



Nordic Innovation Programme – Nordic Built

A Nordic initiative to accelerate the development of sustainable building concepts





1. Nordic Built – background and overall aim

Nordic Built is a joint Nordic initiative of the Nordic ministers for trade and industry to accelerate Nordic competitive concepts for a sustainable built environment. The programme was launched in 2011 to help realise the vision of the Nordic region as a leading innovative region within green growth and welfare.

The Nordic Built programme shall combine key Nordic strengths, provide attractive and effective arenas for collaboration and realise concrete projects that demonstrate world-class scalable solutions.

In line with this ambition, Nordic Built is launching a new call for proposals for innovation projects that promote sustainable building in the Nordic region and export of Nordic solutions beyond the region. This round of funding is a continuation of the previous initiatives of Nordic Built: The Nordic Built Charter, The Nordic Built Challenge and the first Nordic Built call for proposals. Read more about previous efforts here: www.nordicbuilt.org

2. The application process – a one stage process

This call for proposals will be structured as a one stage open call for proposals. Applicants will only submit one full application to Nordic Innovation. Applications shall be submitted through Nordic Innovation's web portal: [Click here to find the link at the Nordic Built webpage](#)

Applicants should familiarise themselves with the portal before writing an application.

The deadline for applications is 15 October 2014.

After an application is submitted, Nordic Innovation will assess if the project meets basic eligibility criteria described under point 5 in this text. Projects that meet these criteria will be sent to an external expert evaluation panel for a review based on the assessment criteria described under point 7 in this text. Projects that do not meet the basic eligibility criteria will be rejected without substantive consideration.

Based on the recommendations from the expert panel, Nordic Innovation's board will make the final funding decision for the projects in December 2014 according to plan.



3. Timeline

This call for proposals opens 28 May 2014.

The deadline for applications is 15 October 2014.

Nordic Innovation's board will meet December 2014. The applicant will be informed of the decision immediately after Nordic Innovation's board meeting.

4. Budget

The total amount of funding under this call for proposals is maximum 20 MNOK. The maximum that can be awarded for one project is 4 MNOK. See the section on project types for details.

5. Basic eligibility criteria

For a project to receive funding under this call for proposals, these basic eligibility criteria must be met:

- The project must include partners from **at least three Nordic countries** with a reasonable balance between the different nations.
- Nordic Built can only fund projects submitted by organisations (private or public) that are **based and operate in** one or more of **the Nordic countries**.
- No more than 50% of the budget can come from public funding (Nordic Innovation funds counts as public funding).
- The duration of the project must be **no longer than 36 (thirty-six) months**.
- The project must lead to a **concrete innovative result** (new concept, process, product or service) that should be communicated and shared on a Nordic and international level.
- The funding from Nordic Innovation should have a **clear incentive effect** on the project, and can only be granted given that the project participants are risking own input in order to gain a greater benefit. National co-funding in the projects must be dependent on Nordic Innovation funding.
- The project partners that will receive funding in the project must be prepared to be **eligible for de minimis state aid** under European Commission Regulation (EC) [No](#)



[1407/2013](#) (See the section on State aid below). This criteria only applies to entities that engage in “economic activity” and therefore are subject to the European state aid rules.

6. Assessment criteria

The field of sustainable building covers a wide scope of technological, environmental, social and economic aspects. Only the best applications that address key aspects of sustainable building will be granted funding. The assessment criteria for applications are the following:

- Is the project of very high quality and/or scientific value?
- Does the project provide added Nordic value (does the project promote Nordic cooperation and build on new or existing synergies between at least three Nordic countries - creating a Nordic added value that is greater than the sum of its parts)?
- Is the project truly a Nordic cooperation project? Is there a reasonable balance between partners from at least three Nordic countries?
- Does the project address a real market need in the Nordic countries?
- Does the project lead to measurable increases in sustainability (social, environmental and economic)?
- Is the project innovative? Does it bring forward new value in the form of a new concept, process, business model, product or service?
- Are the applicants providing substantial co-funding from businesses and assuming own risk? A high degree of own investment from the applicants will be assessed positively as it demonstrates commitment to use the results of the project.
- Collaborative efforts will be prioritised. This could be efforts that combine multiple companies or/and public/private partnerships, collaboration between academia and business and cooperation across Nordic borders.

7. Project types



The proposals should address common Nordic problems and not be only specific to one national context. The project participants should look at the broad picture; we encourage multidisciplinary projects.

