

# NordForsk Impact Report 2023



NordForsk

# The reason to be for Nordic research cooperation

Measuring and communicating impact created by NordForsk funded research is one of our most important tasks. When we are documenting results and effects, we are also ensuring transparency and maintaining trust in Nordic research co-operation.

This second NordForsk impact report contains the same parameters and is built on the same self-reported numbers and data in Researchfish as last year's report. However, the numbers cannot always be compared with last year's numbers. We will later in the report explain why not.

We experienced that last year's report was well received among our stakeholders, and we are convinced it is highly relevant continuing with reporting in this format. The format is easily accessible, and it gives a good picture of the various activities NordForsk has funded. The report has also inspired other institutions and other parts of the Nordic Council of Ministers to work with systems for identifying and reporting impact created within and by their organisations.

The "reason to be" for NordForsk is our ability to fund projects of high international quality which also create Nordic added value. Last year, we funded a research project at the University of Helsinki, studying Nordic added value in Nordic research co-operation. Tuire Liimatainen, who has written the report, stated that Nordic added value can today be defined as the positive effects of joint Nordic efforts that strengthen the Nordic region as a cultural and historical community, and as a locally and

globally competitive and sustainable welfare society. The project has given us an in-depth understanding on the use of the term Nordic added value in Nordic research co-operation. This impact report presents the most important Nordic added values created by the projects NordForsk has funded.

The report also shows that NordForsk funds research all across the Nordics and also in the Baltics. Taken the size of the populations in consideration, our investigations show that Swedish researchers are underrepresented compared with researchers in the other Nordic countries. We will try to find out why, and see if there is something we can do to increase the participation from Sweden in NordForsk funded projects.

I am very pleased that we can show the impact of the research we fund. This provides good insight and enables us to better assess what our research funding contributes back to society. This will be intensified in the coming years.

*Arne Flåøyen, Director of NordForsk*

# 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.**

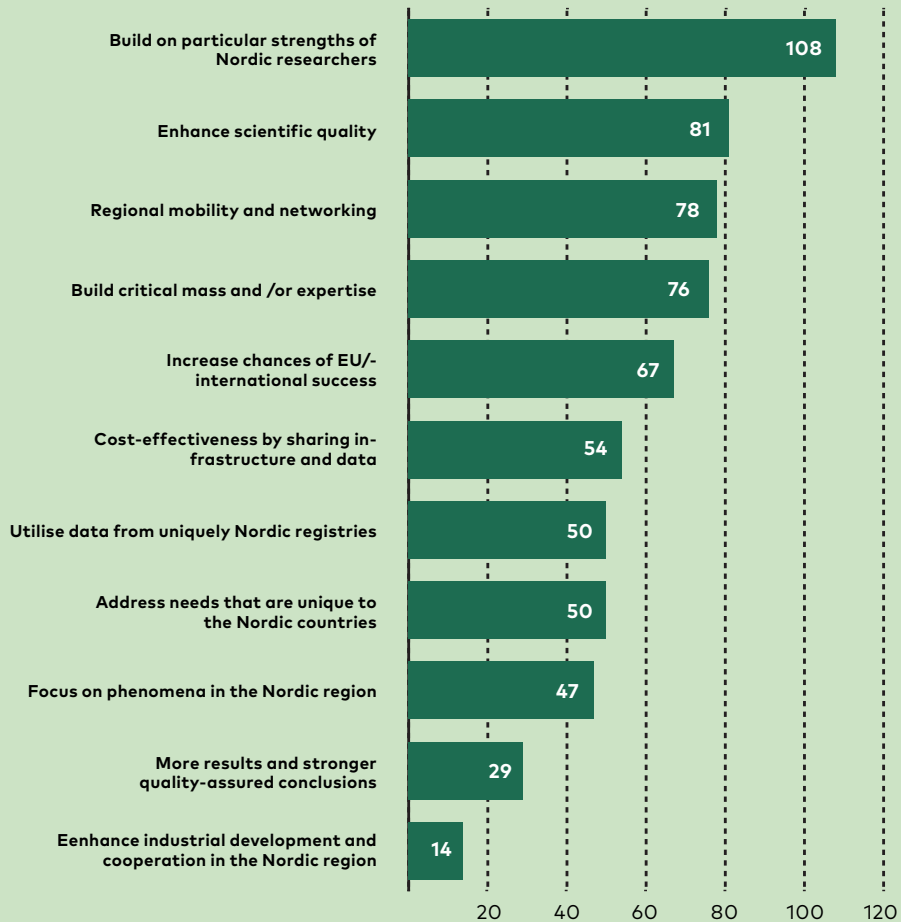
We have devised our own definition of Nordic added value to be used when developing research areas, designing calls for proposals, assessing grant applications and reporting impact.

