

Annual report 2004

NOVA University Network



Content

From the NOVA Rector.....	1
NOVA Strategy for 2004 – 2006	3
Implementation of NOVA Strategy	3
Preparation of the NOVA Strategy.....	3
The essence of the NOVA Strategy.....	3
NOVA has a vision.....	4
Implementation at the Iceland seminar – and afterwards.....	4
Evaluation of NOVA Strategy.....	4
The Year 2004.....	5
Achievements	5
Nordic projects	5
PhD education.....	5
MSc education.....	7
Other educational activities	9
Comments on the results	10
International projects	11
Achievements in the NOVA-BOVA cooperation.....	11
Administrative NOVA projects	13
The NOVA website	13
Web-based administration.....	13
Projects evaluations	13
Annual NOVA conference and NOVA prize	14
External relations and funding.....	15
NOVA Organization.....	16
Reports issued during 2004	17
Summary of 2004.....	17
Financial data for 2004.....	18
Project funding	18
NOVA financial summary 2004.....	19
Confirmation of the financial report ..	21
NOVA members 2004	22

From the NOVA Rector



At universities as well as in the sphere of industry, voices are being raised in favour of increased cooperation in research and higher education as a means of enhancing product outcome in general and quality in particular. In our scientific areas of interest, particularly within higher education in the Nordic arena, NOVA represents dynamic and powerful tool for this task.

In the beginning of 2004 NOVA launched its 2004-2006 long-term strategy. The aims were to clarify and intensify cooperation between the seven member institutions. Vision, tasks and strategic objectives were defined, and the organization was streamlined to increase the efficiency of the networks and outcome of the projects. To emphasize that NOVA is a Nordic mega-network and not a university in itself, its name was changed to NOVA University Network (NOVA UN), although NOVA may still be used as before.

The new NOVA strategy became the starting point for a further

elaboration of the organization. On the whole, the process itself was a very important exercise for all persons involved from start to goal a year later. There was full commitment to the task, and the NOVA member institution leadership confirmed the overall importance of NOVA as a network. The strategy was implemented at a successful working seminar on Iceland in the beginning of June, where an array of institution and network leaders participated, establishing a model for future NOVA seminars.

The NOVA board clearly stated that the focus during the 2004-2006 period is to be on education, particularly on cooperation at the MSc and PhD levels. Significant progress has been made in a number of subject-oriented areas during the year 2004. Within the prioritized MSc projects, a new Nordic Master's Programme (60 ECTS) in Urban Forestry and Urban Greening has been designed and will commence in the autumn of 2005. In another positive trend, there are now signs

that student mobility between the NOVA member institutions is on the rise, although general levels still remain somewhat low.

The PhD courses have been run successfully this year as well, and the course evaluations indicate high levels of student support. The web-based application system introduced in 2004 has been improved during the year, and a new web-based report and evaluation system has been developed and will be introduced for courses running during 2005 and thereafter. Based on an internal NOVA PhD course evaluation conducted during the spring-summer period, a seminar will be arranged for some twenty PhD course leaders in March 2005 to discuss how to improve course quality and how to use the web-based systems. Another initiative to strengthen the PhD course activities within the framework of NOVA was taken by the NOVA secretariat in late 2004 in connection with preparations for a proposal regarding Marie Curie Conferences and Training Courses, for submission

to the European Commission. The deadline for submission is in May 2005. There has been great interest among many of the established NOVA PhD course networks to join this initiative.

In addition to the PhD course evaluation mentioned above, a number of other NOVA projects and activities were evaluated during 2004. Such assessment activity is a very important tool in further developing the organization. There was a positive half-time evaluation of the Coordinated Plant Pathology Education (CPPE) MSc project during the spring period. In the autumn, the process of evaluating cooperation with the BOVA university during the period 2002-2004 was initiated. This was done by first carrying out a self-evaluation report, which was discussed during a NOVA-BOVA working seminar in Estonia in October, and thereafter engaging an external evaluator. The final evaluation report was ready in January 2005, and will be applied in identifying the next step in the NOVA-BOVA cooperation. Furthermore, the efforts of the KUF and the Local NOVA Teams have been evaluated via reports to the Board. The strategy states that NOVA as a whole will be evaluated at the end of the strategic period (2006).

One of the objectives defined in the strategy is to considerably increase member institution knowledge and awareness of NOVA. This has been fulfilled in various ways. One particularly important step has been to establish a Local NOVA Team at every member institution, supporting the networks and helping to increase the visibility of the organization in its home backyard. We hope to reap positive results from this in the near future. Another important initiative to increase the visibility of and interest in NOVA is the new NOVA website that has been designed and produced during the year, and launched in January 2005. The significantly improved site now also serves as a valuable tool for the students in their choice of Nordic courses and programmes in certain areas. Yet another initiative to communicate our activities and increase the visibility is the NOVA Newsletter, which was published twice during the autumn of 2004 and will be distributed 3-4 times a year to all staff at the member institutions.

It is very satisfying to conclude that the present report, the fourth in order, clearly shows the rapid development of the organization, indicated for example by breakthroughs concerning initiation of joint MSc programmes, increased

student mobility, effective ability to attract external funding and close contacts with important bodies within the sphere of Nordic Council of Ministers. In light of the great challenges regarding the future of universities, it is abundantly clear that our future depends on two things: profiling and cooperation. NOVA is essential for both these processes.

Next year (2005) NOVA celebrates its 10th anniversary. This will be marked in a number of ways. Among other things, a book has been planned that will highlight the experience gained from a decade of network cooperation in the Nordic as well as the Baltic arenas.


Paul Jensen

NOVA Strategy for 2004 – 2006

Implementation of NOVA Strategy



NOVA Working Seminar at Hvanneyri, Iceland, June 2004

Preparation of the NOVA Strategy

A very important milestone for NOVA was reached in 2003, when NOVA Board launched its initiative to develop and establish a new NOVA strategy. Starting in May 2003, the Board, the Committee for Education and Research (KUF) and the secretariat invested considerable time and effort in devising the new strategy. These activities continued for the duration of the year, and the final version was approved by the Board in February 2004 for implementation during the 2004-2006 period.

The essence of the NOVA Strategy 2004-2006

The strategy document is divided into the following main fractions:

- Background
- Strategy 2004-2006
- The NOVA University Network (UN) Organization Chart
- The role and responsibility of the NOVA Board
- The role and responsibility of the NOVA UN Advisory Committee (KUF)
- The NOVA Rector
- The Local NOVA Teams
- Appendix, including relevant administrative matters and confirmation

NOVA has a Vision

The NOVA member universities shall use the NOVA University Network as one of their primary organizations for international cooperation in scientific education and joint actions. They shall have confidence in the network, and be cognizant of the benefits that NOVA membership offers. Internationally, NOVA will seek to achieve recognition – as a model, for the scientific competence and quality of its work, and for the effective and innovative ways in which the Network has established successful cooperation. This vision is to be fully realized by 2010.

The strategy can be summarized in nine strategic objectives. These are:

1. Initiate mutual course recognition and facilitate student mobility at MSc level. (Status report by the end of 2004.)
2. Develop and carry out an experiment using e-based learning, founded from outside, in at least one model area. (To be established at the end of 2004 and evaluated at the end of 2005.)
3. Evaluate the form of NOVA PhD courses to ensure that these correspond to the needs and desires of the NOVA members.
4. Evaluate the results of the NOVA-BOVA cooperation. (To be presented to the Board before July 2005.)
5. Implement the principles outlined in the Bologna declaration in all the relevant NOVA UN activities and in the appropriate areas within the NOVA member universities. (Status report by the end of 2005.)
6. Strengthen the role of the NOVA UN as the preferred and supported partner of the Nordic Council of Ministers (NMR) within NOVA member universities' spheres of responsibility in the Nordic countries. (Confirmed through visibility in NMR documents and policies by the end of 2004.)
7. Increase external funding. (Plan for financial prospects to be presented to the Board in June 2004.)

