

From: NCU research administration
 To: NCU Board
 Date: November 20th, 2017
 Subject: NCU Research Grant applications 2016

NCU GRANT APPLICATIONS 2017

The annual NCU Scientific Committee (SC) meeting was conducted in Reykjavik on November 17th 2017. The Nordic Cancer Union (NCU) received 42 grant applications in 2017.

The committee recommends that 19 projects be granted funding by the NCU Board. A list of the projects for which funding is recommended is presented on pages 5-6. The committee's assessment is based on scientific quality, quality of researchers, level of Nordic synergy, and relevance to NCU's strategy.

Table 1 provides an overview of the number of applications received and the level of funding granted (if approved by the NCU board) from 2014 to 2017.

Table 1: Number of applications and level of funding granted

	2017	2016	2015	2014
Number of applications received	42	34	41	35
Number and ratio (%) of applications funded	19 (45 %)	16 (47 %)	16 (39%)	15 (42,9%)
Total amount of funding applied for (€)	4 042 386	3 221 733	3 203 311	3 727 851
Total amount of funding applied for – successful applications (€)	1 842 466	1 536 475	1 217 679	1 292 080
Total funding granted (€)	750 000	750 000	750 000	750 000
Ratio of funding received to amount applied for – successful applications (%)	40 %	48 %	62 %	58 %

Conflict of interest in the evaluation process

The chairman of the SC assigned 6-8 in-depth evaluation tasks to each of the committee members. Some of the evaluation tasks were reassigned due to partiality; two members declared partiality for four evaluation tasks; one member declared partiality for three evaluation tasks and one member

declared partiality for one evaluation task. "Conflict of interests" were registered instead of evaluation scores.

During the evaluation meeting, committee members did not participate in evaluation of applications in which they had declared partiality. The committee members left the room if they had declared partiality. This was the case in a total of eleven applications in 2017.

Quality of applications

The number of applications is in the higher range compared to previous years (2017:42, 2016:34, 2015:41, 2014:35,8 2013:42, 2012:30, 2011:41). Although some applications still fail to fulfill the formal criteria, in general, the committee found the quality of applications to be good.

NCU received applications for 11 on-going and 31 new projects. SC recommends 10 on-going and 9 new projects for funding in 2017. The SC highlights two projects as good examples of quality applications that have an excellent match to NCU's strategy; Randomized cancer rehabilitation, risk for late effects for cancer survivors (Christoffer Johanssen) and Register based, fertility after cancer treatment (Kenny Alexandra Rodriguez-Wallberg), see table 2 on pages 5-6.

LOCATION OF PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Figure 1 shows the number of applications from each of the Nordic countries in 2017 (determined by the workplace location of the principal investigator). Figure 2 shows the total number of grant applications received by the NCU from 2014 to 2017. Figure 3 shows each location's share of the recommended applications (determined by the workplace location of the principal investigator).

Figure 1: Number of applications (recommended and not recommended) by location in 2017

