

Meeting Minutes

NordForsk 84th Board Meeting
November 28th, 2025, 13:30-15:30 CET
Meeting venue: Teams

Board Members

Vistad, Rune	Research Council of Norway (Chair)
Sølvará, Annika	Faroese Research Council (Vice Chair)
Brøkner, Cecilie	Innovation Fund Denmark
Vauhkonen, Jussi	Research Council of Finland
Jónsdóttir, Guðbjörg Andrea	Ministry of Culture, Science and Higher Education, Iceland
Lindell, Johan	Swedish Research Council
Nygård, Bo	Government of Åland (observer)
Halgrimsen, Håkon	Nordic Council of Ministers' secretariat (observer)

NordForsk Administration: Arne Flåøyen, Bjørnar Komissar (staff representative), Mikael Heimonen, Guttorm Aanes, Kristin Andersen, Thorbjørn Gilberg (item 07 BM 25/1331), Bodil Aurstad (secretary, minutes)

Apologies: Anders Hagfeldt, NUS, NordForsk Board, Petar Cavala, Nordic Council of Ministers' secretariat (observer)

01 BM 25/1325 **Approval of the agenda. Any conflict of interest to be announced**
The chair opened the meeting and asked if there were any suggested changes in the agenda or conflicts of interest that had not been reported prior to the meeting.

Action: The agenda was approved, and the meeting confirmed no conflicts of interest.

02 BM 25/1326 **Quorum**
The Board has quorum when at least 50% of the board members are present. The Board noted quorum with 6 out of 7 members present at the meeting.

Action: Quorum was confirmed.

03 BM 25/1327 **Approval of the minutes from the Board meeting 15 October 2025**
The minutes from NordForsk's 83rd Board meeting was approved in a silence procedure Monday November 17th, 2025.

Action: The Board was informed.

04 BM 25/1328 **Accounts per October 2025**
Director Arne Flåøyen and Mikael Heimonen presented the case and informed that activities are carried out according to plan.

Action: The Board was informed.

05 BM 25/1329

Budget 2026 and Action Plan 2026

Director Arne Flåøyen presented the Action Plan for 2026, and Mikael Heimonen presented the budget for 2026.

In view of the current discussions on research security, the Board asked the NordForsk Administration to include building a risk assessment procedure for NordForsk under subgoal 3 in the Action Plan 2026.

The Board asked the NordForsk administration to present a plan for the process leading up to the approval of a new NordForsk strategy in the next Board meeting 6 March 2026. The NordForsk strategy seminar will be held in Copenhagen Monday 15 to Tuesday 16 June 2026 (lunch-to-lunch).

The Board was informed that the basic funding from the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2026 is now confirmed and will amount to NOK 158 599 000 million.

Action: The Board approved the budget and Action Plan for 2026.

06 BM 25/1330

Funding Decision: Infrastructure Hubs

The Board was reminded of the background of the initiative *Nordic Research Infrastructure Hubs* and informed about the call process and the call committee's funding recommendations.

Action:

The Board decided to fund the following eleven RI Hubs through the call for Nordic Research Infrastructure Hubs:

- 231986, The Nordic Biobank Network, NOK 3 988 700
- 232065, A Nordic Research Infrastructure Hub for Structural Biology, NOK 6 000 000
- 232933, NEXT generation transdisciplinary aging research for NORDic excellence, NOK 5 694 863
- 234087, Nordic Research Infrastructure Hub for Digital Plant Phenotyping, NOK 5 775 653
- 227748, Bridging Nordic Microscopy Infrastructures-II (BNMI-II), NOK 6 000 000
- 228319, Nordic-Baltic Dataverse Hub, NOK 5 995 140
- 231751, Nordic Optical Fiber Sensing Research Infrastructure Hub, NOK 6 000 000
- 233179, Nordic Alliance for Single-Cell & Spatial Analysis, NOK 5 904 698
- 233542, Nordic Digital Collections RI hub, NOK 5 930 509
- 233908, Nordic Historical Population Data, 5 897 804
- 229800, Nordic Electron Microscopy Infrastructure, NOK 5 999 041

Provided that each hub is requested to make a 5% budget reduction, the funding of these eleven RI Hubs amounts to an investment of a total of NOK 60M, which is in line with the call budget and the ambitions of the call.

The board decided to put the following proposal on a reserve list in the event that one of the above eleven proposals for some reason is not realised after all.

