

NOVA
UNIVERSITY NETWORK



Annual report

2007

NOVA University Network

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Appendix: <http://www.nova-university.org/PDFer/Append2007.pdf>

Editor and layout: Knut Wålstedt

Cover picture: LIFE students in Aquaculture – intensive course on Iceland August 2007.

Photo: Tryggve Poppe-NVH

Annual report 2007

Words from the Chair

2007 was the first year of the second NOVA Strategy (2007-2010). The work to accomplish this document, and to implement the new strategy, has characterised this year. The Board decided on the new strategy at the 1st of June meeting in Uppsala, after the content and the implementation had been discussed at the annual NOVA seminar. This seminar was held on the 31st of May to the 1st of June, in the wonderful surroundings of the Linnaeus garden in Uppsala.

The year 2007 also marks a new milestone in the development of NOVA University Network (NOVA). The responsibility of the participating institutions was strengthened, and it was the first year without a NOVA Rector, since the start of NOVA in 1995. In 2007, the Chair of the Board, NVH Rector Lars Moe, the Chair of KUF, UMB Pro-rector Trine Hvoslef-Eide, the full time Secretary General, Knut Wålstedt, the part time Central NOVA Coordinator, Hannah Jörgenssen, and a student representative have constituted the NOVA Executive Committee (EC). I want to thank the members of the EC for their excellent work in developing the new strategy and in managing all running NOVA tasks. In 2008, the secretariat moves to SLU in Uppsala, and new persons will constitute the NOVA EC

Furthermore, I want to express warm thanks to NOVA's Secretary General, Knut Wålstedt, who has been a very important person in NOVA for many years, and who will now leave us for a new challenging position in the framework of EU funded research projects at SLU. Knut has with enthusiasm promoted, and with care and knowledge managed the NOVA network and personally contributed a lot to the work of the Board, KUF and the many running subject networks.

Ultuna in April 2008

Lisa Sennerby Forsse
Chair of NOVA Board

The Year 2007 – important achievements

NOVA projects and activities

PhD education

Fourteen PhD courses with NOVA funding were held during 2007 (Table 1), in which a total of 356 students participated, out of which 197 were NOVA PhD students. Thirty-four of the participants came from the Baltic countries. Close to 10% of all PhD students at the member institutions take part in NOVA courses annually. Six courses were organised by course leaders from LIFE, five from SLU, two from HU-F and one from UMB.

Table 1. NOVA PhD courses 2007

Topics	ECTS	Host institution
Agriculture Economics	4	HU-AF
Veterinary Epidemiology	4	LIFE
Wood Technology	4	SLU
Informatics in Agriculture	6	LIFE
Agro Ecology	4	SLU
Ethology	3	SLU
Food Science	6	LIFE
Social Insects	3	LIFE
Agro-Biotechnology	4	HU-AF
Veterinary Clinical Research	6	LIFE
Forest Planning and Inventory	5	UMB
Statistics in Agriculture	6	LIFE
Forage evaluation	4,5	SLU
Chemical ecology	4	SLU

Compared to 2006, the average number of participating students is quite stable, both for NOVA and non-NOVA students. For more data see the appendix.

The total NOVA funding was around €265 000, on average €18 928 per course, and €183 per students ECTS awarded (in total 1 451).

In the application round for funding of NOVA courses in 2008 (deadline April 15, 2007), 23 individual applications were registered in the web-based system. This was less than the year before, but the quality of the applications had improved. In total, 17 courses were granted funding, five of which were in new subject areas.

MSc education

Areas with significant activity on the Master level during 2007 were:

- Agroecology
- Apiculture
- Aquaculture
- Biosystems Engineering
- Plant Pathology
- Soil and Society

The Nordic programme in Agroecology continues to be productive, and this programme has awarded more than 1 000 ECTS from courses during 2007.

Aquaculture and Biosystems Engineering (NORBE) have both continued, for the third year, with status as Nordplus Joint Nordic MSc Programme candidates, with a total Nordplus funding of €23 000 for 2007-2008, mobility grants included. The second joint intensive course in Aquaculture was held in September 2007 on Iceland. An agreement was signed between all involved partners, in which the co-operation was formally established. In Aquaculture, focus is on establishing a joint introduction course and on national specializations, whereas NORBE is marketed as a joint umbrella with national programs.

In March 2007, the old NOVA network in Plant Pathology was given a NOVA grant for writing an application to the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM) for funding of the planning of a Joint Nordic Program. The network was one of six successful applications and got more than €100 000. As good examples, the results from their work are summarized on the next pages (scientific perspective - page 4 and administrative perspective - page 5).

