

Mobilising the Nordics

NordForsk

Input from Mission Group 4 to the overall webinar #1

April 29 2021



Aims for mission group 4

- What can we learn from each other across the Nordic countries?
- How can we mobilize these clusters even more and make the collaboration between sectors such as universities, private companies, research organizations, funding agencies and innovation actors even better so they can contribute more and faster to the future societal transformations?
- How should the future innovation system around universities be organized and governed so they can take advantage of more mission- and impact-oriented research activities at the universities?

Members in mission group 4

Nina Kopola (chair)	CEO	Business Finland
Antti Vasara	President and CEO	VTT
Mari Walls	President	Tampere University
Håkon Haugli	CEO	Innovation Norge
Tore Ulstein	Chairman	Ulstein Group & NORCE
Svein Berg	Managing Director	Nordic Innovation
Jenny Elfsberg	Head of Innovation	Vinnova
Stine Jørgensen	Deputy Director General	Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education
Jørgen Bardenfleth	Chairman of Boards	Lyngsoe Systems, Dubex, Symbion, etc.
Tuula Teeri	President	The Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences
Dag Rune Olsen	Rector	University of Tromsø
Ragnheiður Magnúsdóttir	Chair	Innovation committee of the Science and Technology Policy Council

Important take-aways concerning the work of mission group 4

Key take-aways

- It would be relevant and rewarding with a strengthening of dialogue and learning between the Nordic countries
- It would be beneficial to create a pan-Nordic framework, which can push coordination and concrete collaborations between Nordic players including national financial incentive structures to support this
- It would be beneficial to create and ensure active commitment to a mutual brand across the Nordics
- It is important to prioritize carefully which areas would be meaningful for the Nordic joint missions on the basis of the common strongholds – and then create concrete operational structures around this
- A joint Nordic mechanism should be created to support the point above. It should be based on private sector demand and linked to the public sector's obligation to cater to this

8 theses on strengthening a common Nordic research and innovation system (#1-4)

1) We need to make the Nordic system more demand-driven and focusing on what are the needs of citizens and society? This means one hand top-down policy coordination and prioritization and, on the other hand, more bottom-up development, coordination, and prioritization?

2) We need to work more mission orientated as this is a good way to raise common awareness and focus on the needs of citizens and society and is a way of successfully addressing these needs through research, innovation, and the development of new markets?

3) We need to work more together in the Nordics and therefore coordination and governance are organizational capabilities that all organizations must have in the future to interact well together in the ecosystem?

4) We must ensure that top-down political coordination and prioritization also takes place across the different ministries and countries in the Nordics. A system perspective on research and innovation is important, with not only a focus on universities and public research institutions. We need to get the whole innovation chain covered so that we don't get a missing link, or a "valley of death" and the chain should be seen as two-way: both from supply to demand and the other way around ?

8 theses on strengthening a common Nordic research and innovation system (#5-8)

5) We can all benefit by building a common Nordic research and innovation system. There is momentum and commitment to it and both public and private actors see benefits in it. With the digital transformation post Covid-19, is it much easier to collaborate and create common solutions across the Nordics?

6) We can start by developing the following common strongholds and clusters with synergy:

- Formulate a common Nordic ambition about strengthening the Nordic collaboration and research and innovation system
- Identify 3 Nordic missions
- Describe the analytical framework for the coming common Nordic analysis.

7) We all have the problem that our home markets are small (too small). We must therefore build a common Nordic home market. When we create new products, organizations, and markets this would be a huge advantage. Together, we make up the world's 11th largest economy the size of Canada (or Russia)?

8) Through Mobilizing the Nordics, we can create a first joint Nordic proposal on how to get started with this common mission: to build a common research and innovation system in concrete terms. A proposal that we can then hand over to: 1) the relevant organizations in the Nordics, 2) national governments and relevant ministries, 3) Nordic Council and 4) Nordic Council of Ministers?

Outcome of our mission group (#1+2)

1. **Formulate a common Nordic ambition about strengthening the Nordic collaboration and research and innovation system.** The ambition consists of the following elements: (approx. 3 pages)
 - a) Establishing a common strategic policy and investment plan for research and innovation in the Nordics based on mission-oriented theory
 - b) Defining a series of common Nordic missions (see below)
 - c) Involvement of all universities, research organizations, innovation agents and representatives from the private sector in the Nordics on the highest managerial level
 - d) Creation of a common Nordic best practice regarding a demand-based structure of each countries' research, innovation and cluster systems
 - e) Creation of a Nordic legal, financial and governance set-up for Nordic partnering between universities and the private sector
 - f) Increasing public investment in networks in the Nordics, across sectors
 - g) Strengthening the common infrastructure in relation to EU's strategic goals within research and innovation

2. **Identify 3 Nordic missions within 1) Climate 2) Digitalization and 3) Public Health** [which should be defined more concretely] from a series of criteria such as current strong holds in research and private sector and market potential globally. The chosen missions should be able to succeed only if they are realized in a common Nordic effort (approx. 2 pages)

Outcome of our mission group (#3+4)

3. **Describe the analytical framework for the coming common Nordic analysis** of each countries research, innovation and cluster system based on partly the chosen missions, partly a demand-based set-up and focusing on a roughly drafted roadmap for production, including: (approx. 4 pages)
 - a) The legal framework
 - b) The financial framework
 - c) The governance set-up
 - d) Incentive structures encouraging collaboration between research institutions and companies
 - e) Each countries' legal and financial framework for IP-rights and TTO
 - f) Barriers for strategic coordination of innovation collaboration between the Nordic countries.
 - g) Barriers for public and private collaboration
 - h) Assessment of what competencies are needed in the future to strengthen innovation, including the opportunities to move between academia, public and private sector during one's career
 - i) Identifying a sponsor to finance the analysis
4. **Formulate a "call to action"** to the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Nordic Governments in collaboration to realize the ambition and the missions. (approx. 1 page)



Questions to the webinar participants from mission group 4

1. What do you think about the 8 theses?
 2. What do you think about the group's planned outcomes?
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