



The Nordplus Handbook 2024



Nordplus

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Nordplus handbook 2024

Reading Guide

Welcome to the Nordplus handbook. The handbook is a guide to you as an applicant and describes who can apply, what you can apply for, and how to apply. It provides information about Nordplus in general and about the five different sub-programmes.

The first part of the handbook is a brief introduction to Nordplus, providing a quick overview of the programmes, objectives, target groups and activities. Here you can also find practical information about the application rounds and where to seek further advice and guidance.

After the introduction you will find a chapter for each of the five sub-programmes in Nordplus with information about the characteristics and objectives of the sub-programme, its target groups, activities, finances, and funding.

The chapter General information about applying provides information about the application process, the assessment of applications and reporting of completed projects. The chapter contains guidelines and detailed information about the evaluation criteria and on the reporting once a project is completed. There is also a checklist to help you fill in the application electronically when using the Espresso application system.

At the end of the handbook, you will find a list of contact details – addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses and websites for each Nordplus office in the eleven countries participating in Nordplus.

Introduction to Nordplus

Each year, Nordplus awards around 9,8 million euro in funding for mobility, projects, and networks. Nordplus is a mobility and network programme for education in the Nordic and Baltic countries, including the autonomous regions of Åland, the Faroe Islands and Greenland. Nordplus is the largest educational programme within the Nordic Council of Ministers and funded by the Nordic and Baltic countries.

Nordplus consists of five sub-programmes:

Nordplus Junior

- for preschools, primary and lower secondary schools, cultural schools, general and vocational upper secondary schools and apprenticeship programmes, school authorities and the public and private organisations/institutions involved in the area of school education.

Nordplus Higher Education

- for public and private institutions of higher education.

Nordplus Adult

- for all organisations and institutions involved in adult education and learning.

Nordplus Horizontal

- for all organisations and institutions involved in education and lifelong learning across sectors.

Nordplus Nordic Languages

- for all organisations and institutions interested and involved in Nordic languages within all fields of education.

Objectives

The general objectives for Nordplus 2023–2027 are to:

- strengthen and develop Nordic and Baltic co-operation on education, including early childhood and care, and help to create a Nordic–Baltic educational area,
- support, build on, reap the benefits of and promote innovative products and processes in education through the systematic exchange of experiences and good practice,
- contribute to the development of quality and innovation in the educational systems for lifelong learning in the participating Nordplus countries through co-operation in education and training, as well as co-operation with the labour market on development projects, exchange programmes and networking,
- enhance mobility for educational purposes and expand digital collaboration in education in the region,
- enhance opportunities for all, regardless of background and resources, to participate in regional educational collaboration and to gain new knowledge and skills based on collaboration between organisations,
- promote Nordic languages and culture and mutual Nordic-Baltic linguistic and cultural understanding,
- improve inter-Nordic language comprehension (primarily between Danish, Swedish and Norwegian), especially among children and young people,
- stimulate interest in and knowledge and understanding of the languages of the Nordic countries essential to society (Danish, Finnish, Faroese, Greenlandic, Icelandic, Norwegian, Sami and Swedish) and Nordic sign language, and
- revitalise national minority languages in the Nordic Region for cultural and inclusive purposes.

Nordplus Highlight in 2023 & 2024

The Nordic Council of Ministers has agreed on a new, green, competitive and socially sustainable vision for the Nordic region before 2030. The intention is for the region to become the most sustainable and integrated region in the world. Nordplus supports this vision by setting highlight in line with this vision.

In 2023 and 2024, Nordplus welcomes applications for the programme under the theme “Enhancing Educational Cooperation for a Socially Sustainable Future”. The Nordplus highlight relates to all Nordplus programmes and to all sectors within the field of education and training. The concept of „social sustainability“ entails all aspects of the issue from for example health equity and human rights to cultural competence and community resilience. Integrated with this theme is also the Nordic competitiveness based on knowledge, innovation, mobility, and digital integration.

Nordplus Highlight specifies an up-to-date theme, which becomes the focus for a two-year period and relates to all Nordplus sub-programmes.

Nordplus is open for applications with other topics or themes than the current Nordplus Highlight. These applications are assessed on an equal footing with applications within Nordplus Highlight.

Target Groups

Nordplus is aimed at all educational sectors and organisations and institutions involved in learning and education. Only institutions or organisations can apply in Nordplus – you cannot apply as an individual.

