

The Nordic model for funding joint clinical research

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The Nordic region

- Five countries and three autonomous areas
- 27 million inhabitants
- 10-12th largest economy in the world
- High level of education
- Welfare – fair distribution
- The most integrated region in the world

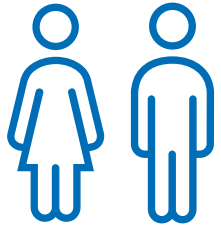


NordForsk in brief

- An institution under the Nordic Council of Ministers
- Serves all the Nordic countries, but office in Oslo
- Facilitates Nordic research cooperation in all areas
- Fund research from basic, through strategic and applied to innovation research (TRL₁-TRL₄)



NordForsk in numbers



16

Staff members



30

EUR million – annual
research budget



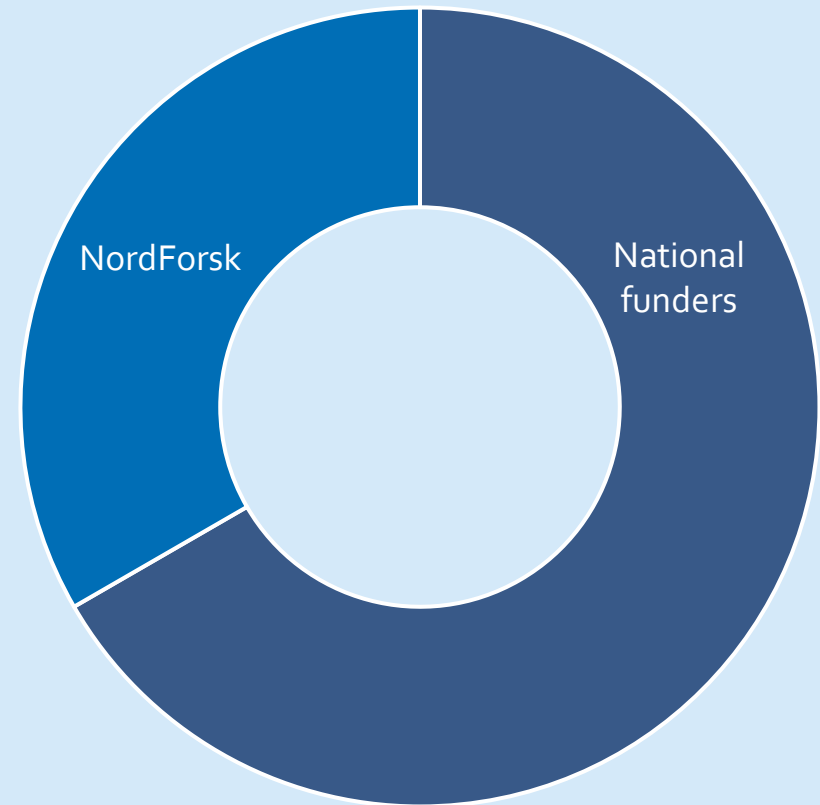
125

Active research projects
April 2024



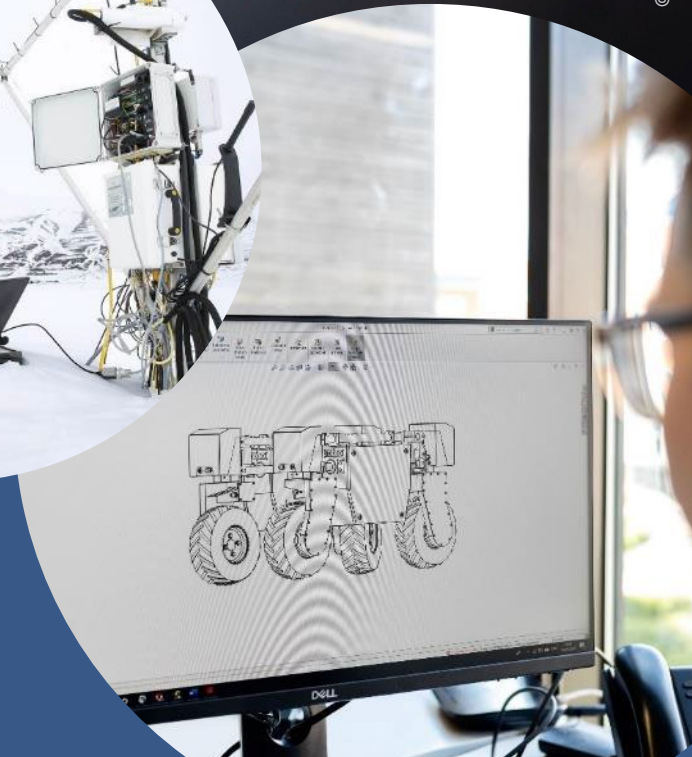
NordForsk funding model

- Annual budget of 13 MEUR million from the Nordic Council of Ministers
- National research funding organisations co-fund minimum 2/3 of the calls



Development of calls

- National priorities
- Open Invitation
- Expression of Interest
- At least 3 countries
- Call committee with members from all funders



Calls and funding

- Open calls for proposals
- Common pot / virtual common pot
- Partners from minimum three countries per project
- Project owners: Research performing organisations
- International peer review
- Scientific quality & Nordic added value



Nordic Added Value I

