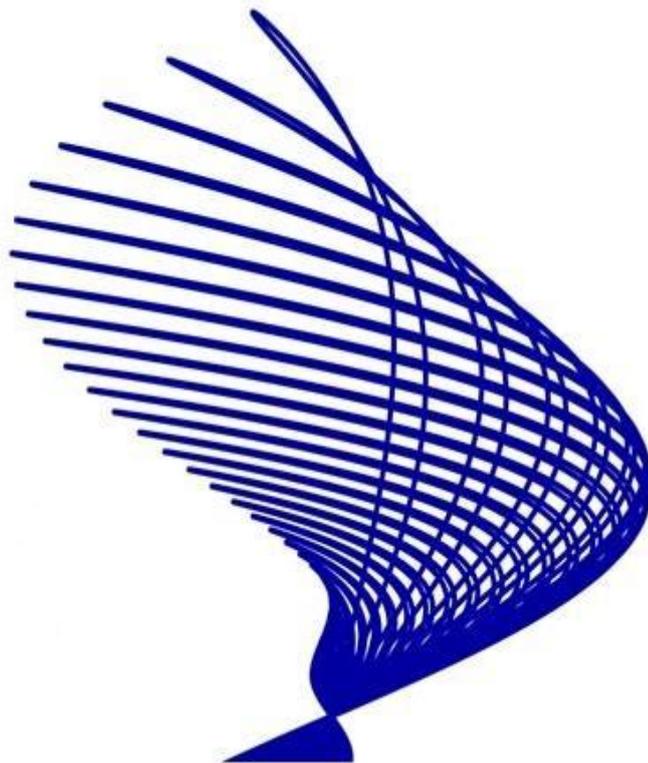


NORFACE
Research Programme
Welfare State Futures
Call for proposals



NORFACE
NETWORK

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This document will be updated as soon as new information is available.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background to this call for proposals

Welfare states are at a critical turning point. The development of welfare systems was one of the defining characteristics of the 20th century, especially in Europe. However, in times of change, it will be important to re-think 'the welfare state' with a programme of innovative research designed to ask, and answer, fundamental questions about the design, delivery and experience of welfare in the 21st century.

It is for this reason that NORFACE (the New Opportunities for Research Funding Agency Cooperation in Europe) network now proposes a major transnational programme on the topic of Welfare State Futures. This highly topical theme offers an approach from a variety of perspectives and disciplines; enables and encourages multi-disciplinarity; and offers a fruitful topic for a European approach, with opportunities for comparison.

The themes for the programme have been prepared by an international, multi-disciplinary Theme Expert Group, from which a Writing Group was composed which prepared the programme text, accompanying this call for proposals.

This programme will have three major objectives:

- To advance globally excellent theoretical and methodological research on welfare state futures, which may be multi-disciplinary, inter-disciplinary and comparative, and which builds synergetically on a pan-European basis.
- To motivate and support excellence and capacity building for research on welfare state futures on a cross-national basis throughout the NORFACE countries.
- To develop understanding and promote research-based knowledge and insight into welfare state futures for issues of societal, practical and policy relevance, with theoretical foundations but worked on jointly with relevant users and experts.

This call covers five themes of research on welfare state futures, described in detail in the programme text accompanying this call for proposals. These five themes are:

1. People and the welfare state.
2. Inequalities, diversity and welfare states.
3. Rethinking the economics of the welfare state.
4. The future politics of the welfare state.
5. Shifting responsibilities for welfare.

The NORFACE Network Board invites proposals for innovative research addressing one or more of these themes. The funding of this major trans-national programme over a period of three years has been set at a minimum of 16 M€. In addition to the funding by NORFACE partners, the Swedish Council for Working Life (FAS) has also made a contribution to the programme. EU support may also be available for this programme. More information about this additional funding will be available before the evaluation of the Full Proposals. The technical aspects of the call are described in this document.

2. Eligibility

2.1 Who can apply

Each project team must be composed of at least three research teams consisting of eligible researchers based at universities or research institutes in three or more different NORFACE countries, who have the interest and competence to undertake social science research within the specified theme. For the eligibility of researchers, national eligibility rules apply ([see appendix 1](#)). In case of doubt, each partner agency can advise on whether it recognises an institution. Researchers can only participate in two applications, and submit only one application as Main Applicant.

Each project team should strive to include researchers early in their careers, including post-doctoral and PhD students, as participants in the project. NORFACE strives to promote gender equality, and encourages women researchers in particular to apply.

