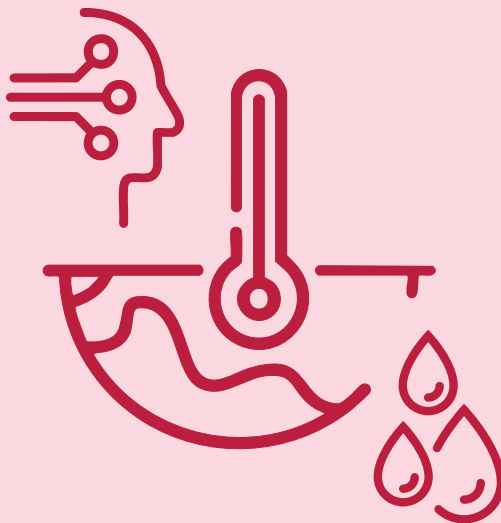


NordForsk Impact Report 2025



Director's preface

NordForsk celebrated its 20th anniversary in Malmö in June this year, where we were presented with a selection of examples of the excellent work carried out in the projects we have funded. It was with pride that I could see the impact these projects have contributed to, both within the research communities and for society at large. This is further documented in this year's Impact report.

We live in a world marked by increasing competition between countries and regions, and by declining trust between states and peoples. In recent years, we have seen how research cooperation with China has come under pressure, and, to both shock and sorrow for many of us, research cooperation with the United States can no longer continue as before.

When the world around us feels more threatening and uncertain, it is good to have good neighbours. The Nordic countries are geographically located far to the north, we share values, we have fairly similar institutions, and we have long traditions of cooperation. There is growing interest in strengthening Nordic collaboration in many areas, and I sense a renaissance in Nordic research cooperation.

Contributing to create Nordic Added Value is NordForsk's "reason to be." In recent years, we have therefore placed great emphasis on clarifying what is meant by Nordic Added Value in research cooperation. We have made the concept clearer for applicants seeking funding from NordForsk, and we place strong emphasis on researchers reporting on this dimension of their collaboration. We know that this is information many read with great interest, and it helps maintain the support and trust of Nordic politicians and partners in NordForsk's work.

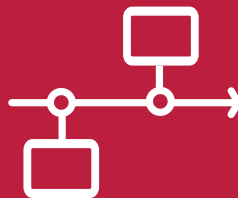
This year's report follows the same format as last year's, with only minor adjustments in reporting.

Finally, I would like to thank all grant holders who have conscientiously reported from their projects and thereby helped ensure that the report provides a good picture of the research NordForsk has funded in recent years.

Arne Flåøyen, Director of NordForsk

Key Figures

2025



125

Active projects



2 911

Publications



2 894

Dissemination
Activities



511

Collaborations
and Partnerships



216

Awards and
Recognition



214

Further Funding



195

Influence on Policy,
Patients, Practice,
and the Public

Impact stories

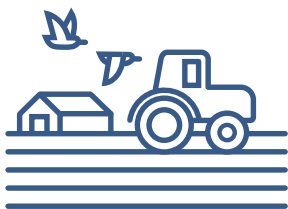
Impact stories are a short format we use to provide an overview of the research process from results and outputs, to outcomes and impact. These are constructed to swiftly communicate the significance of projects we have chosen to highlight.



Lessons from Ukrainian Refugee Integration in the Nordic-Baltic Region

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 forced millions to flee, creating one of the largest refugee movements in Europe in recent decades. The INFLUX project analysed how Ukrainian refugees have been integrated in Norway, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, and Lithuania, revealing major differences in outcomes.

The project produced seven policy briefs and the report *Refugee Integration and Governance in the Nordic-Baltic Region*, providing direct input to policymakers. The findings give governments tools to improve and streamline refugee integration policies and strengthen inclusive development across the Nordic-Baltic region.



Science-Based Solutions for Sustainable Fruit and Berry Farming

Fruit and berry production in the Nordic and Baltic countries faces a difficult balance: the European Union aims to reduce fertiliser and pesticide use, but this could lower yields in a region already marked by low self-sufficiency. In Estonia, for example, only 10 to 12 percent of consumed fruit is locally produced. The InNoBaHort project brings together researchers from Estonia, Finland, Sweden, Norway and Lithuania to develop science-based solutions that allow farmers to maintain yields while reducing environmental impacts.

Experiments in Finland and Estonia show that reducing nitrogen fertiliser by up to one third in strawberries does not necessarily affect yields, opening the door to more sustainable fertilisation practices. Researchers in Lithuania are testing biological alternatives to fungicides against grey mold, with some plant-based preparations already proving more effective than chemical treatments. In Sweden and Norway, scientists are studying European canker in apples and breeding for more resistant cultivars, while Norwegian teams are developing disease forecasting models to help farmers time fungicide use more precisely.

The project provides practical tools and new knowledge that safeguards local food production and supports a more sustainable agriculture across the region.



Better Follow-Up for Childhood Cancer Survivors

The Nordic ALL-Star project was building a Nordic platform to study long-term health among survivors of childhood Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL), the most common childhood cancer. Cure rates for ALL in the Nordics now exceed 90%, which is some of the best in the world, but many survivors face serious side effects from treatment.

Preliminary findings revealed that repeated blood transfusions can lead to high ferritin levels, a risk factor not traditionally screened for. As a result, all survivors in the Nordic countries are now screened for ferritin, allowing earlier interventions to protect organ function. Upcoming analyses will further guide screening and treatment strategies.

By combining data from across the Nordic region, ALL-STAR provided new evidence to improve clinical practice, patient outcomes, and long-term quality of life for childhood cancer survivors.

