

**NOVA** University Network

**Annual Report 2009**

**NOVA**  
UNIVERSITY NETWORK

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### Abbreviations of NOVA member institutions

AU-DJF	University of Aarhus, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences
HU-AF	University of Helsinki, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry
HU-V	University of Helsinki, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
JU-F (UEF-F)	University of Joensuu, Faculty of Forestry (from 2010 University of Eastern Finland, School of Forest sciences)
LBHI	Agricultural University of Iceland
LIFE	University of Copenhagen, Faculty of Life Sciences
NVH	Norwegian School of Veterinary Sciences
SLU	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
UMB	Norwegian University of Life Sciences

## Words from the chair

In the year 2009 NOVA welcomed a new member, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Aarhus University (AU-DJF). The growing NOVA network with the nine member institutes reflects the importance of Nordic cooperation where mutual interest and competences are shared. By the end of the year 2009 University of Joensuu (JU-F) merged with University of Kuopio and the NOVA member became University of Eastern Finland, School of Forest Sciences (UEF-F).

The Annual Seminar on student mobility and internationalization, "The Rationale and the Merits of Mobility" was hosted by the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB) and held in Oscarsborg fortress in the beautiful surroundings of Oslofjord on the 23<sup>rd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of April. Student mobility is one of the cornerstones of NOVA and of great importance for the continuation of NOVA network activities. An effort was made to strengthen the cooperation with the Baltic universities and BOVA through the Nordplus cooperation. However, the participation of BOVA students in NOVA PhD courses was the lowest since 2002 in spite of rising number of courses.

Nineteen PhD courses were given throughout the year. This achievement is in line with our expectations as our aim in the NOVA strategy 2007-2010 is that by the end of the strategic period NOVA will offer at least 20 PhD courses. Within NOVA activity plans were made based on the current strategy and evaluation of accomplishments will be done in the year 2010.

During the year Ulf Jonsell the central NOVA coordinator went on paternity leave and Helena Eklund Snäll overtook his post at the secretariat, the second half of the year. Preparations were made by SLU and LBHI for the rotating secretariat and chairmanship which moved by the end of the year to the Agricultural University of Iceland. I would like to express my gratitude to the former NOVA chair, Lisa Sennerby Forsse, secretariat and coordinators for their responsibility and chairmanship of the NOVA network. Their excellent performance and contribution has made NOVA the strong and well known network it is today.

Hvanneyri, October 2010



Ágúst Sigurðsson,  
Chair of NOVA Board  
Rector LBHI

## Activities 2009

### PhD education

Twenty PhD courses with NOVA funding were scheduled to be held during 2009 (Table 1) whereof one was cancelled. The nineteen courses held attracted 382 students out of which NOVA PhD students were 301 or 79%. Twenty of the students were from the Baltic countries and 61 from other universities; the participation of BOVA students in NOVA PhD courses was the lowest since 2002 in spite of rising number of courses. Eight courses were organized by SLU (one was cancelled), six by LIFE, four by UMB and one by HU-V and UEF-F.

Table 1. NOVA PhD courses 2009.

Network	Course Title	Host-Member
Agriculture Economics	Institutions, Knowledge and Information	LIFE
Agriculture Engineering	Biosystems Instrumentation	LIFE
Agro Ecology	Global Organic Food Chains - Agroecology, Environment, and Livelihood	LIFE
Animal Breeding	Design and optimization of animal breeding strategies	AU-DJF
Animal Breeding	Statistical Methods in Animal Breeding - with emphasis on analysis of categorical data	SLU
AnimalNutrition	Feed Technology and Farm Animal Nutrition	UMB
BeeNOVA	Insect conservation	UMB
Forage evaluation	Forage evaluation in small ruminant nutrition	SLU
Forest planning and inventory	The advanced use of 3D high resolution remote sensing data in forest inventory	UEF-F
Plant Pathology	Dispersal of Plant Pathogens	SLU
Reproduction	Tubular genitalia in female animals	SLU
Soil Zoology	12th Nordic-Baltic Soil Zoology Symposium and PhD course	UMB
SoilSoc	Microbial N transformations and NO/N <sub>2</sub> O emissions	UMB
Statistics in agriculture	Applied Statistics with R for The Agricultural , Life and Veterinary Sciences	LIFE
Sustainable Production Systems	Sustainable Ruminant Production Systems in a Global Perspective - NOVA1	SLU
Urban Forestry & Urban Greening	Applied Organisational Theory for the UFUG Area	SLU *
Veterinary clinical research and scientific method	Clinical—and Biomedical Research and Scientific Methods. Experimental design in clinical studies. Clinical intervention and evidenced-based medicine.	LIFE
Veterinary Epidemiology	EpiNOVA – post graduate course in advanced veterinary epidemiology	SLU
Veterinary Parasitology	Annual graduate course in advanced veterinary parasitology, 2009	HU-V
Wood Technology	Wood Technology	SLU

\*cancelled

The number of students attending the PhD courses is slightly lower than 2008, the strategic aim for 2010 is at least 400 students and if the twentieth course had run the student number aimed for might have been reached. On average 12% of the total number of PhD students on the member institutions participated in a NOVA course during 2009 (Table 2).

