



# **Activity Plan**

**2008**

**Decided by NOVA KUF  
2007-11-20**

Activity	Goals	Responsibility	Funding from NOVA
A. MSc area			200 000€, C. included
1. Areas a. Developing areas i. NorPATH ii. Soil Science iii. Apiculture (BeeNOVA) iv. Landscape Analysis	<p><u>NorPATH</u>, the NMR program for a joint Nordic Master in Plant Pathology, has a major NMR funding for the period of July to December 2007. <b>The goal is that a full joint programme (at LIFE and UMB) shall run from the fall of 2008 (HU-AF and SLU from 2009)</b></p> <p><u>Soil Science</u> has received its first NOVA funding during 2007, for developing a Nordic cooperation on program level. <u>The goal is to at this point somewhat unclear.</u></p> <p><u>Apiculture</u> is doing well in both MSc and PhD areas. <b>The goal is to establish this area as a mature area during 2008.</b></p> <p><u>Landscape Analysis</u>, has received funding for networking and planning activities, and for running Intensive MSc courses. <b>The goal is to develop a distance course including an intensive field course, to run next time in 2009.</b></p>	<p>There is still a need to further refine the role of the <u>local Teams</u> in relation to project administration. There must be a close relation between <u>project leadership</u> and the local NOVA coordinator/Team.</p> <p><u>NOVA</u> web page will be used for marketing and information. It will be discussed during 2008 to what extent the administration of program web-pages should be taken care of by <u>local program administration</u>.</p>	
b. New areas i.	<b>The goal for 2008 is to have at least one new area with NOVA funding.</b>	<u>KUF</u> is responsible for trying out principles for selecting new projects.	
c. Mature areas i. Agroecology ii. Aquaculture iii. NORBE iv. UFUG	<p>For mature areas the goal is to transfer the main financial responsibility to the participating partners. This has been fully implemented in the <u>UFUG</u> project. The application for Erasmus Mundus was negative, <u>they should discuss extended Nordic cooperation.</u></p> <p>For <u>Aquaculture</u> and <u>NORBE</u> there is a guarantee for three years funding from KUF, following the N+ funding during three years for developing joint Nordic programmes. <b>The goal is that they can be on their own funding from the fall of 2008</b>, following the principles set out for Agroecology (see below). The outcome of an Erasmus Mundus (UMB) application was negative.</p> <p>For <u>Agroecology</u> the time may be to focus the NOVA funding on supporting network meetings. The outcome of an Erasmus Mundus (UMB) application is critical.</p>	<p>The <u>local NOVA teams</u> have a significant responsibility for supporting the mature areas in administrative matters. This is especially important for the areas Aquaculture and NORBE during 2008. The support will be individually organized at the different member institutions.</p> <p>The main responsibility for <u>NOVA</u> is to manage the information on the area web sites. It will be discussed during 2008 to what extent this administration should be taken over by program administration</p>	

2. Intensive courses (IC) a. Promotion of joint mobility windows	Two joint windows were decided by the Board in 2006. The goal for 2008 is that these windows get well established among teachers as well as students, and that each member has officially declared that at least one such window is free from mandatory items during a two year Master period.	<u>Local Teams</u> must take responsibility for initiating a plan to establish joint windows at each member institution. Actions taken should be reported to EC in May 2008.	
b. Well functioning NOVA and national administration procedures	NOVA is still seeking an optimal structure for administrating ICs. One important question is the timing of announcement for NOVA IC funding. The goal is to have well structured and functioning procedures up and running before the end of June 2008.  Experiences from ICs run during 2007 show that there are still administrative obstacles when it comes to procedures for application, registration, credit transfer and other important matters. The goal is that such well functioning procedures shall be established before the end of June 2008.	<u>EC and NOVA Secretariat</u> are responsible for developing and establishing well functioning procedures in the NOVA administration.  <u>KUF and the local Teams</u> are responsible for developing well functioning national procedures.	
c. Interest for intensive courses	There is still a need to develop an interest for IC among teachers as well as students at the member institutions. National incentives to stimulate teachers to organize intensive NOVA courses could be discussed.  Information about IC and windows must be spread to the students, the goal is that we have links to the NOVA web page (on relevant places) on all member sites before the end of June 2008.	There is a significant responsibility for the <u>local Teams</u> to increase interest and awareness among teachers for IC. Actions taken shall be reported to KUF in June 2008. <u>KUF</u> shall discuss the possibility to implement national incentives and report to the Board before the end of June 2008. <u>The local Teams</u> also have responsibility for the establishment of links to the NOVA web page on national sites. Report to KUF in June 2008.	
d. Practicalities i. Accommodation ii. National funding iii. Other	The problem of finding accommodation for IC students has been discussed intensively during 2007. It has been agreed that local administrators will make efforts to inform students about local options for accommodation, in rare cases even make arrangements. It is not possible at this time to issue any guarantees.  The combination of national and NOVA funding of ICs, coupled with Nordplus mobility grants, now seems to function reasonably well.  The goal is that these and other relevant administrative issues shall be well described in nationally adapted documents, before the end of June 2008.	<u>NOVA Secretariat</u> , in close cooperation with <u>the local Teams</u> , is responsible for developing nationally adapted documents with information to students and teachers on items related to ICs.  A procedure for taking national responsibility for arranging NIMCs is tested during the fall of 2007 at NVH. If successful this procedure can be used by all members.	

