

Annual report 2003



NOVA
UNIVERSITY NETWORK

Content

Words from the NOVA Rector.....	1
--	----------

The Year 2003 - Achievements	3
---	----------

Nordic projects	3
------------------------------	----------

PhD education	2
---------------------	---

MSc education.....	4
--------------------	---

Other educational activities	6
------------------------------------	---

Other projects	6
----------------------	---

International projects.....	7
------------------------------------	----------

Achievements in the NOVA/BOVA	
-------------------------------	--

cooperation.....	7
------------------	---

NOVA DC.....	7
--------------	---

Administrative NOVA projects	8
---	----------

External relations and funding.....	9
--	----------

NOVA Organization.....	10
-------------------------------	-----------

Reports issued during 2003	11
---	-----------

Summary of 2003.....	12
-----------------------------	-----------

Financial data for 2003.....	13
-------------------------------------	-----------

NOVA financial summary 2003.....	15
----------------------------------	----

Confirmation of the financial report	17
--	----

NOVA members 2003	19
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Words

from the NOVA Rector

NOVA cooperation an excellent long-term investment for its members!

After many years of somewhat less focus, there has been a resurgence of Nordic cooperation. There are a number of good reasons why such cooperation is important above and beyond the idea of cooperation in and of itself. In the sphere of education and research, Nordic establishments that are working together have a much better chance of achieving international recognition in a variety of areas than each separate national establishment would have on its own. At the same time, formalized Nordic cooperation enhances the ability of the individual member institutions to utilize their financial resources effectively.

Within NOVA's sphere of activity, it has become increasingly clear that there is a need for a strong Nordic region that can collaborate with the Baltic countries and other relevant regions in Northern Europe to develop cutting-edge expertise. This will in turn attract researchers and students who would otherwise choose universities outside the Nordic region, and thus beyond the reach of NOVA. By sharing and in some cases distributing our competence, we can maintain high enough quality over time to ensure our further development and, in the long run, our survival in the university community.

During the past year, NOVA has continued its efforts in the field of researcher training programmes, and provided support to a larger number of courses than any previous year. Nearly half of our resources were devoted to these activities. The number of scientific areas interested in participating is growing. A special project and evaluation process was launched during the last part of 2003 to facilitate the grant application process, and to further refine the overall course concept. The interest in NOVA's researcher training programmes is rising in non-Nordic countries as well. With the help of funding from NorFA, the 2003 courses were opened to a large number of Baltic students. During 2004, a limited number of externally-financed Russian students will also be allowed to take part in NOVA courses.

During the past two years, NOVA has intensified its efforts to expand cooperation at the MSc level. Concrete results are now beginning to emerge from some of these activities, for instance in Biosystems Engineering and Plant Pathology. I am certain that several of the other areas will also soon arrive at appropriate forms of cooperation. A first step in the right direction involves mutual course approval, which has already been achieved in the area of Aquaculture. In the same context, a project was launched towards the end of the year to agree, to the greatest possible extent, on a shared interpretation of the Bologna Declaration, as a first step in implementing this in all relevant NOVA activities.

One key issue is to create a general framework for mobility and thus greater choice for students. Enhanced mobility leads to enhanced quality of educational programmes. It is gratifying to note that there has been an upswing in the number of students moving between the NOVA universities. Moreover, the NOVA Student Forum (NSF) conducted a survey in which students clearly indicated that they are interested in moving between the NOVA institutions if it can be done with a minimum of bureaucracy.

NOVA's relations with various external Nordic institutions and funders have been expanded in a number of ways during 2003. This applies first and foremost to the Nordic Council of Ministers, but our contacts with other Nordic organizations, such as the Nordic Association of Agricultural Scientists, have also been strengthened as well. It is our hope that these efforts will lead to tangible results in the years to come.

I am proud to report that NOVA is often cited both within and outside the Nordic region as an excellent example of cooperation between universities. This is profoundly encouraging for our further efforts, but at the same time we must not forget that much remains to be done to make the wheels of activity turn smoothly to obtain optimal Nordic, and thereby also national, benefits. During the latter part of 2003, the NOVA board laid the foundation for a new strategy for the coming three-year period (2004-2006). NOVA will continue to concentrate its efforts in the area of MSc and PhD education, and will also seek to strengthen the organization internally, which among other things entails creating a more solid organizational foundation as well as an administration that deals with NOVA issues even more effectively.

The 2003 annual report, which is NOVA's third, contains expanded statistical data. However, we are fully aware that this material is in no way complete. A project to rectify this problem will be started during 2004, and will hopefully produce results in time for the next annual report.

The future is undeniably full of challenges, but nonetheless we look to 2004 with confidence and anticipation. In the words of renowned Antarctic explorer Ernest Shackleton, we say: "Through power of endurance shall we gain victory!"

Paul Jensen

Through power
of endurance shall
we gain victory!

Achievements

Nordic projects

The attention focused on achievements in the areas of PhD and MSc education has been given even greater emphasis during 2003. While the planning and implementation of NOVA PhD courses have continued successfully as before, much effort has been applied to improving cooperation at the MSc educational level.

PhD education

All together, 17 courses were held during 2003 (as opposed to 11 in 2002 and 12 in 2001). Two of these were fully financed by NorFA, while one was partially NorFA-financed. A total of 310 students from NOVA member institutions participated in these courses, compared to 255 in 2002. As seen in Table 1 270 were PhD students, compared to 189 in 2002.

