SNS 50th anniversary call for research projects and networks

Nordic Forest Research (SNS) has, as a co-operating body under the Nordic Council of Ministers, been a unifying factor in Nordic forest research since its establishment in 1972. This year SNS is celebrating its 50 years anniversary with an extra open call.

The discussion in the Nordic countries about the effect of forestry on the condition and development of forest biodiversity is often a heated and strongly polarized debate. This involves e.g. the effects of using introduced tree species, how to manage old forests to maximize various ecosystem services, and forest management in general.

With this call, SNS wants to look toward the future, using knowledge gained through the past 50 years to provide a better scientific basis for a constructive dialogue about future forestry.

The overall focus of this call is resource management and biodiversity in Nordic forests, with emphasis on the development of Nordic forests and the interaction between resource management and biodiversity. Looking forward, how can we use the knowledge provided by research during the past 50 years to ensure productive forest ecosystems for the future? What have we learned during the past decades, and which knowledge gaps are still present or have emerged in recent years?

The aim of the call is to promote collaboration and strengthen forest research across the Nordic region. The grant should contribute to a better knowledge platform on which to discuss perspectives of future forestry in the Nordic region. Grants are given to both research projects and research networks.

Deadline for application submission is October 14, 2022 at 24:00 CEST.

Aim of the call

The aim of the anniversary call is to promote collaboration and strengthen forest research across the Nordic region by:

- o Interlinking projects initiated in the Nordic countries
- o Increasing synergies in forest research in the Nordic countries
- o Bridging gaps between research and forestry in practice

Call conditions

- o Researchers at research institutions in the Nordic region* are eligible to apply
- o Applicants must include researchers from at least three Nordic countries
- o Applicants from outside the Nordic region can also be included. The main applicant must though be a researcher at a Nordic research institution.
- o Grants are for 1,5 years of activities, from January 2023 to end of June 2024
- o The amount sought from SNS should be max. 500.000 SEK
- o SNS funding may be used for labour costs including salary and overhead costs, but this only applies for the Nordic participants
- o Projects/networks must have co-financing for at least 50 % of the total budget
- o 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.
- o Each gender must be represented by a minimum of 40% of the applicants and participants in the project/network, and there should be a plan for, how to ensure effective gender equality
- o PhD students and early career researchers (in the first 10 years of research activities) should be included in the network/project, and there should be a plan for, how to include and integrate early career researchers/PhD students
- o Applications must be submitted to sns@slu.se using the application form no later than October 14, 2022 at 24:00 CEST

Communication activities and reporting

- o The project/network is expected to keep SNS informed about ongoing activities by inviting the SNS secretariat to related events
- o Outputs of the project/network are expected to include publication of findings through SNS in various channels
- o The project/network should submit a final report and a popular science piece when funding period has ended (templates are available for download from the SNS website).
- o Deadline for reporting is October 1, 2024

Contact

For questions regarding the call, please email SNS (sns@slu.se).

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

Evaluation and selection process

Applications are assessed based on the evaluation criteria described below.

<u>Evaluation criteria</u>

Quality of the proposal

1. Is the project/network addressing the focus area of the call?
2. Does the project/network have clear aims?
3. Are the planned activities reasonable and clearly described?

Relevance of the project/network

4. Is the project/network relevant in a Nordic setting?
5. Will the project/network activity increase synergy in the Nordic region?

Participants

6. Is the project/network represented by researchers from at least three Nordic countries?
7. Does the project/network reach the requirement of minimum 40% representation of each gender?
8. Does the project/network have an adequate plan to address gender equality?
9. Does the project/network include early career researcher/PhD students?
10. Does the project/network have an adequate plan to include and integrate early career researchers and PhD students?

Expected outcome

11. Are the expected outcomes clearly described?
12. Is the overall connection between aims and means viable?

Economic framework

13. Is the maximum amount applied for 500 000 SEK?
14. Is co-financing at least 50% of the total budget?
15. Is the budget reasonable considering the planned activities, means and expected outcomes?

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