

Nordic Societal Security Programme

Illustration: Berit Symme



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Nordic Societal Security Programme

Since 2014, the programme has been funding two cross-disciplinary Nordic Centres of Excellence, providing a total of NOK 45 million over a five-year period. Both centres address questions of crisis management in relation to prevention, preparedness, response and recovery in the Nordic countries.

1 Nordic Centre of Excellence on Resilience and Societal Security (NORDRESS)

• *Project leaders: Professor Guðrún Gísladóttir and Director Guðrún Pétursdóttir, University of Iceland.*

During the past 30 years, the number of registered natural disasters has more than quadrupled worldwide; in 2011 alone, 440 million people were affected by natural hazards. By focusing on extreme weather, floods, mudslides, avalanches and volcanic eruptions, **NCoE NORDRESS** studies the impacts of natural hazards on all the Nordic countries, from the local to the transboundary level. 15 institutions in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden are participating in the NCoE.

2 Nordic Centre of Excellence for Security Technologies and Societal Values (NordSTEVA)

• *Project leader: Professor J. Peter Burgess, Centre for Advanced Security Theory (CAST), University of Copenhagen.*

NCoE NordSTEVA aims to map and critically analyse the relationship between security technologies and societal values. This implies on the one hand exploring the concentration of technologies that promise to provide for human needs and, on the other, linking these to the cultural traditions – including religion, language, politics, and economics – that make up the societal values deemed most worthy of protection. Six institutions in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden are participating in the NCoE.

Facts

Objective: The Nordic Societal Security Programme is a multi-disciplinary research programme designed to generate new knowledge about what is required to ensure the safety and security of the Nordic countries' inhabitants. Given that today's societal security challenges are transboundary by nature, there is much to be gained from Nordic and international collaboration.

Background: The Nordic countries have cooperated closely on societal security for decades. In recent years, this tradition has been strengthened through several political initiatives across national borders. In 2012, a Nordic expert group explored the prospects for Nordic cooperation in the field of societal security. Based on the group's recommendations, the Nordic Societal Security Programme was launched in 2013.

Activities: The programme's second call for proposals focuses on society, integrity and cyber security. This time, NordForsk is collaborating with the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) – one of seven research councils in the UK – and the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), giving the call a broad international focus. The amount of available funding under this transnational call is set at EUR 4.2 million. The application deadline was 15 March 2016, and in autumn 2016 up to five projects with a minimum duration of three years and a maximum of four years will be awarded funding. The next thematic call under the programme is planned for late 2016.

Funding: The programme is currently funded by the Academy of Finland, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection, Research Council of Norway, Icelandic Centre for Research - RANNIS and NordForsk. All participants contribute to a common pot, and the Nordic budget is currently approximately NOK 90 million (March 2016).

Nordic Research Collaboration

NordForsk is a platform for joint Nordic research and research infrastructure cooperation. The organisation was established in 2005 by the Nordic Council of Ministers in order to strengthen the Nordic Research and Innovation Area. NordForsk's mandate is to facilitate, i.e. to identify and respond to, strategic priorities for Nordic research cooperation, and thereby create Nordic added value. The goal of NordForsk is to enhance the quality, impact and cost-efficiency of Nordic research and research infrastructure collaboration

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