

To the board of the NCU

From Ragnheiður Haraldsdóttir, chairman

The board of the NCU has identified the need to revise its strategy for strategic funds.

An attachment describes the current situation and the discussions at a NCU board meeting that lay the groundwork for the following proposals.

Two proposals are introduced in a second attachment:

- Version one is based on the idea that the board should initiate all projects to be funded and fall into the category of strategic funds.
- Version two assumes that most of the projects come from board members, but applications from outside can also be accepted and funded.

The two approaches will be introduced and discussed at the next NCU board meeting and a decision should be made regarding the approach that is more in line with the will of the members countries.



Points on NCU strategic projects for a meeting of a NCU workshop

To members of the working group on NCU leadership and functions

From Ragnheiður Haraldsdóttir

November 19th 2015

At a meeting of the Board of the NCU in Helsingör in September 2015 it was decided that before the meeting of the board in February 2016 in Oslo, the chairman should draft a proposal for strategic projects to guide our work regarding their funding and administration in the future. The following are the existing guidelines available, submitted to the working group for information should this be of relevance for the workshops discussion.

From NCU webpage:

The Nordic Cancer Union provides funding to support and stimulate collaborative cancer research within the Nordic countries. Researchers working in two Nordic countries or more must be involved in the project. The research projects must have cancer relevance, be uniquely suited to be carried out within the Nordic countries, and the effect of collaboration should be synergistic.

Strategic projects derive from the needs of cancer societies in defining future political initiatives. Funding for other strategic projects and initiatives will be considered with increased emphasis on the quality and evaluation of the projects.

Special emphasis in this area is given to research-related projects like monitoring, documentation and analysis of data. Knowledge and documentation on cancer diseases (e.g. cancer incidence and mortality, survival after a cancer diagnosis) in each individual country identifies fields in which improvements are needed. Comparisons between the Nordic Countries are extremely essential for the work on cancer programmes, including the prioritising of the efforts.

Developments are taking place continuously with regard to diagnostic and treatment issues. The gathering of data, analysis and evaluation of these developments provide essential knowledge for improving results of cancer prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care. Continuous monitoring and evaluation also raise media attention in the field. Strategic projects and issues can also include the training of researchers as well as other projects on problems of current interest that are essential to cancer control.

Who can apply ?

Researchers in the above mentioned fields can apply.

Application requirements

The application/project proposal must include:

- Formal information including position, address, telephone, telefax, e-mail of principal investigator
- Name, position and address of co-applicants (signed "Letter collaboration commitment" with names of co-applicants must be enclosed". Signatures must be in original)
- Description of the project (maximum 10 pages)
- Work plan and time schedule
- Specified budget
- Short Curriculum Vitae including a list of publications from the one responsible for the project (maximum 1-2 A4 pages)
- The application must be written in English

The application should be sent in 1 original + 3 copies to:

Nordic Cancer Union, Kreftforeningen, Postboks 4750 Vika, 8608 Mo i Rana.

Deadline

No deadline

Contact persons

The NCU secretariat, The Norwegian Cancer Society

Elisabeth Støve

Phone: +47 954 51 071

E-mail: elisabeth.stove@kreftforeningen.no

Ole Alexander Opdalshei

Phone: +47 90 19 45 59

E-mail: oao@kreftforeningen.no

From a report of a meeting of the NCU september 7th 2015:

7. Applications and organization of strategic funds

Ragnheiður Haraldsdóttir præsenterte emnet. Det er nødvendigt, at vi fokuserer indsatsen vedrørende de strategiske projekter. Vi må tage stilling til, om NCU selv skal vælge de projekter, der skal støttes, eller om det skal være muligt at søge om støtte til de strategiske projekter, og at de bliver annonceret, på samme måde som forskningsprojekterne. Hans mente, at det kan blive et problem, såfremt der bliver mulighed for at søge om støtte til strategiske projekter. Det bør være NCU der bestemmer, hvilke strategiske projekter skal støttes. Stefan og Ole Alexander var enige med Hans: initiativet bør komme fra NCU. Det kræver dog, at NCU bruger tid på at diskutere og finde frem til projekter, der er værdige at få støtte. Stefan foreslog, at det bliver et punkt på dagsordenen hvert år, hvor der diskuteres, hvilke strategiske projekter der skal støttes det kommende år. Elizabeth sagde, at der i strategien 2010-2015 var beskrevet, at der skulle bruges 250 tusind euro til strategiske projekter, og 750 tusind euro til forskningsprojekter. Disse beløb bør man holde sig til og fremover budgettere med 250 tusind euro til strategiske projekter. Sakari mente også, at initiativet til de strategiske

projekter bør komme fra NCU. Derudover mente han, at vi bør starte et NCU symposium, der var relateret til de strategiske projekter. Et emne, man kunne tage op, var ventelister og forsinkelse i diagnoser. Hans støttede Sakari vedr. NCU symposium. Måske skulle et sådant symposium holdes sammen med ANCR. Ragnheiður spurgte, om alle var enige om, at NCU ikke skal reklamere for at der kan ansøges om støtte til strategiske projekter. Alle var enige om dette.