8. Ensure that a majority of institution faculty members acknowledge NOVA as their network for scientific education within the Nordic and Baltic regions, and are willing to make use of their membership when this is appropriate. (To be established by the end of 2005.)

9. Establish an organizational structure and functions that correspond to the mission and efforts of the NOVA UN during the new strategic period, that facilitate increased efficiency and that define the various areas of responsibility. (To be completed by the end of 2004.)

Progress related to each strategic objective is reported and commented on under relevant chapters later in the report.

Implementation at the Iceland seminar – and afterwards

The implementation of the new NOVA Strategy started with a working seminar in Hvanneyri, Iceland in the beginning of June, 2004. Present at the seminar were members of the NOVA Board, the NOVA UN advisory committee (KUF), NOVA Student Forum (NSF), local NOVA coordinators and eight network leaders/representatives in priority areas. During the seminar, strategic as well as operative matters were discussed in relation to the role, responsibility and working methods within the different bodies.

The new KUF working order came into force as from 15 June 2004. During the remainder of 2004, the KUF and the Local NOVA Teams worked hard to improve the clarification of responsibility, and submitted an evaluation report to the NOVA Board in February 2005.

Evaluation of NOVA Strategy

It is decided by the NOVA Board that a half way evaluation of NOVA will be conducted by the end of 2005, and a full evaluation will be conducted by the end of 2006.

The Year 2004

Achievements



NOVA StudentForum, NSF, seminar at Ås, Norway, March 12-14, 2004.

Nordic projects

According to the new NOVA Strategy, the following main areas for development and change have been emphasized:

1. Priority areas of advanced level/MSc education and PhD courses.
2. Overcoming constraints to collaboration.
3. External relations and finance.
4. The identity, profile and organization of NOVA UN.

PhD education

All together 13 courses (Table 1) were held during 2004 (as opposed to 17 in 2003, 11 in 2002 and 12 in 2001). Two were fully funded by NorFA (from 2005 NordForsk). 186 NOVA PhD students and 12 other students from NOVA (in total 199), 33 Baltic and 51 non-NOVA-BOVA students make a total of 282 participants in the 2004 courses. More details and comparisons to 2002 and 2003 are found in Table 2.

Table 1. NOVA PhD courses, number of PhD and other students 2004.

Course subjects	Home PhD, %	ECTS	NOVA PhD students from...									Non-NOVA		Total		
			Total									Other	Baltic		Other	
			KVL	AF	V	LBH	NLH	NVH	SLU	PhD						
Plant Breeding	NLH	29.4	10	4					5		8	17		4	4	25
Agriculture Economics	SLU	50.0	7.5	1	3						4	8	1		2	11
Animal Breeding	KVL	57.1	4	8				3			3	14		3	7	24
Veterinary Epidemiology	SLU	29.0	4	5		8				9	9	31	1		7	39
Reproduction	SLU	54.5	2	3		3				4	12	22	4	3		29
Plant Pathology	KVL	33.3	4	5	1			3			6	15		2		17
Informatics in Agriculture	SLU	52.9	6	2	3	1		2			9	17	1	8	1	27
Agro-ecology and Organic Farming	KVL	83.3	4	10				2				12		2	2	16
Food Science 1	NLH	66.7	10	5				10				15		4		19
Food Science 2	SLU	72.7	8		1			2			8	11		1	5	17
Pig herd health and welfare	HU-V	81.8	3			9					2	11	5	2	1	19
Social insects *	SLU	50.0	3		3			1			4	8		4	2	14
Boreal Forest Eco Syst *	SLU	60.0	7.5		1			1			3	5			20	25
Average/Total		54.9	5.6	43	12	21	0	29	14	68	186	12	33	51	282	

Two new subject areas were introduced in 2004 (* in Table 1), and one new area was awarded a planning grant (Urban Forestry Urban Greening).

The relative number of PhD students coming from the host member institution (Table 1) has been calculated. The average number is 54.9%, exceeding 60% for four of the courses (83.3% as a maximum). 60% is regarded as a relevant maximum, and networks must be encouraged to take action to avoid higher levels.

NOVA funding per PhD student is €1.151, and per student in general €759.

The total number of students, all categories, was 282, compared to 402 in 2003 and 292 in 2002 (see Table 2). The average number of participants has gone down from 29.2 in 2002 to 21.8 in 2004, the relative number of NOVA PhD students is stable, around 65-67%. The number of Baltic PhD students has decreased, from 60

in 2003 to 33 in 2004. The number of students from neighbouring universities and industry has increased from 32 to 51. Compared to the total number of PhD degrees each year in the NOVA member institutions (approximately 300), participation in NOVA PhD courses is good.

On average (Table 2), there were 14.4 NOVA PhD students per course (66%), ranging from 5 (as the least) to 31 (as the maximum). SLU hosted seven courses, KVL three courses, NLH two courses and HU-AF one course. As was the case in 2003, the number of ECTS credits per course ranges from 2 to 10, which is a wide spread.

The overall funding from NOVA, funds regained due to under-spending included, was €214 036 for 11 courses (two funded by NorFA), averaging €19 458 per course (€18 705 in 2003).

Table 2. NOVA PhD and other students per member, 2002 to 2004, in numbers and %, and in relation to relative size of internal member fee for 2004.

	NOVA							NOVA Total	Balt	Others	Total	Stud per course	
	KVL	HU-AF	HU-V	LBH	NLH	NVH	SLU						
2004													
PhD	43	12	21	0	29	13	68	186	33	40	259	14.3	NOVA PhD
Others	2	2				2	6	12		11	23	21.7	All
								199		Number of courses		13	
2003													
PhD	38	50	12	1	56	13	100	270	60	32	362	15.9	NOVA PhD
others	7	12	5	1	5	4	6	40			40	23.6	All
								310				17	
2002													
PhD	38	22	18	2	25	11	73	189		37	226	18.9	NOVA PhD
Others	19	7	6	1	6	4	23	66			66	29.2	All
								255				10	
2002-2004													
Total	147	105	62	5	121	48	276	763	93	120	976	40	NOVA PhD
Relative,%	19.3%	13.8%	8.1%	0.7%	15.9%	6.2%	36.2%	100.0%				16.1	All
Member, fee %	24.6%	12.9%	5.6%	1.1%	17.4%	4.2%	34.2%	100.0%				24.4	

Table 2 also shows the relative number of PhD students from the different member institutions, compared to the Nordic funding of NMR (2003) used when calculating the NOVA member fee for 2004. HU-AF, HU-V, NVH and SLU all had higher representation when comparing relative number of PhD students and relative financial input (GNP).

An external evaluation of the PhD courses given in 2003 was carried out during 2004. Results from this evaluation are reported on page xx.

During the fall of 2004, the preparation of an application to EU for a Marie Curie funding of PhD courses (appr. 20 events over a four year period) has been initiated.

MSc education

According to the decision in the strategic document, the areas designated as priority areas during 2004 were:

- Agro-ecology
- Aquaculture
- Biosystems Engineering
- Food Science
- Horticulture
- Plant Pathology
- Urban Greening/Urban Forestry
- Veterinary Medicine – intensive courses and last year differentiation

Agro-ecology

The Nordic MSc programme in Agro-ecology is now quite well established, although it still lacks a true Nordic basis. The network was given extra funding during 2004 for improving

the contributions from the other member institutions, with the exception of NLH.

