

# NordForsk

A platform for Nordic  
research co-operation

Thomas Jacobsson

# 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



# Primary goal

- NordForsk is an effective facilitator of research collaboration that makes an impact, and ensures that the research is of high international quality and delivers Nordic added value

NordForsk Strategy 2023–2026



# Nordic added value

Two main categories:

- Added value that mainly contributes to the research ecosystem
- Added value that mainly contributes to society



# Types of Nordic added value

- Enhanced scientific quality
- Build critical mass and/or expertise
- Increase chances of EU/international success
- Address needs that are particular to the Nordic Countries

+ 7 more



# Nordic added value



N=144 (2024; all time cumulative data)

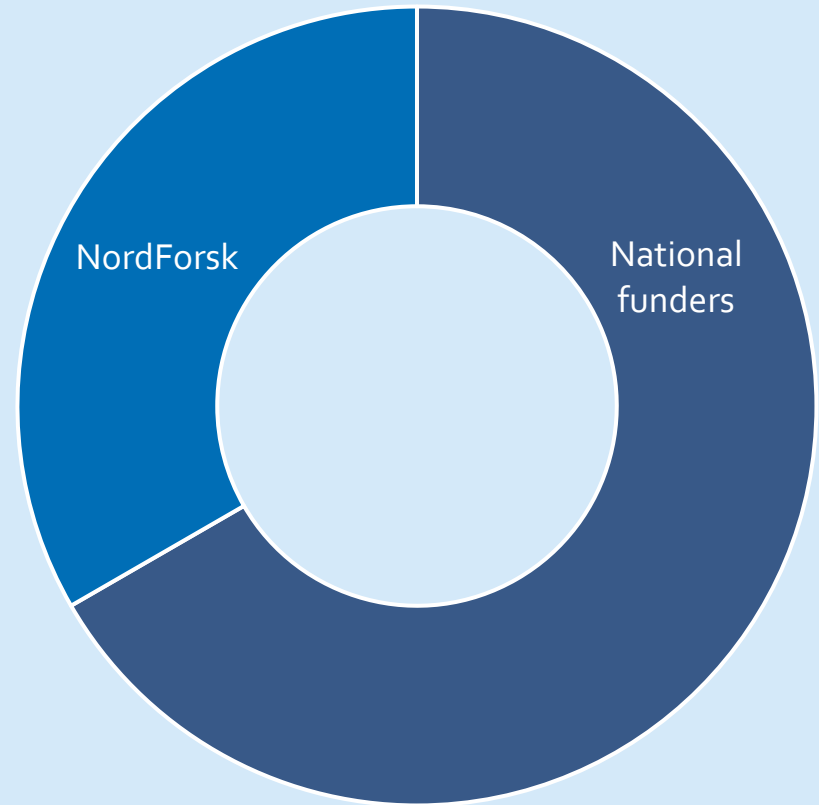
# Nordic and Nordic-Baltic added value

- Nordic-Baltic added value is defined and reported on along the same lines as Nordic added value



# NordForsk funding model

- Annual budget of NOK 150 million from the Nordic Council of Ministers
- National research funding organisations co-fund minimum 2/3 of the calls
- Total budget for research: NOK 350 million per year





# Funding partners

Innovation Fund Denmark

 The Research Council of Norway

  
Research Council of Finland

 Swedish Research Council

 INDEPENDENT RESEARCH FUND DENMARK

 Eesti Teadusagentuur  
Estonian Research Council

 RCL  
Research Council of Lithuania

**FORTE**  
Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare

  
Ministry of Education and Science  
Republic of Latvia

  
rannís



# Responsible use of Artificial Intelligence

Making the most of the potentials and mitigating the risks and harmful consequences of the use of Artificial Intelligence in the Nordic-Baltic region.



**A Nordic initiative  
for research and innovation  
on responsible and ethical  
use of Artificial Intelligence**

A discussion paper for the Nordic Heads of Research  
Councils (NORDHORCS)

# A Nordic initiative for research and innovation on responsible and ethical use of Artificial Intelligence

PUBLICATION

A COMPETITIVE NORDIC REGION

A SOCIALLY SUSTAINABLE NORDIC REGION

A NORDHORCS discussion paper

# Access all relevant information

Please read the **instructions in the application form** as well as the **call text** to access all the necessary information to write your proposal. You can use the preview form function to see the instructions in the application form.



# The basics

- Deadline: 13<sup>th</sup> of May 2025 13:00 CET
- Duration and budget: Up to 4 years, 16.3 MNOK
- Intention to fund a minimum of 12 projects
- Available call budget:
- Nordic partners: up to 196 million NOK
- Estonian partners: up to 300 000 EUR
- Latvian partners: up to 600 000 EUR
- Lithuanian partners: up to 300 000 EUR



# Budget

For Nordic partners, 16.3 MNOK.

