



## Call for joint NKJ and SNS Networks in 2017

The network call is announced jointly by the Nordic Joint Committee for Agricultural and Food Research (NKJ) and Nordic Forest Research (SNS). Deadline for application submission is Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 24.00 CET.

The aim of the joint call is to promote Nordic cross-sectorial collaboration among researchers and stakeholders from the forest and agricultural sectors by networking activities. The networks should cover topics emerging from the transition towards a bioeconomy and could for example include plant disease in a changing climate, the use of big data in a bio-economy and land-use for biomass production in the Nordic countries. The topics could also be wider, including for example invasive species and pests, the energy sector, food security, mitigating climate change, horticulture, aquaculture, apiculture or promoting of agroforestry systems.

Find the submission form [here](#) and send it to [hansson.nkj@slu.se](mailto:hansson.nkj@slu.se) and [sns@slu.se](mailto:sns@slu.se).

### About NKJ and SNS

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.

Nordic Forest Research (SNS) is a co-operating body financed with Nordic funds under the auspices of the Nordic Council of Ministers. The overall purpose of SNS is to promote research into the diverse functions of the forests in sustainable forestry, as well as to advise the Nordic Council of Ministers on questions concerning forests and forest research.

### Call description

The aim of the joint NKJ-SNS network call is to increase Nordic synergy in research and innovation between the Agro-food-forest-energy sectors by networking, workshops, seminars and joint utilization of unique research facilities. The Networks will form a platform for communication and assessing challenges, knowledge gaps and opportunities in the areas of utilization of biomass and land-use for production of biomass in the scenario of transition to a greater circular sustainable bioeconomy. The Networks are strongly encouraged to also be platforms for searching for other funding, for example EU funds.

## Scope

The networks will work together to address challenges and goals of the SDGs, Nordic Forest Solutions (NFS), Nordic bioeconomy Initiative 2013-2018 and the Nidaros Declaration.

Besides contributing to the Nordic Bioeconomy initiative, the applications should also contribute to the strategic goals of NKJ (NKJ strategy) and SNS (SNS strategy). SNS and NKJ share a common goal of supporting research in sustainable development.

The workshop of SNS and NKJ matchmaking day on the 15th of September 2016, highlighted the following themes as particularly interesting; Plant disease and protection in a changing climate, the use of big data in a bio-economy, land use change and biomass production in the Nordic countries.

## Economic framework

Network grants are for 1-2 years of activities. The total budget for the call is 800,000 SEK. The applied amount per network should be approx. 100.000 – 250.000 SEK/year.

A self-financing component of at minimum 50% of the total budget of the network is required and has to be described in the application.

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: 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 make use of other means of meeting, e.g. video-conferences and web-based meetings to reduce travel costs.

## Call conditions

Applications must be written in English and submitted by email using the application form on the SNS webpage. The currency in the applications should be in SEK.

- The network need to be cross-sectorial, including both the sectors of SNS and NKJ, and should aim for concrete results, 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 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.
- Letters of support with information of financial co-funding from non-Nordic participants must be included.
- Involvement of Stakeholders is encouraged and will add value to the application, NOTE that a stakeholder cannot be a main applicant.
- PhD students and/or young researchers must be participating in the network.
- There must be a plan for an even gender balance (aim: 40-60% gender balance).
- The network should have a plan for dealing with communication activities, described below.

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

## Communication activities

A publishable output of the networks topic/area is expected for publication in SNS 'News & Views' and at SNS webpage. The networks are also expected to provide Policy briefs according to the instruction provided on the SNS website and also submit required reports by NKJ and SNS. Report templates can be downloaded from the SNS website.

## Schedule

The call is announced January 24<sup>th</sup> 2017 on SNS/NKJ websites and by mailing lists. Deadline for application submission is Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 24.00 CET. Decisions will be made in June 2017 and communicated to applicants in July 2017. The transfer of funding will take place at the earliest in August 2017. A report of the network activities in 2017-2018, shall be submitted before March 1<sup>st</sup> 2019.

## Evaluation criteria

The applications are assessed by selected members of the SNS and NKJ boards. The evaluation criteria are described below. The secretariats of NKJ and SNS compile the results of the evaluations and prepare a joint proposal. Based on the proposal a decision on the selection is made at SNS and NKJ Board meetings.

## 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 network produce a publishable output of its topic/area?
- Does the activity aim to produce other outputs, e.g. an EU project application or another large-scale application, organising an open conference, infrastructure services (e.g. database, dissemination activities)?
- 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 SNS and NKJ strategies, the SDGs, Nordic Forest Solutions (NFS), Nordic bioeconomy Initiative 2013-2018 and the Nidaros Declaration?
- 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?

## Contact

For questions regarding the application, please email:

SNS: [sns@slu.se](mailto:sns@slu.se)

NKJ: [hansson.nkj@slu.se](mailto:hansson.nkj@slu.se)