Table 2. Number of PhD courses and number of students 2003-2009

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Number of PhD courses	17	13	16	14	14	17	19
Number of NOVA PhD students registered on NOVA PhD course	270	186	162	200	197	264	301
Percentage registered NOVA PhD students of total number of PhD students on the NOVA member institutions	12,7	9,3	7,9	9,8	9,8	11,6	11,8

Two calls for applications for PhD course funding 2010 were made during 2009 where 19 of 31 applications were approved. In addition to funding of running courses NOVA funded three planning grants of PhD courses and one project grant.

## MSc education

### Student mobility and intensive courses

The framework programme Nordplus, run by the Nordic Council of Ministers finances student and teacher mobility while NOVA funds courses and network projects. Eight courses were to run during 2009 whereof the postponed course from 2008 was cancelled (Table 3).

Table 3. NOVA intensive MSc courses (NIMC) 2009

Network	Course Title		ECTS	Host	Remark
Apiculture	Climate Change Impacts on Pollinators	MSc/PhD	3	HU-V	
Aquaculture	Aquaculture - introductory course	MSc	5	UMB	
Landscape Architecture	Nordic Landscapes - Landscape Analysis and Landscape Planning in the Nordic Countries	MSc	7.5	UMB	
Landscape Architecture	Shape - Workshop for Advanced Landscape Designers	MSc		SLU	<i>cancelled</i>
Plant Pathology	Molecular plant-microbe interaction laboratory course	MSc	2	HU-AF	
Plant Pathology	Plant Pathology in a Changing World	MSc	5	SLU	
Veterinary Medicine	Breeding, Development and Training of the Young Horse	MSc	5	SLU	
Veterinary Medicine	Veterinary Ophthalmology	MSc	3	NVH	

Number of students in express mobility is stable from the year 07/08 to 08/09 (Table 4), but number of students in standard Nordplus mobility is decreasing. Further data on student mobility is found in tables 7-9 in the appendix.

Table 4. Number of Master students per academic year 2003/04-2008/09

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09
Number of Master students in standard Nordplus mobility *		68	37	52	53	23
Number of Master students in express Nordplus mobility **		17	35	50	73	69
TOTAL	55	85	72	102	126	92
Percentage MSc students participating in Nordplus mobility	1,5	2,3	2,0	2,8	3,3	2,4

\* Standard Nordplus mobility > four weeks

\*\* Express Nordplus mobility < four weeks

Table 5. Erasmus Mundus II planning grants awarded 2009

Programme title	NOVA partners
MSc in European Forestry	<u>JU-F</u> , SLU
Food of Life	<u>LIFE</u> , SLU, HU-AF

*Underlined member abbreviation indicates the lead member.*

**Comment:**

Two of the three Erasmus Mundus II Applications that NOVA supported in 2009 were funded and are planned to start 2010.

## Other activities

### Annual Seminar

The Annual Seminar on student mobility and internationalisation, “The Rationale and the Merits of Mobility” was hosted by the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB) and held in Oscarsborg fortress in Oslofjord on the 23<sup>rd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of April, attracting 95 participants. Prior to the seminar a student survey was conducted from UMB and a student representative presented the results at the seminar. In connection to the seminar BOVA CC and NOVA KUF held a cooperative meeting

### NOVA Student Board

NOVA Student Board (NSB) is a freestanding organisation with support from NOVA, giving the students’ voice into the NOVA network. NSB is represented in NOVA Board, in NOVA KUF and NOVA Executive Committee. NSB held three executive meetings during 2009 and participated actively in Board and KUF, by reporting their activities and bringing up matters of discussion.

### **NOVA Organizational Bodies**

The NOVA Board held three meetings during the year, a video meeting in January, at Oscarsborg in Norway in April and in Joensuu in October. The committee for Education and Research (KUF) held four meetings during 2009, two video meetings, one in Aarhus and one in Uppsala. Minutes from the Board and KUF meetings are available on NOVA's web site.

### **Financial accounts 2009**

The NOVA profit and loss report is presented in Table 6. Previous years the account has been influenced by currency fluctuations and 2009 is the last year where accounting is performed in SEK. From 2010 accounting will be done in EUR, when the secretariat will rotate to LBHI in Iceland.