In all, we have 11 categories 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](https://nordforsk.org).

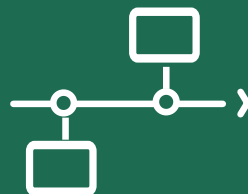
# Nordic added value in NordForsk projects



Total number of projects having reported Nordic added value: 113

# Key Figures

2023



**142**

Projects



**1 838**

Publications



**1 979**

Dissemination  
Activities



**483**

Collaborations  
and Partnerships



**240**

Awards and  
Recognition



**163**

Further Funding



**136**

Influence on Policy,  
Patients, Practice,  
and the Public

# 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.



**1 838**

Original publications



**88.31%**

Projects reporting at least  
one publication



**27.07**

Mean number of publications for projects  
reporting at least one publication



**1 169**  
Journal Article

**264**  
Book Chapter

**181**  
Other

- Policy Briefing Report
- Consultancy report
- Technical Report
- Manual/Guide
- Preprint
- Book Edited
- Working Paper
- Monograph

**64**  
Book

**111**  
Conference Proceeding  
Abstract

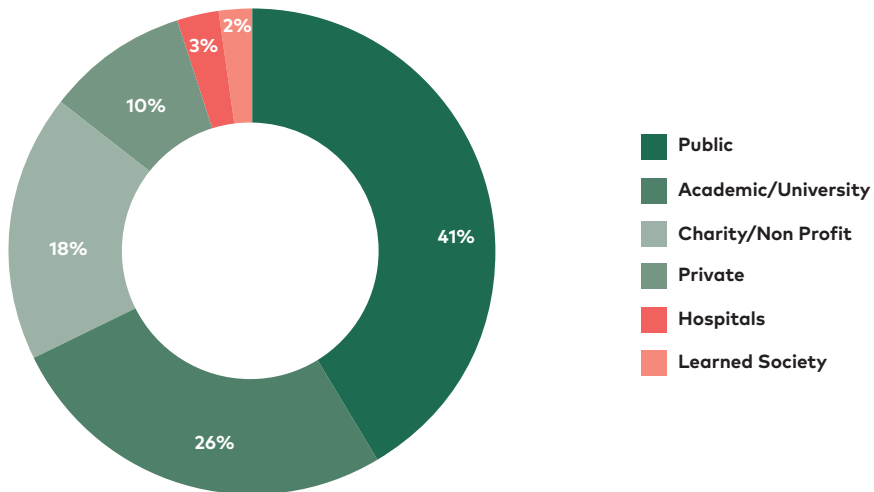
**49** Thesis

# 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 funding source, as seen in the figure below, is public funding. 47 projects reported at least one instance of further funding in 2023 with 163 instances of further funding in total. The programme allocation of the total funding value of 1.44 billion NOK gives an indication of the focal points of our research in the submission period of 2023.