The main achievements during 2004 are:

- Approval of altogether five MSc courses, three at HU and two at KVL.
- 59 students (16 Nordic) on MSc level courses, a total of 1 383 ECTS (see Table 3).
- 13 and 12 full MSc programme students enrolled, in first and second year, respectively (see Table 4).
- 11 MSc thesis projects, totalling 390 ECTS.
- 64 PhD level students, totalling 302.5 ECTS.
- Launching of the distance learning course “The ecology of farming and food systems”, partly funded by Nordplus.
- Survey of the needs of students and employers for Agro-ecology education.
- Cooperation with Baltic network in Agro-ecology.
- Improvement of programme marketing.

Table 3. Student enrolment in Agro-ecology MSc level courses held in English in 2004

Institution	Course	Total number of students	Number of Nordic students	Number of total study credits (total students*ECTS)
NLH	Agro-ecology and farming systems			
	Agro-ecology and food systems	19	5	19*30 = 570
KVL	Ecological Agriculture I	27	4	27*24 = 648
SLU	Adaptive management			
	- theory & project courses:	4	2	4*7,5 = 30
HU	Organic food systems	4	3	4*7,5= 30
Joint	Internet course PAE301	5	2	5*5 = 25
Total		59	16	ECTS 1 383

Table 4. Students enrolment in the Agro-ecology MSc programme in 2004

Institution	First year	Second year
NLH	8	7
HU	5	5
Total	13	12

Aquaculture

The Aquaculture network has worked during 2004 on elaborating the cross-approval process. The aim of this process is to pre-approve specific unique or overlapping courses at other member institutions, to enhance the framework for student mobility. The experience from these efforts has proven very valuable to the activity to design the overall approval process.

The development of a web-based platform for all relevant MSc level courses has been finalized during 2004, and the responsibility for the technical aspects of this platform has been handed over to the NOVA secretariat.

The network has rotated the chair responsibility from NLH to SLU, and its next focus will be on the development of joint semester packages and a joint Nordic programme.

Biosystems Engineering

NORBE, the Nordic School of Biosystems Engineering, has continued to focus on the development of joint semester packages and programmes. The decreasing number of students at several of the member institutions indicates that there is a growing need for Nordic cooperation. A new framework for developing national specializations under the umbrella of a joint

programme structure was launched and will be used in the continuation of the network during 2005. In 2005, the network chair has rotated from KVL to SLU.

The joint introduction course was given at KVL for the second year. This year the course was truly international, as it was attended by 12 students from 6 different countries. The students came from Denmark (3), Finland (5), Spain (1), Estonia (1), Czech Republic (1), Poland (1) (195 ECTS).

Food Science

During the past 2-3 years, the area of Food Science has established a committee with responsibility for coordinating the NOVA cooperation. The coordination committee has included representatives from the following sub-areas:

- Meat science
- Dairy Science and technology
- Food quality analysis
- Functional foods
- Organic food
- Parasitology
- Food safety
- Fish/seafood

The work in the committee has been focused on conveying information between the different areas. Each area has been responsible for arranging PhD courses and seminars, and some have also launched Nordic cooperation on the MSc level.

Horticulture

Nordic cooperation within the area of Horticulture has not improved according to plans. DSH, the Danish-Swedish Horticulture Programme is running for the fourth year, recruiting approximately 35-40 students per year, but the current framework of cooperation, over a joint, full 5-year programme, is now under reconstruction. Cooperation at the MSc level is expected

to continue, but a final structure for this still has not been devised. It is possible that a new structure may include extended Nordic cooperation.

Plant Pathology

The second CPPE MSc course was held during the fall of 2004, with a total of 11 students (5 from HU and 6 from SLU).

The cooperation within Plant Pathology, especially the CPPE course, was evaluated during the spring of 2004. See more about this on page 13.

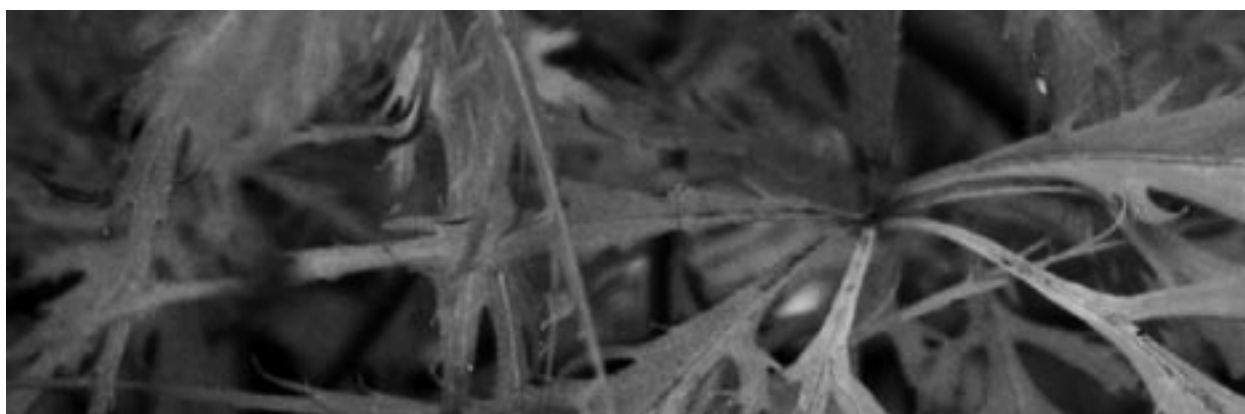
Urban Forestry Urban Greening

After a series of meetings during 2002 and 2003, the area of Urban Forestry and Urban Greening (UFUG) has managed to launch a one-year Master's programme, situated at Alnarp, SLU. The programme comprises first and foremost cooperation between SLU and KVL, involving teachers from both landscape and forest departments. The first semester is based on three KVL courses, the second on one course at SLU and a thesis work. The first students will register in the fall of 2005.

The plan is to extend the cooperation to include NLH(UMB) and HU as well in a full two-year MSc programme.

Veterinary Medicine

Activities within the area of Veterinary Medicine have increased during 2004. Based on a meeting at NVH during the fall of 2004, a new network chairperson from SLU was elected and is now operating to establish NOVA windows and short intensive MSc courses. The first Nordplus-funded intensive course will be held in the fall of 2005, and at least two more courses are under planning. A planning seminar was held at SLU during January 2005.



Acer palmatum, the symbol of Urban Forestry & Urban Greening.

Student mobility

Increased student mobility between NOVA member institutions is a vital sign of improved cooperation. Traditionally, student mobility is funded via the Nordplus mobility grant scheme. The annual support from Nordplus, administrated by the NOVA Nordplus Network, is approximately €40 000-45 000 per year. From 2004 and on, NOVA issued a financial guarantee to ensure that all student applications for mobility grants between

NOVA member institutions will be approved.

Table 5 shows that the number of students applying for mobility grants is steadily increasing, from 33 (204 months) in 2002-03 to 63 (334 months) (preliminary finding) in 2004-05. On average, each stay lasts 6 months and the average funding is approximately €1 400. SLU and KVL are the most popular host institutions, while students from NLH and SLU, and recently HU-AF as well, are the most frequent travellers.

