

## NordForsk

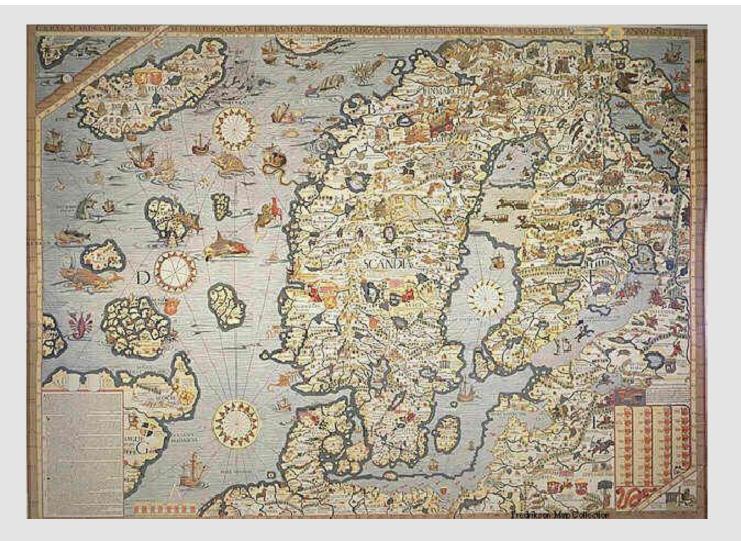
## Working towards a new level of Nordic research cooperation

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### The Lisbon strategy was invented here...



## The starting-point for the Nordic countries



NordForsk

#### 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

## NordForsk



- 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



### **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

- 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)

### **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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> March and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 miljøminister 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**."