Only applicants from the Nordic countries – Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland, the Baltic countries – Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania – and the autonomous regions of Åland, the Faroe Islands and Greenland, which act as independent countries in Nordplus, are eligible for grants. Institutions placed outside the Nordic and Baltic countries are not eligible for funding from the programme but can participate in Nordplus projects if they cover their own expenses.

You can read more about who is eligible for applying in the sub-programme chapters.

Activities

Nordplus primarily supports two types of activities:

Project and networks

An application must consist of at least three institutions from three different Nordplus countries. For Nordplus Nordic Languages, applications with two institutions from two different countries are eligible.

Mobility

An application must consist of at least two institutions from two different Nordplus countries.

Nordplus Junior, Higher Education and Adult include all types of activities, while Nordic Languages and Horizontal are only open to project and network applications.

Detailed descriptions of the types of activities and grants you can apply for can be found in the sub-programme chapters.

Grants

Nordplus grants are primarily based on unit costs (fixed rates). Grants from Nordplus are contributions to project expenses and all participating organisations must therefore expect some degree of co-financing.

Costs that can be included in the grant and more detailed terms for using grants are defined in the sub-programme chapters

Application Rounds

Deadline for applications: 1 February every year

Each year, Nordplus calls for applications for all its sub-programmes in all participating countries. The call for applications provides information about the possibilities for applying for funding from the various sub-programmes. The main deadline is 1 February, and the call for applications is announced 3 months before this date. Applicants receive an answer approximately three months after the application deadline.

Application deadline for preparatory visits 1 October every year

Nordplus Junior, Adult and Nordic Languages have an additional round of applications for preparatory activities with a deadline of 1 October. For the October application round, applicants receive an answer approximately 6 weeks after application deadline.

The deadline for applying is before midnight – 23:59 CET. If the deadline falls on a Sunday or public holiday, the deadline is moved to the next working day.

All Nordplus applicants – regardless of which participating country they come from or which activities they seek funding for – must submit their application electronically through the Espresso application system. See more at www.nordplusonline.org.

Information & Guidance

Each Nordic and Baltic country has a programme office while the autonomous regions have an information office working with and providing information about Nordplus. If applicants have questions about the programme, the application, or the application process, they must contact the office in their home country directly.

You can find contact information at the end of the handbook.

Nordplus Junior

Introduction to Nordplus Junior

Nordplus Junior gives contributions to school's strategic quality work through partnerships between schools in the Nordic and Baltic countries. All activities aim at strengthening and developing collaboration and includes everything from minor ventures with a focus on the process and the actual exchange of experiences, to major development projects with the aim of developing new ideas, methods and ways of working. It may also include exchanges of individual participants – for example continuing professional development for teachers and staff, or transnational pupil cooperation closely connected to curricula in order to enhance student achievement.

Target groups for the programme are kindergartens/preschools, primary schools, lower and upper secondary schools, vocational schools and apprentice programmes, and other organisations within the educational field.

Teachers and staff receive an opportunity to strengthen their professionalism and work skills through experience sharing. It provides new perspectives and increased understanding for other ways of teaching, and therefore a unique chance to reflect on one's own professional practice. It also aims at giving knowledge to develop methodology and pedagogical tools in order to fulfil the pupils' possibilities of reaching curriculum objectives. At the same time, staff acquires an international perspective which may have a direct effect on schools' quality assurance.

Pupils get an opportunity to strengthen their knowledge and abilities through cooperation with other people in the Nordic and Baltic countries. Meeting other cultures and ways of thinking, make pupils more mature and independent; they widen their horizons and deepen their awareness about various subjects, the surrounding world and themselves.

All projects should originate in the development needs of the participating institutions, as well as in each country's curricula and regulatory documents.

Examples of themes and areas for collaboration within Nordplus Junior could be: entrepreneurship, inclusive education, digitalization (ICT), promoting knowledge of Nordic and Baltic culture, democracy, environment and sustainable development, integration, education and employment, developing knowledge about the Nordic and Baltic languages, all school subjects e.g. mathematics and social sciences, as well as enhancing basic skills such as literacy.

Target Groups for the Programme

All Nordic and Baltic countries are eligible to apply. In order to receive a Nordplus Junior grant all activities must take place in one or more of the eight participating countries or in the autonomous regions of Åland, the Faroe Islands and Greenland.