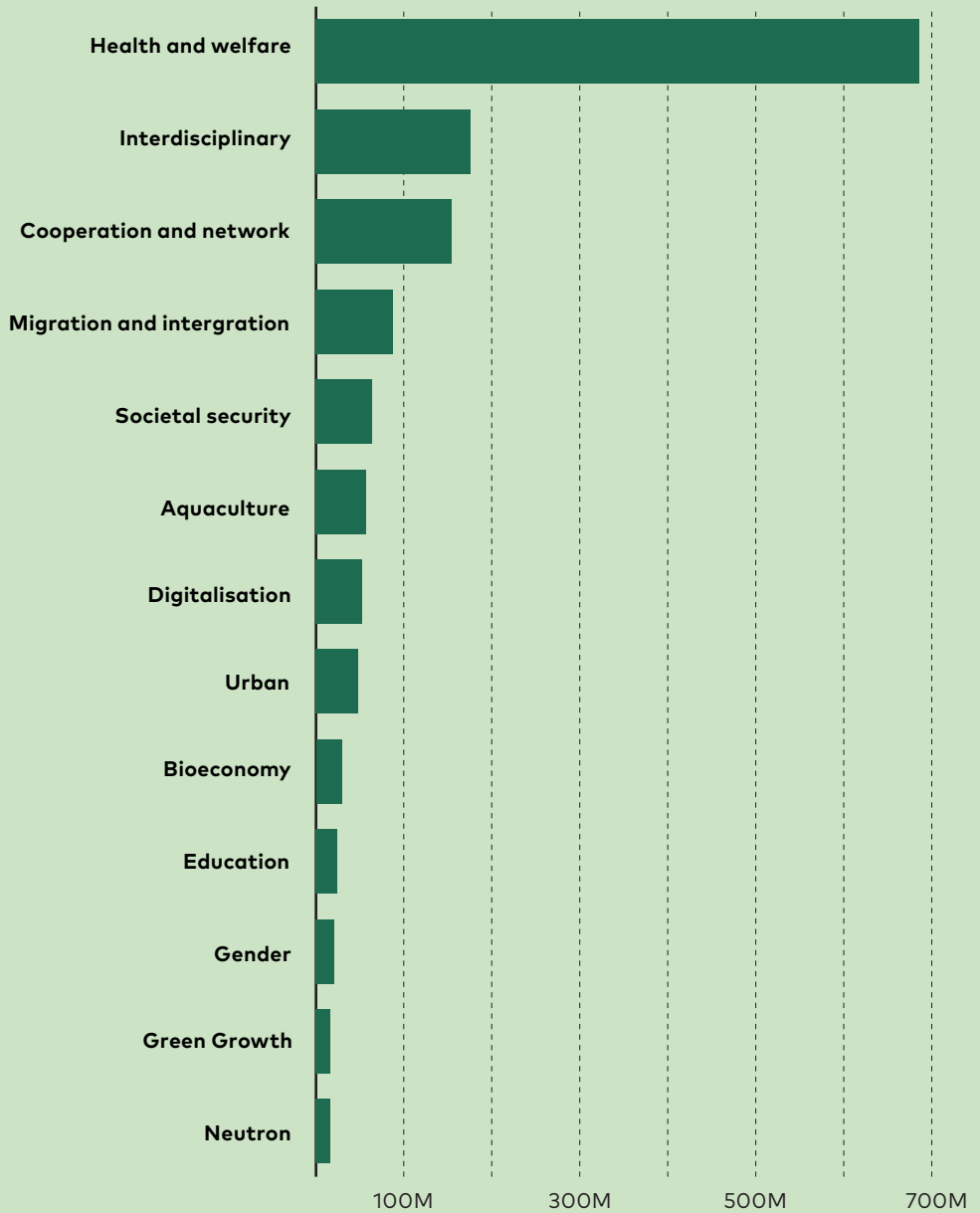
## Instances of further funding by sector



**163**

Instances of further funding

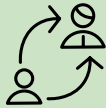
## Funding value (NOK) by research area



# Policy influence

Influence 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 amount 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. The reported outcomes may give some indication of effect.