Table 5. Student mobility in Nordplus 2002/2003 – 2004/2005 (April)

Number of students, 2002-2003										
To	HU-AF	HU-V	NLH	NVH	SLU	LBH	KVL	Others	Total	
From										
HU-AF			1		4			2	7	
HU-V									0	
NLH					2	4	4		10	
NVH									0	
SLU							3	1	4	
LBH							1		1	
KVL			4	1	5			1	11	
Total	0	0	5	1	11	4	8	4	33	

2003-2004										
To	HU-AF	HU-V	NLH	NVH	SLU	LBH	KVL	Others	Total	
From										
HU-AF					4		1	1	6	
HU-V									0	
NLH					2	1	11	5	19	
NVH		1					1		2	
SLU			2	2			3	3	10	
LBH									0	
KVL			1		4			1	6	
Total	0	1	3	2	10	1	16	10	43	

2004-2005 (Apr)										
To	HU-AF	HU-V	NLH	NVH	SLU	LBH	KVL	Others	Total	
From										
HU-AF			2		5		7		14	
HU-V				1	1		2		4	
NLH					5	4	10	3	22	
NVH					1		1		2	
SLU	1		3				2	4	10	
LBH									0	
KVL			2		8				6	
Total	1	0	7	1	20	4	22	8	63	

Number of months, 2002-2003										
To	HU-AF	HU-V	NLH	NVH	SLU	LBH	KVL	Others	Total	
From										
HU-AF					5				23	15
HU-V										0
NLH						15	20	27		62
NVH										0
SLU								21	10	31
LBH								10		10
KVL			18	7	27				6	58
Total	0	0	23	7	65	20	58	31	204	

2003-2004										
To	HU-AF	HU-V	NLH	NVH	SLU	LBH	KVL	Others	Total	
From										
HU-AF					20		3	10	33	
HU-V									0	
NLH					13	5	80	44	142	
NVH		6					3		9	
SLU			9	6			18	12	45	
LBH									0	
KVL			5		19			6	30	
Total	0	6	14	6	52	5	104	72	259	

2004-2005 (Apr)										
To	HU-AF	HU-V	NLH	NVH	SLU	LBH	KVL	Others	Total	
From										
HU-AF			10		30		23	0	63	
HU-V				1	9		9		19	
NLH					27	18	48	20	113	
NVH	3				2		2		7	
SLU			18				17	18	53	
LBH									0	
KVL			9		65			5	79	
Total	3	0	37	1	133	18	99	43	334	

Other educational activities

Specifically, the work to dismantle obstacles to Nordic cooperation and mobility has continued during 2004. In order to avoid confusing these efforts with the national processes in keeping with the Bologna Declaration, this project is now referred to within NOVA UN as the MSc administration project.

The following matters have been addressed during 2004:

- Mutual course recognition
- Mobility facilitation

During 2005, the advisory committee (KUF) will make

a final decision on which basis there will be for the continuation of mutual course recognition procedures.

The NOVA Nordplus network has reorganized during 2004, rotating head coordinator from KVL to NLH. The network is responsible for developing expedient procedures to facilitate student and teacher mobility.

NOVA Peditnet

A NOVA network for pedagogical development and use of ICT in higher education, NOVA Peditnet, was funded and formed from January 2004. The first secretariat was placed at KVL. The goal of this project is to establish and promote involvement, in order to create

a forum for positive, synergistic development through the sharing of expertise and experience.

During 2004, the network has established a website as part of the NOVA website, and will use this as a basis for various communicative activities. Representatives of the network have taken part in a variety of NOVA activities, such as the CPPE course evaluation, planning of procedures for NOVA PhD course evaluation, and in the planning and running of a Nordic workshop on the use of ICT in distance learning (Nordplus funding).

Comments on the results

Among the goals set for 2004, there were hopes for a substantial increase in student mobility as well as for a substantial number of course approvals.

Looking back on the results from 2004, it must be borne in mind that NOVA is still at the very beginning of a difficult process, not the least due to its very low visibility in the member institutions. It is also important to remember that student mobility between the Nordic institutions is very low in an overall perspective, and

that many barriers must still be overcome if a substantial increase is to be achieved.

Nevertheless, NOVA visibility is growing, among students as well as teachers. The NOVA Student Forum (NSF) reports mounting interest among students, and at the same time has identified a number of difficulties that we need to address. The goal for 2005 is to continue to boost the rate of Nordplus mobility, and to ensure smooth operation of the NOVA course catalogue, with a focus on the prioritized subject areas.

At the PhD level, the number of courses and students is being maintained relatively well. However, an effort must be made to reverse the trend indicating a declining number of NOVA PhD participants. The NOVA rector will concentrate on the revitalization of NOVA PhD networks during 2005.

Although the number of NOVA-related events is quite small, it is evident that courses held in English attract international students (see Agro-ecology and NORBE as examples). This indicates that NOVA concepts can be used as basis for future development of international cooperation.



View over Riga in October, 2004.

International projects

Achievements in the NOVA-BOVA cooperation

2004 marked a turning point for cooperation between NOVA UN and its Baltic counterpart, the BOVA University. At the end of the year, the NOVA-BOVA cooperation concluded a 3-year project, funded by the Swedish K&A Wallenberg Foundation, which was primarily aimed at developing human and administrative capacities on the BOVA side.

Evaluation

In September-October 2004, the NOVA secretariat led an internal evaluation of the NOVA-BOVA cooperation 2002-2004, followed by an independent external evaluation.

The evaluation reports concluded that, overall, NOVA-BOVA collaboration was very successful. The BOVA secretariat was established in Kaunas in June 2002 and, in tandem with the NOVA secretariat, has effectively coordinated expanding activities in 2003 and 2004. Currently, the central coordination is manned by one full-time and one half-time position in the BOVA and NOVA secretariats, respectively.

Short MSc courses

A core activity was the organization of short NOVA-BOVA MSc courses that were attended by more than 157 students during the 3-year period. The quality of the courses has been augmented in parallel with increasing application of distance learning methods. 2004 was the first year when Nordic students joined a NOVA-BOVA MSc course. Continued organization of MSc courses was possible due to funding by the

Nordic Council of Ministers (NMR). The average costs per course have decreased and the amount of own funding by the BOVA member universities has increased for each year.

Attending NOVA PhD courses

A number of new activities were initiated during the 3-year period. Notably, NOVA and BOVA secretariats established a good procedure for enabling Baltic PhD students to attend NOVA courses under support from NorFA (renamed NordForsk in 2005). In 2004, the number of Baltic participants totalled 33 (60 in 2003).

Joint Baltic MSc programmes

Another important activity was launching the development of joint MSc programmes, initially between the BOVA member universities and then between NOVA and BOVA member universities. Currently, six priority areas for joint programmes have been identified with the most rapid development noted in Management of Biodiversity and Multifunctional Landscapes and Agro-ecology. Initiation of joint MSc programmes has also fostered the development of academic networks in various disciplines. Representatives of most NOVA-BOVA networks had an opportunity to meet at the first NOVA-BOVA conference, which took place in Vilnius, Lithuania, October 2003.

Cooperation with Russia

NOVA-BOVA views Russia as an important strategic partner. In May 2004, a NOVA-BOVA delegation



NOVA rector and from left BOVA rector Henrikas Zilinskas, NOVA-BOVA coordinator Vilis Brukas, Ola Sallnäs, SLU, and BOVA coordinator Alvidas Sarlauskas visit Saint-Petersburg State Agrarian University in April 2004.

visited four universities in Northwest Russia, seeking potential further collaboration with selected universities at the level of academic networks. In 2004, Russian students and teachers participated in selected MSc courses. Also five Nordic and Baltic students took part in an MSc course on Landscape Architecture and Sustainable Development of Sub-urban Areas in St. Petersburg, in June 2004 (total 18 students).

External funding

It should be stressed that all NOVA-BOVA activities in 2002-2004 were based on external funding. The most significant donors have been the Nordic Council of Ministers and EU Socrates Programme. The NOVA

secretariat took active part in initiating and/or preparing most of the applications outlined in Table 6. In total, external funding during the period 2002-2004 reached the amount of €788.900.

Challenges

The key challenges for the coming years will be to ensure increased commitment to individual networks, implement joint MSc programme and secure a sustainable flow of external funding.

Future development of the NOVA-BOVA cooperation will be discussed during the first half of 2005, after which NOVA Board will make a decision.