The target groups of Nordplus Junior are pupils, teachers and other pedagogical staff in:

- Kindergarten/preschools (for children from 1 years and older).
- Primary schools.
- Lower and upper secondary schools (general and vocational).
- Vocational schools/apprentice programmes.
- Culture schools.
- Organisations and institutions working with or having strong interests in the area of school education, e.g. Departments for Education. However, these may only participate as partners.

Coordinator or partner

All projects must appoint a coordinating institution which will be responsible for the application and the granted funds for the duration of the contract period.

Schools and Culture schools within the formal education systems and kindergartens/preschools, public or private, can act as coordinators. Each national office decides if a culture school is eligible as coordinator. Other types of organisations may participate as partners. Please contact your national programme office for more information.

All projects must be based on mutual agreements between the participating organisations, both coordinators and partners. In order for the application to be eligible, these agreements (Letters of Intent), must be duly signed and attached to the application prior to the deadline.

A coordinator may submit more than one application in the same application round – it is the project's quality which determines whether funds will be granted.

Activities in the Programme

Nordplus Junior supports the following activities:

- Mobility.
- Development projects.

All activities must have a clearly defined aim, an expected outcome and correspond with the main objectives of the Nordplus programme. The project must be relevant to all of the participating organisations, identify development needs within the institutions and clarify the added international value. All activity types can be combined in the same application (except for preparatory visits and study visits).

If a project has received Nordplus Junior funding in previous application rounds, the project will be excluded from funding if the new application is comparable to previous granted applications (e.g. a copy and paste of previous applications without any development or progress).

The project period may begin at the earliest when the decision of approval has been sent out, in May for the spring round and November for the autumn round. If a project plans activities during three terms, one applies for a two-year project period.

Mobility projects

Mobility activities require cooperation between at least two partners (including the coordinator) from two different Nordplus countries. The following activities are eligible:

A. Preparatory visits

The purpose of preparatory visits is to give institutions the possibility to prepare and plan a future project and formulate an application to Nordplus Junior. The main principle is that one of the participating institutions/organisations acts as host. The host institution is not included in a mobility grant. As a maximum, one visit with two participating teachers per country can be applied for. An application for a preparatory visit cannot be combined with other mobility activities or development projects.

Eligible participants: Teachers and other pedagogical staff.

Project period: The activity must be carried out within the period of 1 year.

Duration of activity: Preparatory visits may last a maximum of 5 days, including travel days.

B. Teacher exchanges

Staff within eligible types of schools can apply for different kinds of exchanges, e.g. job-swapping, job-shadowing, study visits, or experience exchanges where teachers take part in teaching in partner countries. The exchange may take place between one or more schools.

Eligible participants: Teachers and other pedagogical staff.

Project period: The activity must be completed within a period of 1-2 years.

Duration of activity: Teacher exchanges can range from 5 days (at least 3 working days and 2 travel days) up to 2 years.

C. Class exchange

Class exchanges involve groups of pupils or classes, from at least two participating Nordplus countries wishing to collaborate on a joint theme within the objectives of the Nordplus programme. The project may involve upper secondary students wishing to stay on longer and take part in theoretical studies and/or work placement.

Grants can be awarded for a maximum of 30 pupils per school and a maximum of two accompanying teachers per 10 pupils. >10 pupils grants will be allocated to two accompanying teachers. The common theme must be of a pedagogical nature and linked to curricula. All participating partners are expected to benefit and to gain from the cooperation.

Eligible participants: Pupils and accompanying teachers.

Project period: Class exchanges are possible for 1 year or 2 years. The allocation of the number of pupils each year should be described in the application.

Duration of activity: The exchange can range from 5 days (at least 3 working days and 2 travel days) and up to 3 weeks.

Example: Two schools from two different Nordplus countries are partners in a class exchange. Each school can receive mobility grants for 30 pupils and six accompanying teachers. They can choose to complete these 72 exchanges during one year. But they can also choose to spread out the exchanges over a longer period up to a maximum of two years. The required period (1–2 years) must be specified in the application.

D. Study visits

Schools or local Education Departments may plan for a visit to other educational institutions, research centers, governmental institutions, school legal bodies, companies etc. The study visit must contribute to new knowledge, experiences, and perspectives relevant to the professions within the school sector and must clearly meet an identified development need at the organisation.