**31**

**Projects reporting  
at least one policy  
influence**



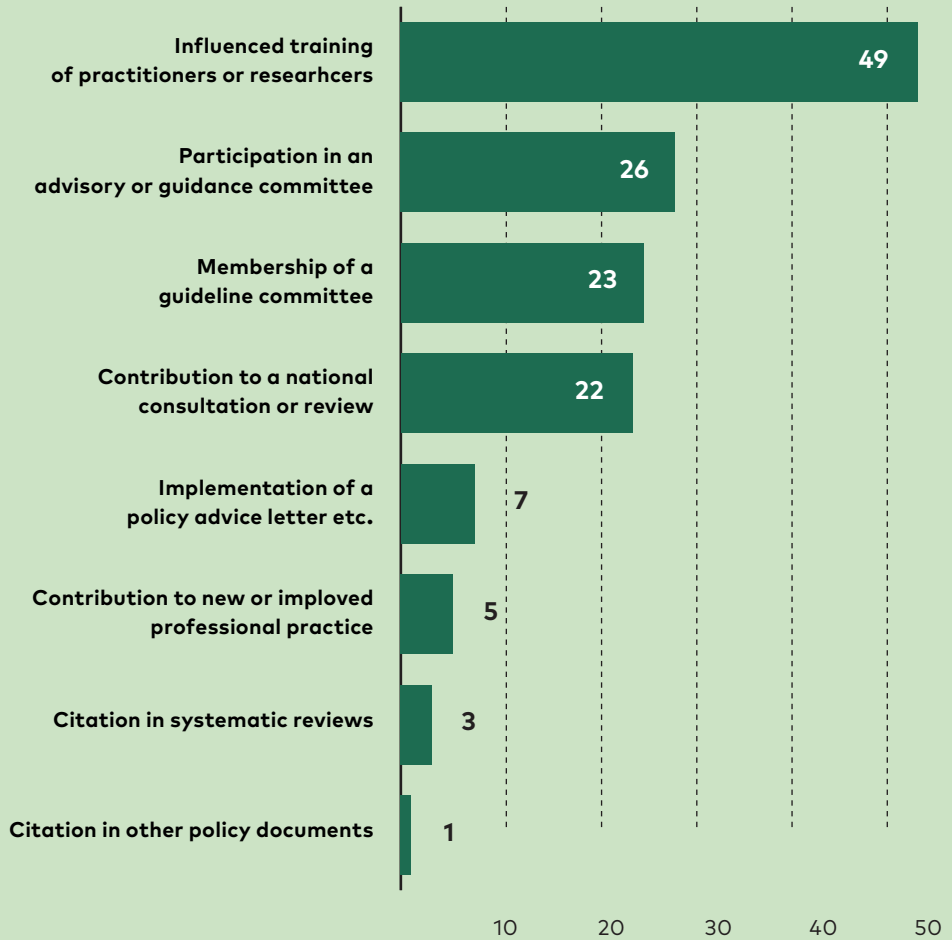
**136**

**Unique policy  
influences**

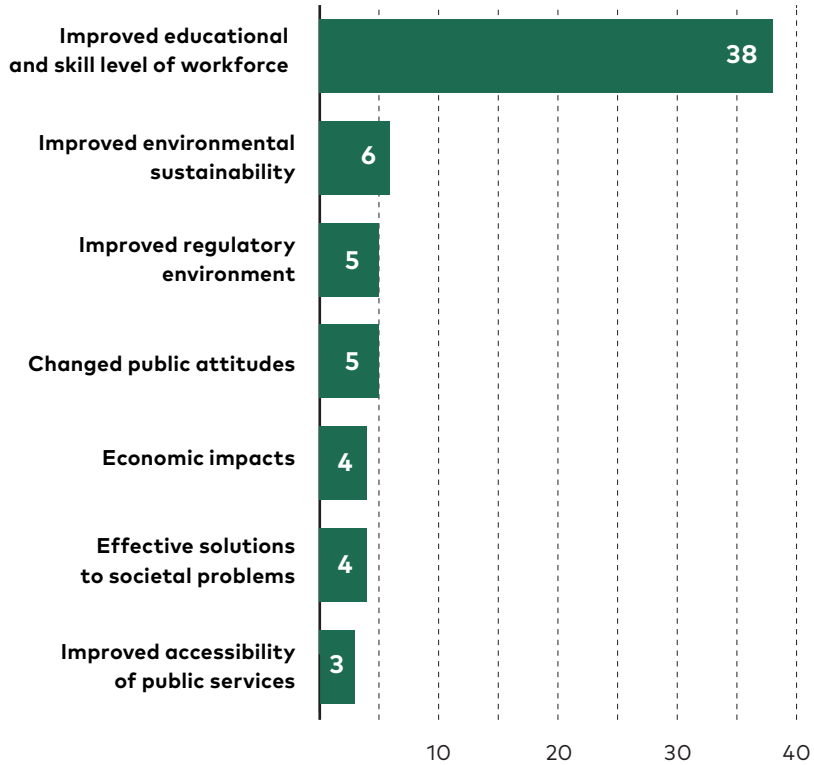
## **Policy influence, top five sectors**

- 1. Influenced training of practitioners or researchers**
- 2. Participation in an advisory committee**
- 3. Membership of a guideline committee**
- 4. Contribution to a national consultation or review**
- 5. Implementation of a policy advice letter etc.**