Applicants

Each project team consists of three or more national teams. There must be one Main Applicant, and two or more Co-applicants. In addition there can be Co-operation partners, whose role is described further on. All applicants (Main Applicant and Co-applicants) and Co-operation partners may participate in a maximum of two proposals, and only in one as Main Applicant. It is not allowed to change the Main or Co-applicants in the Full Proposal stage. In the Full Proposal stage, applicants who are involved in two applications will be asked to show how they are going to distribute their time between different projects they participate in. Teams must convincingly justify the participation of all researchers involved in their application.

Only researchers located in the following NORFACE countries are eligible to apply as Main Applicant or Co-Applicant, irrespective of their nationality: Austria, Denmark, France, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden and United Kingdom. Researchers from other countries may participate as a Co-operation partner.

Main Applicant's role

The Main Applicant will be a researcher responsible for carrying out and managing the project. S/he will be the contact point for NORFACE on behalf of all the applicants and responsible for the administrative and financial management of the overall project, should this be funded. In addition, the Main Applicant is responsible for leading the project activities at his/her own institution. The Main Applicant must be based at an institution situated in a NORFACE country. Main Applicant status is not limited to researchers at any specific career stage, though national eligibility rules apply.

Co-applicants' role

Each Co-applicant is responsible for leading the project activities at his/her own institution. There may be more than one Co-applicant from any one country. S/he will be responsible for the administrative and financial management of his/her national part of the project, should this be funded. If there is more than one Co-applicant from a country, one of them needs to be identified as the national contact point. Each Co-applicant should be based at an institution situated in a NORFACE country. Co-applicant status is not limited to researchers at any specific career stage, though national eligibility rules apply.

Co-operation partners

Researchers from non-NORFACE countries and non-academic partners are allowed to participate in the projects as Co-operation partners. However, no funding can be applied for them from the NORFACE programme. The applicants invited to submit a Full Proposal will be asked to specify the sources from which the participation of the Co-operation partners will be funded.

2.2. Eligible funding

Available funding

The total funding requested from NORFACE must not exceed € 1,500,000 across all participating partners. Smaller and larger projects are equally welcome. A justification of the requested budget will be required.

Eligible costs

All costs must be eligible according to the national eligibility rules available under "National Eligibility Requirements" ([see appendix 1](#)). Each applicant may request funding for personnel costs, consumables, travel costs, equipment and subcontracting in accordance with the relevant national research funding rules. Please read the "National eligibility requirements" to verify the eligibility of specific budget items according to the rules of your national funding organisation. In case of doubt, applicants should consult their respective national agencies or the NORFACE Coordination Office who can advise on funding rules.

Projects will also be expected to engage in knowledge exchange activities regarding the outcomes of the project. Costs for these activities can be included in the requested budget in addition to the costs for research.

The estimated budget must be given in Euros only and be tabulated according to the application template provided. Costs have to be specified per calendar year. In the Outline Proposal form only estimated costs need to be specified, but these should still be as realistic as possible. Estimated costs can be updated in the Full Proposal.

Project duration

Projects can be proposed that last up to 36 months. Projects can start August 1 2014 at the earliest, and must have started by February 1 2015 at the latest.

3. Submission of Proposals and Assessment Procedure

3.1 Procedure

Applications to the NORFACE research programme will be processed in two stages. In the first stage, project Outline Proposals are invited with a deadline of **April 16 2013, 11.59 (noon) Central European Time/10.59 Greenwich Mean Time**. Applications received after the deadline will not be eligible. Only applications which meet all the conditions set out in this call text are eligible and will be included in the assessment procedure. The eligible applications will be assessed in an "open competition", in which a selection of proposals that could be subsidised is made based on the programme's assessment criteria by an international panel of experts. Applicants invited to the second stage will receive a notification by September 2013 inviting them to submit a Full Proposal. Applications that have passed through the Outline Proposal round are submitted for assessment to external expert reviewers. The Network Board expects to make funding decisions in July 2014.

3.2 Outline Proposals

The project Outline Proposals are abridged versions of the Full Proposals. The project Outline Proposals should be in PDF format and must be submitted using the link available on the NORFACE website www.norface.net. Guidance on how to submit the proposal will be available on the website. Proposals received after the deadline, or failing to comply with the published requirements, will be rejected. All Outline Proposals must be completed in English and follow the proposal structure as indicated in the application template available on the NORFACE website (www.norface.net). Only one application form per Outline Proposal may be submitted and must contain information on the following items:

1. The project team

- Name and address of the Main Applicant;
- Names and addresses of the Co-Applicants;
- Details of Co-operation partners, if these are part of the project team.