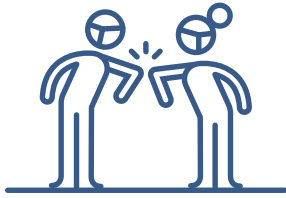


Strengthening Climate Preparedness in Remote Nordic Communities

Extreme weather is becoming more frequent in the Nordic region, with avalanches, floods, fires, and landslides affecting small and remote communities that often lack immediate access to large emergency services.

The CliCNord project studied how these communities can better prepare for climate risks and found that engaging citizens, civil society, and the private sector strengthens crisis management and creates shared responsibility.

The project produced practical recommendations for local authorities, including expanding fire brigades' roles on Danish islands and simplifying flood protection rules. By turning research into concrete guidelines, CliCNord helps Nordic communities improve resilience against extreme weather.

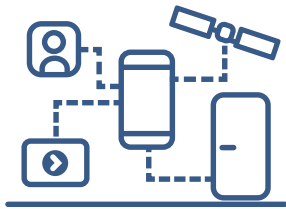


Recommendations to Improve Recovery from Long-Term Health Consequences of COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic left many with long-term health challenges, known as post-COVID condition (PCC), which strain individuals, health systems, and economies.

A Nordic expert group coordinated by NordForsk has published a policy paper on PCC, calling for multidisciplinary research on causes, treatment, and rehabilitation, as well as stronger Nordic collaboration platforms. The recommendations have already been translated into action, with NordForsk launching new calls that created three Nordic PCC research networks starting in 2025.

The initiative ensures that lessons from COVID-19 are used to strengthen Nordic preparedness for future health crises.



Understanding Edge Intelligence through Nordic Expertise

Most artificial intelligence today relies on large, centralised clouds, but this model poses risks for privacy, security, and efficiency.

The NUI project is advancing edge intelligence by decentralising AI to local “mini-clouds” and smart devices. This strengthens privacy, reduces latency, and improves resilience.

A collaboration among four Nordic universities is generating experience directly relevant for the rollout of 6G standards. The project provides Nordic societies with tools to build a more secure and trustworthy digital infrastructure.

Nordic added value

NordForsk funded projects create Nordic added value in a number of ways. For example, by enhancing the scientific quality and building critical expertise at the Nordic level.

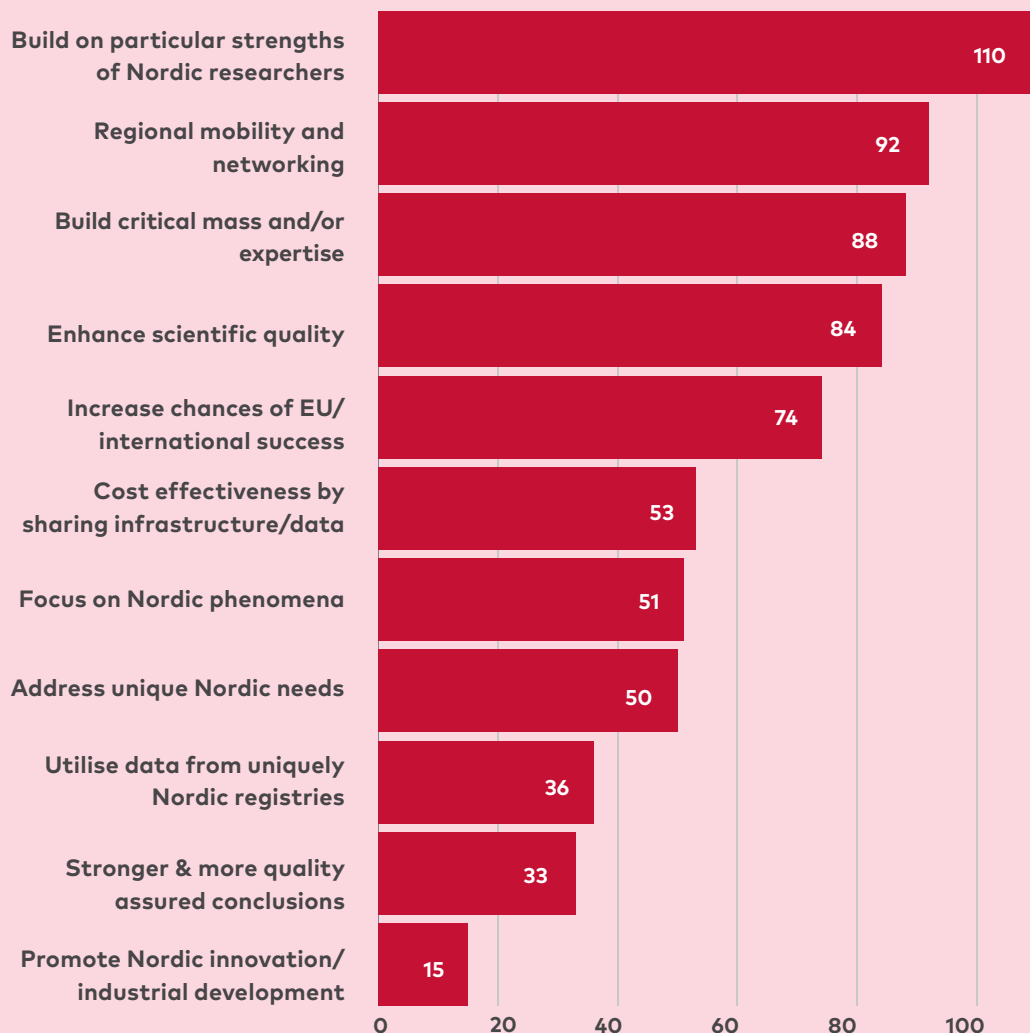
We have decided our own definition of Nordic added value to be used when developing research areas, designing calls for proposals, assessing grant applications and reporting impact.