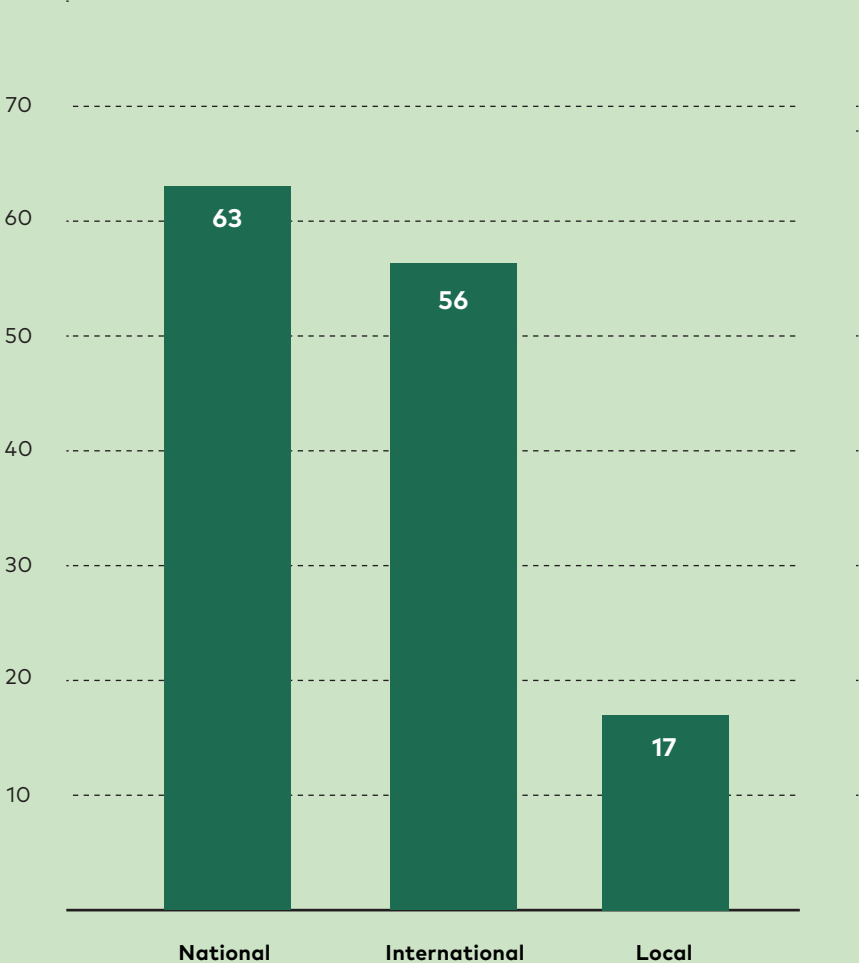
## Policy influence by type



## Policy influence by most significant outcome



# Policy influence by geographic reach



# 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.



**61**

**Projects reporting at least  
one dissemination**



