

Call for joint SNS-EFINORD networks with activities in 2019

The network call is announced jointly by Nordic Forest Research [SNS](#) and the North European Regional Office of European Forest Institute [EFINORD](#). We wish to connect forest research within the Nordic* and EFINORD** area.

We support research networks with participants from at least three Nordic countries and three other countries from the extended EFINORD area. Networks are supported with 100.000–200.000 SEK for activities over the course of one year. Funding from SNS and EFINORD should correspond to maximum 50% of your total network budget.

The networks shall be relevant in a Nordic-Baltic setting and the expected outputs can include for example networking, arranging workshops, seminars or open conferences, producing large-scale project applications, peer-reviewed scientific papers or designing policy recommendations based on research findings.

The networks are expected to contribute to the strategic goals of [SNS](#) and [EFINORD](#). Both organizations share a common goal of supporting research in sustainable forest management. The networks should cover topics within the following focus areas:

- sustainable forest management in a growing bioeconomy
- maintenance and utilization of ecosystem services
- climate change mitigation and adaptation

Note that networks do not need to cover several of the focus areas, it can be an advantage to limit the network to focus on more narrow, specific topics within the prioritized themes of this call.

Please download the [application form](#) and submit your application to sns@slu.se at June 1st 2018 at 24.00 CET, at the latest.

* Nordic is defined here as Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and the autonomous areas Faroe Islands, Greenland and Åland Islands. ** The EFINORD also includes Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, NW Russia, Poland, Northern Germany, Northern UK, Ireland.

The aim of the joint SNS-EFINORD network call is to:

- Interlinking research projects in the Nordic, Baltic Sea and the North Atlantic regions.
- Increase synergies within forest research by networking and joint utilization of research facilities.
- Strengthen North European forest research and encourage researchers to participate in pan-European and international projects.

Regional synergy can be described as activities which otherwise would be carried out on national level, but where considerable positive effects can be reached through a wider regional scope.

Scope of the call

The applications are expected to contribute to the strategic goals of SNS and EFINORD. Both organizations share a common goal of supporting research in sustainable forest management, preferably with a cross-disciplinary approach.

Nordic Forest Research (SNS) strives to enhance benefits for the Nordic region and contribute to a sustainable society. For the strategy period, 2018-2021, emphasis is placed on three following strategic areas:

- Meeting the demands of sustainable forest management in a growing bioeconomy.
- Maintenance and increased utilization of ecosystem services.
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The SNS strategy for 2018-2021 can be [found here](#).

North European Regional Office of European Forest Institute (EFINORD) promote and facilitate research collaboration and interactions between science and policy in forestry issues that arises in the northern region. A particular focus is given to the bioeconomy research field in combination with natural- and social sciences for a world where forests significantly contribute to sustainable well-being across disciplines. The EFINORD currently has around 30 partner organizations.

EFINORD is focusing on economic, governance, and policy issues related to development of sustainable forest-based bioeconomy in the EFINORD region. The main priorities of key importance are:

- increasing sustainable biomass production; and
- securing sustainable provision of forest ecosystem services.

The strategic goals of EFINORD can be [found here](#).

Call conditions

- The total budget of the call is approx. 1 000 000 SEK. Network grants are for activities during 1 year and the applied amount per network should be approx. 100 000–200 000 SEK. A self-financing component of at minimum 50% of the total budget of the network is required.
- The funding should primarily be spent on networking activities such as travel and meeting costs, and related networking cost, e.g. costs of guest lecturers, printed material, database costs or website service costs (excl. hardware).
- Funding is not granted to labor costs, overhead, costs of board meetings or other administrative meetings.
- Researchers or communicators at research institutions in the Nordic, or in EFINORD countries are eligible to apply. Stakeholders are encouraged to be involved but cannot be main applicants.
- Applications must include research groups from at least three Nordic countries (or autonomous areas) and three other EFINORD countries. One Nordic country can be substituted by a Baltic country (Latvia, Lithuania or Estonia).
- The participants of the project shall reach 40-60% gender balance.
- PhD students and young researchers (researchers in the first 10 years of their research activity) shall participate in the network.
- For non-Nordic participants, there should be documented financial support to the network activities from the relevant countries.
- Cost-efficiency: We encourage applicants to ensure that the cost-per-person in the network application is reasonable. In addition to physical meetings we encourage applicants to take use of other means of meeting, e.g. video-conferences and web-based meetings to reduce travel costs and CO₂ emissions.
- Applications must be submitted by email using the [application form](#) available at the SNS website.

Communication activities and reporting

- The network is expected to keep the SNS and EFINORD informed about its ongoing activities by inviting the SNS secretariat and EFINORD to its events.
- Outputs of network findings are expected for publication by SNS in various channels such as 'News & Views', SNS Facebook and [website](#).
- The projects shall report its activities in a final report and submit a policy brief according to the templates available at the [SNS website](#).

Schedule

- The call is announced March 1st 2018 on the SNS and EFINORD websites and by mailing lists.
- Applications must be submitted no later than 24.00 CET on June 1st 2018.
- Decisions will be communicated by email to applicants in December 2018.
- Networks are expected to report its activities, including economic figures, as well as a policy brief no later than May 1st 2020. The reporting schemes and policy brief template are available for download on the [SNS website](#).

Evaluation and selection process

The applications are assessed by 3–5 members of the SNS board and 3–5 evaluators nominated by the EFINORD advisory group. The evaluation criteria are described below. The secretariat of SNS compile the results of the evaluations and prepare a joint proposal. Based on the proposal a decision on the selection is made at an SNS Board meeting, in which an authorized representative of EFI shall participate in the decision-making process.

Evaluation criteria

Quality of the application

- Does the network have clear aims?
- Are the planned activities clearly described?

Relevance

- Does the network activity increase regional synergy in the Nordic and North European regions?
- Is the activity/topic relevant to SNS and EFINORD strategies?

Composition of the network

- Does the activity involve at least three Nordic countries AND three other EFINORD countries?
- Does the network reach the requirement of 40-60% gender balance?
- Does the network have a plan for reaching effective gender equality?
- Does the network include PhD students and young researchers?
- Does the network have a plan to include and integrate PhD students and young researchers?

Expected outcome

- Will the network produce publishable outcomes derived from its activities?
- Does the activity aim to produce other outputs, e.g. websites, policy recommendations, open conferences, large-scale project applications, statistic using big data or other practical outputs?
- Is the overall connection between the aims and means viable?

Economic framework

- Is the activity in line with the amount applied?
- Is the self-financing component 50% or more of the total budget?
- Is the budget reasonable considering the aims, means and expected outcomes?
- Is the additional funding for participating non-Nordic participants documented?

Contact

For questions regarding your application, please email SNS at sns@slu.se