



norden

NordForsk

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*Working towards a new level
of Nordic research cooperation*

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The Lisbon strategy was invented here...



The starting-point for the Nordic countries

Strengths

- Large investments in R&D (in % of GDP)
2004 numbers: SE 3.7%, FI 3.5%, IS 3.0%
DK 2.6%, NO 1.6%
EU-15 1,95%
- Leading positions in many fields
- Tradition of research cooperation
- University cooperation on all levels
- Cultural, social and geographic similarities

Weaknesses

- Do not always reach critical mass
- Nordic investment levels are low
- Poor visibility and attraction value

NORIA White paper

Gustav Björkstrand, Åbo Academy, autumn 2003:

White paper on Nordic research and innovation – Globally leading through increased cooperation

- **ERA** (European research area)
- **NORIA** (Nordic Research and Innovation Area)

In an extended Europe, regional research cooperation becomes increasingly important

“Two-pillar model”

A Nordic research and innovation system on two pillars: One for research and one for innovation/industry, with a strong linkage between them

- Innovation pillar = NICE 1.1. 2004
- Research pillar = NordForsk 1.1. 2005

Contributes to NORIA's blooming through the promotion of **efficient cooperation** between the Nordic countries regarding **research** and **research training** of the highest international quality.

NordForsk's main functions

- **Coordination**
- **Financing**
- **Policy advice**

- Cooperation defined by **national priorities** and by identified **common interests**
- Can also promote **strategically important** fields where Nordic cooperation can speed up the process leading to excellence
- Takes independent initiatives but will also consider initiatives from the research sector
- The basis for all funding must be **excellent** scientific quality

NordForsk today

- Secretariat (approx. 12 persons) in Oslo, sharing offices with NICE and Nordic Energy Research
- Budget for 2006: approx. 116 million NOK (ca. 14 mill. Euros)
- Board: 9 members & 7 observers appointed on an **institutional basis**

NordForsk and the Baltic countries 1/2

- NordForsk Board includes one observer from the Baltic countries
- In total, over 2000 researchers from the Baltic countries and NW Russia participated in NordForsk activities in 2003, 2004 and 2005.
- We expect the numbers to go up in the coming years.

NordForsk and the Baltic countries 2/2

- Our home arena: the adjacent areas Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, NW Russia and NW Atlantic
- >From supportive action to equal footing
- Initially on a pay-as-you-go basis
- Estonia is the Baltic leader on investment in research, but behind all of the Nordics and Russia (see table)

GERD 2004

Sweden	3,74
Finland	3,51
Iceland	3,01
Denmark	2,63
Norway	1,75
Russia	1,17
Estonia	0,91
Lithuania	0,76
Latvia	0,42

NordForsk and Estonia

- Estonia has been the leader among the Baltic countries and Russia in NordForsk activities
- Much of Estonia's activity has been in guest professorships and planning activities.
- Now there is a need to move on as the emphasis of NordForsk funding instruments change.

Projects led by
country
2000-2004

Estonia	31
Lithuania	15
Russia	14
Latvia	5

NordForsk activities 1/3

Nordic Centres of Excellence:

- global change
- molecular medicine
- humanities/social sciences

Research schools:

- global change
- humanities and social sciences
- fishery

Networks: all scientific areas

NordForsk activities 2/3

New call 31st January 2006:

- 3 different types of networks
- seed money
- participation in Nordic research courses
- organisation of a course in supervising of PhD students
- **research training courses in the Baltic countries and Russia**

Deadlines 1st March and 3rd April

All are open to full Estonian participation

NordForsk activities 3/3

Calls will open in the fields of

- stem cells
- welfare
- nutrition and health

Further initiatives in other fields are being planned with national research councils

NordForsk and Europe: The little engine that could...

- NordForsk contributes to:
 - The success of Nordic researchers in the European competition
 - Strengthening of NORIA as a hotspot in ERA
 - Branding of the Nordic model
- Meta-Regional Research Council
Role model or unique competitive advantage?

Let's be glocal!

- Researchers from other parts of Europe also included in certain activities
- A global perspective: future cooperation with growing research nations
- To be international positioned is a necessary precondition
- To be locally strong is a competition advantage
- The new Nordic research cooperation: **Globally competitive through regional integration**

Nordisk styrka



Jan-Erik Enestam,
finsk miljöminister
og nordisk
samarbeidsminister

*” För att Norden skall kunna tävla om europeiska forskningsanslag och hävda sig i den allt hårdare globala konkurrensen inom forskningsområdet måste de nordiska länderna snabbt och målmedvetet satsa på ett **förnyat och utbyggt samarbete**, inte bara i Norden utan i **hela Östersjöområdet.** ”*