**1 979**

**Unique  
disseminations**

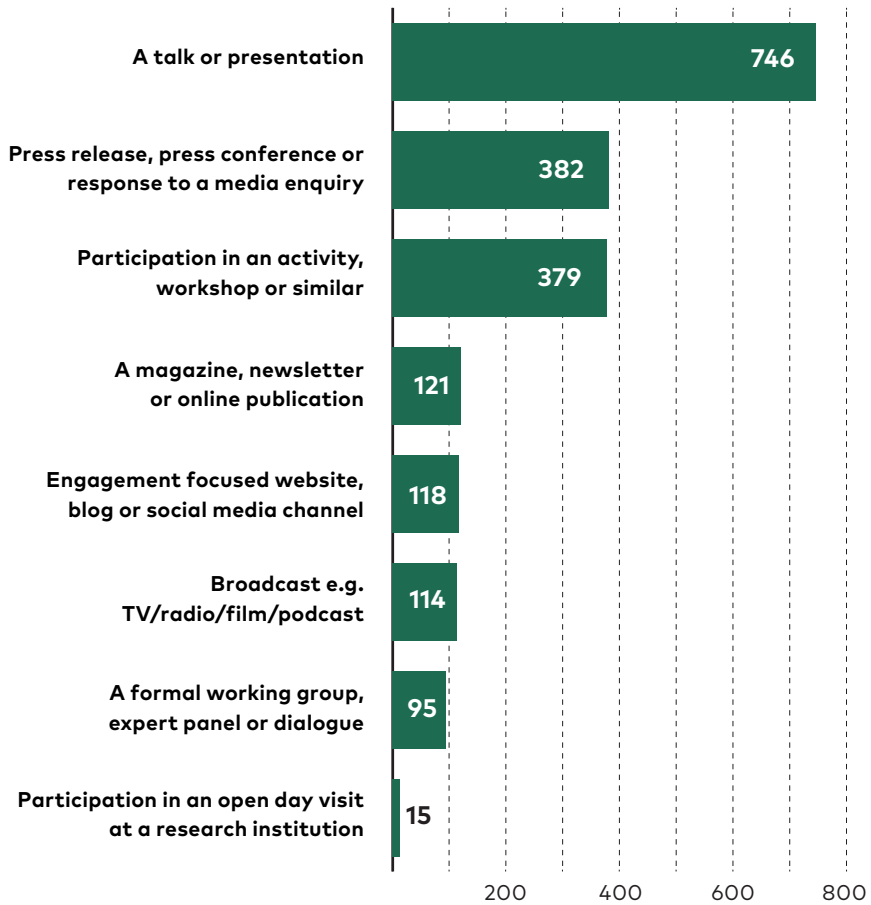


**32.44**

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



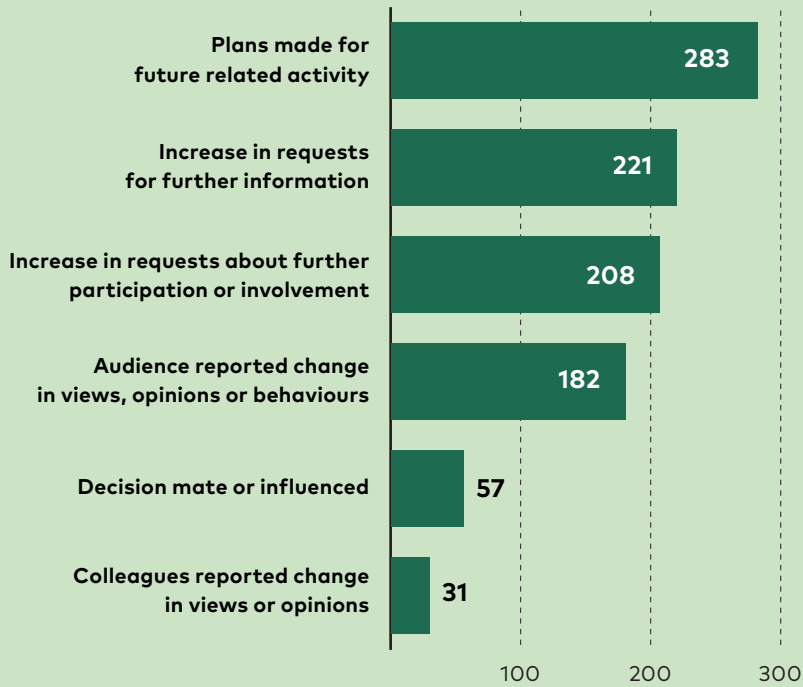
## Dissemination activities by type



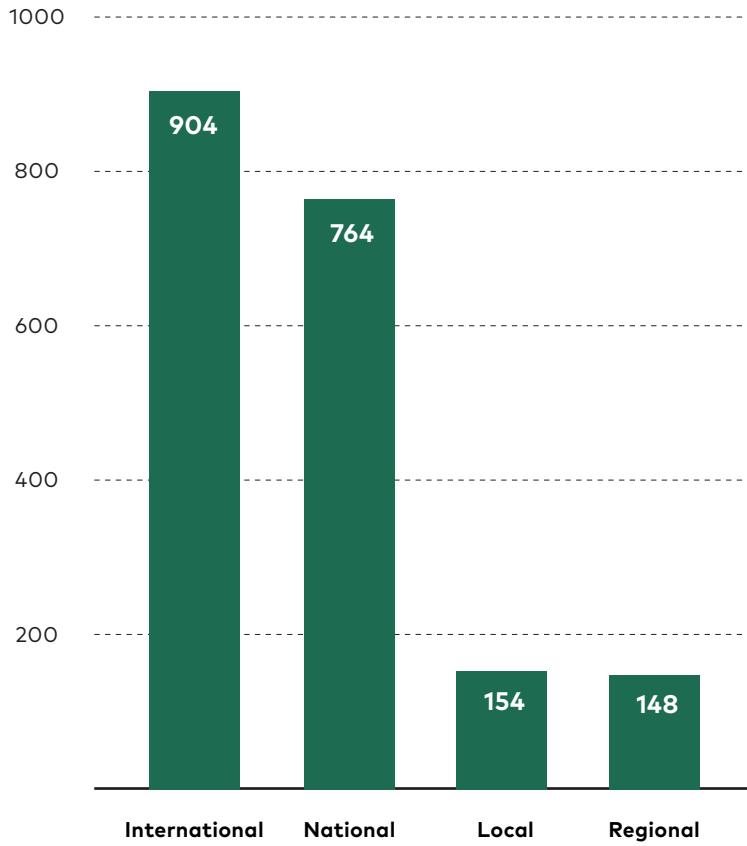
## Dissemination activities by target groups