Table 1. NOVA PhD courses, PhD students and funding 2003, Euro

Course subjects	Code	Host institutions	ECTS	No of NOVA PhD students from							NOVA	
				KVL	HU-AF	HU-V	LBH	NLH	NVH	SLU	Total	Funding
Radio Ecology	39-02	NLH	5					3		4	7	24 505
Animal Nutrition	02	NLH	3	2	5			7		1	15	23 114
Plant Breeding	03	Lith	6		1			2		7	10	11 766
Crop Production Science	04	NLH	9	1				5		2	8	6 886
Animal Breeding	06	HU-AF	4,5	5	2			10		3	20	19 835
Veterinary Epidemiology	07	NVH	5	5		6			10	9	30	36 593
Reproduction	08	SLU	2			2			2	14	18	15 490
Plant Pathology	09	SLU	6	2	1			3		3	9	11 209
Horticulture	23	SLU	8	3	3		1	1		6	14	0**
Forest Pathology/Microbiology	28	SLU	5	5	5					22	32	28 000
Informatics in Agriculture	29	KVL	6	3	6	1		3		6	19	35 875***
Agro-ecology and Organic Farming	32A	KVL	4	10				1		1	12	14 084
Bioethics - Plants	38	NLH	8	1	3			4		1	9	16 577
Econometry*	42	HU-AF	6		17			8		3	28	13 784
Statistics in Genetic Research*	43	NLH	6		4			9	1	4	18	0**
Pig Herd Health and Welfare*	44	SLU	3			3				6	9	12 705
Bio Fibre Technology*	45	SLU	10	1	3					8	12	10 155
Sum				38	50	12	1	56	13	100	270	280 579
* new course **100% NorFA funding ***partial NorFA funding												

On average, there were close to 16 PhD students per course, ranging from seven at the least to 32 as the maximum. SLU hosted six courses, NLH hosted five, KVL and HU-AF each hosted two, and NVH and the Lithuanian Agriculture University in Kaunas each hosted one. Note that the number of NOVA PhD students attending each course is often unevenly distributed, with the majority of the students coming from the host university. There is also a wide spread between the lowest (2) and the highest (10) number of ECTS given for a course.

The overall funding from NOVA was 280 579 euro for 15 courses, including funds retained during 2004. Two were fully and one was partially financed by NorFA (indicated by ** and *** in Table 1, respectively). This generates an average of 18 705 euro per course.

In 2003, four new subject areas were introduced as new courses (* in Table 1). Another new area, Api-culture, was awarded a planning grant.

The total number of students of all categories participating in the PhD courses was 402 in 2003, 292 in 2002 and 310 in 2001. The increase is partly due to the great success of more than 60 Baltic PhD students

participating in 2003, compared to five in 2002. All of these were financed by NorFA grants. Students from neighbouring universities, industry and other nationalities also participated.

Table 2. NOVA PhD and other students per member, 2002 and 2003, in numbers and %, and in relation to relative size of internal member fee for 2003.

		KVL	HU-AF	HU-V	LBH	NLH	NVH	SLU
2003	PhD	38	50	12	1	56	13	100
	Other	7	12	5	1	5	4	6
2002	PhD	38	22	18	2	25	11	73
	Other	19	7	6	1	6	4	23
Total in 2002+2003		102	91	41	5	92	32	202
Relative no in %		18.1	16.1	7.1	0.9	16.3	5.7	35.8
GDP, % (2002)		23.8	12.2	5.3	1.1	18.9	4.5	34.2

Table 2 shows the relative number of students from the different member institutions, also compared to the GDP percentage (2002) used when calculating the NOVA member fees for 2003. HU-AF, HU-V and NVH were over-represented when comparing relative number of students and relative financial input (GDP).

MSc education

Starting in 2002, very high priority has been given to cooperation at the MSc educational level, and these activities were further emphasized during 2003. The aim is to concentrate on a number of priority areas in which common NOVA courses, blocks or – as a long term goal – programmes will be identified. The process of mutual course approval was initiated for the first time during 2003, in the area of Aquaculture.

The areas designated as priority areas during 2003 were:

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

Agro-ecology

The Nordic MSc programme in Agro-ecology, located in NLH, was administered for the third year. Nine international students were enrolled in the two first-

An external evaluation of the PhD courses given in 2003 will be carried out in 2004. This evaluation will also view the NOVA PhD concept in a broader perspective, to determine areas of potential improvement regarding, for instance, administrative and financial matters.



Horticulture students.

year NOVA courses at NLH (a total of 270 ECTS), six students in the second year of the programme and three students graduated from the institution with an MSc in Agro-ecology.

The programme was externally evaluated during 2003, and will be given a stricter framework as a result of these activities. In particular, the programme must be made more visible to the students, and marketing

efforts must be expanded. The programme must also be enlarged to better reflect the Nordic basis.

Aquaculture

The main focus within the area of Aquaculture has been to coordinate the MSc education on a Nordic basis. This has been done through the launching of a mutual course approval procedure. A database established on the Aquaculture website lists all courses given at the member institutions, and provides links to the various relevant course catalogues.

Biosystems Engineering

The first common NOVA course within the area of Biosystems Engineering, an introduction to MSc studies, was launched in the fall of 2003, with five international students (all together 75 ECTS). Following this

introductory course, students may enrol in a number of specializations at the various member institutions.

Forest Technology

Following the 2002 study in the area of Forest Technology, the NOVA member institutions were asked to clarify their interest in further cooperation. Although all the institutions were positive to extended Nordic cooperation, the time is not yet right to launch a major NOVA project in the area.

Horticulture

In the fall of 2003, the Danish/Swedish Horticulture Programme (DSH) started on its third year. Currently, a total of approximately 90 students have enrolled this programme. In the fall of 2003, five Chinese students enrolled the programme via KVL.

Table 3. Courses, ECTS and students within DSH, 2003

DSH studies 2003	ECTS	Number of students from				No. of students	ECTS/course
		Sw	Dk	Nord	Other		
Basic courses							
Horticulture	27	21	8		10	39	1 053
Chemistry/ Plant Physiology	24	18	8			26	624
Genetics, Plant Breeding and	17	18	8			26	442
Plant Protection	15	18	6			24	360
Statistics	8	18	6			24	192
External Growth Factors	15	17	9	1	1	28	420
Economy	10	17	9	1	1	28	280
Ecology	14	17	9	1	1	28	392
Elective courses							
Post-harvest Handling and	15	12	1			13	195
Climate Management	15	4				4	60
Plant Breeding, Genetic Res. and Biotech	15	6				6	90
Environmental Issues in horticulture crop production	15	8				8	120
Total							4 228

As shown in Table 3, approximately 4 000 ECTS were produced within the DSH programme (67 full-time student equivalents). There has been some imbalance between number of Swedish and Danish students, but the goal is to achieve more even distribution in the future.

In the third year, with elective courses, most Danish students choose to take non-DSH courses, primarily at KVL.

Note that one student comes from another Nordic country, while a total of 11 students are international students, ten of whom are attending the introductory course.