Grants can be awarded for a minimum of 2 and maximum of 5 participants per school/organisation. Grants can be awarded for maximum 5 days per person and one visit per application. Grants can only be awarded for one visit per application. The applicant must select a host organisation in another Baltic or Nordic country for the Study visit. You may perform other relevant meetings during the stay; however, all activities must be clearly motivated in the application.

Eligible Participants: Teachers, school leaders, pedagogical staff or employees at local Education Departments. N.B. grants will not be awarded to pupils.

Project period: The activity must be performed within 6 months.

Duration of activity: 2-3 days

Application round: Applications for the activity Study visit is only possible during the autumn application round.

Priorities: If necessary, the following priorities will be applied; geographical distribution, New-comers in Nordplus Junior.

2023-2027 in the Nordplus Junior programme. The launch of the application round will be announced on nordplusonline.org.

Development projects

Applications for development activities must be based on an agreement between a minimum of three institutions or organisations from three different participating countries.

Development projects may involve strategic partnerships or networks.

Schools can form development projects on a specific theme that is consistent with the objectives of Nordplus and with the development needs of the participating institutions. Schools and organisations can form long term partnerships aimed at giving schools the opportunity to develop pedagogical and didactical methods. The projects are meant to broaden the perspective on the chosen theme(s).

Examples of fields for partnerships:

- Quality assurance.
- Dissemination of project results.
- Development and improvement of pedagogical and/or didactical teaching methods.
- Curriculum development.

School groups, organisations or institutions can also form long-term networks collaborating within the educational sector. In thematic networks, participants exchange knowledge and experience on a shared issue, topic or challenge. This can generate new ideas and proposals for future initiatives.

Eligible activities for network support include:

- Administrative meetings to establish and develop the network.
- Information activities.
- Dissemination of results, for example dissemination seminars.

A development project may apply for a grant for a maximum of two years.

Funding

Grants from Nordplus Junior are based on fixed unit costs for different types of expenses connected to the applied activity. Grants from Nordplus are contributions to project expenses and all participating organisations must therefore expect some degree of co-financing.

The co-financing is not to be specified or documented neither in the application nor in the final report as it is presupposed in the unit rate system.

Furthermore, the unit cost system is based on the premise that it is the implementation of the activity and not the actual cost that must be documented. This provides greater financial flexibility in relation to the project implementation. It is advisable, to evaluate the level of co-financing needed to carry out the project before applying.

In the guide Advice on financial management and documentation for granted projects you will find more detailed information of requirements on reporting and documentation of activities. This guide can be downloaded from [Nordplusonline.org](http://nordplusonline.org)

Mobility and development projects operate with two different unit cost systems described below.

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Grants for mobility projects cover travel costs for pupils, and both travel and subsistence costs for teachers and other pedagogical staff.

Grants for development projects cover travels, expenses for board and lodging, and other relevant costs connected to the activities within the development project. See further details below.

Funding of mobility projects

The funding of mobility activities in Nordplus Junior is based on the following categories:

- Project management.
- Fixed travel rates for return trips.
- Subsistence (board/lodging) for pedagogical staff.

* Note For mobility project with a budget over 15 000€ there will be a grant for project management.

Project Management / Mobility Projects

Rate per participating organisation för project management. *N.B. Only for budgets exceeding 15 000€	
Coordinator	1.000 €
Partner	500 €

Fixed maximum travel rates	
Route	amount (Return journey)
To and from Greenland	1.300 €
To and from Faroe Islands and Iceland	660 €
Between Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden and Åland	330 €
*Domestic, more than 500 km, return trip	175 €

The grant for project management can be used to cover the administrative costs but also for project related costs. The grant can be used to cover extra costs e.g., regarding travel and accommodation. It may also be used for costs related to arranging digital meetings as a complement to the physical exchanges.

The grant is a lump sum and thus independent of project duration, type and content. The payment will be executed to the coordinating institution. The coordinating institution is awarded a higher rate since greater administrative costs are foreseen when coordinating a project.