Beslutning: Til mødet i februar 2016 skriver Island et forslag til, hvordan der skal arbejdes med strategiske projekter fremover, herunder hvilke projekter, der skal støttes fremover og hvilke projekter, der støttes i dag.

From the NCU statutes regarding strategic projects:

Strategic projects

Statutes of the Nordic Cancer Union

§ 2 Aim and strategy

- to fund Nordic research and strategic projects of high standards within the field of cancer

§ 5 Board

2. The Board has 3–4 annual meetings, usually in December/January May/June and September/October.

Main topics of the meetings include:

- All meetings: exchanges of experiences, decisions on strategic projects
3. The Board makes decisions concerning grants for strategic projects.

§ 6 Scientific committee

- to give consultation concerning strategic projects regarding research to the Secretaries-General for their decisions on grants

§ 7 Finances

3. The NCU may receive grants and donations, from which it may pay out grants and provide support for strategic projects.

Nordic Cancer Union funding of strategic projects

Strategy and guidelines

The board of the NCU uses the following deliberations when handling proposals for financial support of strategic projects in order to ensure that the evaluation process is transparent, efficient and that the projects are well qualified for funding.

Strategy for the NCU funding of strategic projects

The Nordic Cancer Union provides funding for projects of high standard within the field of cancer in line with its statutes.

The implementation of the strategic improvement projects aims at ameliorating relevant cancer problems in the member countries. The projects funded by the NCU meet strict requirements, with priority given to projects and initiatives that reflect the current general strategy of the NCU as well as this strategy.

These improvements projects must be uniquely suited to be implemented in part at least in the Nordic countries, and should as a rule be aimed at enhancing infrastructure and cooperation. Preferably, health care professionals and/or researchers in two or more Nordic countries should be involved in the projects and the effects of collaboration should be synergistic.

As major emphases of the NCU are to enhance collaborative research, research-related projects are of special interest to the NCU. Comparisons between the Nordic countries are essential for the development and work on diverse cancer research programmes, enhancing the likelihood of higher efficiency and results.

The NCU thus provides funding to support the implementation of high quality projects of relevance to cancer within the Nordic countries with added Nordic value, based on common Nordic priorities and current interests as identified by the board of the Nordic Cancer Union at any given point in time.

In most cases, accordingly, the initiative to fund a specific project will come from the board of the NCU, and will derive from the perceived needs of the cancer societies based on the circumstances of populations in the member countries. These needs will be assessed e.g. by symposiums that can be held solely by the NCU or in common with other interest groups. The initiatives or proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by the board, which can seek

external evaluations from e.g. the NCU scientific committee or other independent specialists in order to ensure highest quality and impartiality.

As an exception, external applications from health professionals or researchers for strategic project funds can be taken up for discussions by the NCU board, and can be supported given that they are in line with key aspects of the general NCU strategy and meet the requirements above. The funding for such projects, however, can never constitute more than a quarter of the total funds dedicated to improvement projects.

This strategy for the NCU funding of improvement projects was adopted at the NCU board meeting in Oslo in February 2016

Guidelines for applications for NCU strategic funds

Applications or proposals for NCU strategic funds should include:

- Application letter delineating how the proposed improvement project meets the requirements of the NCU general strategy and of the more specific NCU strategy for improvement projects
- Project description of no more than four pages with work plan and time schedule
- Budget information including information on other funds
- Brief CV of the applicants, as well as information on position, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail for at least for the principal applicant

Application deadline

Applications for NCU strategic funds can be submitted at any time

Process

Applications and proposals will be presented to the NCU board following their reception by the chairman of the board (see contact below). They will be reviewed and evaluated at the earliest opportunity, but will at times need external or internal evaluation that can be time consuming.

Terms and conditions

The NCU improvement grants shall only be used for the purpose stated in the application or proposal and as specified. If this requirement is not fulfilled, repayment can be requested.

Any change that deviates from the application or proposal must be approved by the NCU administration....

Annual progress report should be submitted to the NCU administration for grants that are given for more than a year. End reports should be submitted for all improvement projects as the grant period finishes.

The project managers for improvement projects are obligated to mention the NCU's contribution to the project in all external communication related to the project.