## Disseminations by most significant outcome



## Disseminations by geographic reach



# Measuring impact

We define research impact as the results and effects of research. This includes academic impact, such as enhancing scientific quality and building critical expertise, and societal impact, which is about the contribution research has to society and the economy, and its benefits to individuals, organisations or nations.

Impact is created in many ways, for example through publications and disseminations, and engaging stakeholders and involving end-users. It is impact when research leads to the development of policy, practice or services, shaping legislation and changing behaviour. Impact can occur quickly, but typically takes time – sometimes long after the project at NordForsk has been completed.

This report relies on data reported by the research groups during our 2023 submission period, where the projects report data from their funding periods so far. This represents a cross-sectional view of NordForsk funded research as it is, but is not fully comparable with past impact reports.

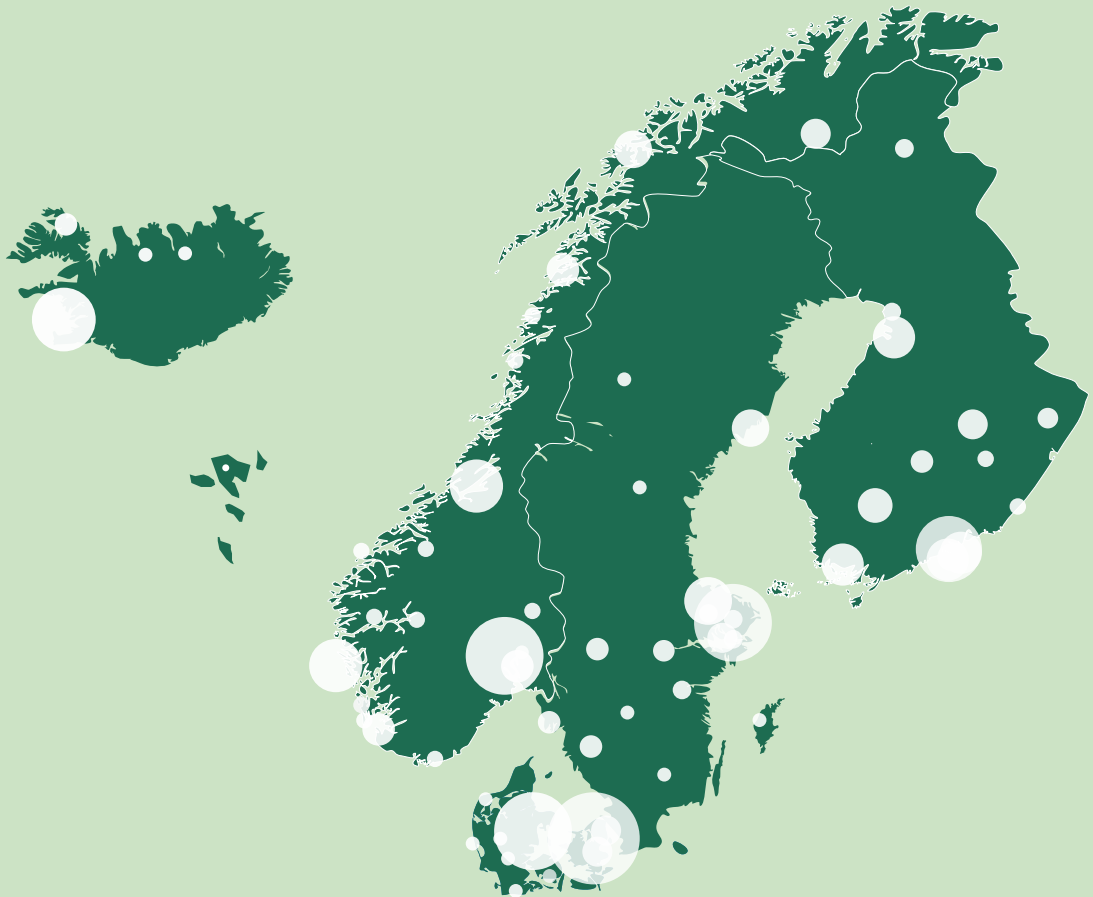
Furthermore, we recognise that there is a causality problem when measuring impact, specifically effects. While the results of our activities and associated research can be measured and reported with ease, demonstrating causal relationships between any variables with certainty is a systemic challenge within the scientific realm.