Table 6. Raised external funds, in € thousand

Project, activity	Main applicant(s)	Donor	2002	2003	2004	Total
Development of capacity for N-B collaboration	SLU and NOVA secretariat	K&A Wallenberg	102.0	96.5	96.5	295.0
Short MSc courses	NOVA secretariat	NMR		37.7	40.3	78.0
Baltic students in NOVA courses	Central secretariats and course organizers			51.2	19.5	51.2
NOVA-BOVA conference	NOVA, LZUU	NMR and other		21.1		21.1
Vusabalt, ICT-based model courses, cooperation with Russia, applications to EU	NOVA secretariat and SLU	NMR		60.5	47.1	107.6
MSc programme and network in Forestry, coordinated by SLU	SLU, NOVA secretariat	NMR		29.6	35.1	64.7
		Swedish Institute		65.1		65.1
		EU Socrates		34.3	34.3	68.6
MSc programme in Biodiversity and Multifunctional Landscapes	EAU	EU Socrates			11.0	11.0
Nordic-Baltic academic network in Agro-ecology	LZUU, BOVA secretariat	NMR, Nord+ Nabo			26.6	26.6
Nordic-Baltic experience in the use of ICT and distance learning	NOVA secretariat				22.0	
Total			102.0	396.0	332.4	788.9

Note: the table shows either actual incurred costs or estimated annual budgetary allocations. For example, MSc programme in allocation for this year is only €11 000.

Administrative NOVA projects

The NOVA website

The NOVA website continues to be the most important tool for NOVA and Nordic cooperation. Improvements are being made on an ongoing basis. During the fall of 2004 extensive work was carried out by the NOVA secretariat to restructure and launch a fresh version. This was successfully done in January 2005.

New pages on the site relates to:

- A NOVA course catalogue, linking MSc courses at member institutions
- A NOVA project catalogue, listing NOVA projects since 2002, and linking project reports
- Web-based application and administration system for NOVA PhD courses.

During 2004, 12.894 visitors visited the NOVA site (13.131 during 2003). Between January and April 2005, 1.171 have visited the page for Courses and Programmes.

One important milestone during 2004 was the introduction of a NOVA Newsletter, issued two times during the fall of 2004. From 2005, the Newsletter will be distributed to all faculty members at all NOVA member institutions.

Web-based administration

The web-based system for application and administration of NOVA PhD courses was launched and implemented in March 2004, well before the application deadline on 2 May. 17 applications (for 2005 courses) were registered in the system, and the procedures worked quite well considering the situation. An enquiry was sent out to the applicants shortly after the deadline, and the response was very positive. A few improvements were suggested, and these have now been incorporated into the system.

Administration of all courses running during 2005 will be carried out within the system. Courses run during 2004 were only obliged to report students registered and student results.

A seminar for PhD course leaders will be held in March 2005 at which the web-based system will be demonstrated and discussed.

Project evaluations

During 2004, two internal project evaluations were performed, regarding 2003 NOVA PhD courses and the CPPE (Plant Pathology) project.

NOVA PhD courses

The evaluation was performed by professor Sune Linder, from Southern Swedish Research Centre, SLU in Alnarp. By reading course applications and reports, and talking to virtually each course leader, professor Linder concluded that:

- NOVA PhD courses have been very successful and are greatly valued by students and teachers alike.
- The applications comprise the most important documents on which the quality and relevance of proposed NOVA graduate courses can be evaluated.
- Many graduate courses are given “ad hoc”, which is a common problem at universities where courses are required as part of the PhD training.
- In the future, an attempt must be made to advertise the courses more widely and to ensure that the network members in each country are more active in recruiting students.
- Many of the course leaders indicated that they were very pleased with the excellent and competent help they received from the NOVA secretariat.

Furthermore:

- Icelandic students should be visible in the statistics.
- The Forest Faculty at the University in Joensuu, Finland, should be invited to become a member of NOVA.
- Only half of the total number of NOVA PhD students, should come from the host institution to get support from NOVA.
- The web-based tools for applications and evaluation should be further developed and made more “user friendly”.

The CPPE course

The CPPE course 2003 was evaluated by an internal group consisting of:

Professor Jan Stenlid (Chairman, SLU), Associate Professor Kristina Lindström (HU-AF) and Associate Professor Leon Brimer (KVL).

The conclusions of the evaluators were:

- The quality of the teaching material, lectures and social networking between students all exhibit synergistic gains from this joint NOVA effort.
- The web-based teaching system seems to work very well in the present course.
- It was a major achievement that the course could be given at the same level but over differing periods of time.
- When the pedagogic experiments have been made using replication at two levels of complexity, the course should be evaluated as a full project.
- The course appears to be perfectly adapted to constitute part of a Masters programme in plant pathology.
- Tape/digital recordings should be made of everything. This would facilitate (1) reuse of lectures, (2) preparation of electronic teaching material, and (3) provision of tutorial material for new teachers entering the system.
- Both universities have committed themselves to allocating an associate professor to this.

Annual NOVA conference and NOVA prize

The annual NOVA conference was for the first time reorganized into a working seminar with participants from the NOVA Board, KUF, national coordinators, NSF, prioritized areas and the NOVA secretariat. The primary aim was to implement the new NOVA Strategy (see page 4).

Altogether 36 participants worked for one and a half days, discussing project achievements and plans, strategic and operative matters and procedures, and the new NOVA organization.

The NOVA prize for 2004 was awarded professor Jari Valkonen, from the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry at the University of Helsinki. The motivation was that he has successfully worked for several years to strengthen and develop Nordic cooperation in his scientific field, and that he has been actively engaged in many PhD and MSc projects and activities, including the CPPE project.

A special prize was awarded Henrik Lindberg, student at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Helsinki, and former chairman of NSF, for his devoted and successful efforts within NOVA during his period as chairman of NOVA Student Forum and student representative on the NOVA Board.



NOVA Working Seminar at Hvanneyri, Iceland, in June 2004 with the local host, Rector Magnus B Jonson, LBH, Iceland.

External relations and funding

The Nordic Council of Ministers (NMR) has become the most important non-member body for financial support. The most significant areas for support during 2004 were:

- student and teacher mobility on BSc and MSc levels (Nordplus),
- funding of PhD courses (NorFA),
- funding of MSc development projects (Nordplus),
- funding of NOVA-BOVA cooperation projects (short MSc courses, Baltic PhD students, etc).

Annually, some 40-50 BSc and MSc students receive Nordplus funding to visit other Nordic universities. From 2004-05 the minimum time-frame for obtaining a mobility grant is 4 weeks. Nordplus also grants support for intensive courses of five days or more, with student travel and accommodation costs included. Between three and five Nordic teachers receive Nordplus funding for short teaching periods in other Nordic countries. During 2004, NOVA KUF agreed to issue a guarantee that all students desiring to pursue such studies at Nordic institutions will receive a Nordplus grant.

During 2004, two Nordic PhD courses were fully financed by NorFA, and starting in 2005 one network will be fully funded for a period of 3+2 years. 33 Baltic students were granted NorFA funding for participation in NOVA PhD courses.

Three NOVA MSc development projects were granted Nordplus funding during 2004-2005.

As a result of an application to NMR for strategic funding, several of the projects in the prioritized areas, and the NOVA working seminar on Iceland, received support from the NMR, in total €46 638.

A third ad hoc group (NOVA representation included), which concerns the formation of a Nordic "room" for higher research and education in agriculture and forestry (including fishery and food representatives), was launched and submitted its report in May 2004.

A final decision on this matter was expected to be taken by the Ministers of Agriculture during 2004, but it is still unclear what the results of all these meetings and reports will be.

Overall, the external funding passing through the NOVA accounts totals €336 389 (see Table 7).

Table 7. Funding received directly to NOVA from external sources during 2004.

	Funding received, Euro
NMR	
MSc courses	24 771
VUSABALT	59 182
Agrobiotech/NorFA	8 712
Nordplus UFUG	*
Nordplus ICT NOVA	*
Nordplus ICT NOVA-BOVA	17 097
Nordic cooperation	46 638
VIRESAB/SLU	30 175
CPPE	15 600
Wallenberg/SLU	134 214
Total	336 389

* to be received during 2005

From funding received during 2004, €125 384 is available for use during 2005 (see Table 11).