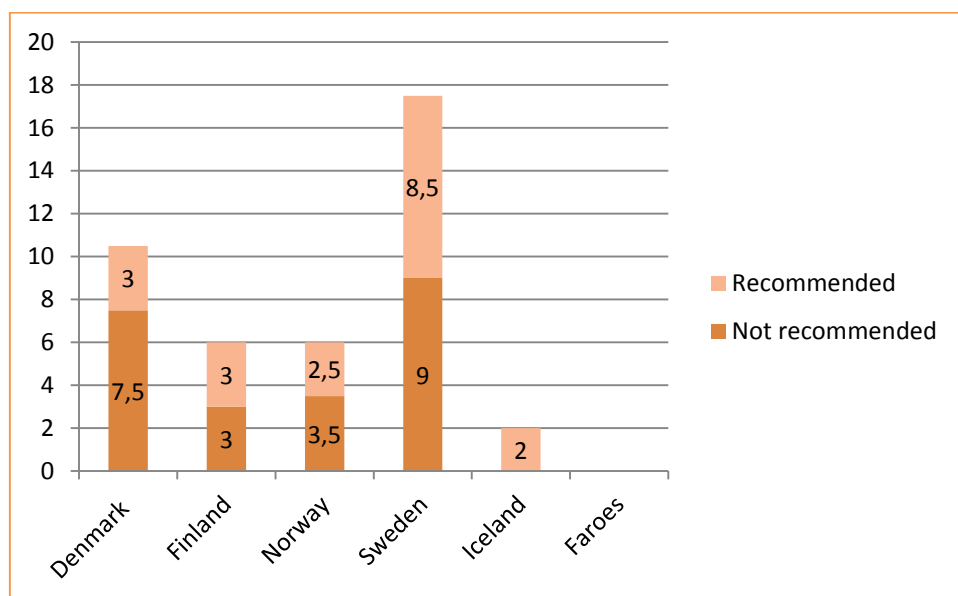


Figure 2: Total number of applications by location from 2014 to 2017

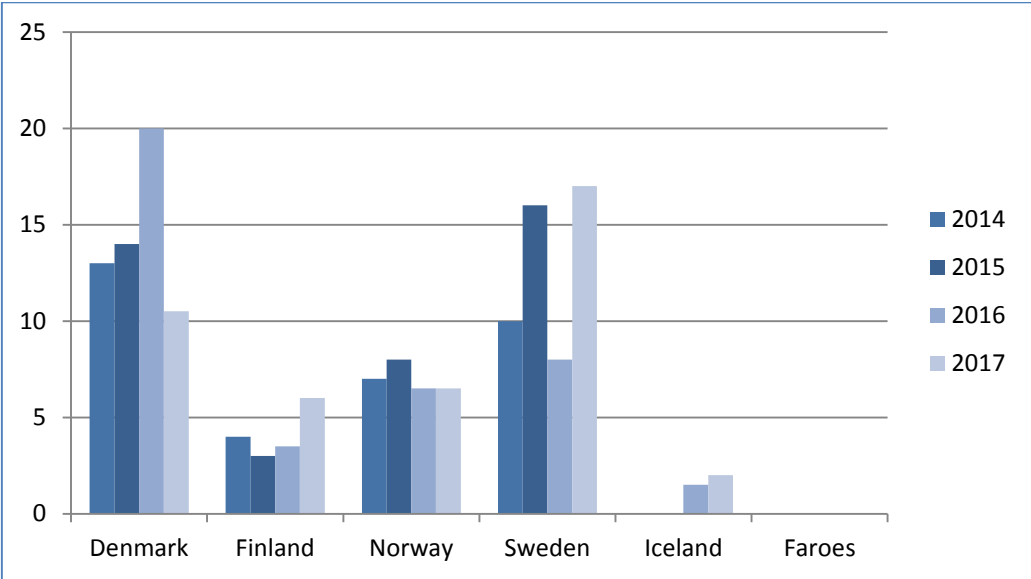
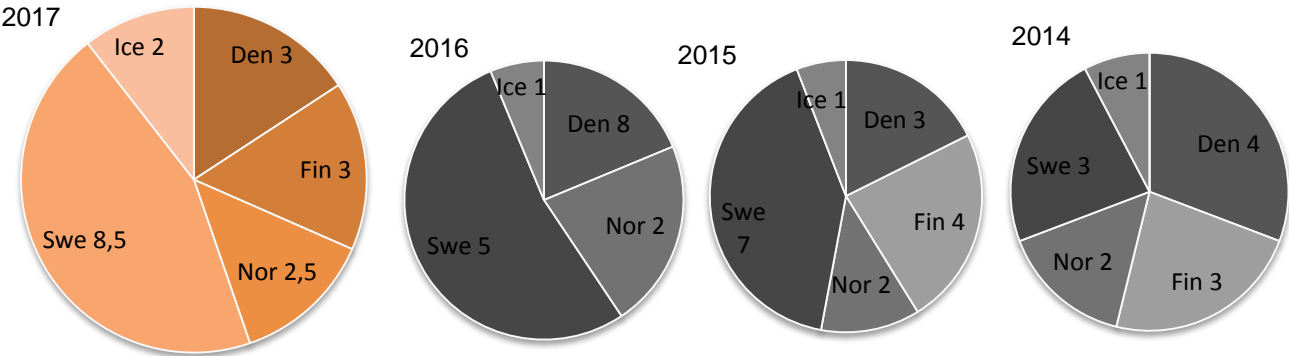


