

NordForsk

Preparatory projects to the EU co-funded Raw Materials Partnership (RAMP)

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Webinar for applicants, 2 September 2026

Today's webinar

- Why a Nordic initiative?
- What a preparatory project is and what it can fund
- Who can take part and how the funding works
- When to apply and the processing and assessment of proposals
- Q&A

Today is about the NordForsk preparatory call.

Questions about the RAMP calls themselves: the RAMP website and supporting services



The call at a glance

Joint call funded by NordForsk, Nordic Innovation, Vinnova, the Research Council of Norway and Business Finland.

NOK 24.6 million available in total.

NOK 1 million

maximum grant per project

At least 24

projects to be funded

12 months

maximum project duration

Rolling call

- Submissions at any time
- Applications are processed in the order that they are received
- Funds consortium building and proposal preparation, not research



Background

Europe needs

- Resilient and sustainable raw materials value chains
- New technologies and solutions
- Stronger cross-border collaboration

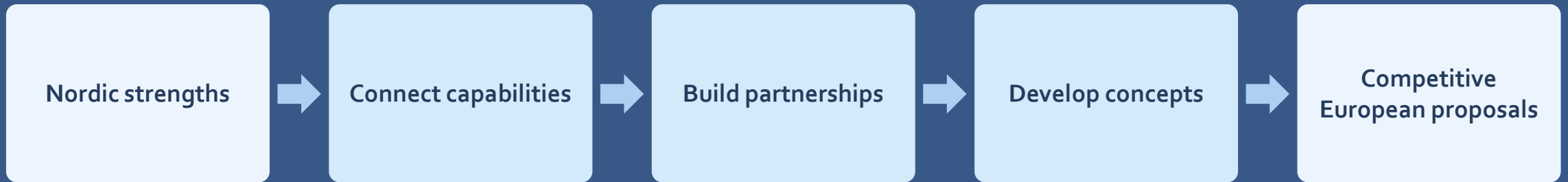
The Nordics bring

- Strong capabilities across the whole value chain
- Complementary research, industry and innovation environments
- Capabilities spread across countries, sectors and disciplines

Connect Nordic capabilities and build partnerships that can compete and contribute at European level and beyond



From Nordic strengths to European impact



The call supports this part



Aim and objectives of the call

To catalyse research and innovation cooperation among Nordic stakeholders in the metals and minerals sector

The objectives of the call are to:

- Build strong multidisciplinary and multistakeholder consortia for future RAMP, EU and related funding opportunities.
- Develop project ideas through networking, horizon scanning, mapping strengths, and identifying R&I gaps and barriers.
- Strengthen Nordic capacity to meet Europe's critical raw materials needs sustainably and competitively.
- Increase industry and other non-academic participation across the full research and innovation chain.



Scope of the call



- The thematic scope encompasses the entire raw materials value chain. It also considers the socio-ecological impacts associated with raw material extraction and processing.
- Projects should focus on strategic planning, stakeholder engagement and capacity building, with an emphasis on fostering innovation, knowledge exchange and regional integration.
- The call is open to the full breadth of research and innovation on raw materials: not only the natural sciences, engineering and technology, but also social sciences, humanities, law and economics as relevant.
- Projects are encouraged to address issues related to land use and the rights of Indigenous and local communities as relevant.



The European RAMP partnership

Video Presentation:

Ninad Bondre, Vinnova

Coordinator of the Raw Materials Partnership



RAMP, and beyond

Nordic preparatory project

Build the partnership, develop the concept, prepare the proposal



RAMP

The 2027 call and subsequent calls

Horizon Europe

In particular Cluster 4

EIT RawMaterials

Other relevant European opportunities



Illustrative and not exhaustive. Not a recommendation of any particular call.

What is a preparatory project?

What it pays for

- Mapping complementary Nordic capabilities and regional strengths
- Finding the partners you are missing
- Workshops, consortium meetings, writing camps
- Stakeholder mapping and engagement
- Identifying research and innovation gaps, regulatory barriers and framework conditions
- Scanning European opportunities
- Developing the joint concept, and a proposal strategy and action plan

What it does not pay for

Data collection and analysis
associated with original research
Writing scientific papers

Salaries including overheads, travel and accommodation are eligible. Physical meetings should take place in a Nordic country.



Who can take part?