At the Board meeting in January, NMR Secretary-General Per Unckel and a number of his senior officers took part in a mutual discussion. Specifically, future contributions from NMR to NOVA student and teacher mobility were discussed. Per Unckel also visited the NOVA secretariat in Alnarp (March 23), to obtain more information about NOVA and Nordic cooperation.

On November 17, the NOVA Rector participated in a NMR Högut (committee for higher education) meeting, at which he presented information about NOVA and Nordic projects/cooperation.

NOVA Organization

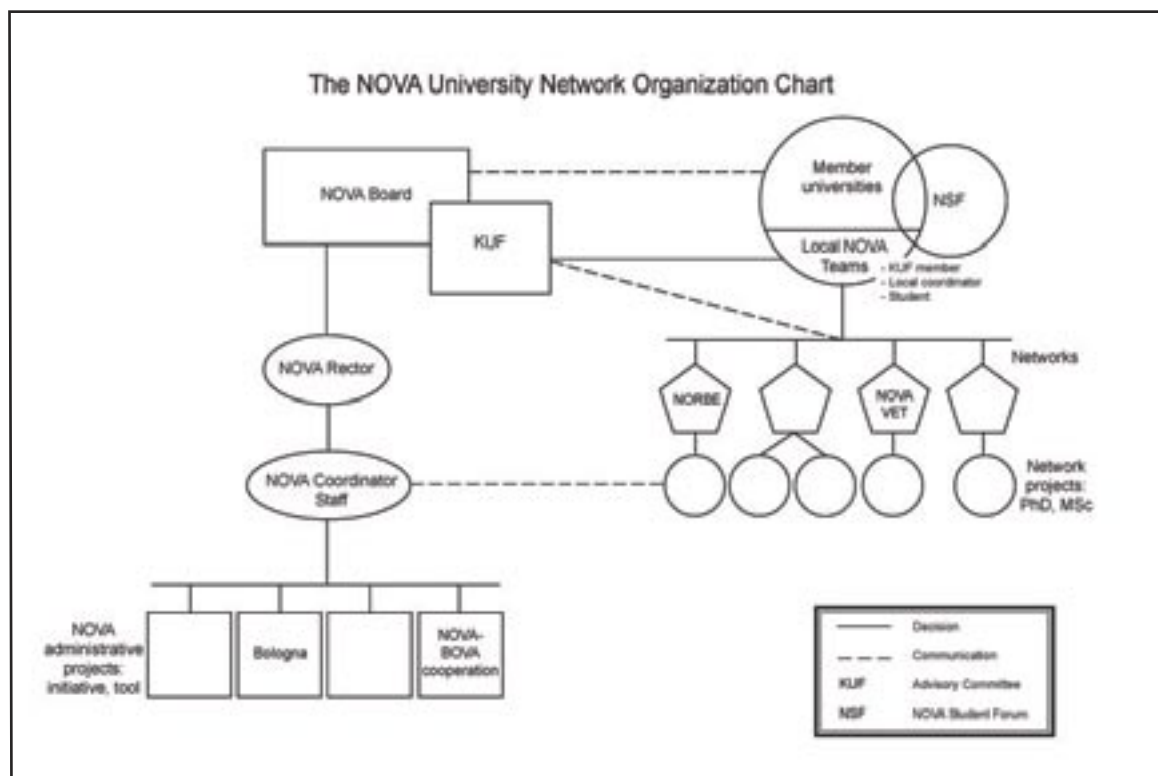


Figure 1. The NOVA University Network Organization chart.

Based on the new NOVA UN Strategy, the NOVA organization has been restructured, and implemented from the second half of 2004.

The most important changes in the organization relate to the clarification of the roles and responsibilities of the various fora (Board, KUF, NOVA rector), and the introduction of Local NOVA Teams at each member institution. The KUF Chairman is appointed by the Board for a period of two years, and permanently co-opted to the Board. The NOVA Rector serves as the secretary of both fora.

Local NOVA Teams

Local NOVA Teams have been established at each member institution. The KUF member is the responsible leader for each team, which at a minimum is comprised of the local NOVA coordinator and a student representative. Beyond this, it is up to each member institution to establish the local organization. The work in the Teams was evaluated and reported to the NOVA Board in February 2005.

The NOVA Rector and coordinator are responsible for supporting NOVA networks and their projects, and are also the leaders of NOVA administrative projects.

NOVA Board

The NOVA Board decided formally on the new NOVA UN Strategy at an extra Board meeting on February 27, 2004. This marked the end of a long and fruitful process on the part of the Board, encompassing regular meetings as well as workshops.

A plan and budget for 2004 were approved at the January meeting (see Table 8), and the annual report including financial status for 2003 was approved in June. In October, the activity plan and budget for 2005 were discussed.

Table 8. Meetings 2004

NOVA Board Date	Place	NOVA KUF Date	Place
January 26	KVL	February 12	Tele
February 27	KVL	June 16	NLH
June 4	LBH	September 7	KVL
October 12	HU	October 7	Tele
		November 16	SLU

KUF

After the working seminar on Iceland in the beginning of June, 2004, the advisory committee, KUF, started to work according to the new strategy from the meeting in June. Professor Flemming Frandsen, Vice Rector from KVL, was appointed chairman of the KUF. At the June meeting, the KUF decided on the PhD course applications for 2005, while applications for MSc-related projects were dealt with in November. The KUF was also involved in the preparation of the activity plan and budget for 2005.

NOVA Rector

Starting from the KUF meeting in June, the NOVA Rector has been acting as secretary at both NOVA Board and KUF meetings. The NOVA Rector also took active part in the NOVA-BOVA cooperation, acting as chairman in the NOVA-BOVA Coordination Committee (CC). Relations with Nordic Council of Ministers and other external donors have been intensified during 2004.

The NOVA secretariat has worked intensively on a number of different matters:

- discussions with several networks;
- backup in the strategic planning process;
- planning and running of:
 - Board and KUF meetings,
 - annual conference;
- preparation of:
 - annual budget,
 - annual plan,
 - annual report;
- information and marketing:
 - NOVA website,
 - PhD application system;
- external funding.

Local NOVA coordinators

As the parties responsible for the contacts between member institutions and the NOVA secretariat, local NOVA coordinators have a very important role in the organization. New coordinators were appointed at SLU, KVL and Helsinki university during 2004.

NSF

The NOVA Student Forum (NSF) has continued to act constructively, as representatives in the NOVA Board and in the KUF, after new members were appointed to the NSF Board. Meetings were held both on Iceland, in relation to the working seminar in June, and in Pärnu (Estonia) in October. At the latter, NSF supported the

student organization in the BOVA member institutions in arranging a Baltic Student Forum (BSF).

Reports issued during 2004

A number of reports issued by NOVA have been mentioned above. A list of these and other reports is provided below.

Internal NOVA reports

- Half-time evaluation of the NOVA project “Coordinated Plant Pathology Education” (CPPE).
- Evaluation of quality and procedures in relation to NOVA PhD courses given in 2003
- Draft document from the NOVA project for coordinating administrative processes (Bologna)
- NOVA-BOVA self-evaluation report
- Annual report 2003

Summary of 2004

All in all, 2004 was the year of the new NOVA UN Strategy, for 2004-2006. Together with the working seminar on Iceland, this marks the start of a new NOVA organization, with an emphasis on results.

Although some of the goals for 2004 have yet to be achieved, we can nonetheless look ahead with clear roles and responsibilities, as well as with a focus on a few very active and progressive areas. We have great hopes for 2005.