The 2002-2003 NOVA project was aimed at finding ways to expand Nordic cooperation within the horticulture area. Methods proposed included mutual course approval, course development and extensive cooperation between teachers. These processes will be launched during 2004.

Plant Pathology

In the area of Plant Pathology, the first joint NOVA course was launched in the fall of 2003, with 27 students (81 ECTS) from HU (13), SLU (13) and Lithuania (1). The course was administered as a combined distance learning and two-week intensive course. The next course will be held in the fall of 2004. The course was partially financed by Nordplus grants.

Veterinary Science

In the area of Veterinary Science, there is a joint agreement to differentiate on the last year specializations. The first concept, in the form of intensive courses in NOVA windows, will be launched during 2004/2005. Partly due to high student interest, NOVA windows with intensive courses will also be launched during earlier segments of the veterinary education.

Other projects

Within the areas of Food Science and Urban Greening/Urban Forestry, a variety of initiatives were taken to strengthen Nordic cooperation in various forms. Explicit results are expected during 2004.

A NOVA course was held at HU, by Viiki Tropical Resources Institute (VITRI), in the spring of 2003. This comprised a 12-day intensive course about National Forest Programmes in Developing Countries.

As was the case in 2002, there is still a lack of detailed information to generate statistics about the students participating in Nordic (NOVA) activities or student mobility. The data shown below in Table 4 consists of approximations calculated from information gathered from various sources.

Note that NOVA does not have information about individual students visiting outside the Nordplus programme.

Table 4. Student mobility 2002 and 2003, number of students, ECTS 2003.

		Total	Short courses	Semester courses	Programmes DSH included	Nordplus +indiv
Mobility	2002	70/40+n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	70	40+n.a.
	2003	140/45+n.a.	27	n.a.	110	45+n.a.
ECTS	2003	4800*	81		4700*	

n.a. = data is not available

** approximations, see text*

Other educational activities

There appears to be a rising interest in Nordic studies among NOVA member students. During the study year 2002/2003, a total of 45 students were granted Nordplus mobility funding. For the first time it looks as though the number of students applying for Nordplus grants (during 2003/2004) will fill the financial frame stipulated for the Nordplus grant scheme. Due to a NOVA guarantee, all student applications for Nordic mobility grants will be accepted.

The European process initiated by the Bologna Declaration implies tremendous advantages for the expansion of Nordic cooperation. A NOVA project launched in the late fall of 2003 is seeking common ground among NOVA member institutions regarding matters such as:

- mutual course, block or programme definitions,
- degree definitions
- implementation of ECTS standards
- semester structures
- mobility facilitation

The project will submit its results during 2004.

A couple of continued education concepts were developed during 2002 with NOVA funding. In spring 2003, a seminar in Game Management was held at NLH, with 36 participants. During the fall of 2003, a Nordic distance-learning continuing education course (Grass on Sports Turfs) was held. There were 32 participants, mostly from Sweden and Norway. For the time being, the area of continuing education is being given low priority by the NOVA Board.

Other projects

The 2002-2003 NOVA project designed to create a **Nordic network of excellence in milk production** presented its report during 2003. More than 400 researchers were identified in the area, and these expressed great interest as regards the formation of a Nordic network. This work will continue during 2004.

NOVAGate, a library project for establishing a common, Nordic, subject-based gateway to high quality information resources, was concluded during 2003 due to the wide-ranging development of web-based systems. A network among librarians is still operative and worked together with FAO to organize a Nordic Agricultural Ontology Service (AOS) Workshop in Copenhagen early 2003.

International projects

Achievements in the NOVA/BOVA cooperation

Significant progress was achieved in the cooperation between NOVA and BOVA member institutions during 2003. The BOVA secretariat at the Lithuanian Agricultural University in Kaunas is now well established, funded by the KA Wallenberg Foundation for the period from 2002 to 2004. Since September 2003, the secretariat has comprised a full-time secretary and



NOVA-BOVA conference in Vilnius.

a one-fourth secretary assistant position. At the NOVA secretariat, a half position is being utilized for coordination of the NOVA-BOVA collaboration.

For the first time, NOVA-BOVA had devised an explicit organizational strategy. In keeping with this strategy, NOVA-BOVA has worked to diversify its activities in several directions. Eight intensive MSc courses were organized at the BOVA member universities using funding from the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM). New in relation to previous courses was the introduction of a distance-learning component that enhanced the quality of courses. More than 60 Baltic students participated in NOVA PhD courses, using the NorFA mobility scholarships.

The international programme in sustainable forestry, EUROFORESTER, is an outstanding example of a successful Nordic-Baltic collaboration at MSc level. Based at SLU, the joint programme has been in operation since 2001, EU Socrates funding was sought for a curriculum development project in 2004-2006. Through NCM sources, NOVA granted support for developing distance-learning courses during 2004, with strong involvement of partner universities in the Baltic

countries, Denmark, Poland and Germany. The next step will be to develop partnerships with universities in Northwest Russia.

In May 2003, a special working group was appointed to investigate and lay down strategies for developing joint BOVA and NOVA-BOVA MSc modules or programmes. Agro-ecology, Biodiversity and Multi-functional Landscapes and Bioinformatics are regarded as the areas with the highest potential for developing joint MSc programmes, while Veterinary Sciences is a suitable area for joint modules at the PhD level.

The first NOVA-BOVA conference was held in Vilnius in the fall 2003, with approximately 75 participants from all BOVA and NOVA member institutions. The conference was intended to enhance the identity of the NOVA-BOVA network internally as well as towards external parties. The conference included plenary sessions and a number of workshops addressing the development of joint studies, administrative issues, or-

ganizational strategies, etc.

The second NOVA-BOVA rector's meeting was held in connection with the conference, and the BOVA rectors expressed great enthusiasm for expanding Baltic and Nordic cooperation. They further agreed to direct internal financial resources toward BOVA cooperation.

NOVA DC

An investigation of NOVA activities related to developing countries, NOVA DC, was conducted during 2003. Included in the investigation was a report on the attempt to establish an MSc programme on Animal Health and Food Safety in Southern Africa.

Based on the report, and to a great extent due to the difficulties in achieving cooperation between national aid organizations, NOVA board decided, for the time being, not to continue with NOVA DC matters.