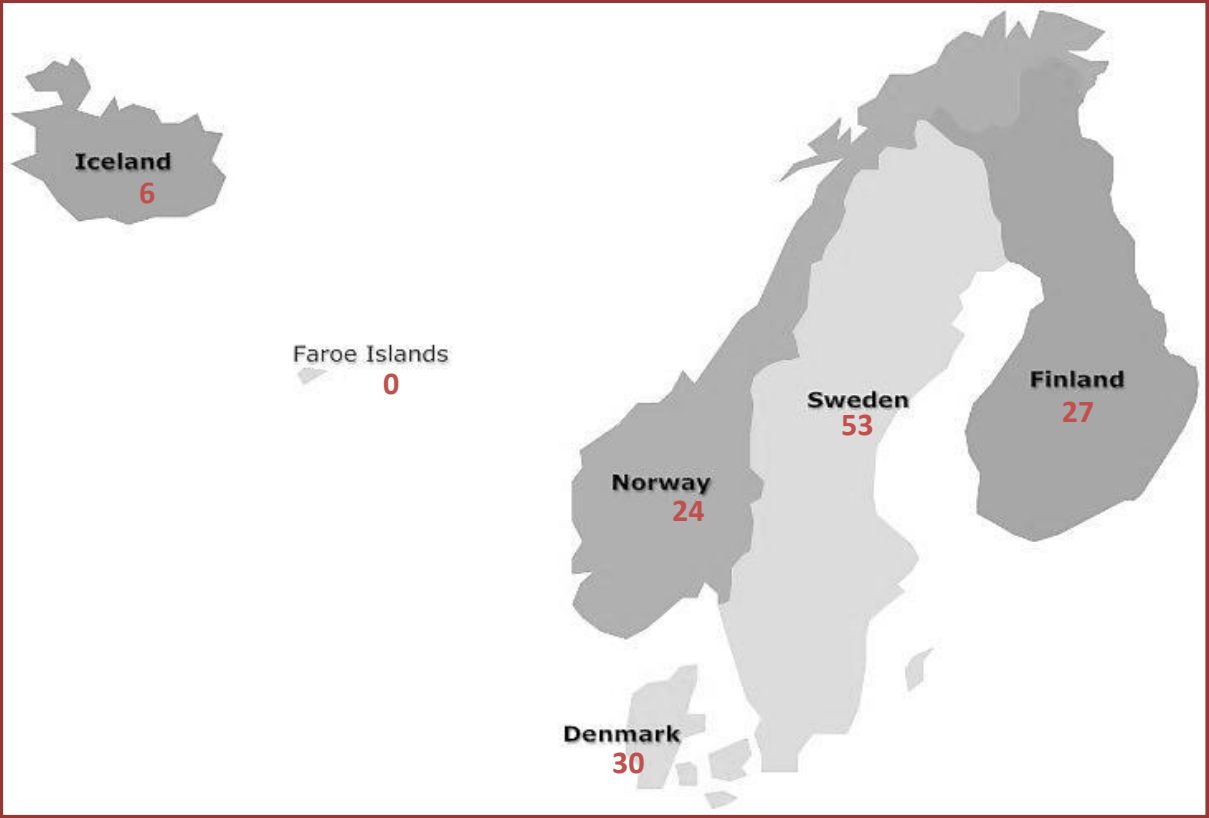
Figure 3: Share of recommended applications by location from 2014 to 2017



NORDIC COLLABORATION

Collaboration is at the heart of the Nordic Cancer Union. The numbers in Figure 4 refer to all researchers, principal investigators and co-applicants, listed as participants in the projects for which funding is recommended. The specific Nordic country alliances for each project can be seen in the project overview on pages 5-6.