e. Number of intensive courses during 2008	<p>Six intensive MSc courses will run during 2007. After the application round in October, in all 8(?) NIMCs have received funding for 2008.</p> <p>Up until 2010 the goal is to run at least 20 ICs per year. <b>The goal for 2008 is that at least 8 such courses are funded and run, with at least 100 visiting member students, and that the number of applications for 2009 is at least 15.</b></p>	<p><u>NOVA secretariat</u> will launch at least two deadlines for NOVA funding during 2008, <u>KUF</u> is responsible for deciding on the timing of these events. <u>The local Teams</u> are responsible for marketing the option to run such courses and to get NOVA funding.</p> <p>The <u>NOVA Secretariat</u> is responsible for marketing the announcements and the courses on the NOVA web site.</p>	
f. NOVA course data-base	Information about options for Nordic studies and cooperation is vital, for teachers as well as students. The goal is to have the NOVA course data-base continuously updated, with relevant area concepts, including intensive courses.	The <u>NOVA secretariat</u> is responsible for updating the NOVA course data-base, but information must come from each <u>area network</u> or <u>course responsible person</u> .	
3. Mobility in general	The administration of the two Nordplus networks, the locally run network for pure mobility and the network administrated by the NOVA Secretariat on Nordplus projects, seems to run quite well. Helsinki has been responsible for coordinating the local network during two years, now, according to a decision in KUF, it is time for SLU to take responsibility, from 2008 until 2009.	<u>The local Teams</u> are responsible for arranging the administration of the locally run Nordplus network. <u>NOVA Secretariat</u> is responsible for central network administration.	

B. PhD area			400 000€
1. PhD courses 2007	<p>17 PhD courses have so far received funding for 2008. The total amount decided by KUF is 488.000 euro (budget frame is 400.000 euro). <b>The goal is to have at least 300 NOVA PhD students (on average &gt;15 per course).</b></p> <p>Joensuu students participate 2008 as full members, students from Aarhus participate on full cost. Students from BOVA are funded by NordForsk, administrated by the BOVA secretariat. BOVA students will pay a small fee from 2008. Students from other institutions are of increasing interest, especially as NOVA sometimes have significant co-donors. Other students shall pay full cost from 2008.</p>	<p><u>Course responsible persons</u>, with the help of the course group (<u>network</u>) are responsible for running the courses and also recruiting students.</p>	
a. PhD courses 2008 b. Application procedure	<p>New application round is due to occur in March 2008, deadline April 15. The goal is to have at least the same amounts of applications as in 2006 (30).</p>	<p><u>NOVA secretariat</u> is responsible for setting the technical premises for a good application round.</p> <p><u>NOVA secretariat</u> has the responsibility for setting up the information on the NOVA site, and for sending it to the group of old course leaders we know of (around 50). <u>National teams</u> are responsible for spreading the information around. NOVA news will also be used.</p> <p>Deadline for application is April 15, 2008, announcement will be launched in February 2008.</p>	
b. Evaluation procedure	<p>A revised procedure for evaluation was used during the 2007 application process. KUF will evaluate the need for further improvements of the procedure.</p>	<p><u>KUF</u> is responsible for deciding on a revised procedure.</p> <p><u>KUF</u> is responsible for assessing the scientific criteria. This imposes a larger responsibility on KUF than before.</p>	
3. Forestry area	<p>Referring to a report from NOVA regarding an overview of Nordic-Baltic-NW Russian research training, it is suggested that NOVA take responsibility for coordinating within the NOVA sphere.</p>	<p><u>KUF</u> is responsible for initiating this project.</p>	

C. Other projects			
1. NOVA Peditnet	<p>NOVA Peditnet has not lived up to the expectations during 2007. The need for support in the ICT pedagogical area becomes more and more obvious, so there is an evident need to clarify the role and capacity of Peditnet.</p> <p>It is suggested that distance learning, ICT and pedagogic issues will be the theme for the 2008 annual seminar.</p>	<p><u>KUF</u> has the responsibility for taking an over all decision on the role of NOVA and of the prioritisation of the development of distance learning pedagogy and technology. KUF should also evaluate and take decision in the matter of how to organise and fund ICT pedagogical support within NOVA.</p> <p><u>NOVA EC</u> is responsible for the program of the annual seminar.</p>	
2. Other projects			