Three intensive NOVA Master courses were held during 2007 in the area of Apiculture, by the network Bee-NOVA, one course in Ophthalmology, one in Breeding of the young horse and one in Landscape assessment. Funding has been set aside for eight intensive Master courses during 2008.

Table 2. Intensive MSc courses 2007

Topics	ECTS	Host
Beekeeping techniques in Cold Climates	3	HU-AF
Bees, apiculture and Pollination	8*	SLU
Organic Beekeeping	3	HU-AF
Landscape assessment and landscape planning in the Nordic countries	8**	SLU
Breeding developing and training of the young horse	5	SLU
Ophthalmology	1,5	NVH

* 5 weeks, ** one intensive week + homework

Other activities

The annual NOVA seminar was held in Uppsala in May/June, close the wonderful Linnaeus garden, with around 75 participants. An international view of the development in higher education was followed by a presentation of the situation at each NOVA member and a good discussion on the implementation of the new NOVA strategy. Again, NOVA Student Forum (NSF) was well represented and very active in the seminar.

A good example from the 2007 activities:

Report from NorPath – scientific perspective from final report to NMR

We have developed a 2 years Masters Mobility programme (MSc) in Plant Pathology, NorPath. The unique features of this programme are:

- it's designed to facilitate mobility of both teachers and students. The students will be encouraged to study in different Nordic countries to obtain familiarity with different Nordic Universities and to study and carry out research where most appropriate in relation to their interests. For each course given, the most qualified teachers will be chosen for each component.
 - a tutor plan: all students are assigned to a teacher right from the start of the programme. The tutor will help the student with study matters, such as the study plan, mobility etc.
 - that the MSc thesis will be carried out with supervisors from 2 or more partner universities.
 - the joint introductory course 'Plant Pathology in a changing world'. The objective of the course is to introduce the student to the science of plant pathology, including the social impact and relevance of the subject. A specific objective is to convey to the students different perspectives on plant disease management with respect to international trade, climate change, and sustainable production.
- Additional goals include development of individual study plans, opportunities for thesis subjects and facilitate networking, as well as conveying knowledge about the possible career opportunities in plant pathology. NOVA university network has granted 5000 Euro to run the course in August 2008.
- the long-term goal is to develop the collaboration within teaching in plant pathology further by increasing the similarities in the teaching systems among the Nordic countries and develop joint teaching elements.

Over the coming years, the programme will additionally change its status from a Mobility Programme to a true double degree or even joint degree programme.

However, we have chosen to start the programme up as a Mobility Programme, which is rather flexible and does not require too many administrative changes to the ongoing country Programmes. This model will allow the Programme components to be tested before development into a double degree/joint degree programme, which will require many more administrative changes.

NSF has continued to be very active, in the NOVA Board, in KUF and in the NOVA Executive Committee, and held three executive meetings during 2007.

The Board has held three executive meetings, and KUF has held four, out of which one was a video meeting.

The Executive committee 2007

During 2007, after NOVA rector had been excluded from the organization, the NOVA executive committee (EC) was formed in order to take operative decisions in between KUF and Board meetings. EC consisted of the following members during 2007:

- Chairman of the Board Lars Moe
- Chairman of KUF, Trine Hvoslef-Eide
- Secretary General, Knut Wålstedt
- Central NOVA Coordinator, Hannah Jörgenssen
- Student representative from NSF

Words from Secretary General

This Annual report is the seventh report from NOVA during my time as NOVA Coordinator/Secretary General. It marks the end of my period in NOVA, which has given me marvellous experiences and a lot of new very good friends. I want to take this opportunity to thank all friends and colleagues for the very big support that you have given me over this period, for many wonderful talks and discussions, and I want to express my sincere hopes for a prosperous future for NOVA. NOVA is a brilliant idea, but it has its weaknesses and it takes efforts and hard work from all member institutions and individuals to succeed. I will follow closely every move NOVA makes and I will seek every opportunity to get professional contacts with NOVA in the future. Good luck to all of you.

Important key information about NOVA activities	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<u>Number</u> of PhD courses	17	13	16	14	14
<u>Number</u> of NOVA member PhD students in NOVA PhD courses	270	186	162	200	197
Number of NOVA PhD students taking NOVA PhD courses in relation to all NOVA member PhD students, %	12.7	9.3	7.9	9.8	9.8
	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
<u>Number</u> of NOVA Master students in NOVA Nordplus mobilities (*revised)	55	85	73	102*	131
Number of NOVA Master students in mobility in relation to all NOVA member Master students, %	1.5	2.3	2.0	2.8	3.5
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Master ECTS awarded in NOVA courses (*revised)	927	1 677	2 191	3 016*	1 936

Result that can be useful for other NOVA networks and projects:

REPORT from NorPath – an administrative perspective

From final report to Nordplus.