Figure 4: Project participants per location



At least two Nordic countries must be involved in research funded by the NCU. Figure 5 shows the number of countries involved in the projects recommended for funding in 2017 (defined by the work place location of the researchers participating in the project).

Figure 5: Number of Nordic countries involved in projects for which funding is recommended

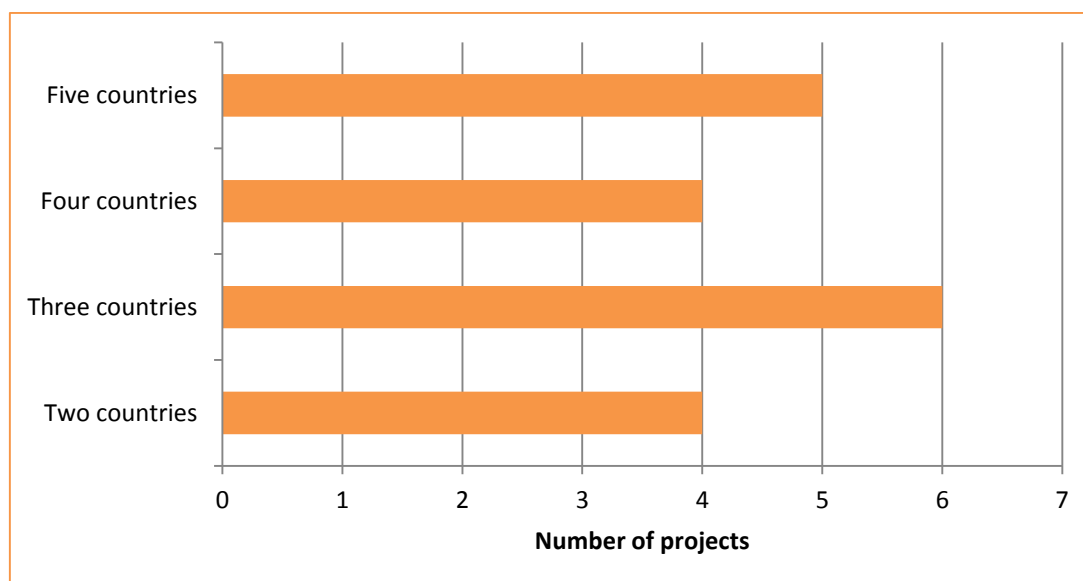


Table 2: Projects recommended to the NCU Board for funding in 2017

Principal investigator	Project title	Project workplace (principal investigator)	Applied amount	Recommended amount	Nordic countries involved
Abildgaard, Niels (Den)	Magnolia Study. Prolonged Protection from Bone Disease in Multiple Myeloma. An open label phase 3 multi-center Nordic randomised trial.	Odense University Hospital, Department of Haematology.	€ 62 000	€ 40 000	No, Swe, Den
Akre, Olof (Swe)	SPCG-15: Surgery versus radiotherapy for locally advanced prostate cancer: a randomized clinical trial	Karollinska Institutet	€ 50 000	€ 50 000	No, Swe, Fin, Den
de Boniface, Jana (Swe)	Survival and axillary recurrence following sentinel node-positive breast cancer without completion axillary lymph node dissection: the randomized controlled SENOMAC trial	Dept. of Surgery, Capio St Görän's Hospital, and Dept of Molecular Medicine and Surgery, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm	€ 186 660	€ 30 000	Swe, Den
Engholm, Gerda (Den)	NORDCAN development. Differences in cancer survival in the Nordic countries: the role of stage at presentation, treatment, comorbidity and education	Danish Cancer Society	€ 70 000	€ 50 000	No, Swe, Ice, Fin, Den
Grønberg, Bjørn H. (No)	A Randomized Phase II Study Comparing Two Schedules of Hyperfractionated Thoracic Radiotherapy in Limited Disease Small-Cell Lung Cancer	Norwegian University of Science and Technology and St. Olavs hospital, Trondheim University Hospital	€ 79 000	€ 40 000	No, Swe, Den