In all, we have 11 categories reflective of our strategic goals on how research creates Nordic added value. Our projects create Nordic added value within all the different categories.

The Nordic added value reported here is based on project data from their whole funding periods.

Read more about Nordic added value at nordforsk.org.

Nordic added value in active NordForsk projects



Total number of projects having reported Nordic added value: 113

Publications

Research outcome can be presented in various ways. Of the many different outcome types the funded NordForsk projects can register in Researchfish, publications are among the most commonly reported.

The researchers can choose among 16 different publication types, such as book chapters, monographs, technical reports and conference papers. Publications are results in of themselves, but can also be considered mediators between research and its dissemination, and thus a proxy indicator of any effect.



2 911

Original publications



93

Projects reporting at
least one publication



32.16

Average number of publications for projects
reporting at least one publication

1 579

Journal Article

295

**Conference
Proceeding
Abstract**

420

Book Chapter

95

Thesis

104

Book

418

Other

Eg. policy briefing,
consultancy or technical
report, manual/
guide, preprint, book
edited, working paper,
monograph.

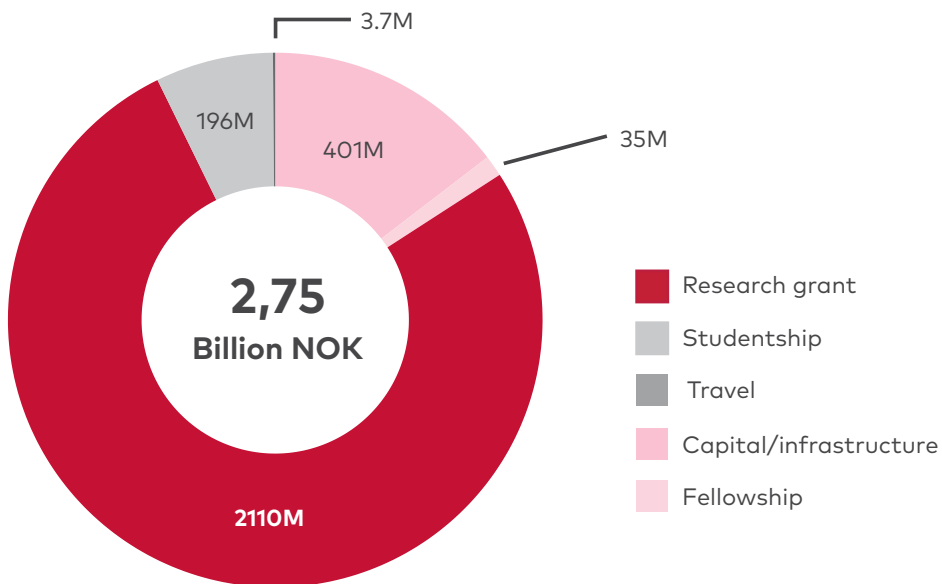
Funding

When projects successfully receive new research grants and other funding, this is an indicator of the excellence of the research consortium, of added value and of sustainability of the research collaboration.

NordForsk funded projects report further funding to quite a large extent. The most frequent further funding purpose are general research grants, including intramural ones.

This section contains a cross-section of the funding allocation of our active portfolio as well as an overview of the reported instances of success in receiving further funding.