1. 232939, Nordic Collaborative Hub for ATMP Infrastructure and Innovation, NOK 5 325 251

07 BM 25/1331

Funding decision: Sustainable Futures of Forests

The Board was reminded of the background of the initiative *Sustainable Futures of Forests* and informed about the call process and the call committee's funding recommendations.

Action:

The NordForsk Board decided to fund the following eight projects under the call Sustainable Futures of Forests:

- 232924 - Resilient forests through monitoring, risk modelling, adaptive management, and early detection - with up to NOK 9 465 805.
- 234152 - Adapting drained forests to future climates: Ensuring sustainable forest production, water quality and biodiversity - with up to NOK 5 144 559.
- 234623 - Intelligent Forest Fire Management via Multi-Resolution Risk Maps - with up to NOK 9 234 573.
- 234759 - Resilient Forests, Healthy Waters: A Nordic-Baltic Approach to Sustainable Forest Management Through Advanced Modeling - with up to NOK 7 894 645.
- 225921 - Future Forests: growth trends study and cross-regional Nordic-Baltic climate-sensitive models for sustainable forest management - with up to NOK 8 894 925.
- 230505 - Decision support for individual-tree-selection - aiming at profitability and biodiversity - with up to NOK 6 993 459.
- 231501 - Recognising Other Ontologies of TreeScapes: A roadmap for sustainable forest heritage futures - with up to NOK 11 000 000.
- 234761 - Limiting multiplying Adverse effects of forest disturbances with sUustainable MAnagement - with up to NOK 8 300 981.

The funding of these eighth projects amounts to an investment of 66 928 947 NOK which is in line with the call budget and the ambitions of the call.

The board decided to put the following projects on a reserve list. In the event that a Swedish project owner is unable to accept the grant, application ID 234290 can be funded. In the event that a non-Swedish project owner is unable to accept the grant, application ID 233103 can be funded.

- 233103 - Nordic approaches to adapt trees and forests to changing climate – with up to NOK 10 996 033
- 234290 - Understanding and managing water-related risks in Nordic forests: an interdisciplinary approach to resilience – with up to NOK 10 994 370

The Board delegated to the NordForsk director to decide on additional NordForsk funding within the 1/3 limitation should additional national funding be made available.

o8 BM 25/1332

Funding decision: Responsible use of AI

The Board was reminded of the background of the initiative *Responsible use of Artificial Intelligence* and informed about the call process and the call committee's funding recommendations.

Action:

The NordForsk Board decided to fund the following 12 projects under the call Responsible use of AI:

- ID 226138 Procurement of AI Systems for Sustainable Healthcare Work Environments, with up to NOK 16 280 457.
- ID 229079 (Re)Capturing AI: Governing generative search engines in the Nordic countries, with up to NOK 16 283 703.
- ID 231671 COPY.AI: Preserving Intellectual Property and Cultural Diversity in the Age of Generative AI, with up to NOK 16 299 495.
- ID 233342 NordAid: Trustworthy AI in Public Decision Making, with up to NOK 16 299 852.
- ID 233518 Ethical and computational evaluation of fairness in AI models for personalized disease prevention across >23 M individuals, with up to NOK 16 210 299.
- ID 230342 Culture-Sensitive Assessment and Adjustment of Large Language Models – Adaptation to the Nordic-Baltic Societies, with up to NOK 16 280 494.
- ID 230365 Monitoring Hub for Mapping and Surveying Responsible Artificial Intelligence and Societal Engagement in the Nordic Region, with up to NOK 16 047 512.
- ID 230663 Autonomous Technologies for Ocean Governance: Maritime Autonomy, Responsibility, and Environment, with up to NOK 15 141 573.
- ID 230778 Responsible Innovation and Social Knowledge in Artificial Intelligence, with up to NOK 16 282 985.
- ID 232018 AI for Mindful Care and Aging: Navigating vulnerability in the use and implementation of automated home care, with up to NOK 16 292 872.
- ID 233083 Nordic Perspectives on Collaborative AI for Blue-collar Work, with up to NOK 16 299 971.
- ID 233124 Data Quality for Responsible AI in Energy Systems, with up to NOK 15 606 082.

The Board decided to allocate up to NOK 29.5 million additional NordForsk funding in order to fund the following five projects from the reserve list as additional national funding has been made available since the call opened:

- ID 231681 Generative AI in Education for Young Adults: A Gender-Inclusive Nordic-Baltic Perspective, with up to NOK 16 172 085.
- ID 232522 Responsible Deployment of AI for Protein-Ligand Energies, with up to NOK 16 299 132.
- ID 231138 Organizing Across Boundaries for Responsible Use of AI: Towards Interconnected Smart Grids in the Nordic Energy Sector, with up to NOK 16 197 872.
- ID 231661 NordRAI - Nordic Education at the Frontline of Responsible AI, with up to NOK 16 299 608.
- ID 229045 Responsible AI in Interaction Design Practice, with up to NOK 16 299 526.