2. Project information

- Title of the project and acronym;
- Project summary (max. 1500 characters, excluding spaces) should be uploaded and is recommended to include the following information:
 - relevance of the research topic to the call;
 - objectives, potential outcome and impact of the project;
 - explanation on how the project will be organised.
- Keywords (max. 8 separated by a semicolon ";");
- Discipline or disciplines of the project;
- Start date and duration of the project.

3. Project description (max. 2500 words, excluding references) which is recommended to include the following:

- project description;
- references.

a) The project description should explain in clear language:

- Which research question does the proposal seek to answer?
- Why is this research question significant? How will it contribute to the theme or themes of the call? If applicable, how does the proposal cut across different themes of the programme?
- By what methods and work plans will the research question be tackled?
- In what ways is the project innovative? What are the main theoretical and conceptual innovations expected from the project?
- What added value will be gained by undertaking the research as a collaborative project with the proposed partners? What is the transnational added value of the project?

- How will the project participants contribute to the project? What research expertise and competence do the participants bring to the project proposal?
- What are the expected outcomes and impacts of the research project? How will findings be shared with interested parties?
- If the research involves data collection or acquisition, please indicate how existing datasets have been reviewed and state why currently available datasets are inadequate for this proposed research.

b) References:

Please list the references used.

4. Timetable of the project (max. 500 words).

5. An estimated budget for the project.

The budget in the Outline Proposal needs only contain an indicative funding request but this should still be as realistic and careful as possible. Applicants invited to submit a Full Proposal will be required to provide fully accurate, detailed and justification of resources at that stage. The application form contains a table that must be used for the estimated budget.

6. Curriculum vitae of the research team including a publication list.

The Main Applicant's and Co-Applicant's CV may cite a maximum of ten relevant publications. Each Co-Operation Partner's CV may cite a maximum of five relevant publications. The CV of the Main Applicant should include the information on his/her experience leading national or international collaboration research projects.

Evaluation of the Outline Proposals

Eligible Outline Proposals will be reviewed by an international independent evaluation panel, consisting of experts nominated by the NORFACE partners and appointed by the NORFACE Network Board. The composition of the NORFACE evaluation panel will be available on the NORFACE website after the evaluation of the Full proposals is finished. Expertise in the panel aims to cover widely the disciplinary fields targeted in the call. The panel assesses the Outline Proposals comparatively, using the criteria (see paragraph 3.4) and subsequently prioritises these according to likelihood of funding, without making use of external referees. The panel will recommend to the NORFACE Network Board a shortlist of applicants to be invited to submit Full Proposals.

All applicants will receive notification in September 2013. The candidates whose proposal is shortlisted are invited to submit a Full Proposal by January 16 2014, 11.59 (noon) Central European Time/10.59 Greenwich Mean Time. All applicants will receive an assessment of their proposal from the panel.

3.3 Full Proposals

All Full Proposals must be completed in English and follow the proposal structure as indicated in the application template available on the NORFACE website. Only one application template per Full Proposal may be submitted and must contain information on the following items:

1. The project team

- Name and address of the Main Applicant;
- Names and addresses of the Co-Applicants;
- Details of possible Co-operation partners.

2. Project information

- Title of the project and acronym;
- Project summary (max. 1500 characters, excluding spaces) should be uploaded and is recommended to include the following information:

- relevance of the research topic to the call;
- objectives, potential outcome and impact of the project;
- explanation on how the project will be organised.
- Keywords (max. 8 separated by a semicolon “;”);
- Discipline or disciplines of the project;
- Start date and duration of the project.

The summary will be made public if the project is funded by NORFACE.

3. Project description (max. 7500 words, excluding references) should be uploaded and should explain in clear language:

a) Research proposal

- Which research question does the proposal seek to answer?
- Why is the research question significant? How will it contribute to the theme or themes of the call? If applicable, how does the proposal cut across different themes of the programme?
- What is the impact of the project on theoretical and methodological approaches in the field? By what methods and work plans will the research question be tackled?
- In what ways is the project innovative? What are the main theoretical and conceptual innovations expected from the project?
- What are the importance and relevance of the chosen comparative approach/methods? If the research involves data collection or acquisition, please indicate how existing datasets have been reviewed and state why currently available datasets are inadequate for this proposed research.

b) International cooperation and composition of the research team

- What added value will be gained by undertaking this research as a collaborative project with the proposed participants? What are the advantages of a transnational project, in its comparative nature for instance?
- How will the project participants contribute to the project? What research expertise and competence do the participants bring to the project proposal?
- What is the work plan?
- What are the plans of the project for including early-career researchers / emerging researchers in the project activities?
- How is an equitable gender balance sought in the composition of the project team?

c) Potential impact of research

- What are the expected outcomes and impact of the research project?
- Who are the potential users, academic and non-academic, of the research?
- Which activities will be deployed to communicate the research activities and outcomes to potential users?

d) References

Please list the references used.