The main external source of funding has as previously been the Nordic Council of Ministers via the Nordplus framework programme for mobility and other projects. Support to NOVA PhD courses in forestry related subjects, with total of 8.000 euro was given by SNS, Nordic Forest Research Cooperation Committee.

During the year the Board decided to reduce member fee to 82% of budgeted amount, except for the new member AU-DJF, which paid 93% of original budget, equity was building up due to higher amount regained grants than budgeted, less grants allocated to MSc grants and projects than budgeted, and due to currency gain.

Table 6. Profit-and-loss report 2009, budget 2009 and 2010 (Euro).

	2009		%	2010
	Budget	31.12 2009	budget	Budget
<b>Member fees</b>				
AU-DJF	24.299	22.597	93%	37.465
HU-AF	74.360	60.975	82%	76.281
HU-V	19.446	15.946	82%	21.947
LBHI	10.668	8.747	82%	10.733
LIFE	145.156	119.027	82%	162.596
NVH	31.377	25.728	82%	33.272
SLU	214.393	175.801	82%	224.882
UEF-F	13.944	11.434	82%	14.260
UMB	131.358	107.713	82%	138.563
<b>Total Member fees</b>	<b>665.000</b>	<b>547.968</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>720.000</b>
External funding	42.000	36.500	87%	50.000
<b>Total Fees &amp; Ext. fund.</b>	<b>707.000</b>	<b>584.468</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>770.000</b>
<b>Activities</b>				
PhD courses <sup>1</sup>	-450.000	-422.482	94%	-450.000
Other projects	-200.000	-142.848	71%	
MSc courses planning/networking		-85.363		-100.000
BSc		-14.000		-20.000
New areas				-50.000
NOVA N+ guarantee		-43.485		-50.000
External projects	-42.000	-28.500	68%	-50.000
NSB	-21.000	-17.838	85%	-21.000
Annual seminar	-20.000	-25.000	125%	-21.000
Pedictnet	-10.000		0%	-10.000
<b>Total Activities</b>	<b>-743.000</b>	<b>-636.668</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>-772.000</b>
Regained project grants (funding not used) <sup>2</sup>	40.000	81.459	204%	65.000
<b>Secretariat</b>				
Salaries <sup>3</sup>	-69.400	-54.912	79%	-69.400
Travels	-7.500	-5.089	68%	-10.000
Other	-15.000	-14.058	94%	-15.000
<b>Total Secretariat</b>	<b>-91.900</b>	<b>-74.059</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>-94.400</b>
<b>Total Activities&amp;Secr.</b>	<b>-794.900</b>	<b>-629.268</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>-801.400</b>
<b>Result before interest and currency</b>				
Internal interest <sup>4</sup>	10.000	4.340	43%	4.000
Currency gain/loss		-9.642		
<b>Result</b>	<b>-77.900</b>	<b>-30.818</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>-27.400</b>

#### Calculation of Equity

Equity 2008-12-31	145.410	
Equity 2009-12-31		114.592

<sup>1</sup> Half of the courses reported by the end of the year and uses 66% of the grant

<sup>2</sup> 17 000 from non-reported PhD courses 2008

<sup>3</sup> Þórunn Reykdal's one months salary will be accounted with the Icelandic secretariat 2010

<sup>4</sup> Lower interest rate than expected



Table 7. Balance statement 2009 (Euro).

<b>Assets</b>		<b>2009-01-01</b>	<b>2009-12-31</b>
Cash		666.385	518.951
Internal		82.126	4.792
Computers		9.901	658
-depreciation		-9.243	-658
Other			
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>749.169</b>	<b>523.743</b>
<b>Equity and Liabilities</b>			
Equity	2009-01-01	-145.410	
	2009-31-12		-114.592
Result 2009:	-30.818		
Allocated funding	Internal	-544.249	-409.151
	External	-14.273	
Notes payable		-44.724	
Unpaid salary		-513	
		<b>-749.169</b>	<b>-523.743</b>

## Confirmation of the Annual Report by the Board

Ágúst Sigurðsson  
Chair NOVA  
Rector, LBHI

Lisa Sennerby Forsse  
Vice-chancellor, SLU

Just Jensen  
Dean, AU-DJF

Per Holten Andersen  
Dean, LIFE

Marketta Sipi  
Dean, HU-AF

Antti Sukura  
Dean, HU-V

Yngvild Wasteson  
Rector, NVH

Seppo Kellomäki  
Dean, UEF-F

Hans Fredrik Hoen  
Rector, UMB

Björn Þorsteinsson  
Chair NOVA KUF  
Vice-rector of academic affairs

Anna Berg Samúelsdóttir  
Chair NSB 2010