Fixed maximum travel rates for mobility projects:

- Preparatory visits (teachers/pedagogical staff only)
- Teacher exchanges (and other pedagogical staff)
- Class exchanges
- Study visits (teachers/pedagogical staff only)

*The amount for domestic travel can be applied if the distance between the school and the nearest international airport, train or bus station are above 500 km return trip. This concerns trips within your own country or/and the host country. In the Espresso application system, you apply for this contribution by selecting the same to- and from-country, and "0" in duration of stay. Accordingly, this contribution is applied for in addition to the other ordinary travel contributions between participating countries.

Fixed rates for subsistence– for teachers and pedagogical staff:

Fixed rates for subsistence (not for pupils/students)			
	Day	Week	Month
Teachers and pedagogical staff	100 €	500 €	1.350 €

If you apply for 6-7 days duration you must use the weekly rate.

Funding of development projects

Grants for development projects are allocated according to fixed unit costs for travel, subsistence (board/lodging) and other project expenses. The system offers flexibility and permits moving funds within the various types of expenses included in the overall grant. See the guide Advice on financial management and documentation for granted projects at nordplusonline.org for further details.

The programme provides grants for two types of costs:

- Project management, implementation and dissemination of results.
- Transnational meetings.

Applications for development projects must attach a separate budget based on the unit cost categories above. The budget template is available on www.nordplusonline.org and it is also linked to in the application system Espresso.

Project management, implementation and dissemination of results

The purpose of the grant is to cover the administrative costs and expenses for dissemination of the project's results which is required of all for Nordplus Junior collaborative projects. Administrative expenses may be any type of costs of coordinating and participating in a project such as accounting, reporting, meetings or arranging digital meetings etc.

The costs of disseminating project results could, for example, be publishing reports and pamphlets, translation, websites and organisation, conferences, seminars and meetings. To some extent even costs for rent, fees for speakers and food and beverage could be included.

Expenses for services and external suppliers, such as fees, cannot be applied for separately, but may be covered by this unit cost or by the institutions' co-financing.

The grant is a lump sum and thus independent of project duration, type and content. The payment will be executed to the coordinating institution. The coordinating institution is awarded a higher rate since greater administrative costs are foreseen when coordinating a project.

Rate per participating institutions for project management, implementation and dissemination of results	
Coordinator	3.000 €
Partner	1.000 €

Transnational meetings

This grant covers travel and subsistence for meetings between project partners with a purpose of planning, follow-up and coordination of the project. Other forms of meetings, e.g. network meetings, smaller seminars/courses with the participation of partners' own staff etc. are also covered by this unit cost.

Costs for larger, external events with participation of persons outside the partnership

are to be covered by the unit cost of "project management, implementation and dissemination of results".

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Please note that the unit costs include both travel and subsistence expenses. They are based on the general mobility travel unit costs, with a small contribution towards subsistence.

Unit cost per participant per transnational meeting	
To and from Greenland	1.600 €
To and from the Faroe Islands and Iceland	960 €
Between Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden and Åland	630 €
* Domestic, more than 500 km (return trip)	175 €
**Domestic travel and subsistence, national meetings, more than 500 km (return trip)	475 €

*The unit cost for domestic travelling is an addition to the unit costs for transnational travel. Grants for domestic travel can be applied for when the distance between the participant's hometown and the nearest international airport, train or bus station in their home country is more than 500 km both ways (return trip).

**Unit cost for domestic travel and subsistence can also be applied for if there are by participants from partner institution(s) in the same country as the hosting institution, if the distance is more than 500 km both ways (return trip).

The lump-sum principle

When an application has been approved, the applicant will be informed of how much the project has been allocated. This will be expressed in a number of approved mobilities (1 mobility = 1 return journey between partners in a mobility project).

All mobility projects are covered by the lump-sum principle. This principle means that if partners in a project manage to finance the number of mobilities with a lower sum than granted, they can use the surplus money for relevant project activities without having to present proof of these expenses. Such surplus money could be used to cover accommodation and board expenses for students, or other costs related to the project.

In the final report, the grant holders must affirm the actual number of accomplished mobilities in the project. If they have completed fewer mobilities than granted, a repayment must be made.

Ineligible costs

- Overheads, i.e. general unspecified costs not directly connected to the project.
- Office equipment (such as IT equipment and fixed inventory).
- Costs for non-Nordic or non-Baltic participants.
- Costs for activities outside the Nordic or Baltic countries.