Apart from these limitations, we consider the report a fair and comprehensive representation of the results and effects of the research activities we fund – our impact.

# NordForsk research by geography

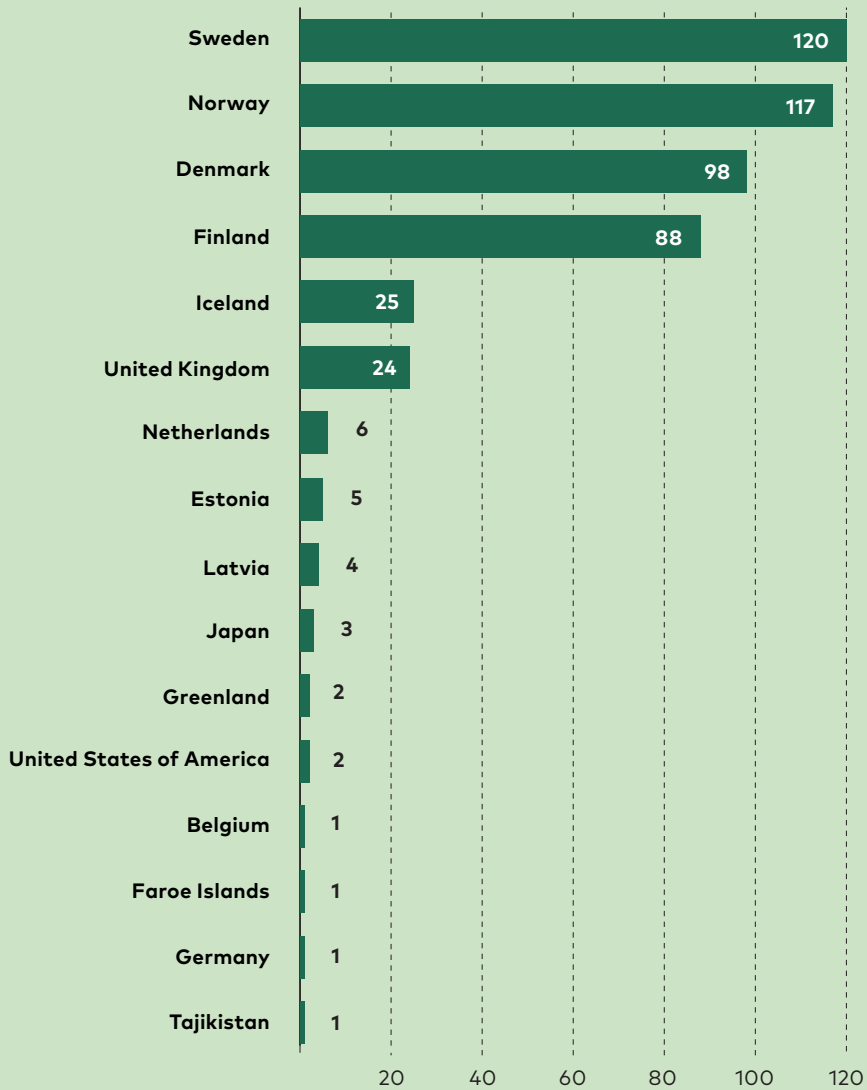
One of the factors we value as an outcome of research cooperation is 'regional mobility and networking among the Nordic countries'. A benchmark for assessing whether this succeeds is to look at the geographical location of the projects.

The map shows the location and number of participants in NordForsk funded research projects. The bigger the circle, the more project participants.



## Project participants by country

Data on NordForsk research by geography and project participants by country is from 84 projects awarded 2017–2021.





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