The total NOVA budget for 2004 was €1 187 682, including €377 732 from external donors (Table 14). Internal fees from member institutions comprising €822 573, unused funds of €85 535 will be carried over to 2005.

Tromsø, 4 June 2005

Paul Jensén
NOVA Rector

Lars Moe
Chair of NOVA Board

Financial data for 2004



Secretary General of NCM, Per Unckel, visiting NOVA University Network and Nordic Gene Bank at Alnarp, Sweden, in March 23, 2004.

This section provides financial data for 2004. For statistical data, see previous sections.

Project funding

Due to delays in the project schedules, funding set aside one year is often not fully used during the relevant budget year. Thus, funds set aside 2002 and 2003 are still available for use during 2005. In total, this holds for an amount of €65 066, more than half of which (€36 090) relates to the Veterinary project from 2002 (see Table 9).

Table 9. Funds set aside 2002-2003 unused for 2005, EURO.

	From 2003	Used 2004	To 2005
Funds set aside 2002	55 723	-16 218	39 505
Funds set aside 2003	63 600	-38 039	25 561
Total	119 323	-54 257	65 066

Table 10. Funds set aside 2004, mostly for MSc activities, for 2004 and 2005, EURO.

	Set aside	Used	Regained	To 2005
Personal stipends	1 703	-1 703		0
Planning				
Vet epidemiology, planning	3 820	0	-919	2 901
Pathology 20 year	1 100	0	-1 100	0
Crop cultures, course dev	9 275	0		9 275
KLINIK	5 000	0		5 000
NorFA/Scanbalt	500	0		500
Hippology	2 950	0		2 950
Apikulture	5 000	0		5 000
MSc forest econ	1 946	0		1 946
Extension	4 700	0		4 700
Trop rain forest	2 200	-1 764		436
Food	2 430	0		2 430
Priority areas				
Agro-ecology 2004	*28 800	-17 280		11 520
- SLU	5 495	0		5 495
Aquaculture 2004	*20 000	0		20 000
Urban For UG 2004-2005	33 900	-17 473		16 427
Agro-ecology 2005	24 600	0		24 600
Aquaculture 2005	21 000	0		21 000
Library group 2005	15 000	0		15 000
Administrative projects				
DC extra	2 682	-2 682		0
Evaluation of PhD courses	5 500	-3 846	-1 654	0
Evaluation of CPPE	5 000	-3 386	-1 614	0
Stud mobility	6 000	0		6 000
NOVA prize 2004	4 000	0		4 000
Administr projects	5 495	-1 640		3 855
PhD workshop	8 242	0		8 242
ICT workshop	6 000	0		6 000
IAAE	2 690	0		2 690
Total	235 027	-49 775	-5 287	179 966

*See next page.

During 2004, project funding to the amount of €235 027 was set aside for use during 2004 and 2005 (see Table 10). Funds for Agro-ecology and Aquaculture for 2004 (*) were set aside early 2004, thus double funding appears in Table 10 for these areas (also for 2005). €49 775 was used and requested before the end of 2004, €5 287 was regained, and €62 641 was used but was not requested by the end of the year. Thus, €117 325 (179 966 – 62 641) is reserved for activities during 2005. Together with previously reserved funds from 2002 and 2003, €182 591 is reserved for 2005.

External funding

All together €336 389 was received from external donors for NOVA or NOVA-BOVA related projects during 2004 (see Table 11).

Taking into account leftovers from 2003, €25 611, and funds to be requested during 2005, €17 350, €125 384 is available for new activities during 2005. Most of these funds are earmarked for NOVA-BOVA cooperation projects.

Table 11. External funding 2004, euro.

Donors Projects NMR	Funding From 2003	Used	Received	To request	To 2005
MSc courses	13 869	-50 666*	24 771	12 026	0
VUSABALT	24 211	-32 815*	59 182	0	50 578
Agrobiotech/NorFA		-9 212*	8 712	500	0
Nordplus UFUG		-1 793*		1 793	0
Nordplus ICT NOVA		-5 498*		5 498	0
Nordplus ICT N-BOVA			17 097		17 097
Nordic cooperation		-46 638	46 638		0
VIRE SAB/SLU			30 175		30 175
CPPE		-15 600*	15 600		
Wallenberg	-12 469	-91 744	134 214	-2 467	27 534
Total	25 611	-253 967	336 389	17 350	125 384

* Referred to in Table 14, €115 585.

NOVA financial summary 2004

As in 2003, all financial data are given in euro. The exchange rates have been fairly stable during 2004. The rate between SEK and euro has fluctuated around 9.1 SEK/euro.

Funding and expenses statement

The total internal membership fee was €822 573, which was reduced by a national tax at an amount of €12 623. The total budget for internal NOVA affairs was €962 239, €46 638 from NMR and €105 650 regained funding included (see Table 12).

Internal funding for 2005 is reduced by 10%.

Dividing activities into typical scientific and administrative projects (Table 13), we can see that 33% of the expenses were used for PhD courses, 21% for typical MSc related projects, 20% for administrative projects and 25% for the NOVA secretariat. Taking external funding into account, as in Table 14, 19% was used for secretariat expenses.

		Euro	2003	2004		2005
			Actual	Budget	Actual	%
Member funding	KVL	125 229	188 100	186 875	100%	169 290
	NLH	102 355	167 567	167 142	100%	150 810
	NVH	20 190	40 333	39 998	100%	36 300
	LBH	5 782	9 075	8 927	99%	8 168
	HU-AF	64 188	101 481	100 115	99%	91 333
	HU-V	27 610	43 719	43 547	100%	39 347
	SLU	180 790	274 725	275 969	101%	247 253
	Gov fee			-12 623		
External	NMR		0	46 638		40 000
Total funding		526 145	825 000	856 589	104%	770 000
Expenses						
Activities	PhD courses	-306 007	-323 214	-291 804	90%	-310 000
	Projects	-122 386	-129 286	-229 741	178%	-180 000
	Internal secretariat	-135 714	-113 324	-117 406	104%	-115 000
	web		-16 484	-16 121	98%	-10 000
	NSF	-20 000	-19 890	-12 637	64%	-15 000
	Annual workshop			0		-15 500
	Jubilee document					-15 500
	Other					-5 000
Total activities		-562 680	-602 198	-667 709	111%	-666 000
Regained		13 054		105 650		40 000
Secretariat	Salary	-156 081	-169 150	-170 144	101%	-174 800
	Travels	-11 842	-14 835	-12 524	84%	-13 000
	Marketing					-10 000
	Other	-15 264	-34 176	-45 360	133%	-29 700
Total secr		-183 187	-218 161	-228 028	105%	-227 500
Total expenses		-732 813	-820 359	-790 086	96%	-853 500
Surplus/deficit		-206 668	4 641	66 503		-83 500
Surplus from 2002		225 700				
Surplus from 2003				19 032		
Surplus from 2004						85 535
Total		19 032		85 535		2 035

Table 13. Activity expenses 2004.

Activities and secretariat	Amount	
	€	%
PhD courses	291 804	33
Projects MSc	187 401	21
Administrative projects	175 867	20
NSF	12 637	2
Total activities	667 709	75
Secretariat	228 028	25*
Total expenses	895 737	100

* 19% if external funding is included.

Table 14. Total funding of activities 2004.

NOVA internal funding	809 951	68%
NMR		
Funding NOVA activities	46 638	
Student and teacher mobility	57 730	*
PhD courses	60 000	*
External projects	6 035	*
From table 11	115 585	
Wallenberg/BOVA	91 744	
Total external funding	377 732	32%
Total funding	1 187 683	100%

* Not included in NOVA accountings.

If we exclude the national tax from internal funding, a total of €809 951 represents 68% of the total funding of NOVA and NOVA-BOVA related activities. 32%

was externally funded, from NMR and the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation (final year of three).

