

## Call for networks with activities in 2022

[Nordic Forest Research \(SNS\)](#) and the [Forest Bioeconomy Network](#) (former EFINORD) hereby announce a joint research network call. The aim of the call is to promote collaboration and strengthen forest research related to bioeconomy in the Nordic region by networking activities. Deadline for application submission is June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 at 24:00 CET.

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

Participants in submitted networks should represent *at least five* countries consisting of at least three research institutions in the Nordic region\*. Participants of relevance for the activities of the network from outside of the Nordic region can also be included. Successful applicants may receive funds of maximum 200 000 SEK for activities over the course of one year (2022), 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. In the light of COVID-19 and the travel restrictions, we encourage networks to apply for funding for arranging high quality meetings online. This could be done by e.g., involving facilitators or consultants to help design and arrange digital meeting solutions.

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

## Focus areas of the call

### i) **Equality and the future of the Nordic forest sector**

Through the Nordic council of ministers, the Nordic countries have collaborated to improve gender equality for over 40 years. Despite this, many challenges remain across sectors in the Nordic society. For a sustainable future with opportunities for all, these issues need to be addressed, read more [here](#)

The SNS strategy plan focuses on equality and social inclusion, with the aim to promote diversity and to improve the Nordic forest sector. During 2020, SNS investigated the gender balance in different parts of the Nordic forest sector and published a report highlighting directions for future research. The report is available [here](#). In 2021, a follow up report investigated how gender inequalities in the Nordic bioeconomy are affected by digitalisation, access it [here](#).

SNS and ForBioeconomy Network want to impact the Nordic forest sector by funding networks that address inequality and promote social inclusion with the aim of creating a modern and diverse forest sector. Therefore, we encourage networks with a direct focus on gender issues within the Nordic forest sector, to apply for funding.

### ii) **We also invite networks that relate to the general focus areas of the SNS strategy plan:**

- Maintenance and increased utilization of forest-based ecosystem services
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Meeting the demands of sustainable forest management in a growing bioeconomy

The SNS strategy can be found [here](#). For inspiration on examples of network topics click [here](#).

Please download the [application form](#) and submit your application to [sns@slu.se](mailto:sns@slu.se) by 24.00 CET, 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2021, at the latest.

## Scope of the call

### The aim of the network call is to:

- Strengthen forest research in the Nordic region.
- Bridge gaps between research and practice.
- Promote collaboration across sectors within a sustainable bioeconomy.
- 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.

## Call conditions

### Activities and participation

- Network grants are for activities over the course of one year (2022).
- Aspects of the prioritized focus areas must be addressed.
- Researchers or communication officers at research institutions are eligible to apply.
- Stakeholders are encouraged to be involved but cannot be main applicants.
- Participants in submitted networks should represent *at least five* countries consisting of at least three research institutions in the Nordic region\*. Participants of relevance for the activities of the network from outside of the Nordic region can also be included.
- Each gender must be represented by a minimum of 40% of the applicants and the participants in the network.
- PhD students and early career researchers should be included in the network.

### Economic framework

- The amount applied for from SNS and Forest Bioeconomy Network can be maximum 200 000 SEK.
- The funding should primarily be spent on networking costs, e.g. costs for arranging scientific meetings, workshops and conferences (online or physical), but could also cover costs for designing policy recommendations based on research findings, writing large-scale research funding applications, creating or maintaining databases or websites (excluding hardware) and communication activities.
- Labor 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 (salary) or access to infrastructure or other resources.
- Cost-efficiency: We encourage applicants to ensure that the cost-per-person is reasonable. In addition to physical meetings, we encourage use of web-based meetings to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

### Communication activities and reporting

- Network participants are expected to keep SNS and the Forest Bioeconomy Network informed about their ongoing activities by inviting the SNS secretariat and the Forest Bioeconomy Network to related events.
- Outputs of the network are expected to include publication of findings to SNS for dissemination in SNS' various channels.
- Network participants are expected to report their activities, including expenditures, by the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, 2023. The reporting template is available on the [SNS website](#).

### Proposal submission

- Proposals must be submitted by using the [application form](#) available for download on the [SNS website](#), to [sns@slu.se](mailto:sns@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

- The call is announced on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, 2021.
- The deadline for submitting proposals is 24:00 CET, 1<sup>st</sup> of June, 2021.
- The outcome of the call will be communicated to the main applicants in December 2022.
- Successful networks can start on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January, 2022.
- The signed condition of contract shall be returned to SNS latest by the 31<sup>st</sup> of January, 2022.
- The payment will be processed in March-April 2022.
- Project participants are expected to submit a final report no later than the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, 2023. The reporting template is available for download on the [SNS website](#).

### Evaluation and selection process

The applications are assessed by 3–5 members of the SNS board and 3–5 evaluators nominated by the Forest Bioeconomy Network working group. The evaluation criterias are described below. The secretariat of SNS compiles the results of the evaluations and prepares a joint proposal. Based on the proposal, a decision on the selection is made at an SNS Board meeting, with an authorized representative of the Forest Bioeconomy Network participating in the decision-making process.

## Evaluation criteria

### Quality of the proposal

1. Grade the aims of the network and the accordance with (one or several of) the prioritized strategic areas of the call: "*Gender equality in the Nordic forest sector*", "*Climate change mitigation and adaptation*", "*Meeting the demands of sustainable forest management in a growing bioeconomy*" or "*Maintenance and increased utilisation of ecosystem services*".
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 the maximum amount applied for 200 000 SEK?
13. Is co-financing at least 50% of the total budget?
14. Is the budget reasonable considering the planned activities, means and expected outcomes?

## Contact

For questions regarding your application, please email SNS ([sns@slu.se](mailto:sns@slu.se)) or the Forest Bioeconomy Network ([camilla.widmark@efi.int](mailto:camilla.widmark@efi.int)).

## About Nordic Forest Research (SNS) and The Forest Bioeconomy Network

**Nordic Forest Research (SNS)** is a co-operative body under the Nordic Council of Ministers that strives to enhance benefits for the Nordic region and contribute to the development of a sustainable society. The following focus areas are especially important for the activities of SNS:

- Climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Meeting the demands of sustainable forest management in a growing bioeconomy.
- Maintenance and increased utilization of forest-based ecosystem services.

The SNS strategy plan for 2018-2021 can be found [here](#).

**The Forest Bioeconomy Network** (former EFINORD) is a research network affiliated to EFI (European Forest Institute). It promotes and facilitates research collaboration, develops and connects knowledge as well as encouraging policy interaction. The Forest Bioeconomy Network focuses on economics, governance and policy as well as issues related to sustainable production and utilization of forests. The thematic areas are:

- sustainable and efficient production and use of biomass,
- securing sustainable provision of forest ecosystem services, and
- demand and supply of forest-based products.