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# Workshop on the Practical Implementation of Alignment: Learning from Good Practice

*Lessons learned from Nordic JPIs*

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# The Nordic Region



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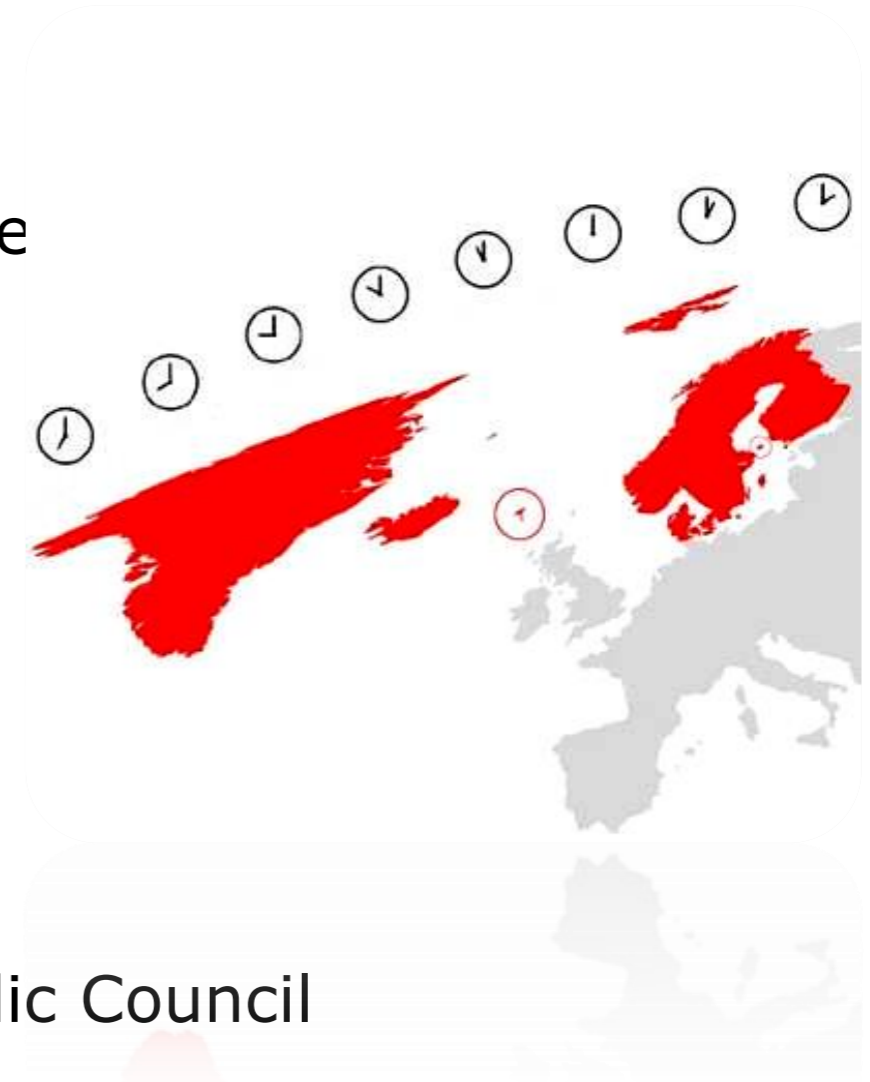
## **Five countries:**

Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden

## **Three autonomous areas:**

Faroe Islands, Greenland and Åland

- 8 time zones
- 26 million people
- Many official languages
- The world's 10th largest economy
- Collaboration through the Nordic Council (parliamentarians) since 1952 and the Nordic Council of Ministers since 1971



- **NordForsk** was established in 2005 to overcome fragmentation in the Nordic Research and Innovation Area (NORIA)
- NordForsk is a **platform** for joint Nordic research and research infrastructure cooperation in the Nordic region.
- The aim of the organisation is to facilitate cooperation in all fields of research when this **adds value** to work being conducted nationally.
- The **NordForsk Board** has full responsibility for NordForsk's actions
- **Basic funding** is provided by the Nordic Council of Ministers and additional funding by stakeholders especially the Research Councils in the different countries ("The 2/3 principle").

# Goal and main research priorities



## **The goal of NordForsk**

- To enhance the quality, impact and cost-efficiency of Nordic research and research infrastructure collaboration

## **Main research priorities**

- Strengthening integrated cross-sectorial research with the aim of tackling societal challenges and ensuring sustainable development
- Creating critical mass in potentially excellent research areas

- Analysis of key issues on the Nordic science policy agendas
- Open calls followed by international peer review
- Open access, transparency, mobility and gender equality
- A European and international context
- Ex-post assessment of collaboration

- Common-pot without fair return (administred by NordForsk)
- Virtual-pot in some cases (the Belmont Forum)
- Variable geometry (at least three Nordic countries, mainly through research councils)
- In-kind contributions from universities

# Lessons learned on how to overcome barriers



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**Regional actors, like NordForsk,** can to a certain extent, overcome technical and other barriers and translate research policy into action in a short time through

- Consultation for commitment, compromises and creation of trust before an initiative is started
- Programme Committees continue such processes and develop a call text
- Explicit political commitment is of importance in the starting phase

## **Legal barriers:**

- In the Nordic region some of these can be overcome if there is political will (e.g. the Top-level Research Initiative on Climate, Energy and the Environment)
- Examples of actions to overcome remaining ones include infrastructure pilots, cooperation between the statistical bureaus in the Nordic countries and networks aiming at accomplishing mutual recognition of ethical permits
- Virtual pot instead of real common-pot when real common-pot is not possible in international cooperation, e.g. the Belmont Forum

## **Practical barriers:**

- Timing with regard to priorities in different countries
- Budgetary processes in research councils differ with regard to timing

**Cross-sectorial cooperation – more difficult than cross-national**



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# Thank you for your attention!

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