Consortia with Baltic partners can apply for additional funding in addition to the Nordic funding. The funding of Baltic partners must comply with the respective national funding rules as specified in Annex 1.



# Funding may be used for costs that are necessary for the implementation of the project, such as:

- Salaries of researchers corresponding to the person's activity level in the project
- PhD and post-doctoral positions corresponding to the person's activity level in the project, and not covering salary during teaching or other departmental duties
- Running costs (data collection and analysis, consumables, minor equipment, premises)
- Mobility and research stays, travels
- Dissemination, outreach, and knowledge exchange activities (including open access charges)
- Stakeholder involvement and activities
- Indirect costs and overhead



# Overhead

- NordForsk does not operate with fixed rates or percentages for calculating indirect costs. Instead, each consortium partner is asked to calculate these costs according to their own cost models. See also the guidelines in the on-line application form.
- How balanced must the budget be, can one partner get a big part of the budget?
- Do we have to include Baltic partners?
- Co-funding
- Funding of participants extra-Nordic and Baltic





# Eligibility criteria

- A researcher may only serve as project leader for one application under this call. However, research institutions may be affiliated with more than one application.
- The research consortium must include research performing organisations in at least four Nordic or Baltic countries, of which at least three must be Nordic. Nordic countries are defined here as Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Åland Islands.



# Eligible partners

- Research performing organisations
- Sub-contractors when necessary and reasonable. They cannot be project partners but provide services to the project based on an order specification. Sub-contractors cannot shape the project plans or be granted rights to project results.
- Stakeholders



# What is a research performing organisation?

Research performing organisation is a legal entity which is a university, university college or a research institute, and is characterised by the following:

- A primary goal is to independently conduct fundamental research and/or applied research and/or research-based innovation where results are published.
- The entity may be private or public but must not pay out dividends from its activities. Research organisations with both non-economic and economic activity, must have in place a formal separation between economic and non-economic activities.
- The entity must have significant production of academic, peer-reviewed and published research.



# Aims

The aim of this call is to fund excellent research activities that address **shared Nordic and Nordic-Baltic societal challenges** in the context of extensive **use and implementation of AI** in the region.

The initiative should contribute to **cross-border mobilisation** of capacity and competence building among Nordic and Nordic-Baltic research communities and **strengthen networks** and collaborations.



# Delimitation

Unlike traditional AI research and innovation, which often centres on pure technological advancements, this initiative seeks to explore the use, development and implementation of AI, on an individual, organisational and societal level, creating prerequisites for responsible and critical future approaches.

Approaches focusing on pure AI technology advancement or development are not included in this framework whereas approaches which seek to optimise existing AI methods or algorithms towards responsible use and functionalities are included.



# Thematic framework

Applications should respond to **societal challenges** that the Nordic and Nordic-Baltic region is facing. These challenges include, but are not limited to, ageing populations, ongoing structural developments in the labour market, societal and political polarisation, health systems, education, competence development and lifelong learning and the green transition of the economy.

Projects are expected to **support optimal utilisation of AI**, with minimal risks and threats, and to the benefits of citizens, businesses and the societies.



# Proposals should consider the following aspects:

- **Early career researchers**, capacity building among research and innovation communities is central for developing sound and informed responses and governance structures. An aspect of capacity building is fostering early career researchers in the field. It is encouraged that early career researchers are included in key roles in proposals.
- **Interdisciplinarity**, where relevant research questions are addressed by combining and integrating skills from multiple disciplines.



# Proposals should consider the following aspects:

- **Comparative research approaches**, where the researchers take advantage of the opportunities that the different datasets, socioeconomic and political frameworks in the Nordic and Baltic countries give.
- **Engagement with societal stakeholders** with the aim of creating societal impact of the research. Research in this call is expected to provide knowledge for decision-makers, civil servants, and different relevant stakeholders.





# Contact list

Would you like to connect with other researchers interested in the call? If so, you can join our contact list. Simply sign up and complete a brief form before **13 April 2025**, and you will be added to a list where your information will be shared with other researchers.



# Thank you for your attention

[bodil.aurstad@nordforsk.org](mailto:bodil.aurstad@nordforsk.org)

[bjornar.komissar@nordforsk.org](mailto:bjornar.komissar@nordforsk.org)

[thomas.Jacobsson@nordforsk.org](mailto:thomas.Jacobsson@nordforsk.org)

Sign up for our newsletter at [nordforsk.org](http://nordforsk.org)

 @NordForsk