4. Timetable of the project (max. 500 words).

5. Communication and dissemination (max. 500 words).

- Plan of publications resulting from the research;
- Plan of dissemination: describe the main target groups, instruments and how knowledge will be embedded;
- Valorisation: describe how the valorisation of the developed knowledge will be realised;
- Plan for the storage of and access to data collected, if applicable.

6. Management and monitoring (max. 500 words).

Please describe how the project will be managed as a whole and how the monitoring of the progress against the objectives and anticipated results will be ensured.

7. A budget for the project.

The proposal at this stage should include fully accurate, detailed and justified costings. Justification should be provided for the overall level of funding requested in respect to the value added of the proposed research.

8. Curriculum vitae of the applicants and a publication list.

The Main Applicant's and Co-Applicant's CV may cite a maximum of ten relevant publications. Each Co-operation Partner's CV may cite a maximum of five relevant publications. The CV of the Main Applicant should include the information on his/her experience leading national or international collaboration research projects.

Detailed requirements and instructions on how to complete the Full Proposals application forms will be made available once Full Proposals are being invited.

Evaluation of the Full Proposals

Full Proposals are submitted for assessment to external, independent referees for peer review. In this second stage each applicant will be invited to suggest names of two independent international referees for his/her proposal. If deemed fit, one of these suggestions will be used. Each Full Proposal will be evaluated by a minimum of three referees. The reviews by the referees will be sent anonymously to the Main Applicant for comments before the evaluation panel assesses the applications.

In addition, in the panel two assessors will be assigned as *rapporteur* for each Full Proposal. The assessment received from the external referees, the comments received from the applicant and the assessment from the panel members will form the starting point for a joint review carried out by an international evaluation panel consisting of experts in the field. The panel will prepare a consensus evaluation report on each Full Proposal based on the application, the external reviews, the comments by the Main Applicant and the panel evaluation. The panel will rank the proposals and make a funding recommendation to the NORFACE Network Board.

The Network Board will take the final funding decisions by July 2014. Project leaders of awarded applications will be asked to draw up a project team agreement detailing the administrative arrangements in the project.

The applicants will receive the consensus report of the evaluation panel as feedback after the final funding decisions.

3.4 Criteria

All Outline Proposals and Full Proposals are assessed against three sets of criteria: (1) scientific excellence, (2) Quality and efficiency of the implementation and the management, (3) potential impact. All three of the sets of criteria will be taken into consideration. Each criterion will be scored on a scale from one to five, with a minimum threshold of three on each criterion being necessary for the application to be considered for funding.

Scientific excellence - Quality of the transnational project

- Sound concept, and quality of objectives
- Progress beyond the state-of-the-art
- Quality and effectiveness of the scientific and technological methodology and associated work plan.

Quality and efficiency of the implementation and the management

- Appropriateness of the management structure and procedures
- Quality and relevant experience of the individual participants
- Quality of the consortium as a whole (including complementarity, balance)
- Appropriate allocation and justification of the resources to be committed (budget, staff, equipment).

Potential impact

- The scientific impact;
- The fit to objectives, key areas and priorities of the programme;
- The capacity of the project to address more than one theme of the call for research;
- The extent to which research is likely to be of value to stake holder communities;
- Appropriateness of measures for the dissemination and/or exploitation of transnational projects results, and management of intellectual property.

3.5 Tentative timeline

November 2012	Launch of the programme.
November 2012 - January 2013	The NORFACE International Evaluation Panel will be assembled.
April 16, 11.59 (noon) Central European Time/10.59 Greenwich Mean Time	Deadline submission Outline Proposals.
June 2013	Evaluation of Outline Proposals.
September 2013	Applicants will be informed about the decision on Outline proposals.
January 16 2014, 11.59 (noon) Central European Time/10.59 Greenwich Mean Time	Deadline Full Proposals WSF.
February - April 2014	Peer-review of Full Proposals WSF.
May 2014	Rebuttal by applicants.
June 2014	Evaluation Full Proposals.
July 2014	Applicants will be informed about the decision on Full Proposals.
August 1 2014	Earliest start of Collaborative Research Projects

4. Other Information

4.1 Programme coordination

The scientific coordination of the programme 'Welfare State Futures' is seen as very important for creating added value to the researchers involved in the programme. The programme will be supervised and directed by an academic programme director appointed specifically for the purpose. The programme director will be responsible for ensuring the integration of the various funded projects into a whole which is more than the sum of its parts, for ensuring good cross-communication and synergy between projects, and appropriate engagement with the wider non-academic community involved in welfare state issues.