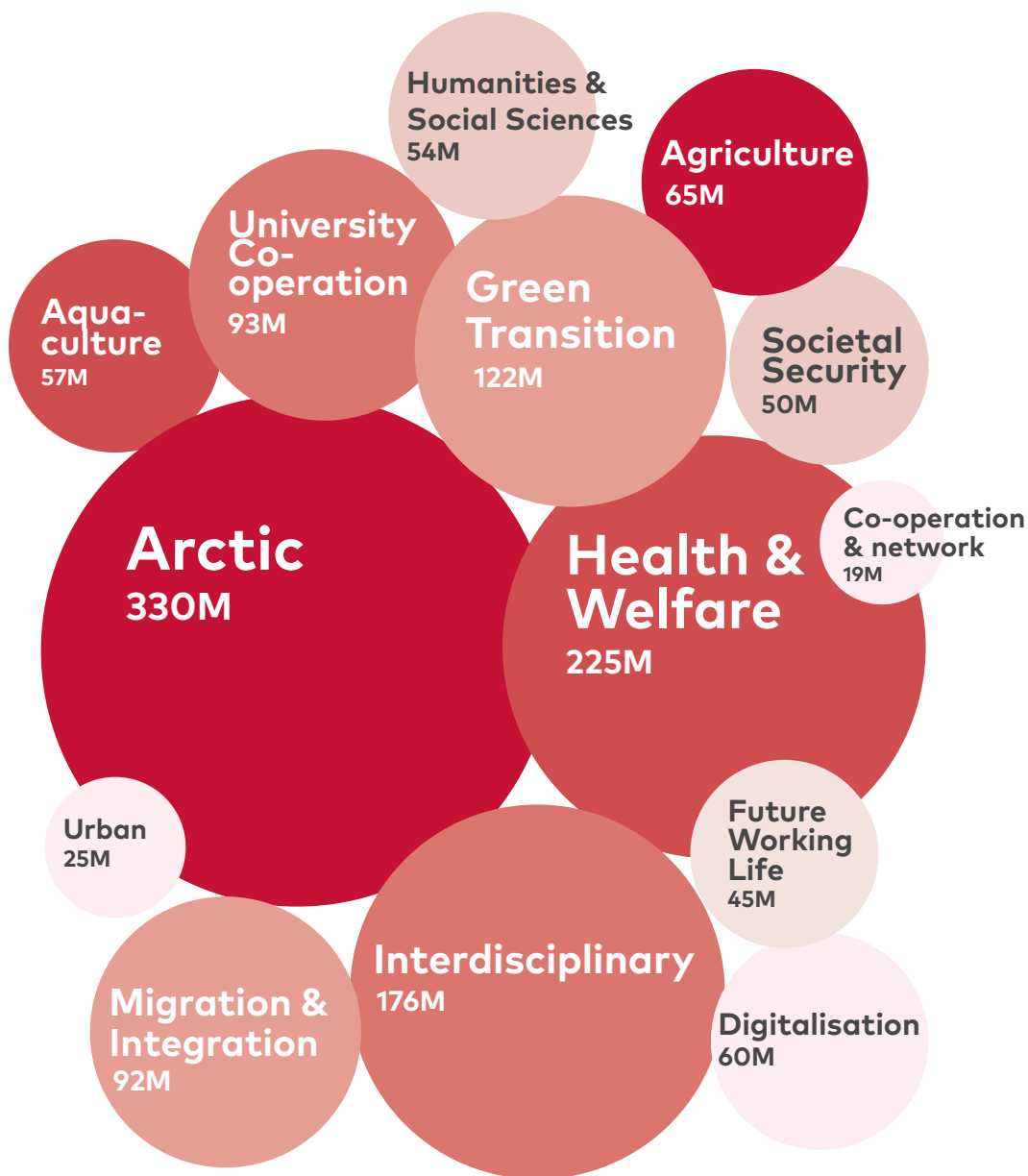
Further funding by type



214

Instances of further funding

NordForsk funding allocation of actively reporting portfolio (NOK)



Policy influence

Informing on policymaking processes and decisions is a concrete example of societal impact. Thus, we ask the projects to report on policy influence, more specifically the count of instances and what kind of influence, as well as reported outcomes.

We expect this quantification of policy influence to be an indicator of the scope, character, and impact of the influence that the research and researchers have had.