Administrative NOVA projects

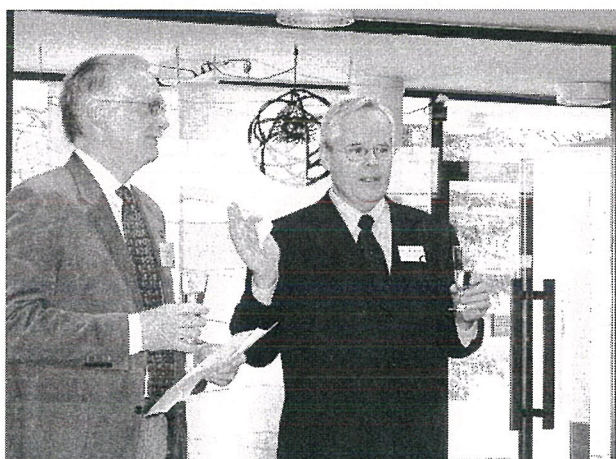
The NOVA website

The new NOVA website was first launched in Swedish in April 2002. The next important step was the launching of the current English version in May 2003. The total number of visitors during 2003 was 13 131. Between September 2002 and March 2004, close to 21 500 visitors have been registered.

The NOVA website is under ongoing development to improve the service from the NOVA secretariat to NOVA projects as well as other internal and external partners. A special site for NOVA students has been developed in close cooperation with NSF and national student counsellors.

NOVA Manual

A revised version of a NOVA manual for establishing and administering NOVA projects was approved and published on the website in June 2003. The manual is regularly updated to incorporate new managerial decisions.



NOVA Rector Paul Jensen and the chairman of the NOVA board, Kim von Weissenberg, announcing the winner of the NOVA Prize 2003.



Prof. Rolf Larsen (SLU), Lars Alberius (NCM) and Rector Ann-Christin Bylund (SLU) at the NOVA conference 2003.

Web-based system

In the fall of 2003, a project was launched to develop a web-based system for submission of applications for NOVA funding and reports on NOVA projects. The project's first focus is on the PhD courses, and the first module will be used in the application process for the 2005 PhD courses. The second module will be used in the reporting process for courses held during 2004. This system will enable NOVA to significantly improve statistical reports regarding NOVA activities.

Annual NOVA conference and NOVA prize

The fourth annual NOVA conference was held in early April in Gustavelund, close to Helsinki in Finland. A total of 105 NOVA delegates took part in plenary sessions and workshops on Nordic and international cooperation. The first NOVA prize was presented during the conference, and was awarded to Ian Jørgensen from KVL for his efforts to establish a Nordic arena for communication within the area of Landscape Architecture.

External relations and funding

The Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM) has become the most important non-member body for financial support. The most significant areas for support during 2003 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).

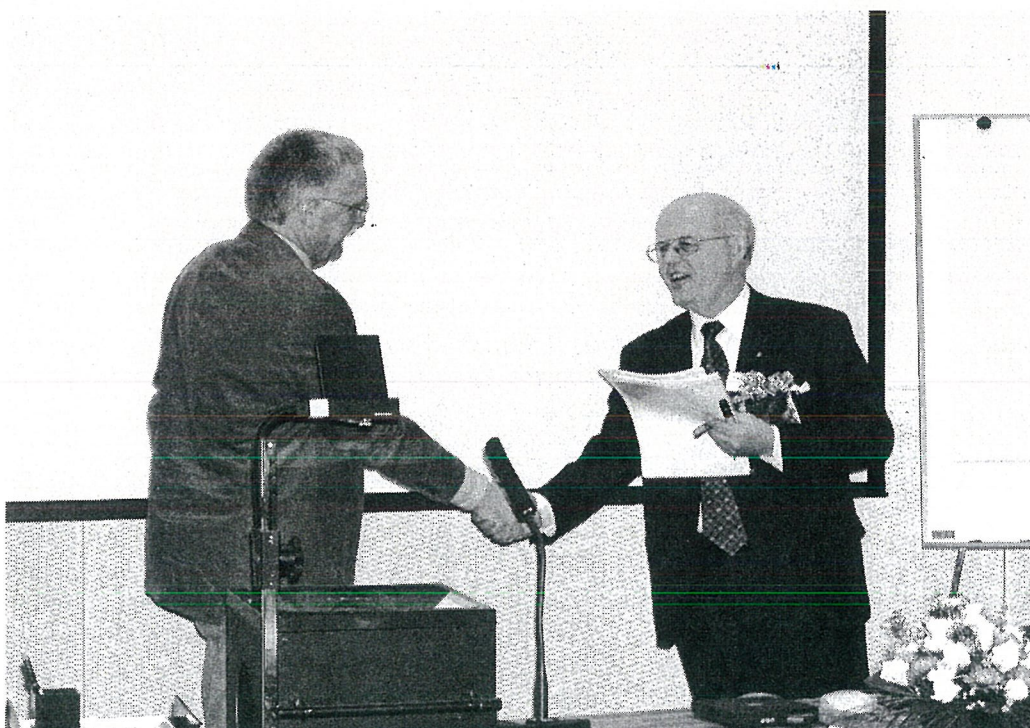
Annually, some 40-50 BSc and MSc students receive Nordplus funding to visit other Nordic universities. Until 2003/04, the shortest study time-frame accepted by Nordplus was ten weeks. As from 2004/05 the minimum time-frame has been reduced to 4 weeks. Nordplus also grants support for intensive courses of 5 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 2003, NOVA KUF agreed to issue a guarantee that all students desiring to pursue such studies at Nordic institutions will receive a Nordplus grant.

During 2003, two Nordic PhD courses were fully and one was partially financed by NorFA. Some 60 Baltic students were granted NorFA funding for participation in NOVA PhD courses. Two NOVA PhD courses were held in a Baltic state, enabling NorFA to fund travel costs for Nordic students as well.

Three NOVA MSc development projects were granted Nordplus funding during 2003/04.

The annual NOVA conference in Finland also received support from the NCM.

The second NCM ad hoc group, which concerns the formation of a Nordic "room" for higher research and education in agriculture and forestry, submitted a report from its efforts during 2003. A third ad hoc group that includes fishery and food representatives, as well as the NOVA Rector, was launched and will submit its report in May 2004. A final decision on this matter is expected to be taken by the Ministers of Agriculture during 2004.



NOVA Rector Paul Jensen and Gustaf Björkstrand at the NOVA conference 2003.