A programme director is expected to be appointed by August 1 2014. The core duties of the programme director will be to promote the collaboration between the projects within the research programme, ensuring good communications and dissemination from the various research teams both within academia and with relevant related professional organisations and strengthen the visibility of NORFACE.

The contract between NORFACE and the Main Applicant will state that the Main Applicant of each funded project will co-operate with the programme director, and participate in relevant NORFACE activities in the Programme.

4.2 Research Integrity

When preparing the proposal and carrying out the research project, the NORFACE Board expects applicants to adhere to rules of good research practice as outlined in The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (<http://www.esf.org/activities/mo-fora/research-integrity.html>). The principles of integrity include, among others, fairness in providing references, giving credit, honesty in communication and impartiality and independence.

4.3 Open Access

Open access, is intended to improve and promote the dissemination of knowledge and the availability of data, thereby improving the efficiency of scientific discovery and maximising the return on public research funding bodies' investment in R&D. Beneficiaries funded are required to deposit data collected in the course of NORFACE projects, and peer-reviewed articles resulting from their projects to an institutional or subject-based repository. They are expected to make their best efforts to ensure open access to data and peer-reviewed articles as soon possible, taking advantage of national or international arrangements where these are available.

4.4 Further information

If you need additional information please contact the NORFACE coordination office (NWO, the Netherlands) or the NORFACE contact person at your national research council. The following contact persons from the participating national research councils and agencies are available for introductory questions to the Research Programme:

- **The Austrian Science Fund (FWF)** – Ms. Petra Grabner, Email: Petra.GRABNER@fwf.ac.at, Tel. +43 1 505 67 40.
- **The Danish Social Science Research Council (DASTI/FSE)** – Mr. Kristoffer Brix Bertelsen, Email: kbbs@fi.dk, Tel. +45 7231 8324.
- **The Estonian Research Council (ETAG)** – Ms. Kati Kio, Email: kati.kio@etag.ee, Tel. +372 699 6215.
- **Academy of Finland (AKA)** - Mr. Jyrki Hakapää, Email: jyrki.hakapaa@aka.fi, Tel. +358 9 7748 8277.
- **Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR)** – Mr. Pierre-Olivier Pin, Email: pierre-olivier.pin@agencerecherche.fr, Tel. +33 1 78 09 80 83.
- **Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)** – Mr. Stefan Koch, Email: Stefan.koch@dfg.de, Tel. +49 228 885 2459.

- **The Icelandic Centre for Research (RANNÍS)** – Ms. Hulda Proppé, Email: Hulda.P@rannis.is, Tel. 00354 515 5800.
- **The Irish Research Council** – Ms. Sorcha Carthy, Email: Scarthy@research.ie, Tel. +353-(0)1-6603652.
- **The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)** – Ms. Carlien Hillebrink, Email: c.hillebrink@nwo.nl, Tel. +31 (0)70 349 43 11, or Ms. Anne Westendorp, Email: a.westendorp@nwo.nl, Tel: + 31 (0)70 344 09 02.
- **The Research Council of Norway (RCN)** – Ms. Gunnlaug Daugstad , Email: gd@rcn.no, Tel. +47 22 03 75 87.
- **National Science Centre (NCN, Poland)** - Ms. Anna Plater Zyberk, Email: anna.plater@ncn.gov.pl, Tel: +48 12 341 9028.
- **Portugal, Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT)** – Anabela Isidro, Email: Anabela.Isidro@fct.pt, Tel: + 351 213911552.
- **The Slovenian Research Agency (ARRS)** – Ms. Tina Glavič Novak, Email: tina.novak@arrs.si.
- **The Swedish Research Council (VR)** – Mr. Lucas Pettersson, Email: lucas.pettersson@vr.se, Tel. +46 8 546 44277.
- **The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)** – Ms. Samantha McGregor, Email: samantha.mcgregor@esrc.ac.uk, Tel. +44 (0) 1793 413141.

Contact details can also be found on the NORFACE website at www.norface.net. For further information, please contact the NORFACE Coordination Office at wsf@nwo.nl.