



Call for joint EFINORD–SNS networks in 2018

The network call is announced jointly by the North European Regional Office of European Forest Institute - EFINORD and Nordic Forest Research - SNS. Deadline for application submission is Thursday, June 1st 2017 at 24.00 CET.

Find the submission form [here](#) and send it to sns@slu.se and efinord@efi.int.

Who can apply?

Researchers at research institutions in the Nordic (*) and other countries in the EFINORD area (**) are eligible to apply. Communicators from forest research organisations can also apply. Stakeholders can be involved, but cannot be main applicants.

(*) Nordic is defined here as Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and the autonomous areas, Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Åland Islands. (**) Other countries in the EFINORD area is defined here as Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, NW Russia, Poland, Northern Germany, Northern UK, Ireland.

Call description

The aim of the joint EFINORD-SNS network call is to:

- Increase North European regional synergy within forest research by networking and joint utilisation of unique research facilities.
- Establish better contact between the forest research communities in the Nordic, Baltic Sea and the North Atlantic regions.
- Strengthen North European forest research and networking in Europe.
- Encourage North European forest researchers to take part in pan-European and international projects.

Regional synergy can be described as activities which otherwise would be carried out on national level, but where considerable positive effects can be reached through a wider regional scope.

Applicants are encouraged to:

- Have PhD students and young researchers participating in the network.
- Build a network with an even gender distribution (aim: 40-60% gender balance).

Scope

The applications are expected to contribute to the strategic goals of EFINORD and SNS. SNS and EFINORD share a common goal of supporting research in sustainable forest management preferably with a cross-disciplinary approach.

SNS's overall area of responsibility is the use of forests and forest areas, and also wooded areas in urban environments. Areas of responsibility furthermore include the forests function in society, the use of wood products and other forest products, as well as the forests' non-commercial values. SNS will in this strategy period, 2014-2017, focus on three thematic focus areas within forests and forest research: bioeconomy, climate, and society. The strategic focus areas do not stand alone, but they are based on a principal condition about sustainability in all its three dimensions: economical, ecological, and social. The strategy aims at four targets:

- Strengthen research of common Nordic interest for sustainable forest management.
- Provide research based policy advice for a sustainable future for the Nordic region's forests.
- Strengthen the position of the Nordic region within forest research in European and international context.
- Disseminate research results and develop communication activities that will increase the interplay between research, industry, and politics.
- The SNS-strategy 2014-2017 can be [found here](#).

EFINORD promotes forest research activities by strengthening North European forest research networking in areas where North European synergies can be obtained. Under the broad thematic umbrella of sustainable forestry, the focus of EFINORD is on the following theme:

- Sustainable bioeconomy in the Nordic-Baltic region, including the implications, trade-offs and synergies related to intensifying forest management, increasing biomass production and ensuring the provision of ecosystem services and
- Facilitating communication of research results and policy support on the above-mentioned topic.

Economic framework

Network grants are for 1 year.

The total budget for the call is approximately 1 000 000 SEK.

- The applied amount per network should be approx. 100 000 – 200 000 SEK
- A self-financing component of at minimum 50% of the total budget of the network is required
- For non-Nordic participants, there should be documented financial support to the network activities from the relevant countries. Funding should be proportional to the total network budget. This is also clarified in the application form.
- The funding should primarily be spent on networking activities such as travel and meeting costs, and related networking cost, e.g. costs of guest lecturers, printed material, database costs or website service costs (excl. hardware). Funding is not granted to labour costs, or to costs of board or other administrative meetings.
- Cost-efficiency: We encourage applicants to ensure that the cost-per-person in the network application is reasonable. In addition to physical meetings we encourage applicants to take use of other means of meeting, e.g. video-conferences and web-based meetings to reduce travel costs and CO₂ emissions.

Call conditions

- Applications must include research groups from at least three Nordic countries (or autonomous areas) and three other EFINORD countries. One Nordic country can be substituted by a Baltic country (Latvia, Lithuania, or Estonia).
- Network activities should describe the expected Nordic and North European regional synergies within forest research.
- The network should have a plan for communication activities, and a publishable output of its topic/area is expected for publication in 'News & Views'. The network is also expected to keep SNS and EFINORD informed about on-going activities during the funding period, so that SNS and EFINORD can promote these activities through the above mentioned communication channels.
- Applications must be submitted by email using the application form to EFINORD and SNS secretariat (email addresses, see the application form). Applications have to be submitted in English. The currency in the applications should be SEK.

Schedule

- The call is announced March 2nd 2017 on the EFI and SNS websites and by mailing lists.
- Applications must be submitted no later than 24.00 CET on June 1st 2017.
- Decisions will be made in November 2017 and communicated to applicants in December 2017.

Evaluation and selection process

The applications are assessed by 3–5 members of the SNS board and 3–5 evaluators nominated by the EFINORD Advisory Group. The evaluation criteria are described below.

The secretariats of EFINORD and SNS compile the results of the evaluation and prepare a joint proposal.

Based on the proposal a decision on the selection is made at an SNS Board meeting, in which an authorised representative of EFI shall participate in the decision-making process.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

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 50% in limits of the total budget of the network?
- Is the additional funding for participating non-Nordic participants documented?
- Are the budgeted costs inside the scheme/timeframe of refunding?
- Is the activity in line with the amount applied?
- Is the amount applied within the funding frame?

Expected outcome

- Does the network produce a publishable output of its topic/area?
- Does the activity aim to produce other outputs, e.g. a project application, organising an open conference, infrastructure services (e.g. database, dissemination activities)?

Relevance

- Is the activity/topic relevant to SNS and EFINORD strategies?
- Does the activity increase regional synergy in the Nordic and North European regions?

Composition of the network

- Does the activity involve three Nordic countries and three other EFINORD countries?
- Does the network involve young researchers/PhD students?
- Does the network have an even gender balance?

REPORTING AND ECONOMIC GUIDELINES

Reporting and economic guidelines for funded networks can be downloaded from the SNS website (www.nordicforestresearch.org) and will be communicated directly to successful applicants by e-mail.

CHECKLIST

Do a final check that your network application has;

- 3 Nordic countries as participants
Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and the autonomous areas, Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Åland Islands.
- 3 non-Nordic countries as participants
Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, NW Russia, Poland, Northern Germany, Northern UK, Ireland.
- A researcher/communicator from a research institution/organisation as a main applicant
- Included all letters of support with financial information from non-Nordic participants

Otherwise your application will not be considered approved.

Contact

For questions regarding your application, please email:

SNS: sns@slu.se

EFINORD: efinord@efi.int