NOVA Organization

The entire NOVA organization, consisting of the Board, the Committee for Education and Research (KUF), local (national) NOVA coordinators and the NOVA secretariat, has been in active operation during 2003.

Records from all the Board and KUF meetings are available on the following NOVA web-site:
<http://www.nova-university.org/earc2.htm>

Table 5. Meetings 2003

NOVA Board		NOVA KUF	
Date	Place	Date	Place
January 20	KVL	February 10	SLU
May 12	NVH	June 12	KVL
October 15	Vilnius	September 5	Tele
		November 17	NOVA

NOVA Board

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 Board set out a detailed plan for NOVA activities at its January 2003 meeting. At its May meeting, the

Board approved the 2002 Annual Report, including financial statements as well as a framework budget for 2004, and started to work on a strategic plan. At the October meeting in Vilnius the strategic efforts were continued, a decision was taken regarding the final budget for 2004 and Lars Moe (Rector of NVH) was elected as the new chair of the NOVA Board. At the same time, the Board extended its appreciation to the former chair, Kim von Weissenberg (Dean of HU-AF) for his efforts and contributions as chair from 2002. The NOVA-BOVA rector's meeting was held in Vilnius in conjunction with the October meeting.

KUF

NOVA KUF has dealt with several important matters during 2003, ranging from strategic planning to project applications. The following reports were presented to KUF during the year:

- Higher education in forest technology
- Agro-ecology (oral presentation)
- Nordic cooperation in horticulture
- Aquaculture (oral presentation)

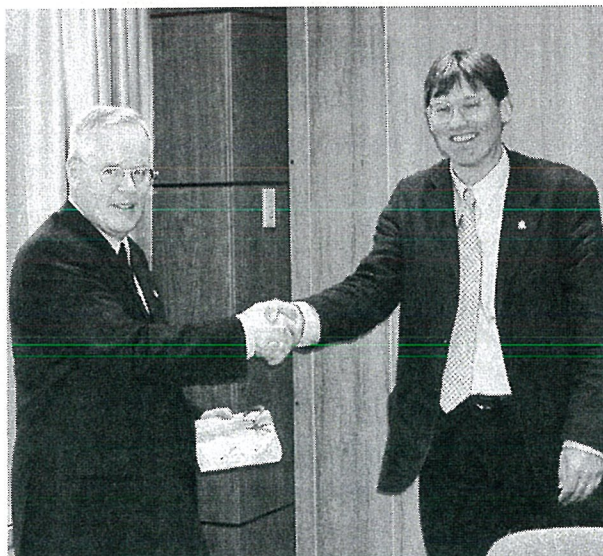
The main meeting for dealing with PhD course applications for 2004 was held on June 12. The main meeting for applications in the sphere of MSc education was held November 17.

NOVA Rector

During 2003, the NOVA Rector has acted as the chair of KUF as well as of the NOVA-BOVA Coordination Committee. The Rector has personally decided on a number of applications, involving planning and travelling grants.

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
 - information kit for PhD students
- external funding



The resigning chairman of the NOVA board, Kim von Weissenberg (HU-AF), and the new chairman, Lars Moe (NVH).

Local NOVA coordinators

The local NOVA coordinators have assumed great responsibility in a variety of essential processes.

NSF

The NOVA Student Forum (NSF) played a very significant role during 2003. NSF is represented with one seat in the NOVA Board, two in the NOVA KUF and one in most of the NOVA network projects. With a new leadership, NSF has been engaged in several important NOVA matters such as the implementation of intensive NOVA courses (NOVA windows) and the establishment of Local NOVA Teams.

In a special enquiry conducted by NSF, students were asked to rate their interest in attending Nordic institutions for intensive studies in NOVA windows. Students were also asked for their views on different accom-

modation concepts. Almost 50% of the respondents (668) were familiar with NOVA. A vast majority were very interested in intensive Nordic studies, and were willing to exchange apartments or to house temporary guests (see Table 6).

The annual NSF meeting was held in April 2003, with another meeting in October. A first meeting with the BOVA Student Forum, BSF, was held in October 2003. BSF was founded with the assistance of NSF.

Project leader enquiry

In a second enquiry, 50 NOVA project or PhD course leaders were asked to state their opinions on various NOVA-related matters. The responses revealed a very positive view of NOVA and Nordic cooperation, which bodes well for the future success of NOVA incentives (see Table 6).

Table 6. Two enquiries, among students and NOVA project leaders.

Student enquiry (NOVA windows)		NOVA leader enquiry	
Some questions	Answers	Some questions 1= I fully agree, 6= I do not agree	Answers
How long should a NOVA window be?	2 weeks 59% 3-4 weeks 37%	The best thing about NOVA is the possibility of gaining financial support.	2
How often should a window occur?	1-2 times a year – 88%	Nordic cooperation is also important in a broader international perspective.	2
Switch apartments?	Yes 73%	I am strongly devoted to the NOVA idea.	1
Take temporary guest?	Yes 72%	The service from NOVA secretariat is very high.	2
		I often visit the NOVA website.	4

Reports issued during 2003

A number of reports issued by NOVA and other institutions during 2003 have been mentioned above. A list of these, and other reports, is provided below.

Internal NOVA reports

- U-landsinriktade utbildnings- och forskningsinriktade aktiviteter inom NOVA: Kartläggning och förslag till samordning.
- Situationen för högre undervisning inom skogsteknik i Sverige, Finland, Norge och Danmark.
- Möjligheter för ett elektroniskt kursvärderingssystem för kurser i NOVA universitetets regi.
- Detaljplan för NOVA 2003.

- Report from the NOVA project on establishment of a Nordic Master Degree in Horticulture.
- Nordic Network of Excellence in Milk Production.
- Evaluation of the NOVA Master of Science Programme in Agro-ecology. Initiated by NLH.

External reports with NOVA involvement

- Nordens Ark en resurs för utbildning och forskning om biologisk mångfald. Utgiven av Nordens Ark. Implementering av et nordisk forsknings- og utdannelsesrom på jord- og skogsbruksområdet. Från ad hoc-gruppe opprettet av Nordic Council of Ministers (APN 2003:724)

Summary of 2003

All in all, 2003 has been a year in which NOVA's activities were focused on the main areas of PhD and MSc education. A number of priority areas within MSc education were selected. NOVA is now aiming for results in the form of course approvals, student mobility, common course development and external funding during 2004.

