

The use of Norway grants and EEA grants in future Baltic–Nordic research collaboration

The workshop “The use of Norway grants and EEA grants in future Baltic–Nordic research collaboration” was hosted by NordForsk on 24 January 2024. The aim of the workshop was to discuss the Baltic-Nordic added value created in projects where researchers from the Baltic and Nordic countries collaborate.

Attendants were representatives from the Latvian Ministry of Education and Science, the Research Councils of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, the Nordic Council of Ministers Secretariat, the Nordic Council of Ministers Offices in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and NordForsk. A representative from the Research Council of Norway and a researcher from the University of Latvia were invited to give presentations.

The outcome of the workshop is this brief paper aiming to describe the effects of such collaboration. It demonstrates that national funders of research in the Baltic countries are very positive towards increased cooperation with the Nordic countries under NordForsk. The paper could be used as background material in the negotiations between the EEA countries and the EU regarding the next period for Norway grants and EEA grants.

The Nordic co-operation has had a strong standing in the 70 years of collaboration within the [Nordic Council](#) and the 50 years of collaboration within the framework of the [Nordic Council of Ministers](#). The concept of Nordic Added Value has been the fundamental principle for Nordic co-operation since the 1990's, articulating political significance and guiding funding decisions.

Celebrating the 50 years of collaboration the Nordic Council of Ministers published the survey “[Støtte og skuffelse](#)” (Support and disappointment, 2021). The survey indicates that the support for Nordic collaboration is very strong, and approximately 50 per cent deems Baltic-Nordic collaboration important or very important.

The collaboration between the Baltic countries and the Nordic countries is strong and has developed under the period since 1991. This includes [guidelines for Baltic-Nordic collaboration](#) within the framework of the Nordic Council of Ministers.

The report [Nordic added value in Nordic research co-operation](#) by Tuire Liimatainen (2023) examines the concept of Nordic added value in Nordic research co-operation funded by NordForsk under the Nordic Council of Ministers. The collaboration between Baltic countries and NordForsk has developed and increased over the years, and, to some extent, the report also explores Baltic-Nordic added value.