Contact

The NCU secretariat

The Icelandic Cancer Society

Skógarhlíð 8

108 Reykjavík

Nordic Cancer Union funding of improvement projects

Strategy and guidelines

The board of the NCU uses the following deliberations when handling proposals for financial support of improvement projects in order to ensure that the evaluation process is transparent, efficient and that the projects are well qualified for funding.

Strategy for the NCU funding of improvement projects

The Nordic Cancer Union provides funding for projects of high standard within the field of cancer in line with its statutes.

The implementation of the strategic improvement projects aim at ameliorating relevant cancer problems in the member countries. The projects funded by the NCU meet strict requirements, with priority given to projects and initiatives that reflect the current general strategy of the NCU as well as this strategy.

These improvements projects must be uniquely suited to be implemented in part at least in the Nordic countries, and should as a rule be aimed at enhancing infrastructure and cooperation. Preferably, health care professionals and/or researchers in two or more Nordic countries should be involved in the projects and the effects of collaboration should be synergistic.

As major emphases of the NCU are to enhance collaborative research, research-related projects are of special interest to the NCU. Comparisons between the Nordic countries are essential for the development and work on diverse cancer research programmes, enhancing the likelihood of higher efficiency and results.

The NCU thus provides funding to support the implementation of high quality projects of relevance to cancer within the Nordic countries with added Nordic value, based on common Nordic priorities and current interests as identified by the board of the Nordic Cancer Union at any given point in time.

Ragnheiður Haraldsdóttir, chairman

Phone 354-540 1900

e-mail: ragnhara@krabb.is

Ingimar Einarsson, NCU coordinator

Phone 354 5401900

e-mail ingimare@simnet.is

These Guidelines for applications for NCU strategic funds were adopted at the NCU board meeting in Oslo in February 2016

~~In most cases, accordingly, the~~ initiative to fund a specific project will come from the board of the NCU, and will derive from the perceived needs of the cancer societies based on the circumstances of populations in the member countries. These needs will be assessed by e.g. symposiums that can be held solely by the NCU or in common with other interest groups. ~~Applications will be reviewed and evaluated by the board, which~~ The board of the NCU can seek external evaluations from e.g. the NCU scientific committee or other independent specialists in order to ensure highest quality and impartiality.

~~Exceptionally, applications for improvement funds from others can be taken up for discussions by the NCU board, and can be supported given that they are in line with key aspects of the general NCU strategy and meet the requirements above. The funding for such projects, however, can never constitute more than a quarter of the total funds dedicated to improvement projects.~~

Proposals for NCU improvement grants should include:

- Letter or memo delineating how the proposed improvement project meets the requirements of the NCU general strategy and of the more specific NCU strategy for improvement projects
- Project description of no more than four pages
- Budget information
- Brief CV of those applicants that will be responsible for implementation if applicable

Proposals for NCU improvement grants can be submitted at any time

Proposals will be presented to the NCU board following their reception by the chairman of the board. They will be reviewed and evaluated at the earliest opportunity, but will at times need external or internal evaluation that can be time consuming.

The NCU improvement grants shall only be used for the purpose stated in the application or proposal and as specified. If this requirement is not fulfilled, repayment can be requested.

Any change that deviates from the application or proposal must be approved by the NCU administration....

Annual progress report should be submitted to the NCU administration for grants that are given for more than a year. End reports should be submitted for all improvement projects as the grant period finishes.

The project managers for improvement projects are obligated to mention the NCU's contribution to the project in all external communication related to the project.

This ~~paper on strategy for the~~ NCU funding of improvement projects was adopted at the NCU board meeting in Oslo in February 2016

Strategic projects-overview of commitments

To the board of the NCU

From Ragnheiður Haraldsdóttir, chairman

Reykjavik, 8 February 2016

As it has at times proven difficult to maintain an overview of the commitments that the NCU board has made regarding strategic projects, as many of them span a number of years, we have made the following excel-table.

Our intent is to keep this a "living document" so that it will always be an updated version on the extranet.

Thus, the members of the board should have a constantly updated version and know at an instance what funds are available for applications.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Ragnheiður'.

Strategic projects overview

Project overview - Oslo 19 February 2016, All amounts in EURO

Confirmed financial support	Notes	Total	Planned in	Planned in	Planned in	Planned in	Planned in
		support	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Secretariat for Nordic NECT		148,000	48,000	50,000	50,000		
IARC summer school		49,200	16,400	16,400	16,400		
Total confirmed support		197,200	64,400	66,400	66,400	0	0
Actual payments							
Secretariat for Nordic NECT		148,000	48,000				
IARC summer school		49,200	13,227				
Total actual payments		197,200	61,227	0	0	0	0

Notes:

Applications for strategic project funds will be considered in February 2016 e.g. from CONCORD, NORDCAN and DAMVAD