In addition to these main areas, the NOVA-BOVA cooperation has been further developed. A real highlight was the first NOVA-BOVA conference in Vilnius, which received full external funding.

The total NOVA budget for 2003 was ca 1 037 000 euro, including 291 000 euro from external fundings. Internally, annual fees from member institutions comprised 526 000 euro, a carry-over (equity) of 225 000 euro from 2002 not included.

Hvanneyri, June 4, 2004

Paul Jensén
NOVA Rector

Lars Moe
Chair of NOVA Board



The head office of LBH at Hvanneyri, Iceland.

Financial data for

2003

This section provides statistical and financial data for 2003. Statistical data from NOVA activities have not been actively compiled for more than a few years. The only data collected from each PhD course has been the number of PhD students participating from each member country, with very few other details. Starting in 2004, the information compiled will be expanded considerably, mostly via a new web-based system for application and reporting. Within the MSc education area, very few NOVA courses have been held, and NOVA has not had a system for reporting ongoing activities. This will also be rectified during 2004.

PhD courses

As already indicated, 270 NOVA PhD students participated in NOVA PhD courses during 2003. All in all, 402 students were given a total of 2 219 ECTS. In terms of averages, 23 students per course were each given 5.5 ECTS per course or a total of 129 ECTS. The NOVA funding averaged 128 euro/ECTS (148 euro if the two courses fully financed by NorFA are excluded).

Table 7. PhD courses in 2003, statistics. For subjects, see Table 1.

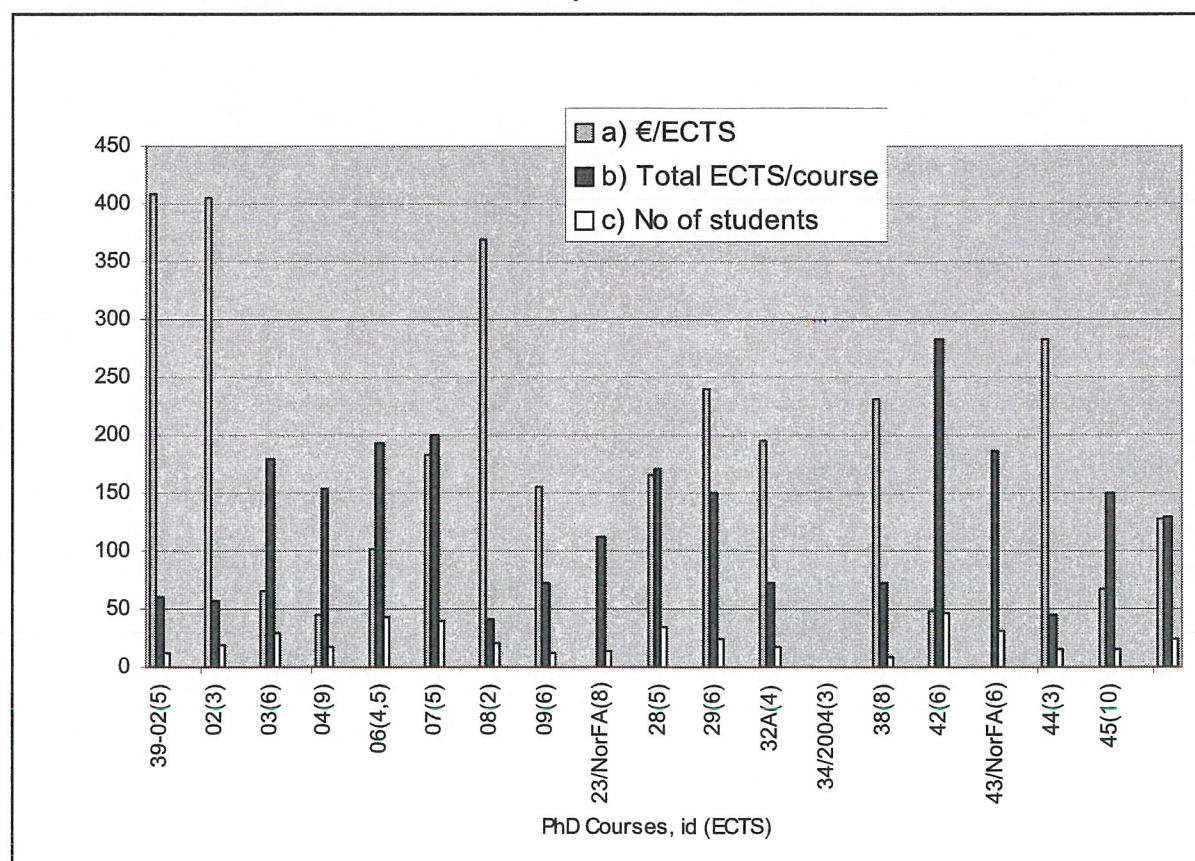


Table 7 shows each PhD course given during 2003. The X-axis contains the course ID, with the number of ECTS given to the students in parentheses. The graph columns show a) NOVA funding in euro per ECTS given for each course, b) total number of ECTS given to students for each course, and c) total

number of students attending each course. Note that courses 23 and 43 were fully financed by NorFA, and that course 29 was partially NorFA-financed. Course 34 will be held 2004. The last set of columns shows average numbers.

The differences in NOVA funding (euro per ECTS) are surprisingly large, ranging from 408 (39-02) to 45 (04). This implies that a thorough examination and evaluation of the rules and applications of NOVA PhD courses is called for. As already stated, an external evaluation of these matters is being conducted during the spring of 2004. Moreover, the NOVA Board has asked for a revision of the financial strategy concerning the funding of NOVA PhD courses, to be submitted by the end of 2004.

Project funding

In late 2002, euro 195 000 were set aside for activities in 2003. The areas and funds are presented in Table 8. The funds for 2003 have only been fully utilized in the area of Biosystems Engineering (NORBE). The projects in the areas of Urban Greening/Urban Forestry and Veterinary last year differentiation have been requested to expend their funds during 2004. In

the areas of Aquaculture, FOOD and Agro-ecology, unused funds will be considered in the approval of new funds for 2004.

All together, 104 144 euro were requested and used for activities during 2003. Thus close to 91 000 euro will be used or retained during 2004.