D. Administrative issues		<p>The Executive Committee (EC), is constituted by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairman of the Board</li> <li>• Chairman of KUF</li> <li>• Secretary General</li> <li>• Central NOVA coordinator</li> <li>• One student representative</li> </ul>	112.500€
1. New NOVA strategy	A new strategy was decided at the 1 <sup>st</sup> of June, 2007 meeting. <b>The goal is to have this strategy implemented during 2008.</b>	<u>EC and KUF</u> have the responsibility to plan and monitor the implementation of the new strategy	
2. Moving chairmanships to SLU	Lars Moe has been chairman of the NOVA Board for four years, come December 31 2007. It has been agreed that from 1 <sup>st</sup> of January 2008, the chairmanship will move to another member. SLU has agreed to take the responsibility. Since January 2007, it has also been agreed that Chairman of KUF could come from the same member institution. SLU has also agreed to take this position.	<u>EC</u> at <u>SLU</u> is responsible for planning for and implementing a shift in chairmanship from January 2008.	
3. The NOVA secretariat/EC	Following the transfer of Chairmanships to SLU, NOVA Secretariat and EC will also reallocate to SLU. A new Central Coordinator, replacing Hannah Jørgensen at NVH and Knut Wålstedt in Alnarp, should be hired at SLU. To further alleviate the rotation of the secretariat, the role of Secretary General and the Central Coordinator must be discussed.	<u>EC</u> at <u>SLU</u> is responsible for implementing the rotation of the NOVA Secretariat and EC.	
4. The local NOVA teams	In “The New NOVA”, the responsibility for giving support to the networks/projects must rest to a much more significance degree on the local NOVA Teams. This is clearly stated in the new strategic document, and should be fully implemented during 2008. NSF local representatives should play an important role in the local NOVA Teams.	<u>KUF</u> is responsible for implementing the new role of the local NOVA Teams during 2008.	

3. Planning and reporting local activities	To get an overview of the work in the local NOVA Teams, they shall present annual plans for their activities. The plans should be reported to EC and KUF, and local coordinators should follow up on these plans at the KUF meetings. The full plans for 2008 shall be reported to EC no later than then mid January 2008. See revised NOVA work schedule.	The <u>local NOVA Teams</u> are responsible for producing annual plans for their activities. The plans shall be reported to EC, in time to be presented at the first Board meeting in 2008. <u>Local coordinators</u> are responsible for reporting on the activities at each KUF meeting.	
4. New members	Joensuu will act as full member from January 2008. Negotiations between NOVA and Joensuu will be finalised during the fall of 2007.  University of Aarhus has shown an interest to become new member and will send a formal application during the fall of 2007. They will have the observer status in KUF from 2008.	<u>EC and chairman of the Board</u> are responsible for monitoring and implementing new NOVA memberships.	
5. NOVA-BOVA cooperation	The chairman of the NOVA Board and BOVA rector have signed a Letter of intent, concerning the cooperation between NOVA and BOVA organisations. There is an attempt to have a meeting between the two boards during 2008. The Board has agreed that BOVA CC will be invited to the annual seminar in Helsinki, and have a meeting with KUF to discuss further cooperation.  The extension of Nordplus to include the Baltic countries is important for the MSC level cooperation.  Cooperation between NOVA and BOVA networks, and between administration/Secretariats is seen as very important.	<u>EC</u> is responsible for developing a plan for cooperation between NOVA and BOVA, and <u>KUF</u> shall send the plan to <u>the Board</u> for the final decision.	
6. Political forum	NOVA shall be a forum for creating an Internordic platform for exchanges of ideas and best practice at all levels of the institutions.	<u>The Board</u> has the responsibility for creating the NOVA political forum.	



<p>7. NSF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. National representatives in scientific networks</li> <li>b. Marketing among fellow students</li> <li>c. Actors in the local NOVA Teams</li> </ul>	<p>NSF continues to have important duties in the NOVA activities. Students from local environments can participate in network meetings and report to national NSF representatives. NSF should play an active role in marketing NOVA among fellow students. NSF representatives should also have an active role in the local NOVA Teams, and actively report back their observations to KUF</p>	<p><u>NSF board</u> is responsible for stimulating members and finding national area representatives.</p>	<p>15 000€ annual seminar excluded</p>
<p>8. Annual seminar</p>	<p>The 2008 NOVA annual seminar will be organized in Helsinki, jointly by HU-V and –AF. Preliminary dates are April 24-25.</p>	<p><u>EC, NOVA Secretariat and HU-V and –AF</u> are responsible for planning and organizing the 2008 annual NOVA seminar.</p>	<p>15 000€ NSF included</p>