

March 9, 2021

Strong and interactive Nordic collaboration

Release: NOS-HS Explorative workshop grant evaluation report 2020

- The objective of the NOS-HS Workshop grant is *the development of new research areas and programmes within the humanities and social sciences in the Nordic countries*. The funding is granted towards organising a series of 2–3 Nordic workshops, with a focus on research and collaboration between researchers from the Nordic countries. The workshops are expected to show ambition and novelty, as well as *Nordic added value*, by aiming at new research projects and proposals to international research programmes, and the involvement of early-career researchers and non-academic stakeholders.
- The NOS-HS Committee commissioned a 2020 evaluation report of their Workshop funding scheme for workshop calls 2013–2016. This report is a sequel to a previous evaluation from 2012 for the call years 2007–2009.

Findings from the WS grant final reports

- The main findings from the Workshop final reports show an equal involvement of the social sciences and humanities disciplines, with a strong emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration. All the Nordic countries are actively involved.
- The main finding of the evaluation was *the versatility of the Workshop funding instrument* in responding to a number of different needs from the Nordic research communities. NOS-HS workshops provide opportunities for enhanced collaboration and networking for both ‘formative’ as well as more ‘mature’ research networks. Reflecting the primary objective of a strong research focus and novelty and curiosity-driven research areas, most workshops reported the theoretical, methodological and (inter)disciplinary development and research agenda-setting as their most important outcome. Reflecting the different starting points, the main concrete outcomes were either new networks, the publication record, new ambitious proposals to international publishers, and/or new grant applications to international research programmes (Horizon 2020, ERC). An outcome and a strength of NOS-HS workshops has been the *building from Nordic networks into European and wider international networks*.
- The evaluation showed an important connection between *the novelty and renewal in the topics and areas of research, the interdisciplinary collaboration, and the Nordic added value*. This can be seen as a specific characteristic of the NOS-HS workshops, made possible by their versatility and bottom-up nature.

Comments and recommendations from the academic rapporteurs

- The two appointed academic rapporteurs considered that the instrument of NOS-HS Workshops has proven its value for the Nordic research community, and it is recommended that the funding instrument is kept as a valuable asset for NOS-HS collaboration, which in itself is uniquely valuable. Furthermore, they recommend that the instrument be developed further to the benefit of Nordic comparative research.

NOS-HS website: [NOS-HS | Promoting Nordic research within the humanities and social sciences \(aka.fi\)](#)

Download the report: [NOS-HS Workshop grant evaluation report 2020 \(pdf\)](#)

Additional information

NOS-HS Chair, Professor Terje Lohndal terje.lohndal@ntnu.no

Author of the report: Riitta Launonen riitta.launonen@aka.fi

NOS-HS Secretariat/Senior Science Adviser Päivi Messo paivi.messo@aka.fi