Table 8. Funds set aside 2002 for 2003, euro.

Network areas	2002	2003
	Set aside	Requested
Aquaculture	34 000	-20 101
FOOD	15 000	-3 393
Urban Greening	16 000	0
Agro-ecology	34 000	-20 650
Veterinary proj	46 000	-10 000
Biosystems Engineering	50 000	-50 000
	195 000	-104 144

Table 9. Funds set aside 2003, mostly for MSc activities, for 2003 and 2004, euro.

	Total	Requested	2004
4 Stipends	4 400	-3 300	1 100
Library Network, AOS workshop 2003	1 823	-1 823	0
Apiculture, course planning 2003	5 000	-5 000	0
Grass on Turf, continued educ.	1 890	-1 890	0
Ethical Evaluation, workshop 2003	5 000	-5 000	0
PhD course development, 2004	1 200	0	1 200
Landscape Architect., planning seminar 2004	1 650	0	1 650
Extra PhD course 2004	3 300	0	3 300
Biosystems Engineering, introduction course 2003	10 000	-10 000	0
Crop Pathology course 2003	7 660	-7 660	0
Pedagogical network, planning seminar 2003	6 900	-6 900	0
Biosystems Engineering, 2004	39 600	0	39 600
Urban Greening, seminar 2004	4 000	0	4 000
PEDICTNET, 2004	20 000	0	20 000
FOOD, 2004	4 000	0	4 000
NOVA prize 2003	3 000	-3 000	0
Bologna project 2004	5 000	0	5 000
	124 423	-44 573	79 850

During 2003, the NOVA Rector and KUF approved a number of grants totalling 124 423 euro (Table 9). Four research stipends of 1 100 euro each were approved, one of which has not yet been paid out. Planning grants for a total of 19 863 euro were approved, out of which 6 150 euro will be paid out during 2004. Within priority areas, a total of 92 160 euro was approved, out of which 67 600 euro has been set aside for activities

during 2004. All in all, nearly 80 000 euro has been set aside for MSc activities in 2004.

Unused funds totalling 7 300 euro remain to be requested and paid out during 2004.

159 239 euro has been set aside as currently unrequested for 2003 PhD course funding.

NOVA financial summary 2003

As in 2002, all financial data are given in euro. The exchange rates have been fairly stable during 2003, with the rate between SEK and euro fluctuating between 9.2 and 9.0 SEK/euro.

Profit and loss statement

The total internal membership funding (fees) was 526 145 euro during 2003, compared to 794 913 euro during 2002

(see Table 10). The main reason for this substantial difference was the large retained equity from 2002 (225 700 euro). So the total budget for internal NOVA affairs was 745 868 euro, including regained funding (732 813 euro + 13 054 euro), with 562 680 euro (75%) spent on various types of activities (Table 11).

Table 10. Profit and loss statement 2003, euro

Profit and loss		2003		2002	2004
		Budget	Outcome	Outcome	Budget
Income					
Member fees	KVL	125 664	125 229	170 273	188 100
	NLH	103 315	102 355	144 018	101 481
	NVH	20 237	20 190	27 906	43 719
	LBH	5 808	5 782	7 317	9 075
	HU-AF	64 567	64 188	84 201	167 567
	HU-V	27 833	27 610	36 425	40 333
	SLU	180 576	180 790	324 773	274 725
Total income		528 000	526 145	794 913	825 000
Expenses					
Activities	PhD courses	-300 000	-306 007	-272 484	-325 000
	Projects	-70 000	-122 386	-339 770	-130 000
	Internal secretariat ¹	-135 714	-114 286	-163 363	-125 000
	NSF	-20 000	-20 000	-17 578	-20 000
	Total activities	-525 714	-562 680	-793 195	-600 000
Regained funding ²			13 054	67 374	
Secretariat	Salary	-145 055	-137 677	-120 909	-147 900
	OH	-21 538	-18 404	-17 960	-22 185
	Travels	-16 484	-11 842	-17 725	-14 917
	Other	-39 967	-15 264	-15 799	-39 890
	Total secretariat	-223 044	-183 188	-172 394	-224 892
Total expenses, regained funds incl.		-748 758	-732 813	-898 215	-824 892
Surplus/deficit		-220 758	-206 668	-103 302	108
Accumulated surplus from 2001				329 002	
Accumulated surplus from 2002		225 700	225 700		
Accumulated surplus from 2003					19 032
Total surplus		4 942	19 032	225 700	19 140

¹ Salary and travel expenses for secretariat staff used in connection with administrative projects. For 2002, the amount shown is an estimate, which also affects secretariat expenses. The budget for 2003 was originally set at 170 000 euro.

² Funds set aside 2002 (2001) for projects, but not used during 2003 (2002).

Table 11. Activity expenses 2003.

Activities and secretariat	Amount	
	euro	%
PhD courses *	306 007	41
Projects MSc	122 386	16
Administrative projects	114 286	15
NSF	20 000	3
Total activities	562 680	75
Secretariat	183 188	25
Total expenses	745 868	100

* In Table 1 funds regained during 2004 are included.

In addition to the internal NOVA funding, approximately 291 250 euro were received from external sources (Table 12). The total set of activities during 2003 can be summarized as follows:

Table 12. Total activities and funding 2003.

Activity	Donors	Amount, euro	%
NOVA internal activities	Members	745 868	72
NOVA student and teacher mobility	Nordplus	57 750	
NOVA PhD courses	NorFA	104 500	
NOVA conference	NCM	13 000	
NOVA/BOVA secretariat	Wallenberg	77 000	
BOVA short courses	NCM	34 500	
NOVA/BOVA conference	KSLA	4 500	
Total external		291 250	28
Total activities		1 037 118	100

As NOVA does not have a full overview over all projects funded externally, the figures in Table 12 are given as round figures.

Balance statement

As in 2002, the considerable amount of cash in the NOVA 2003 balance statement (Table 13) is due to the fact that projects were granted funding for 2004 (2003) in advance, as well as to the fact that projects run in 2003 have not delivered their final reports (this is the case for several PhD courses). The total amount of internal funding set aside was 387 551 euro (422 963 euro), in addition to which 41 953 euro (0 euro) comprised advance payments from NCM. The equity retained from 2004 equals 19 032 euro.