Special needs

Costs involving participants with special needs may be met by a grant of up to 100%. If support for special needs is required, coordinators may apply both in the ordinary round, and if the project is funded after the application deadline. When applying in the ordinary round, the need must be explained in the application. The application should be addressed directly to the main administrator if the application is after the ordinary round, and only applies to participants in projects which have already been funded.

A doctor's certificate, or a certificate issued by the school nurse, is required but should be kept by the institution and not enclosed in the application. Additional funds may be approved to cover the cost of a companion, interpreter or similar.

Irregular use of funds

If the funds are not used as implied in the contract, and/or final reports are not submitted as agreed upon in the contract, the main administrator can decide to hold back or withdraw funds.

Payments and audits

All applicants receive detailed information on the conditions of the grant, if awarded one. If funding has been granted for parts of the application only, the applicant will receive information about this and the reasons for the reduction. Reductions might be the result of ineligible costs, calculation errors, or that only certain activities were approved. Applications who are not eligible, or have reached the approved level of quality, will be rejected.

Funds are paid to the project coordinator, who is then responsible for the allocation during the project period. Within each project, the partners and coordinator jointly decide how the contribution is to be distributed between the participating institutions.

For applications granted 15,000 Euros or less, 100% of the funds are paid after the contract has been signed. Applications granted more than 15,000 Euros will receive the grant in two separate instalments: 80% after the contract has been signed and the remaining 20% after the final report has been approved. The grant will be disbursed in Euros and should not be converted to another currency due to the risk of losing funding because of changes in currency rates.

Note: The Swedish Council for Higher Education will issue the payment no later than 45 calendar days after the signed contract has been received by the Nordplus Administration.

The grant must be recorded in accordance with national and internal regulations as a separate cost item in the institution's accounting so that all payments are visible in the event of an audit. The coordinating entity should save the documentation for at least five years.

At www.nordplusonline.org you can find the following guides and template:

- Nordplus budget model (template for project/networks only).
- FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions.
- Advice on financial management for granted projects.
- User and help guide when reporting in Nordplus Junior.

Nordplus Higher Education

Introduction to Nordplus Higher Education

Nordplus Higher Education awards grants to higher education cooperation with Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and other actors in the Nordic and Baltic countries as well as the autonomous regions of the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Åland. Grants may be awarded for networking activities, intensive courses, joint study programmes, development projects and mobility of students and academic staff.

The goal is to enhance the collaboration between the actors within higher education and with working life. The dissemination of good praxis and innovative results is important. The programme supports also academic mobility and work placements of high quality.

The cooperation can revolve around mobility for individual students and academic staff, intensive courses, development projects, joint study programmes or networking activities. It can include all subject areas and deal with themes that the actors find relevant. Usually the themes are subject related but the cooperation can also address overarching themes such as education and the working life, entrepreneurship, digitalisation, sustainable development, democracy or e.g. integration.

Target Groups for the Programme

Nordplus Higher Education's target groups are students studying for a degree on bachelor or master level, academic and other staff in HEIs and other actors working with or having a strong interest within higher education.

The collaboration can be established in two ways:

- **As a network.** The most common way to organise the collaboration in the programme is by networking. A network is usually thematic or subject specific and aims at long term collaboration on a wide range of different activities.
- **As a project partnership.** This form of collaboration is time limited and focuses on a specific task - a project - with a specific outcome.

The minimum requirement for a network and project partnership is that they consist of at least three institutions from three different countries. Greenland, the Faroe Islands and Åland are regarded as countries in the programme.

As an exception, if the application consists only of mobility activities, a bilateral collaboration with a sending and a hosting institution can be eligible.

A coordinating institution must be appointed as responsible for the application and the financing granted for the entire contract period. The coordinating institution is thus also responsible for the final report on behalf of all the network/project partnership. Only a HEI that is recognised by national authorities can act as a coordinator. If the network/project partnership includes organisations other than HEIs, there must be at least two HEIs participating from two different countries.

Activities in the Programme

Nordplus Higher Education supports the following activities:

Mobility

- Student mobility.
- Teacher mobility.

Project activities

- Intensive courses.
- Joint study programmes.
- Development projects for Higher Education, including joint curriculum development and joint modules. For cross-sector projects, networks are recommended to apply from Nordplus Horizontal.

Network meetings

- To establish and develop new networks.
- For academic staff within established networks for the quality assurance of mobility, courses and/or admission of new partners.