The funding of these 17 projects amounts to a Nordic investment of NOK 274 594 000. The total NordForsk investment would be up to NOK 95 744 000 including budget for activities and the review process.

The Board decides to keep the following 6 projects on a reserve list that can be funded in the event that additional national funding should come available. The list is in the order of priority.

- ID 232958 Cross-Lingual Artificial Intelligence and Responsible communication in the public sector
- ID 228062 Empowered North: Responsible AI for local journalism in the Nordic and Baltic countries
- ID 232082 AI-COMPASS – A Framework for Participatory AI Systems in Nordic-Baltic Work Contexts
- ID 233220 Responsible AI in Nordic Business, Organisations, and Work
- ID 233182 RESPONSIBLE COUNTER-NARRATION. COUNTERING SOCIAL MARGINALIZATION IN THE NORDIC-BALTICS WITH GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
- ID 232200 Green Responsible AI for Tomorrow: AI Workloads, Data Centres, and Regional Strategy Optimization

The Board delegates to the NordForsk director to decide on additional NordForsk funding within the 1/3 limitation should additional national funding be made available.

09 BM 25/1333

Funding decision: Antagonistic threats

The Board was reminded of the background of the initiative *Antagonistic threats challenging societal security in the Nordic and Baltic countries* and informed about the call process and the call committee's funding recommendations.

Action:

The NordForsk Board decided to fund the following seven projects under the call Antagonistic threats challenging societal security in the Nordic and Baltic countries:

- ID 235900, Governance and resilience under antagonistic threats in the NB8 region in times of complex crisis, with up to NOK 12 187 579.
- ID 235922, Resilience or Rupture? The Nordic Security Community in an Age of Antagonistic Threats, with up to NOK 12 287 705.
- ID 232603, Prioritizing Medical Preparedness for Health System Readiness – MedPREP, with up to NOK 12 300 000.
- ID 233158, Enhancing resilience against biological threats in the Nordic and Baltic countries, with up to NOK 12 300 000.
- ID 234022, Digital twins to support civil risk awareness and societal preparedness, with up to NOK 12 296 597.
- ID 235632, Playing for Democracy: Strengthening Youth Resilience Against Digital Threats in the Nordic-Baltic Region, with up to NOK 8 785 469.
- ID 235841, The double edge of social media influencing: Participatory antagonism and communicative resilience in the Nordics, with up to NOK 12 238 879.

The funding of these seven projects amounts to an investment of NOK 82.4 million which is in line with the call budget and the ambitions of the call.

The Board decided to put the following four projects on a reserve list that can be funded in the event that additional national funding should come available. The list is in the order of priority.

1. ID 230082, Authoritarianism Gone North: Transnational Repression in Unsafe Havens, with up to NOK 12 300 000.
2. ID 231718, Nordic Security in Crisis: Pluralization of Societal Security Governance, with up to NOK 12 298 206.
3. ID 231964, Security Preparedness and Resilience within Nordic Hospitals, with up to NOK 12 299 135.
4. ID 231345, Ready for Crisis? Resilience and Preparedness Among Nordic Youth, with up to NOK 12 300 000.

The Board delegated to the NordForsk director to decide on additional NordForsk funding within the 1/3 limitation should additional national funding be made available.

10 BM 25/1334

Information from the Nordic Council of Ministers

Håkon Halgrimsen, secretariat of the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM), updated the Board on recent developments:

- In 2026, the NCMS and the directors for the institutions under the Nordic Council of Ministers will assess the Nordic institutional landscape.
- The Danish presidency for the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2026, has proposed an analysis of the Nordic research and innovation landscape in 2026. The proposal will be discussed by the Senior

Action: The Board was informed.

11 BM 25/1335

Information about decisions per capsulam

The information was presented in writing in the documentation to the Board meeting.

Action: The Board was informed.

12 BM 25/1336

Information about Director's decisions

The information was presented in writing in the documentation to the Board meeting.

Action: The Board was informed.

13 BM 25/1337

Information from the Administration

The information was presented in writing in the documentation to the Board meeting.

Action: The Board was informed.

14 BM 25/1338

Information from Board members and observers

The Board members gave a short update from their respective country/organisation.

Action: The Board was informed.

15 BM 25/1339

Any other business

N/A

Action: N/A