47

Projects reporting
at least one policy
influence



195

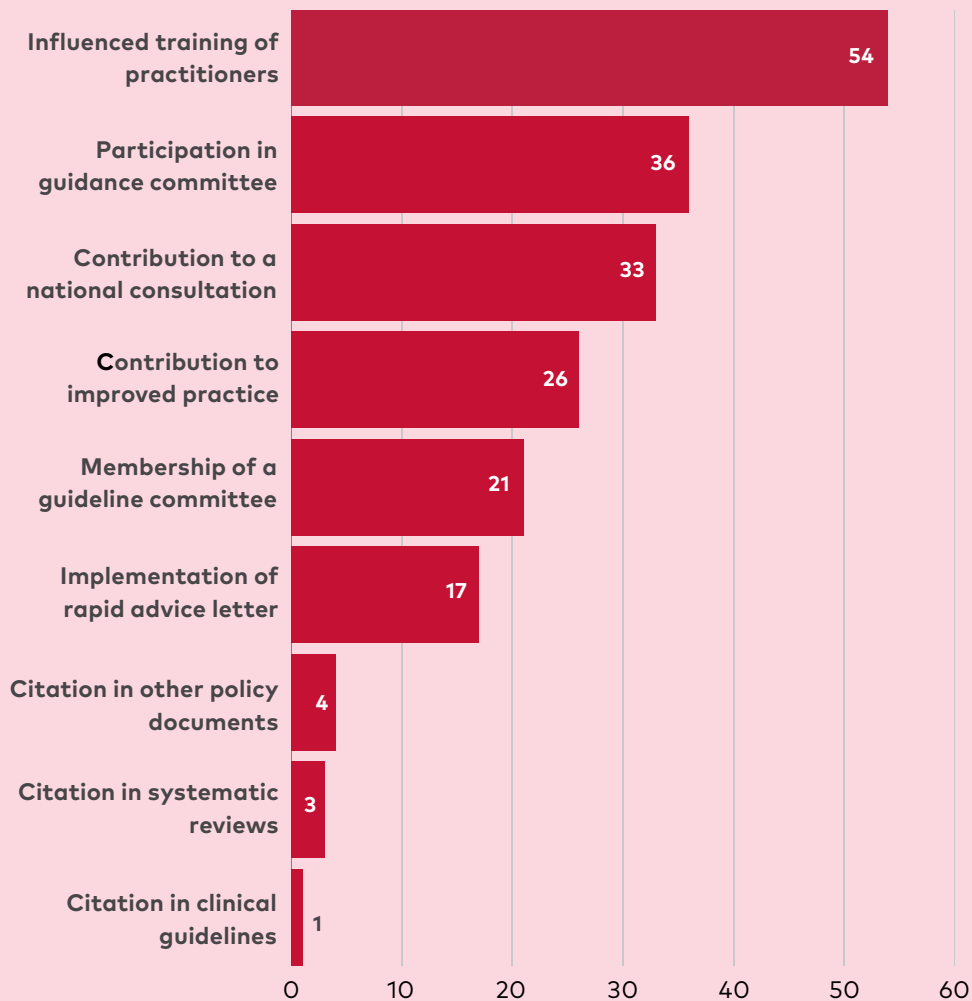
Unique policy
influences



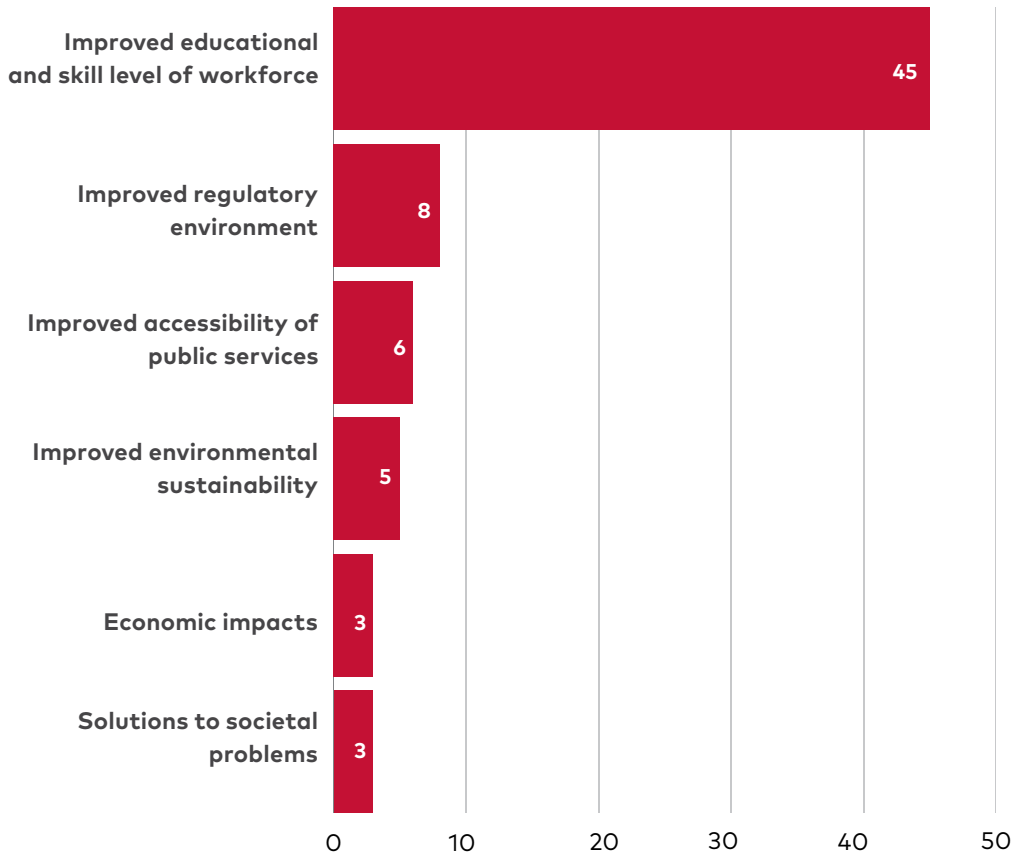
4.15

Average number of projects
reporting at least one policy influence

Policy influence by type



Policy influence by reported impact



Dissemination

Researchers communicate beyond journals, books and other scientific publications. They tell the public what they do, why, and what results they produce. Communicating research may build support for and understanding of science. It can promote understanding of the wider relevance of research to society, and encourage more informed decision-making.

All our projects produce a communication plan, and all projects report on how they communicate. This quantification includes the type of communication, the main target groups that have been engaged, outcome, and extent. In contrast to policy influence, this measure focuses on the broader public audience.