In the process of developing a Joint Nordic Program in Plant Pathology, much effort was spent on administrative issues. A three step procedure was presented for establishing a successful process:

Three steps towards a successful international program:

Step 1: Is to secure the institutional anchoring and commitment at all levels: colleagues, departmental and the institutional level.

Step 2: Is the actual development of the Programme. Here it is important to have INSTITUTIONAL ANCHORING AND COMMITMENT at all involved institutions at all levels. Remember to involve all stakeholders, incl. national legislations.

Step 3: is the implementation of the future programme.

Important questions:

- Do you want to make this programme an elite programme?
- Student recruitment: What are the possibilities? What does the labour market look like? What is the competition? Don't overlap! Keep it simple! Moving around is not attractive for students, - it is not viable. What is attractive for the students? -Make interview with some of the international students.
- It is OK to have lessons in English, but the students will also be interested in learning local languages and to learn about local culture.
- Funding is important. What is the national legislation on tuition fees?
- Admission criteria and admission procedure. What kind of responsibility can be delegated from the national study boards etc to a joint admission committee?
- The EU commission encourages joint degrees. Students and employers are happy for a double degree. And as we cannot make a joint degree, this discussion is very short.
- The success of the programme depends on the scientific content, but also infrastructure – easy administration processes and assistance to the students to ensure their well being is important.
- Use the recruitment plan already available.
- Management: Will you have a consortia secretariat? Will you have a contact person? This will represent a substantial cost, and this is where you cannot get additional money.
- We need to have a clear management strategy.

Funding and financial issues

Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM) has continued to be an important external donor. Besides funds for student and teacher mobility, the large grant to NorPath is most substantial. All in all, NCM contribution was more than €177 000 during 2007. SNS will continue to support running of PhD courses in forestry.

On the next page there is a short summary of the Financial reports for 2007. The surplus, €150 543 after reduction for currency losses, is unexpectedly high. There are many reasons for this, such as much lower administrative expenses than budget, lower costs for running PhD courses and other projects, less decided grants than budget and higher internal interest.

The Board has asked KUF to use the financial reserve primarily for expanding support to student and teacher mobility and for supporting new applications for Erasmus Mundus status (deadline in April 2009).

Concluding remarks

The reorganisation of the NOVA secretariat, with only one full time Secretary General, puts extra pressure on the local NOVA Teams and the local coordinators. 2007 was the first year with annual plans for the local Teams, and for 2008 we expect increased local activities and continuous follow up of the local plans. Much has been done to increase NOVA visibility, but it could be even better. Support for student and teacher mobility has also improved, but the Board asks for best practice. We look back on 2007 with satisfaction and hope for an even better 2008.

Helsinki, April 25, 2008

Lisa Sennerby Forsse
Chair of NOVA Board

Knut Wålstedt
Secretary General

Financial report for 2007

Funding and activities/expenses , Euro		2006	2007	2008
		Actual	Actual	Budget
Funding				
Member fees		715 720	698 555	655 000
External funding		309 428	220 040	100 000
Total funding		1 025 148	918 595	755 000
Activities and expenses				
Projects internal funding		-656 114	-526 592	-636 000
Projects external funding		-309 428	-220 040	-100 000
Regained from projects		86 408	45 253	40 000
Secretariat		-212 780	-63 426	-71 500
Total activities and expenses		-1 091 914	-764 804	-797 500
Annual surplus/deficit		-66 766	153 790	-42 500
Currency loss			-3 247	
Accumulated surplus		24 874	175 418	132 918
Balance statement, euro				
		Beg of year		End of year
Assets				
Computers		2 733		1 712
Notes payable, external funding		30 076		3 775
Cash		420 103		613 971
Total assets		452 912		619 458
Liabilities and equity				
Equity				
	Beg of year	-24 874		
	Surplus 2006		-153 790	
	End of year		3 247	-175 418
Funds set aside		-335 655		-390 134
Liabilities		-92 383		-53 906
Total liabilities and equity		-610 033		-619 458

Confirmation of the financial report

The NOVA University Network Board approved the financial report for 2007 in April 2008.

Lisa Sennerby Forsse
Chairman of the Board from January 2008
Rector, SLU

Per Holten Andersen
Dean, LIFE

Knut Hove
Rector, UMB

Antti Sukura
Dean, Univ. of Helsinki, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

Lars Moe
Chairman of the Board until December 2007
Rector, NVH

Ágúst Sigurðsson
Rector, LBHI

Jukka Kola
Dean, Univ. of Helsinki, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry

Heiða Aðalsteinsdóttir
Chair of NOVA Student Forum (NSF)

Additional information and statistics is presented in an e-based appendix which may be found at www.nova-university.org



The Nordic Forestry, Veterinary and Agricultural University Network

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