Table 13. Balance statement 2003, euro.

Balance statement 2003		End of Year	
Assets	Cash	(786 325) ³	501 648
	Wallenberg		16 342
	Computers		6 373
	-depreciation		-4 008
Total assets			520 355
Liabilities and equity	Notes payable		-36 282
	For vacation		-34 845
	Unpaid salary		-356
	VAT		-337
	Funds set aside	(-422 963)	-387 551
	NCM		-41 953
Total liabilities			-501 323
Equity	Beg of year	-225 700	
	Earnings 2003	206 668	
	End of year		-19 032
Total equity			-19 032
Total liabilities and equity			-520 355

³ End of 2002.

Confirmation of the financial report

The NOVA University Network Board has approved the financial report for 2003 at its meeting on June 4, 2004.

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

Per Holten Andersen
Rector, KVL

Knut Hove
Rector, NLH

Hannu Saloniemi
Dean, HU-VET

Ann-Christin Bylund
Rector, SLU

Magnus B. Jónsson
Rector, LBH

Jukka Kola
Dean, HU-AF, from Jan. 1, 2004

Kim von Weissenberg
Chair, Dean, HU-AF until Dec. 12, 2003

Henrik Lindberg
Student representative, HU-VET

NOVA members

This section presents a summary of financial and other data from the individual member institutions for 2003. 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

Governmental funding was by large the most important financial resource, averaging 63.0% (63.0% in 2002), varying from 55.1% (SLU) to 77.1% (NLH).

Table 14. Financial data, 2003, mill. euro

	KVL	SLU*	NLH	NVH**	HA-AF	HU-VET	LBH	Total
INCOME								
Government funding	90.1	131.8	60.8	22.3	25.1	12.1	1.8	344.2
Profit earnings income	3.7	39.1	3.6	3.8	2.4	3.6	1.6	57.8
External funds	27.2	66.8	13.3	11.5	9.8	1.6	0.0	130.3
Other	9.3	1.6	1.2	0.6	1.2	0.1	0.0	14.1
TOTAL	130.3	239.5	78.9	38.3	38.5	17.4	3.4	546.3
Gov fund/total. %	69.1	55.1	77.1	58.4	65.2	69.5	53.9	63.0
EXPENSES								
Salary	68.3	152.3	48.0	20.2	21.4	9.4	2.3	321.9
Admin costs	44.8	61.8	23.9	15.9	8.6	4.5	0.9	160.5
Rent	17.2	29.9	6.9	2.1	8.5	3.5	0.0	68.1
TOTAL	130.3	244.0	78.8	38.3	38.5	17.4	3.2	550.5
Salary/total. %	52.5	62.4	60.9	52.8	55.6	54.0	71.8	58.5

* SLU is the only member directly subordinate to the Ministry of Agriculture, and has a considerable sector responsibility outside the 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 58.5% (57.8%), and varying from 52.5% (KVL) to 71.8% (LBH). The total budget for all mem-

ber institutions, 546.3 million euro, has increased since 2002, when it was 528.1 million euro.

Table 15. Number of ECTS, full-time student equivalents (FSE) and degrees, 2003.

Member institutions	BSc/MSc		MSc	Degrees		PhD Students	
	No of ECTS	No of FSE		BSc	Tot	Registered	Degrees
KVL	114 540	1 909	356	196	552	390	80
SLU	180 420	3 007	507	211	718	863	125
NLH	114 257	1 904	304	77	381	151	44
NVH	20 891	348	59	14	73	74	11
HU-AF	90 120	1 502	221	2	223	561	49
HU-Vet	24 840	414	59	-	59	81	12
LBH	8 000	133	6	162	168	-	-
	553 068	9 218	1 512	662	2 174	2 120	321

The total production of BSc/MSc ECTS in 2003 (Table 15) was 553 068 (533 994 in 2002), representing an increase from 2002 of 3.6%. All institutions except SLU had an increase in ECTS and FSE production. The total number of full-time student equivalents (FSE;

one FSE=60 ECTS) was 9 218 (8 900). The total production of BSc/MSc degrees was 2 174 (1 934), and the number of PhD degrees was 321 (330), with close to 2 100 registered PhD students. SLU had the largest production in all categories.

Table 16. Number of employees, academic, technical/administrative and total, 2003.

Number of employees	Acad	Techn/adm	Total
KVL	665	738	1 403
SLU	1 707	1 545	3 252
NLH	443	428	871
NVH	168	227	395
HU-AF	343	251	594
HU-VET	84	160	244
LBH	28	21	49
Total	3 438	3 370	6 808

The number of employees (Table 16) remained virtually unchanged, 6 808 (6 858 in 2002), with a slight decrease

for technical/administrative staff, 3 370 (3 478), and a slight increase for academic staff, 3 438 (3 380).

Table 17. Key data from NOVA member institutions, 2003.

Member institutions	Tot income per employee Euro	Tot income per FSE* Euro	FSE per academic employee No	External funding per employee Euro	Income in relation to each other %	No of FSE in relation to each other %	GDP relation 2002 %
KVL	92 907	68 281	2.9	19 402	23.9	20.7	23.8
SLU	73 634	79 633	1.8	20 556	43.8	32.6	34.2
NLH	90 639	41 448	4.3	15 312	14.4	20.7	18.9
NVH	96 896	109 924	2.1	29 054	7.0	3.8	4.5
HU-AF	64 815	25 632	4.4	16 498	7.0	16.3	12.2
HU-VET	71 311	42 029	4.9	6 557	3.2	4.5	5.3
LBH	69 419	25 511	4.8	0	0.6	1.4	1.1
Average	80 248	59 267	2.7	19 137	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 2001 and 2002, NVH, KVL and NLH had larger funds than the other members, while LBH and HU-AF 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 HU-AF, LBH and HU-VET had the lowest activity.

The average number of FSE per academic employee has increased from 2.6 to 2.7. At HU-VET, LBH, HU-AF 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 2001 and 2002,

NVH topped the league, with close to 30 000 euro per employee.

When comparing the volume of activity (income) at the different institutions, SLU has the far greatest volume (43.8%), 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 (32.6%).

The total amount of the membership fee (526 145 euro) is divided among the member institutions based on their relative gross domestic products (GDP 2002), calculated annually by the Nordic Council of Ministers.

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