What is not eligible for funding?

As the programme supports cooperation in Higher Education within the first and second degree cycles, i.e. bachelor's and master's, third cycle and research activities are not eligible. Thus, researchers and PhD students are not eligible for Nordplus grants unless they participate as teachers, e.g. on an intensive course.

The programme does not support surveys.

Mobility

Mobility is defined as individual student or teacher exchanges between the partner institutions in a network. Mobility takes place also in projects, such as in intensive courses, but this form of mobility should be applied for under project activities and as a part of the total costs for that project.

Long-term student mobility from 3 to 12 months

Mobility grants are awarded for full-time studies or work placements lasting 3-12 months in another Nordplus country. The grant is available to degree students of any nationality studying for a first or second cycle degree at a HEI in the participating countries. In case of work placements, the exchange doesn't need to be connected to a network partner but can be directly arranged between the student's home institution and the host organization/company where the training will take place. PhD students are not eligible for a Nordplus grant. The grant should be seen as a contribution towards the additional costs of studying abroad.

This type of long-term mobility within the Nordplus Network is recommended to be financed from other sources (e.g. Erasmus+). Nordplus networks are encouraged to examine the possibilities of any such funding at partner institutions and how this could be used for student mobility in the Nordplus network. This helps to save more of Nordplus' limited resources for short-term mobility or projects.

Short-term student mobility from 1 to 2 months

Mobility grants may also be awarded for short, full-time studies of 1-2 months' duration and for work placements in another Nordplus country on the same basis as for long-term student mobility (see above).

Express mobility under 1 month

Students may also be awarded grants for shorter exchanges – express mobility grants. The minimum duration of express mobility is one week (5 working days). This form of student mobility is intended to broaden the possibilities for students to study abroad for shorter periods in cases where longer periods are not possible. Express mobility is also intended to encourage institutions to invite students from partner institutions to participate in their own courses and thus promote internationalisation at home.

Express mobility grants are awarded according to the same guidelines, criteria and rules as regular student mobility grants, but with some exceptions (see below).

Work placements grants (long-term, short-term and express) are awarded according to the same main guidelines, criteria and rules that apply to regular student mobility grants except that they may also be awarded for a mobility period taking place after graduation and then the following applies:

- The grant must be awarded before graduation.
- The work placement must be finalised within one year of graduation.

The following rules apply to all student mobility types:

- The studies/work experience placements abroad shall be fully recognised as a part of the degree at the student's home institution (exception: work placement after graduation).
- ECTS shall be used. Not mandatory for express mobility. In any case, the mobility period must be included in a larger study entity which is a part of the student's degree.
- The Nordplus exchange is possible from the first year of study at the student's home institution.
- Generally speaking, the Nordplus student does not pay any fees to the host institution (exception: any fees to student organisations, application fees, tuition fees for third-country students, any course fees).
- The student shall live at his/her place of study; commuting between place of study and ordinary place of residence is not permitted.
- Confirmation of grant award shall be signed before payment is made (please find the document on nordplusonline.org).
- A learning/training agreement shall be signed before the exchange (Learning/Training agreement). Not mandatory for express mobility. Erasmus+ model contracts are recommended.
- A final report on the exchange shall be submitted by the student after the exchange has been completed (not mandatory for express mobility).

Teacher mobility

Academic staff of any nationality employed at HEIs in the participating countries may be awarded a Nordplus grant for exchanges in another Nordic or Baltic country. The exchange can include teaching, tutoring, development of teaching materials etc. It is also possible to use these grants for activities connected to work placements and collaboration with the labour market.

This type of mobility within the Nordplus network is recommended to be financed from other sources (e.g. Erasmus+ which also offers funding opportunities for non-academic staff). Nordplus networks are encouraged to examine the possibilities of any such funding at partner institutions and how this could be used for staff mobility in the Nordplus network. This helps to save more of Nordplus' limited resources for projects and network meetings.

The minimum duration of the teacher exchange is eight teaching/working hours.

The following rules apply to Nordplus teacher mobility grants:

- If the grant is paid as an individual scholarship, confirmation of receipt of the scholarship should be signed before payment (please find the document on nordplusonline.org).
- A final report on the exchange must be submitted by the grant holder after the exchange has been completed.