83

**Projects reporting at
least one dissemination**



2894

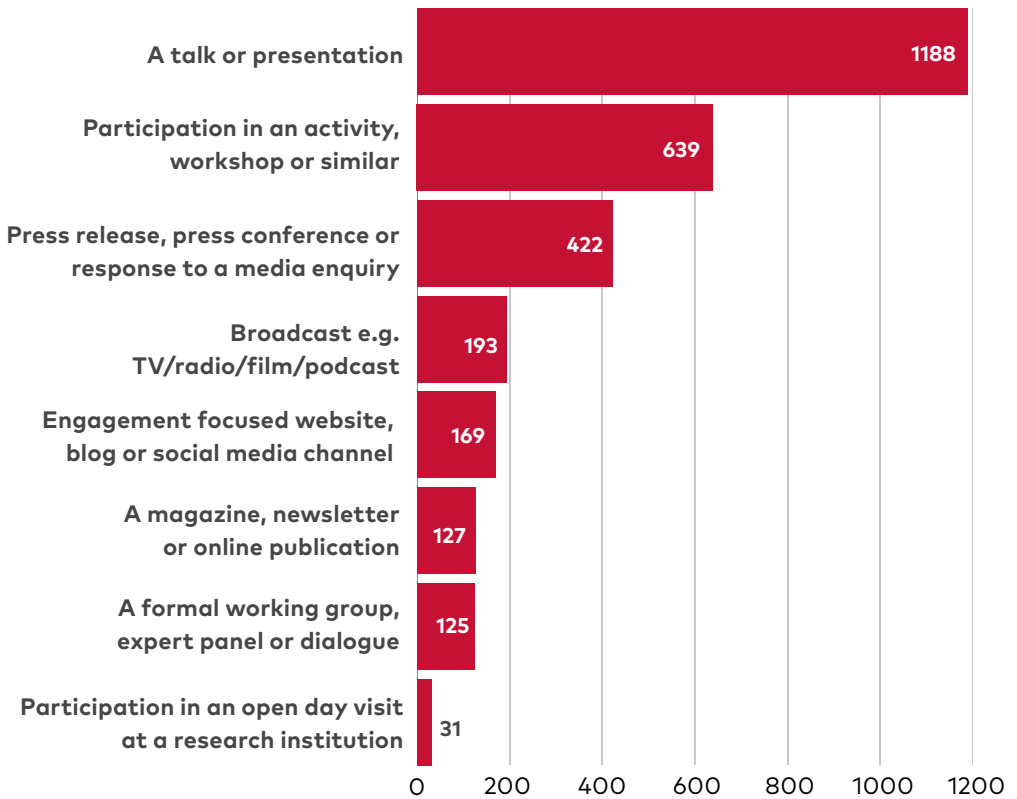
**Unique
disseminations**



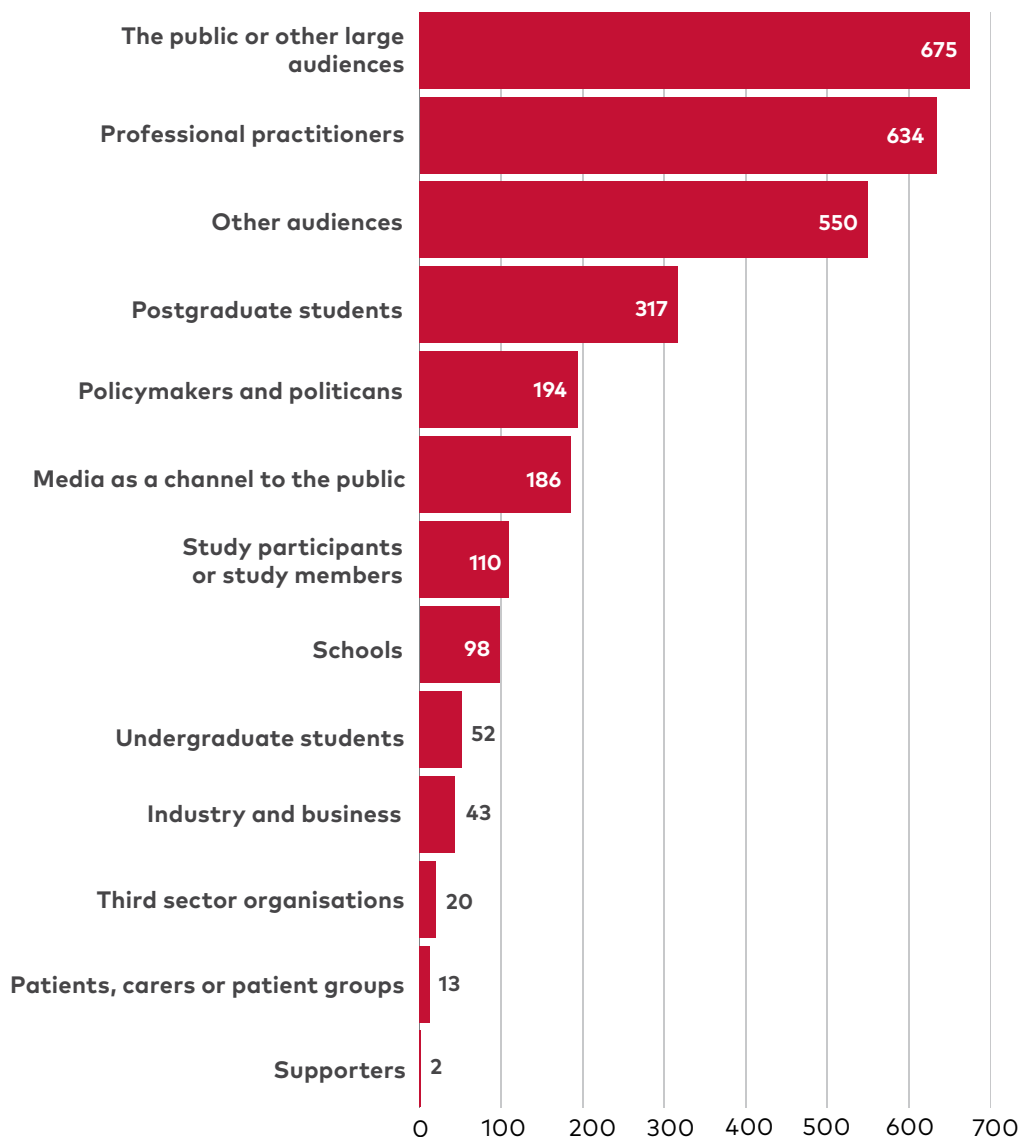
34.87

**Average number of disseminations for projects
reporting at least one dissemination**

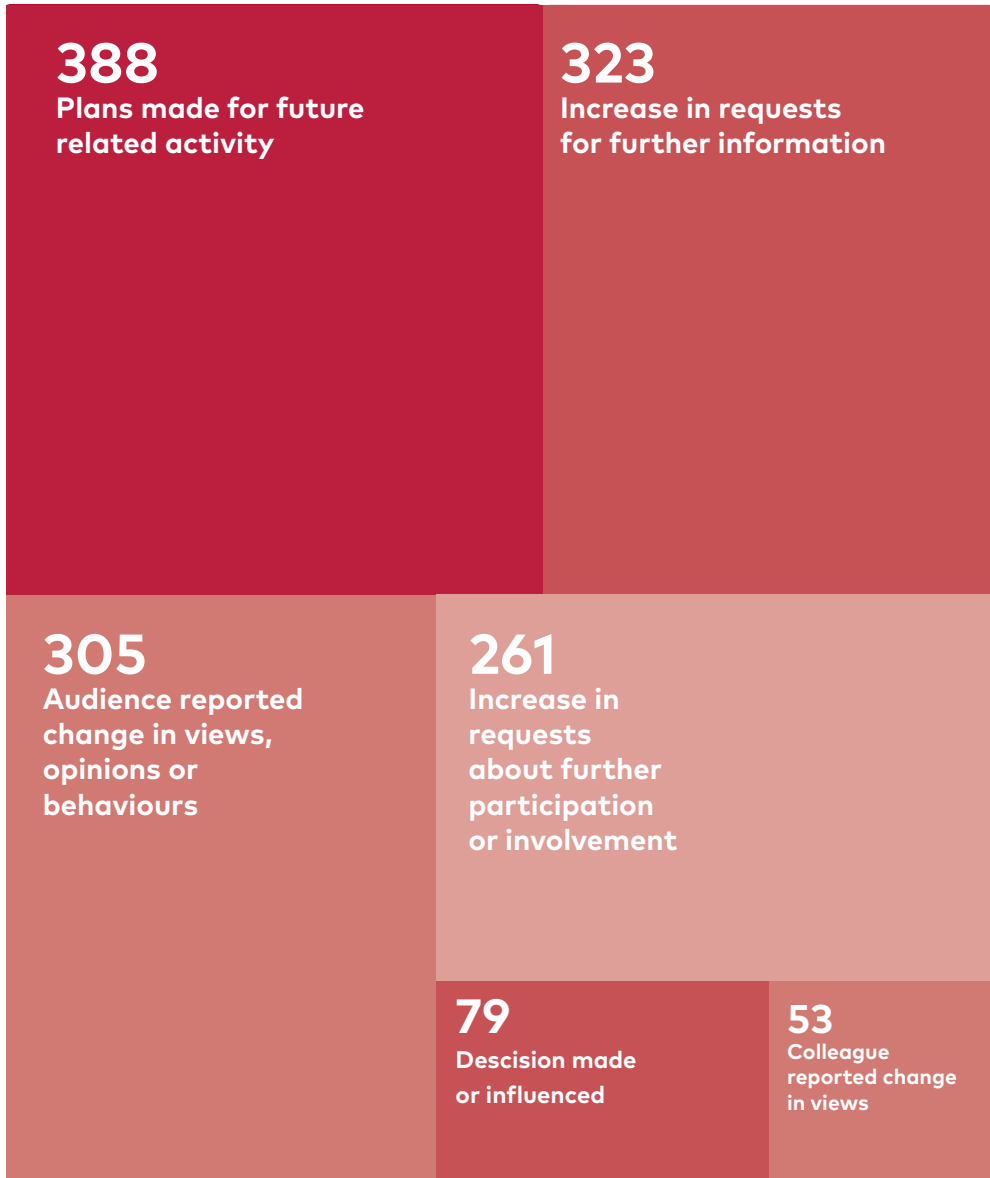
Dissemination activities by type



Dissemination activities by primary audience



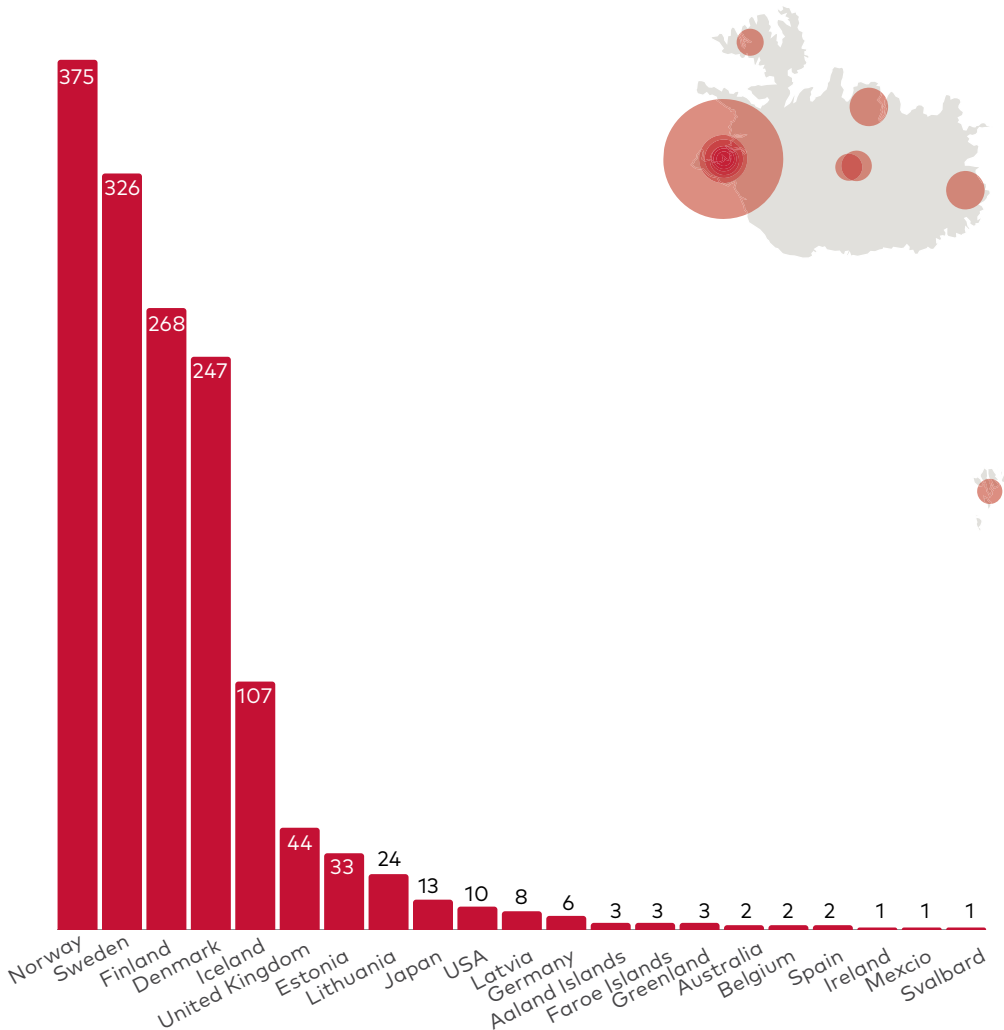
Disseminations by reported outcomes

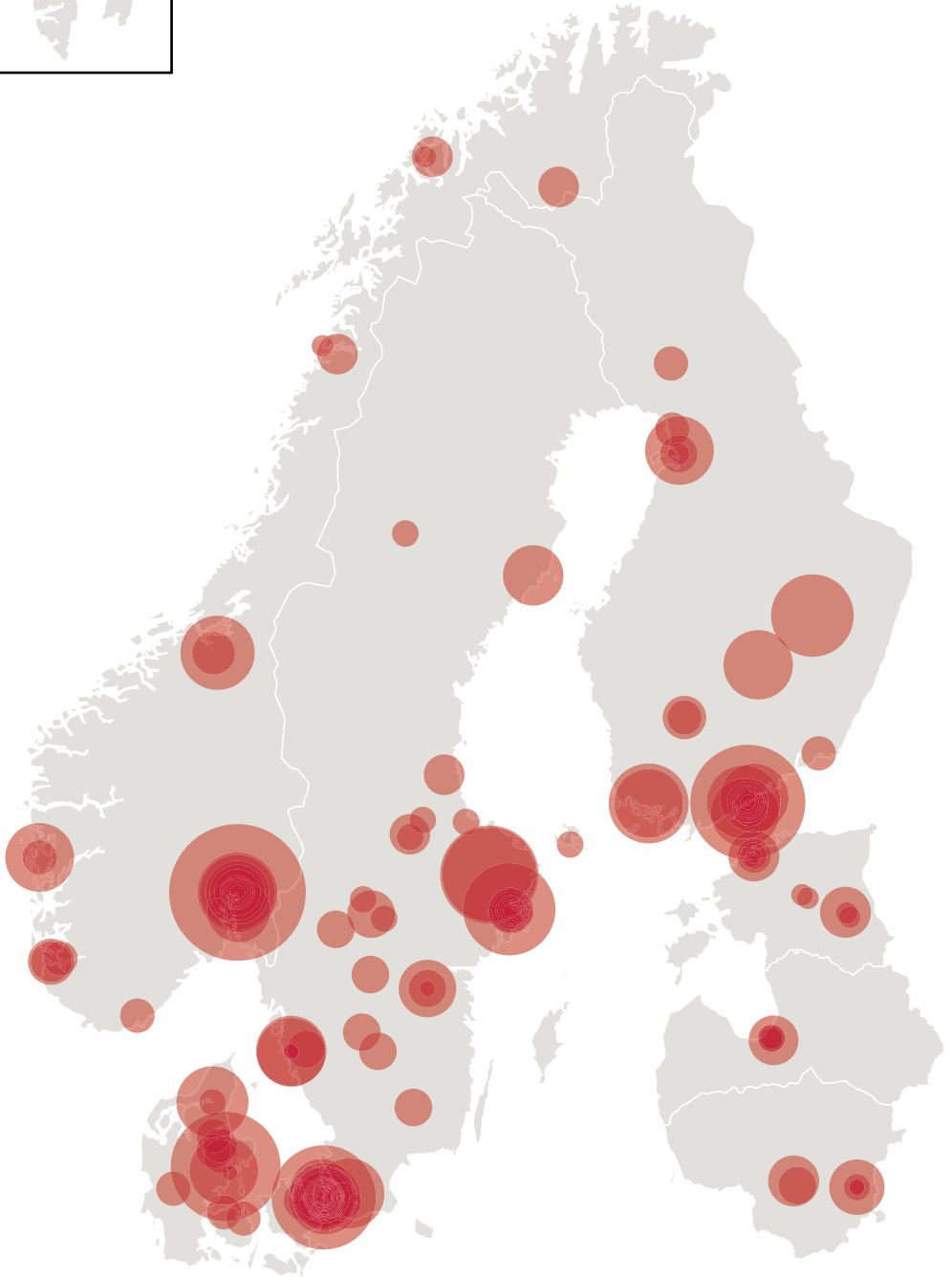


NordForsk research by geography

One of the criteria for Nordic added value in research is regional mobility and networking among the Nordic countries. A benchmark for assessing whether this succeeds is to look at the geographical location of the projects and researchers.