- Because the research/research cooperation occurs in the Nordic region
 - Improved scientific quality
 - Regional mobility and networking
 - Build critical mass and/or expertise
 - Increase chances of EU/international success



Nordic Added Value II

- Added value which can only be achieved through Nordic cooperation
 - Cost effectiveness by sharing infrastructure and data
 - Utilises data from uniquely Nordic Registers
 - Address needs that are unique to the Nordic Countries



The Common Pot

- Each country's contribution is pooled into one pot
- NordForsk may choose to top up the budget with up to 1/3 of the total budget
- All Nordic countries can receive funding, but PI must come from a funding country
- NordForsk administers the call, projects and follow-up



The Virtual Common Pot

- Each country's contribution is reserved to the country's own researchers
- NordForsk may choose to top up the budget with up to 1/3 of the total budget
- Only researchers from the funding countries can receive funding
- The NordForsk money is used for gap-filling
- NordForsk administers the funding for some national funders. Other funders have contract with their own researchers



Collaboration with countries outside the Nordics

- Always virtual common pot for non-Nordic partners
- Non-Nordic researchers cannot receive gap-filling from NordForsk
- NordForsk administers the call, projects and follow-up
- Non-Nordic funders are full members of the call committee
- National funders in the non-Nordic countries finance their researchers directly