- Organisations from at least three different Nordic countries
- Project Owner: an established research-performing organisation in a Nordic country
- Project Leader: holds a PhD, employed by the Project Owner for the project duration, and may lead one application only
- At least one private-sector partner
- A signed Letter of Commitment from the Project Owner
- Applying for national funding? Read Annex 1 and contact your national funding organisation early

Nordic countries: *Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Åland.*



Two definitions from the call text

Research-performing organisation

A legal entity which is a university, university college or research institute, and which:

has as its primary goal to independently conduct fundamental and/or applied research and/or research-based innovation where results are published

may be private or public, but must not pay dividends from its activities. Organisations pursuing both non-economic and economic activities must have a formal separation in place between them

has a significant production of academic, peer-reviewed and published research

Private sector

Non-public legal entities, including for-profit enterprises of all sizes: SMEs, start-ups and large companies.

Also other privately governed organisations that operate independently of public authorities.



What a consortium can look like

Danish university

Project Owner

Research-performing organisation

Swedish company

Project Partner

Private sector

Norwegian research institute

Project Partner

- ✓ **Three Nordic countries**
- ✓ **Research-performing Project Owner**
- ✓ **Private-sector partner**

This is the minimum. Larger consortia are welcome.
Partners may also take part with their own resources.



How the funding works

Nordic component

NordForsk and Nordic Innovation
Up to NOK 400 000, max 40% of the grant



Danish university

Project Owner

NOK 400 000

National component

Vinnova, the Research Council of Norway and Business Finland
Up to NOK 300 000 per partner, according to national rules



Swedish company

Project Partner

NOK 300 000



Norwegian institute

Project Partner

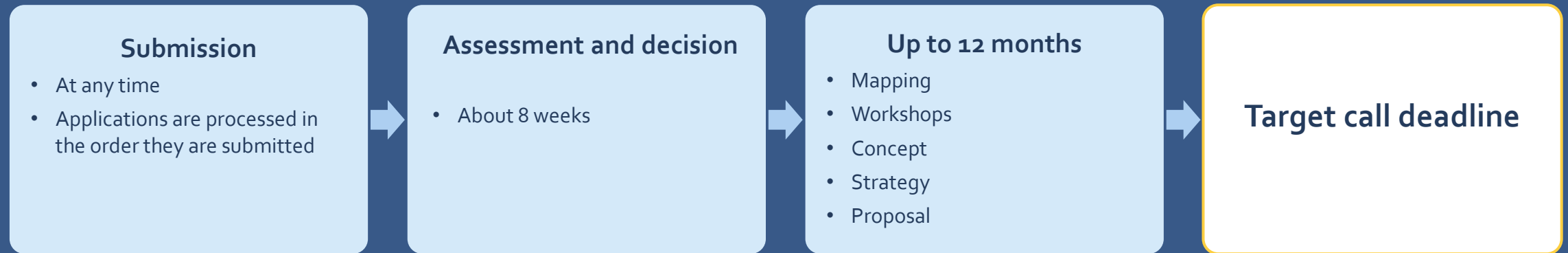
NOK 300 000

Total NOK 1 000 000



When to apply?

Work backwards from the opportunity you are aiming at

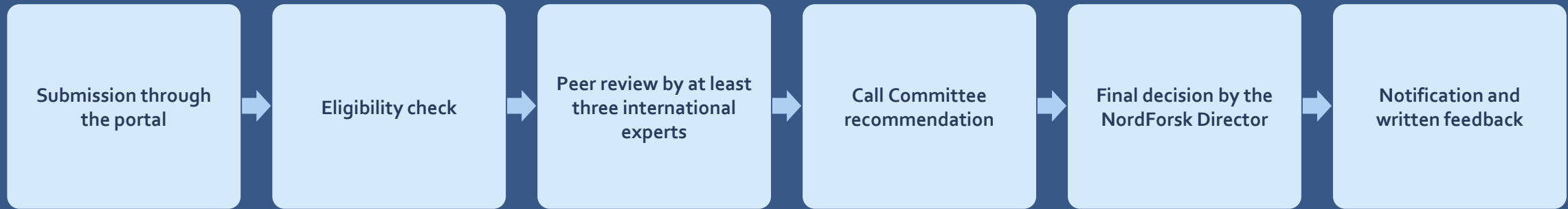


- The call is open until all funding is allocated, or 14 June 2028 at the latest
- Remaining available budget will be shown on the call webpage

EU RAMP calls are planned annually. The date of the next call is not yet confirmed.