The map shows the location and count of partners in NordForsk funded research projects in the Nordics and Baltics. Each circle represents an institution. The size represents the count of researchers in NordForsk funded research projects within that institution. The graph shows active researchers in reporting cohort by country.





About the data

In this year's impact report, we review the reported outcomes and indicators from our active project portfolio. Out of 125 active projects expected to report, 115 submitted data, resulting in a response rate of 92%. This provides us with a representative cross section of our portfolio to be presented in the report.

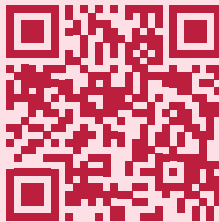
The data is collected annually from project leaders and entered into a structured database, which feeds directly into our analytical tools. This setup enables efficient analysis of key indicators, their development over time, and their relationships with each other. To ensure transparency, we make the aggregated results openly available through our impact dashboard, first launched in early 2024.

Alongside the quantitative data, we also contribute to the broader discussion on research impact. In 2023, we published *Nordic Perspectives on Research Impact*, based on interviews with Nordic research councils, adding a qualitative perspective to our data-driven approach. Further, we continually engage on the subject with stakeholders and actors across the world. So far, the discussions have been both helpful and inspiring - even innovating to some degree.

We remain committed to developing our methods for collecting, analysing, and sharing impact data and practice. Updated tools, publications, and knowledge resources can be found on our website.

Simon Jernroth, Analytics Officer

Visit our online impact resources [here](#):





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