Balance statement

The amount of cash in the NOVA balance statement has increased during 2004, from €501 646 to €663 799. The explanation is that projects are granted funding for 2005, and that set-aside funds from external donors

have increased substantially. Equity balanced from 2004 to 2005 equals €85 535, partly reserved for compensating a cutback of 10% in 2005 internal funding.

Table 15. Balance statement 2004, euro.

		Beg of year	End of year
Assets			
Cash		501 646	663 799
Notes payable			290
Member univ			4 493
Wallenberg		16 342	
Diff		1	1
Computers		6 373	11 424
-depreciation		-4 008	-6 185
Total assets		520 355	673 822
Liabilities			
Notes payable		-36 282	-15 041
Unpaid salary		-356	-2 316
For vacation		-34 845	-37 369
VAT/Gov fee		-337	-13 221
Interim			-13 865
Funds set aside	Internal funding	-387 550	-398 443
	External funding	-41 953	-108 033
Balanced surplus	Beg of year	-19 032	
	Surplus 2004		-66 503
	End of year		-85 535
Total liabilities and equity		-520 355	-673 822

Confirmation of the financial report

The NOVA University Network Board has approved the financial report for 2004 at its meeting on June 4, 2005.

Lars Moe
Chair from 1 Jan. 2004,
Rector, NVH

Per Holten Andersen
Rector, KVL

Knut Hove
Rector, NLH/UMB

Hannu Saloniemi
Dean, HU-VET

Ann-Christin Bylund
Rector, SLU

Magnus B. Jónsson
Rector, LBH, rector until Dec 12. 2004

Agust Sigurdsson
Rector, LBHI, rector from Jan 1. 2005

Jukka Kola
Dean, HU-AF

Martin Solli
Student representative, NLH

NOVA members 2004



The cultural and social part of NOVA seminar 2004 at LBH, Iceland.

This section presents a summary of financial and other data from the individual member institutions for 2004. This is designed to provide insight into the size and structure of each institution, and to give some idea of the total extent of Nordic cooperation.

Financial data

Government funding was by far the most important financial resource, averaging 62.2% (63.0% in 2003), varying from 57.8% (SLU) to 81.6% (HU-V) (Table 16).

Table 16. Financial data, 2004, mill. euro

	KVL	SLU*	NLH	NVH**	HU-AF	HU-VET	LBH	Total
INCOME								
Government funding	97.0	139.9	64.9	22.5	22.1	10.5	3.7	360.6
Profit earnings income	5.0	36.8	4.8	3.8	3.1	3.6	0.3	57.5
External funds	36.0	63.8	13.9	9.9	12.6	1.7	0.1	138.1
Other	19.0	1.4	0.4	1.3	0.8	0.1	0.5	23.5
TOTAL	157.0	242.0	84.0	37.6	38.6	15.9	4.6	579.6
Gov fund/total. %	61.8	57.8	77.3	59.9	57.2	66.2	79.4	62.2
EXPENSES								
Salary	85.0	153.6	51.4	21.8	21.3	8.5	2.4	342.2
Admin costs	54.0	57.6	23.8	13.9	8.9	4.6	2.2	163.5
Rent	18.0	31.4	8.5	1.9	8.5	3.3	0.03	71.7
TOTAL	157.0	242.6	83.7	37.6	38.7	16.4	4.6	577.4
Salary/total. %	54.1	63.3	61.4	58.0	55.0	51.8	51.2	59.3

* SLU is the only member directly subordinate to the Ministry of Agriculture, and has a considerable sector responsibility outside its education and research commission. This affects the size of its income, both profit earnings income and external funds, and the number of employees.

** NVH is annually paying for 15 full-time positions abroad, in Sweden and Great Britain, over its budget. Two local institutes perform mostly research projects, and a disproportionately large number of the staff is hired as consultants.

Salaries made up around 60% of the total expenses, on average 59.3% (58.5%), and varying from 51.1 (HU-V) to 63.3% (SLU). The total budget for all member

institutions, €579.6 million, has increased since 2003, when it was €546.3 million.

Table 17. Number of ECTS, full-time student equivalents (FSE) and degrees, 2004.

Member institutions	BSc/MSc		Degrees			PhD students	
	Number of ECTS	Number of FSE	MSc	BSc	Tot	Registered	Degrees
KVL	111 360	1 856	344	172	516	391	98
SLU	184 920	3 082	450	243	693	830	137
NLH	129 077	2 151	369	278	647	194	40
NVL	21 000	350	67	0	67	66	16
HU-AF	89 358	1 489	205	5	210	456	27
HU-VET	25 158	419	50	0	50	68	11
LBH	4 800	80	0	23	0	0	0
Total	565 673	9 428	1 485	721	2 206	2 005	329

The total production of BSc/MSc ECTS in 2004 (Table 17) was 565 673 (533 068 in 2003), representing an increase from 2003 of 6.1%. All institutions except KVL, HU-AF* and LHB had an increase in ECTS and FSE production. The total number of full-time student equivalents (FSE; one FSE=60 ECTS) was 9 428 (9

218). The total production of BSc/MSc degrees was 2 206 (2 174), and the number of PhD degrees was 329 (321), with close to 2 000 registered PhD students. SLU had the largest production in all categories.

* Due to the loss of one department to another HU faculty.

Table 18. Number of employees, academic, technical/administrative and total, 2004.

Number of employees	Acad	Techn/adm	Total
KVL	765	906	1 671
SLU	1 519	1 556	3 075
NLH	438	428	866
NVH	178	228	406
HU-AF	335	225	560
HU-VET	98	159	257
LBH	74	44	118
Total	3 407	3 546	6 953

The number of employees (Table 18) remained virtually unchanged, 6 953 (6 808 in 2003), with a slight increase

for technical/administrative staff, 3 546 (3 370), and a slight decrease for academic staff, 3 407 (3 438).

Table 19. Key data from NOVA member institutions, 2004.

Member institutions	Tot income		FSE per academic employee	External funding per employee	Income in relation to each other	No of FSE in relation to each other	GDP relation 2003
	per employee Euro	per FSE* Euro					
KVL	93 956	84 591	2.4	21 544	27.2	19.7	22.8
SLU	78 692	78 513	2.0	20 763	42.0	32.7	33.3
NLH	96 942	39 024	4.9	16 042	14.6	22.8	20.3
NVH	92 623	107 442	2.0	24 483	6.5	3.7	4.9
HU-AF	68 964	31 934	3.6	22 500	6.7	15.8	12.3
HU-VET	50 039	30 670	4.3	6 615	2.2	4.5	5.3
LBH	39 272	57 926	1.1	1 184	0.8	0.9	1.1
Average	83 367	61 482	2,8	19 865	100.0	100.0	100.0

* FSE=full-time students equivalent, one FSE=60 ECTS

The total income per employee indicates the financial resources available. As in 2002 and 2003, NVH, KVL and NLH had larger funds than the other members, while LBH and HU-V had the lowest. The higher the income per full-time student equivalent, the more significant is the total activity per student. As before, NVH was quite outstanding, while NLH, HU-AF, and HU-VET had the lowest activity.

The average number of FSE per academic employee has increased from 2.7 to 2.8. At HU-VET, and NLH, this number exceeds four.

The amount of external funds per employee is a measure of how dependent and successful the members are in raising external funds. As in 2002 and 2003, NVH

topped the league, with close to €25 000 per employee (29 054 in 2003).

When comparing the volume of activity (income) at the different institutions, SLU has by far the greatest volume (42.0%), but it should be noted that SLU retains a significant commission as a sector research institute. SLU is still the largest if we compare the number of BSc/MSc full-time student equivalents (32.7%).

The total amount of the membership fee (€825 000) is divided among the member institutions based on their relative gross domestic products (GDP 2003), calculated annually by the Nordic Council of Ministers.

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