

NordForsk

A platform for Nordic research co-operation

Thorbjørn Gilberg and Kyösti Lempa

Thorbjorn.gilberg@nordforsk.org

Webinar starts at 11.02 CEST

Ask questions throughout the webinar in the Q&A. We will attempt to answer all after the 20 min presentation.

The presentation is recorded. We will share the recording and the slides.

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 and Baltic added value

Two main categories:

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



Development and evaluation of calls

Call committee develops the content of the call

Call for proposals

International peer review

Call committee recommendation

Decision by the NordForsk Board

Sustainable Futures of Forests

- A Nordic-Baltic call for proposals



Funders

Estonian Research Council

FORMAS (Sweden)

Latvian Council of Science

Research Council of Finland

Research Council of Lithuania

Research Council of Norway



Budget

- Duration and budget: Up to 4 years, 11 MNOK per proposal
- Available call budget: 80 million NOK
- See special conditions in Annex 1 of the call text when involving:
 - Estonian partners
 - Latvian partners
 - Lithuanian partners
 - Swedish partners



Eligibility criteria 1/3

- Research consortium must include research-performing organisations in at least four Nordic* or Baltic countries, of which two must be Nordic countries.
 - Åland, Denmark, the Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden
- Project owner must be a research-performing organisation in one of the countries co-funding the call: Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, and Sweden.
 - When the project owner is in Estonia, Latvia, or Lithuania, the project must also have a co-host institution in Finland or Norway*
- Research performing organisations from other Nordic countries than Finland, Norway and Sweden cannot be Project Owners. Such research organisations can participate in funded projects, but not as Project leader and they cannot be Nordic co-hosts for projects.



Eligibility criteria 2/3

- Project leader must be a qualified early-career researcher (PhD) with at least 2 but not more than 7 years of experience since completing their PhD.**
 - *Any deductible time must be stated in the application form. The PhD age is calculated as the period of time between acquiring the PhD (the date as it appears on the PhD diploma) and the date of the application deadline. Consideration will be given to leaves of absence such as parental leave, illness, family care leave, military service, humanitarian aid work, etc.*
 - *Moreover, consideration will be given in cases of significant career-relevant circumstances, that can be considered a necessary step in a career path, but during which the time for research has been very limited.*



Eligibility criteria 3/3

- A researcher may only serve as project leader for one application under this call.
 - ...but can be partners in other proposals
- Salaries for applicants not affiliated with a research institution in a Nordic or Baltic country cannot be claimed as part of the project costs.



Background

The Joint Nordic-Baltic Initiative on Sustainable Futures of Forests is a crucial initiative to support the effective management of forests and the optimal use of forest resources in the face of climate, economic, social, cultural, and environmental challenges.

SRIA «Forests and forestry for a sustainable future». Horizon Europe co-funded partnership

- I. Introduction
The challenge, needs at different levels
- II. The European Partnership on Forests and Forestry: ambition and expected impacts
- III. Future Research & Innovation Themes for Forests and the Forest-based Sector
Chapter A “Forest Ecology”
Chapter B “Diversifying Forest Management of Europe’s Forests”
Chapter C “Forest Products”
Chapter D “Social Aspects & Policy”
- IV. Enabling approaches
 - a. Stakeholder engagement
 - b. Communication, outreach and open science



Aim 1/2

- By promoting cross-border co-operation, the initiative encourages a holistic approach to sustainable forestry, integrating scientific research, innovative technology, and sustainable management practices.
- ... foster collaboration among researchers, stakeholders, and governments.
 - it is up to the applicant to describe how and when stakeholder involvement contributes to the aims and objectives of the proposal.
- The purpose of this call is to improve the skills and abilities of early-career scientists ...
- ... opportunities for capacity building and addressing complex issues in forest-related research within all disciplines.



Aim 2/2

- A consortium should consist of a partly, or completely, new constellation of researchers and disciplines. Partners who have collaborated previously must include at least one new partner and a new interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary perspective that has not already been explored by the researchers in the team.
- The research will focus on a specific forest research theme chosen by the consortium and produce a synthesis report that comprehensively covers this theme, addressing gaps in existing knowledge. The synthesis report will develop innovative ideas that go beyond the selected theme, introducing novel approaches that can shape future forest research.



How to succeed ... Peer review

1) **Contribution to call objectives**

2) **Scientific quality**

- interdisciplinary approaches, stakeholder involvement, consideration of the gender dimension in research content
- develop innovative ideas ... introducing novel approaches

3) **Added value for the participating countries**

- critical mass, cost-effectiveness sharing data and research infrastructure, mobility, competence building, enhancing scientific excellence, building on particular strengths or expertise, phenomena or data of participating countries

4) **Quality of the research team**

- Novelty of the research team

5) **Feasibility**

6) **Communication and dissemination**



How to succeed ... Call Committee

1) Contribution to call aims

- holistic approach to sustainable forestry, integrating scientific research, innovative technology, and sustainable management practices

2) Added value

- activities that increase competence and competitiveness; activities that strengthen the participating countries' international influence; and activities that foster equal and balanced social, economic, and environmental interaction in our region. [Further indicators](#)



*balanced portfolio in relation to the call aims and objectives



Sign up for our newsletter at nordforsk.org



The Webinar has ended Thank you for your attention

The presentation was recorded. We will share the recording and the slides.

Sign up for our newsletter at nordforsk.org

 @NordForsk