From submission to decision



- Submitted by the Project Leader, in English, through the NordForsk Application Portal
- Proposals with an average overall grade of 5 or higher can be recommended for funding
- All applicants receive written feedback, and one opportunity to submit an improved proposal

Mandatory components of an application:

- *Application form,*
- *Project plan (maximum five pages),*
- *CVs, Detailed budget*
- *Letter of Commitment*



Assessment criteria

Assessed by at least three international experts, individually and remotely

1. Contribution to call aim and objectives

The extent to which the proposed project is appropriate to the aim and objectives of the call

2. Quality of the consortium and the planned activities

Soundness and appropriateness of the planned activities in relation to the described objectives

Feasibility of the proposed budget

Clarity in description and plausibility of the expected outcomes and their relevance to the call aims

Appropriateness of the partners involved

Extent and appropriateness of private sector involvement, and integration of relevant disciplines and perspectives across technology, environment and society

Network coverage of the Nordic countries and sectors relevant to the call aim (private sector involvement is a merit)

Quality of stakeholder identification and mapping

The degree to which the consortium seeks to achieve gender balance



Assessment criteria: Nordic added value

Benefits for the Nordic research and innovation ecosystem

Such as enhancing scientific excellence; achieving critical mass and expertise; building competence; supporting mobility and networking; helping early-career researchers build lasting Nordic networks; sharing data and research infrastructure; developing or using particular Nordic strengths, expertise, phenomena or data.

Benefits for Nordic societies

Such as addressing needs particular to the Nordic countries given similar societal structures, shared challenges on climate and biodiversity and shared cultural heritage; providing a quality-assured knowledge base for policymakers and practitioners; creating innovations, patents or solutions that enhance development and co-operation in the Nordic region.

Grades 1 to 7: 1 poor, 2 weak, 3 fair, 4 good, 5 very good, 6 excellent, 7 outstanding
Proposals with an average overall grade of 5 or higher can be recommended for funding.



The experts and the Call Committee

The expert panel

At least three international experts assess each proposal, individually and remotely, using the assessment criteria

Each provides a written statement and an overall grade on the 1 to 7 scale

NordForsk's guidelines on impartiality are applied to handle possible conflicts of interest

The Call Committee

A chairperson appointed by the NordForsk Board and one member from each funding partner

Assesses two of the criteria itself: contribution to the call aims, and Nordic added value

Recommends on the basis of average grades, the expert assessments and its own assessment

May also pursue a balanced portfolio in relation to the call aim and cross-cutting priorities

The NordForsk Director takes the final funding decision on the basis of the Call Committee's recommendation.



Before you apply

- Read the call text, and Annex 1 if you are applying for national funding
- Open the application form in the portal and look at the instructions
- Contact your national funding organisation early
- Decide which European opportunity you are preparing for
- Check the remaining budget on the call webpage
- Submit early enough to make real use of the twelve months

prepRAMP26-QA@nordforsk.org

Technical support: support@nordforsk.org



Questions

- **Is this call for the RAMP call that is open now?**
Allow about eight weeks for a decision, then the project itself. We are aiming at the 2027 RAMP call and the calls after it.
- **Do we have to apply to RAMP afterwards?**
No. The call text says RAMP or complementary EU calls and other relevant calls and initiatives. What is expected is a strategy and action plan for competitive proposals.
- **When will the next RAMP call open?**
Not yet confirmed. RAMP plans seven annual calls. Put this to Vinnova or the RAMP website.
- **Can we do research in the project?**
No. Data collection and analysis associated with original research, and writing of scientific papers, are not fundable



Questions cont.

- **Can a Danish or Icelandic organisation be Project Owner?**
Yes. The Project Owner may be in any Nordic country and is funded from the Nordic component, up to NOK 400 000 and no more than 40% of the grant.
- **Can our company receive funding?**
It depends on the national rules. What each agency can fund differs. See Annex 1 and contact your national funding organisation.
- **Can we be in more than one application?**
A researcher may be Project Leader for one application only. An organisation may be a partner or Project Owner in several.
- **Is there any advantage in applying early?**
Proposals are processed in the order they arrive and funding is allocated until it runs out. The remaining budget is on the call webpage.
- **What happens if we are not funded?**
You receive written feedback from the expert panel, and one opportunity to submit an improved proposal, assessed as a new proposal.