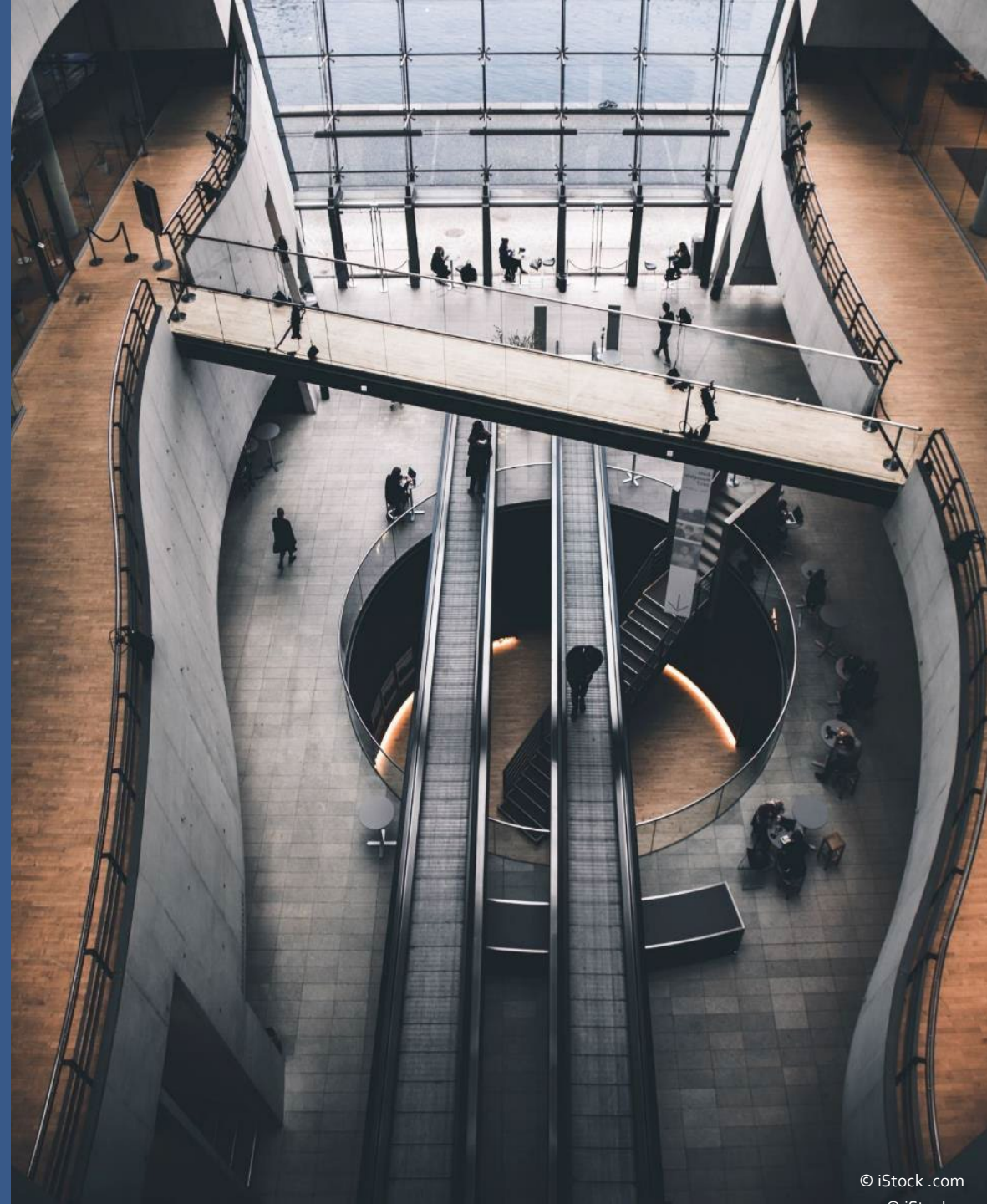


Success factors

- Trust among national funders
- Biannual meetings with heads of research councils - NORDHORCS
- All countries are winners
- The NordForsk model
 - Small bureaucracy and little work for the funders
 - Cost efficient
 - Easy for the researchers



Nordic Added Value



The Covid-19 Experience

- NOK 3.3 billion (EUR 285 million) invested in research related to COVID-19 by spring 2020 in the Nordics
 - 58% Medicine and health
 - 18% Social sciences
 - 9% Innovations (primarily to areas specializing in health)
 - 15 % other
- The grants were national
- No collaborate or co-ordinate efforts across national borders in the Nordics.
- Little attempt to co-ordinate research efforts between different financiers within the same country.

See report:

Funding for COVID-19 related research in the Nordic countries 2020-2021 | NordForsk



Prepare for the next crisis

- Establish cross-national mechanisms for rapid response to new crisis
- Establish research funds for preparedness research
 - [Nordic co-operation will pave the way for better health emergency preparedness - Nordic Life Science – the leading Nordic life science news service](#)
- Fund research networks in preparedness and resilience
 - **Call:** <https://www.nordforsk.org/calls/call-proposals-nordic-research-networks-preparedness-and-resilience>



Thank you for your attention

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