

International Joint Initiative for Research Harnessing Disruptive Technologies to Address Global Challenges



NordForsk webinar – 3 December 2025



International initiative



- Initiated by New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) Canada
- NordForsk represents the Nordic national research funding organisations in the initiative
- Confirmed participating countries next to the Nordics: Brazil, Canada, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan and UK



Nordic funding partners

- The Research Council of Norway
- The Research Council of Finland
- The Swedish Research Council
- Independent Research Fund Denmark
- Innovation Fund Denmark
- Rannís Iceland
- NordForsk



Call objective



- This call aims to harness the potential of disruptive technology to offer novel solutions to global challenges and accelerate progress towards achieving the UN Sustainability Goals.
- More research is needed on how disruptive technologies can have transformative economic or societal impacts to improve the lives of people and the planet in contextually appropriate interventions.



Disruptive technology

In this call, “disruptive technology” is defined as follows:

An innovation whose application replaces or radically alters systems, processes and/or behaviours to have transformative economic or societal impacts. The impact may be localized or far-reaching.

Disruptive technology may include cutting-edge and novel innovations, or the application of an existing innovation in a new context, bringing about substantial change or paradigm shifts.



Interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral

- The call requires an interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach.
 - Integrate information, data, techniques, tools, perspectives, concepts or theories from two or more disciplines or bodies of specialized knowledge.
 - Projects must involve disciplines from at least two of the following three areas: natural sciences and engineering; social sciences and humanities; and health and life sciences.
 - Co-development of research and solutions in partnership with affected stakeholders is essential for long-term success.



Adress Sustainable Development Goals

- This interdisciplinary and stakeholder-oriented approach is instrumental in driving change at an international level and advance progress on achieving the UN SDGs.
- Projects in this call must directly address at least one of the seventeen SDGs.

Recognizing there are gaps in the SDGs, particularly related to Indigenous communities, projects may also apply if they are addressing a global challenge that is not captured by the SDGs.



Minimum three funding organisations

- Each project team must be eligible to receive funds from at least three participating funding organizations.
- To fulfill this requirement, the project team must include a minimum of three co-principal investigators (co-PIs), and each must be eligible to receive funding from a different participating funding organization.
- One co-PI must be eligible to apply to the New Frontiers in Research Fund.



Minimum two Nordic countries

- Funding from NordForsk requires Nordic research collaboration.
- The Nordic part of the international consortium must include eligible partners from minimum two different Nordic countries.
- One of the Nordic partners must be the host institution for the Nordic part of the consortium.
- One team member from the Nordic host institution must have the role of Co-Principal Investigator in the international project team.
 - The Co-PI can be the project lead for the international research project



Eligibility criteria

- This is an NFRF International Joint Initiative.
- Applicants must ensure that they fulfil the general eligibility criteria described in the NFRF call text.
- Proposals are submitted to NFRF via their application portal.
- NFRF is managing the call and the evaluation process.

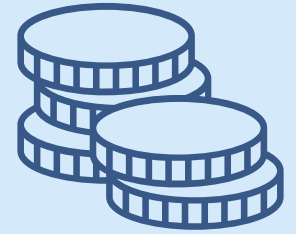


Nordic eligibility criteria

- Next to the general criteria and conditions, Nordic partners that apply for funding from NordForsk must fulfil the NordForsk eligibility criteria, such as
 - The research consortium must include research performing organisations in at least two different Nordic countries. Nordic countries are defined here as Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Åland Islands.
 - The host institution for the Nordic part of the project must be an established research performing organisation based in one of the Nordic countries co-funding the call: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden.
 - Nordic project partners that apply for funding from NordForsk must be research performing organisations.



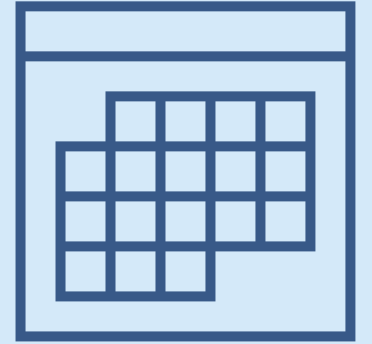
Available funding



- The international initiative is co-financed by national research funding agencies from seven countries next to the Nordics.
- NordForsk funds the Nordic consortium partners that are eligible to apply for funding from NordForsk.
- Total available Nordic funds: NOK 210 million.
- The Nordic partners of one project can apply for up to NOK 17,1 million in total. Own funding is optional.
- The intention is to fund Nordic participation in 12 research projects under this call



Timeline (tentative)

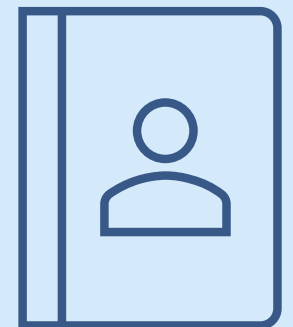


- January 2026: Competition launches
- March 3, 2026: Deadline to submit a required Notice of intent to apply
- June 9, 2026: Deadline to submit a required Letter of intent to apply
 - Distributed peer review – Co-PIs assess the Letters of intent
- November 3, 2026: Deadline to submit full application – Invited applicants only
- March 2027: Notice of funding decisions
- March 2027: Start date of awards

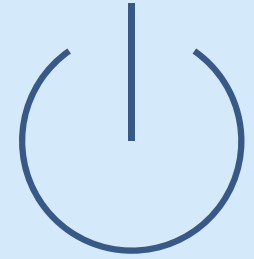


Contact list

- If you would like to connect with other researchers interested in this call, we invite you to join our contact list.
- Complete [this survey](#) before February 9, 2026, and you will be added to a list where your contact information will be shared with others interested in participating in this call, and their information will be shared with you.



Start now!



- In terms of funding, the Nordic involvement is significant compared to the other countries involved in this international initiative.
- We therefore encourage Nordic researchers to seize the opportunity to take lead.
 - Start now developing the research ideas.
 - Reach out to Nordic collaborators.
 - Start building your international consortium and make sure to involve Canada.



