2005 – 2020

NordForsk's work with the UN Sustainable Development Goals

NordForsk

Photo: Kurt Gaasø

Introduction

In 2016, the Nordic Council established a working group whose purpose was to give recommendations to the Nordic Council and Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM) on the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in their activities. NordForsk, together with other institutions under the NCM, were encouraged to investigate how activities supporting the SDGs could be included in its work.

NordForsk's role is to facilitate effective and trustful research cooperation in the Nordic Region, to ensure that NordForsk-funded research has the highest international quality and that it realises Nordic added value.

A portfolio analysis covering the years 2009–2019 shows that NordForsk has funded research underpinning all the SDGs. However, number 3 Good health and well-being, 9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure, and 4 Quality education have received the most funding. This brochure gives a brief presentation of some of the NordForsk funded projects supporting the SDGs.

Arne Flåøyen
Director, NordForsk

All UN Sustainable Development Goals are addressed by granted funding

Total funding (million NOK) granted from 2013–2019 to Project Grants, Nordic Centres of Excellence and Nordic University Hubs relevant to each of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Circular Economy Integration in Nordic Industry – CIRCit

CIRCit shows how companies can make the transition to a circular economy. Sustainable business models are high on the agenda and this research project has helped companies to decouple value creation from resource consumption, focus on effectiveness rather than efficiency and encourage sustainability-driven goal-setting and decision-making.

The project has produced concrete work tools for making the transition to a circular economy.

Contributes to:

Adult Life after Childhood Cancer in Scandinavia (ALiCCS): Socioeconomic consequences of long-term survival

The project will improve our understanding of the implications cancer in young age may have on life. Education, having family and children, and a job are important and challenging life goals for anyone – but even more significant for cancer survivors.

By identifying survivors with the highest socioeconomic burden, the project develops early intervention strategies to support these subgroups of survivors through critical phases in life.

Contributes to:

Photo: Yadid Levy / Norden.org

Nordic Centre of Excellence for Security Technologies and Societal Values – NordSTEVA

The Nordic Centre for Security Technologies and Societal Values advances research; education and training; industrial strategy; and public policy, in support of a wider, deeper understanding of the security technology/values interface.

The Nordic Centre of Excellence gathers documentation and analysis of the complex relation between technology and values in the management of societal security. It develops concrete policies and tools to strengthen and enhance the resilience and security of Nordic societies.

Contributes to:

Nordic Centre of Excellence Justice through Education – JustEd

Research by the Nordic Centre of Excellence Justice through Education has shown that even in the Nordic countries educational systems do not provide fair and equal education for all.

The research results show that pupils are discriminated and marginalised based on social class, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, and disability. The centre has provided a knowledge base for helping policy makers and teacher education create equal access to quality education.

Contributes to:

Climate change effects on the epidemiology of infectious diseases and the impact on Northern societies – CLINF

The CLINF Nordic Centre of Excellence investigates the effects of climate change on the prevalence of infectious diseases in humans and animals in Northern regions and predicts the impact that changed risks of infections may have on northern societies, their culture, and their economy. CLINF research covers the geographic area from Nuuk in Greenland to Yakutsk in eastern Siberia.

CLINF will create new understanding regarding climate change effects on the geographic distribution and epidemiology of climate sensitive infectious diseases, and turn it into practical tools for decision-makers responsible for the development of northern societies. CLINF does this both by providing relevant data in an accessible form, and by developing an early warning system for climate sensitive infections at the local level.

Contributes to:

Coming of Age in Exile – CAGE

CAGE examines the impact of education and employment policies on the health of young refugees and thereby contributes to improvement of health among a vulnerable population group by suggesting better policies and interventions.

The project has identified policies and practices regarding education, labour market, initial health assessments and provision of health care among young refugees that may improve the inclusion of immigrants into society, and thereby reduce existing inequalities in their health and welfare.

Contributes to:

Photo: Johannes Jansson/norden.org

The Nordic Centre for Research on Marine Ecosystems and Resources under Climate Change – NcoE NorMER

This project builds a unique, cross-disciplinary framework for evaluating effects of climate change on Nordic marine ecosystems, with a particular focus on Atlantic cod. The centre has developed tools to predict the biological consequences associated with climate change, as well as tools for quantifying impacts on profit, employment, and harvesting of cod in the Nordic region.

The project shows that cod are sensitive to climate change, both to elevated temperatures and also to reduced food supply. The work also shows that fishers' mentalities and behaviour differ, and uses this knowledge to target fisheries with different policy instruments. All of these studies are linked to past environmental variability and ongoing changes in climate to reveal the need for adaptation of fisheries and their management into the future.

Contributes to:

Nordic Consortium for CO_2 Conversion – NordCO_2

In analogy to photosynthetic processes in nature, CO_2 can be employed as an alternative carbon source in chemical, pharmaceutical, and energy-related industries to synthesize essential substances. CO_2 is a sustainable and cheap raw material, but the development of chemical processes for efficient and selective conversion of CO_2 to desired products is a major challenge.

All consortium members have unique expertise on conversion of CO_2, for example via electrochemical, metal-catalyzed, or light-catalyzed processes. By combining these excellent Nordic research environments, new innovative technologies for CO_2 conversion will be developed.

Contributes to:

A Climate and Plant Phenomics Hub for Sustainable Agriculture and Forest Production in Future Nordic Climates – NordPlant

Changing climate and degrading agricultural land are global challenges for agriculture and forest production. These pressing issues, together with dwindling natural resources, will increase the pressure on agri-food systems and forestry at the same time as we have to provide sufficient, safe and nutritious food for a growing world population.

These challenges urgently call for new plant breeding and protection efforts to secure crop and forest production in future Nordic climate conditions. In the NordPlant consortium, five Nordic universities with versatile and complementing research infrastructures are joining forces to promote education, research mobility and technological development to meet future challenges in agriculture and forestry.

Contributes to:

Further reading

Read more about the Nordic co-operation on the Sustainable Development Goals at **www.norden.org/en/node/7569**

www.nordforsk.org/15years