Gunnarsson, Ulf (Swe)	MSI in sporadic colorectal cancer: register data regarding cancer in other organs, clinical presentation and immune response	Umeå University, Department of Surgical and Perioperative Sciences	€ 122 700	€ 40 000	Swe, Fin
Harris, Jennifer (No)	Genetic Epidemiology and Familial Risk of Cross-Cancer Associations: A Nordic Twin Study-II	The Norwegian Institute of Public Health	€ 100 000	€ 40 000	Nor, Swe, Fin, Den
Hellström Lindberg, Eva (Swe)	Nordic Collaborative Clinical Database Initiative and Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplantation Project for Myelodysplastic Syndromes	Department of Medicine, Karolinska Institutet, Karolinska University Hospital	€ 70 000	€ 40 000	No, Swe, Fin, Den
Jakola, Asgeir S. (Swe, No)	Disulfiram response as add-on to chemotherapy in recurrent glioblastoma	Sahlgrenska University Hospital and St.Olavs Hospital	€ 60 000	€ 40 000	No, Swe, Den
Johansen, Christoffer (Den)	Late effects in Nordic cancer patients - LECA	Rigshospitalet and the Danish Cancer Society Research Center	€ 90 000	€ 50 000	No, Swe, Ice, Fin, Den
Jonsson, Håkan (Swe)	Estimation of Overdiagnosis in Breast Cancer Screening	Umeå University	€ 150 000	€ 40 000	No, Swe, Fin
Kristinsson, Sigurdur Yngvi (Ice)	Comorbidity and multiple myeloma	University of Iceland	€ 106 000	€ 30 000	Swe, Ice, Den
Lagergren, Jesper (Swe)	Antireflux surgery and cancer risk in the Nordic Antireflux Surgery Cohort (NordASCo)	Karolinska Institutet	€ 59 106	€ 40 000	No, Swe, Ice, Fin, Den
Lindman, Henrik (Swe)	Nordic TRIP – a randomized phase-3 trial of adjuvant and neoadjuvant treatment in early triple negative breast cancer	Onkologiska Kliniken, Akademiska Sjukhuset, Uppsala	€ 75 000	€ 30 000	No, Swe, Ice, Fin, Den
Murtola, Teemu (Fin)	Impact of atorvastatin on prostate cancer progression after initiation of androgen deprivation therapy – lipid metabolism as a novel biomarker to predict prostate cancer progression – phase 3, double-blind randomized clinical trial	University of Tampere, Faculty of Medicine and Life Sciences	€ 130 000	€ 40 000	Fin, Den
Pettersson, Kim (Fin)	Nanoparticle aided glycovariant biomarkers for the early detection of epithelial ovarian cancer	Department of Biochemistry, Division of Biotechnology, University of Turku	€ 120 000	€ 30 000	Swe, Fin
Pukkala, Eero (Fin)	New wave of joint Nordic studies on work and cancer	Finnish Cancer Registry / University of Tampere	€ 150 000	€ 40 000	No, Swe, Fin, Den
Rodriguez-Wallberg, Kenny Alexandra (Swe)	An investigation of GnRHα exposure in connection with cancer treatment: Effects on fecundity, cancer recurrence and death	Karolinska Institutet and Karolinska University Hospital	€ 92 000	€ 40 000	Swe, Fin, Den
Tryggvadóttir, Laufey (Ice)	#186457 Prognostic Factors, Treatment and Breast Cancer Survival in Nordic BRCA2 Mutation Carriers	University of Iceland, Icelandic Cancer Society	€ 70 000	€ 40 000	No, Swe, Ice, Fin, Den
Total			€ 1 842 466	€ 750 000	