The following types of projects can obtain funding through this call for proposals:

7.1 *New sustainable building or refurbishment concepts.*

Projects that focus on the development and/or demonstration of new sustainable building or refurbishment concepts. *Development projects* should lead to a product, service or process that is innovative in its market segment, which provide measurable sustainability gains and can be introduced to the market within three years after project start.

A *demonstration project* is defined as an experimental testing of a technology, a system or method under realistic conditions for subsequent deployment or further development before market introduction.

New sustainable building concepts projects can be funded with up to 4.000.000 NOK.

7.2 *New innovative and sustainable business model for new buildings and for refurbishment of existing buildings.*

Projects that focus on the development and/or demonstration of new sustainable business models for new building projects and refurbishment projects. Business model concepts may include integration of technologies, improving or re-engineering the renovation processes and services, innovation in financial instruments to address new funding models, how to overcome owner-/user-dilemma, behavioural, organisational or financial barriers to sustainable building.

Development projects should lead to a business model that is innovative in its market segment, which provide measurable sustainability gains and can be introduced on the market within three years after project start.

A *demonstration project* is defined as an experimental testing of a business model under realistic conditions for subsequent deployment or further development before market introduction.

New Innovative and sustainable business model projects can be funded with up to 2.000.000 NOK

7.3 *Projects that generally promote the Nordic Built Charter or generally promote Nordic cooperation within sustainable building.*



The projects should bring added Nordic value in the form of new cooperation across Nordic borders, break down barriers for Nordic cooperation and a common Nordic market or any other added value derived from a Nordic approach. That includes i.e. projects that promote the use and knowledge of the Nordic Built Charter in the Nordic building sector, projects that bring lessons learned in one Nordic country to the other Nordic countries or projects that promote Nordic sustainable building products or services in export markets.

This could be network projects, education programs, promotion efforts or other innovation projects within the framework of sustainable building and renovation of the existing building stock.

Projects that generally promote Nordic cooperation within sustainable building and sustainable refurbishment can be funded with up to 2.000.000 NOK.

8. State aid

There are some doubts with regard to whether grants from Nordic Innovation should be regarded as State aid subject to EU and EEA law. Pending clarification from the Nordic countries, Nordic Innovation has decided to follow State aid rules, and will proceed with the grant as described below:

Explainer: State aid rules only applies to organisations that conduct economic activity. If a project participant does not conduct economic activity, grants can be given without further consideration.

Definition of economic activity: Any activity consisting in offering goods and/or services in a given market is an economic activity. In this context, the fact that the activity in question is termed 'social' or is carried on by a non-profit operator is not in itself enough to avoid classification as an economic activity.

Funding for project participants that conduct economic activity is planned to be granted as de minimis aid under Commission Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid, published in the Official Journal of the European Union L 352/1 on 24.12.2013.

De minimis ceiling:

For grants to fall within the de minimis ceiling, the following should apply for each project participant:

- Aid of no more than EUR 200 000 shall be granted over a period of three years.
- The three-year period corresponds to three financial years.



- Applicants that conduct economic activity are responsible for documenting that they are eligible for de minimis funding.

9. Ineligible costs:

Costs that are not eligible for funding include but are not limited to:

- Basic research
- Investments in individual companies
- Independent freelance activities
- Writing applications
- Costs for procurement of equipment
- Overtime costs
- Salary increases
- Indirect taxes and duties, including VAT
- "Return on capital employed", including dividends and other distributions of profits
- Provisions for possible future losses or charges
- Costs related to any interest
- Provisions for doubtful debts
- Unnecessary or ill-considered expenses
- Marketing, sales and distribution costs for products and services
- Leasing costs (or part thereof) where the leasing arrangement has the effect of unnecessarily increasing the charge made to the project (e.g. where the cost without interest of the leased equipment is higher than if purchased)

10. National partner organisations

This funding program is organised in cooperation with relevant stakeholders in the Nordic countries. If your project does not fit with our basic eligibility criteria, we recommend that you consider the possibilities for national funding through our national partners:

FINLAND

[Tekes](#)

DENMARK

[Energiteknologisk Udviklings- og Demonstrationsprogram, EUDP](#)

SWEDEN

[Energimyndigheten](#)

[Formas](#)

ICELAND



Rannis

NORWAY

Innovasjon Norge
Forskningsrådet
Enova

11. Contact

For questions regarding the text or how to apply, please contact:

Hans Fridberg
Senior innovation adviser, Nordic Innovation
Mobile: +47 469 20 340
h.fridberg@nordicinnovation.org

For questions regarding the application form or state aid rules, please contact:

Haukur Stefansson
Senior administration adviser, Nordic Innovation
Mobile: +47 930 55 131
h.stefansson@nordicinnovation.org