Project

Intensive courses

Nordplus Higher Education awards grants for intensive courses lasting between one week (five working days) and one month. Courses may take place during term time or in the summer by way of short courses, symposiums, master classes or workshops. Intensive courses must include students and academic staff from at least three different countries. The courses must yield ECTS points and must be recognised as part of the students' degree. The number of ECTS points should be stated in the application.

PhD students may act as teachers on intensive courses. They are not eligible for a grant if they are students in the programme.

The same intensive course can be granted Nordplus funding for three consecutive years but annual applications must be submitted. It is recommended that the hosting institution is rotated.

Joint study programmes

Nordplus Higher Education awards grants for development of joint study programmes.

Nordplus joint study programmes are defined as follows:

- Programmes are full-degree study programmes established according to national legislation.
- Programmes lead to a degree recognised by national authorities.
- Degree certificates with a Diploma Supplement are issued according to national legislation.
- Mobility is integrated into the programme setup.
- Programmes are developed jointly, and all courses and study units should be approved by all participating parties.
- The collaborative venture is governed by a signed agreement defining its aims as well as the roles of the participating parties.

These definitions set the target aimed for but Nordplus can award grants for all stages of the development process, from the very first idea up to finalisation.

The same joint study programme can be granted Nordplus funding for three consecutive years but annual applications must be submitted.

Development projects

Nordplus Higher Education offers grants for innovative development projects within the field of Higher Education.

For cross-sector projects, networks are recommended to apply the Nordplus Horizontal programme. Apart from joint curriculum planning and joint modules, projects may focus on issues such as:

- Collaboration with the labour market.
- Quality assurance.
- The dissemination and use of results achieved by networks and projects.
- The development of collaborations with other institutions in the public or private sectors as well as non-governmental organisations (NGOs) within Higher Education.
- The development of new teaching methods.

The same project can be granted Nordplus funding for three consecutive years but annual applications must be submitted.

Network meetings

Nordplus Higher Education distributes network support for two types of meetings:

- Administrative meetings to establish and develop NEW networks. The network is defined as new for three consecutive years but annual applications must be submitted.
- Meetings of academic staff within ESTABLISHED networks for the quality assurance of mobility, courses and/or admission of new partners.

Meetings within ESTABLISHED Nordplus network can be financed from other sources (e.g. Erasmus+ which also offers funding opportunities for non-academic staff via "Organisational Support" and in "Staff Training" if the agenda of the meetings meets the criteria of staff training). Nordplus networks are encouraged to examine the possibilities of any such funding at partner institutions and how this could be used for staff mobility for network meetings.

Funding

Funding for mobility

Support for mobility to networks is allocated according to set rates for travel and accommodation/board. The application and reporting system (Espresso) will calculate the grant sum based on the established rates.

The rates for individuals are maximum rates, thus the network can decide the level of each scholarship according to the total grant available. It is important that an agreement on the exchange and the scholarship is made before the actual exchange takes place. Transparency and equality should be the guiding principles in setting the levels of scholarships among the partner institutions.

The coordinating institution may use a maximum of 5% of the total used grant for the administration of the mobility. The amount used for administration shall be reported but no supporting documentation is needed in the final report.

Travel rates	
To and from Greenland	1.300 €
To and from the Faroe Islands and Iceland	660 €
Between Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden and Åland	330 €
Domestic, in connection with exchange abroad	175 €

Accommodation/board rates:			
	Per day	Per week/ 5 working days	Per month
Students (short and long term mobility)	20 €	70 €	250 €
Students (express mobility)	50 €	250 € 1st week, 100 € 2nd week, 100 € 3rd week	
Teachers	100 €	500 €	1.350 €

Here are examples on how to calculate the scholarships:

- 5-week student mobility, the maximum rate is 250 € + 70 € = 320 € + travel grant.
- 1-week (5–7 days) express mobility, the maximum rate is 250 € + travel grant.
- 8-day teacher mobility, the maximum rate is 500 € + 100 € = 600 € + travel grant.
- 1-day teacher mobility, the maximum rate is 100 € + travel grant.
- 5 (working)day teacher mobility, the maximum rate is 500 € + travel grant.

Funding for intensive courses, project activities and network meetings

Nordplus grants should be seen as a contribution towards the actual cost of activities in the participating countries. The maximum grant for each project is 100 000 euro. The same project may receive renewal funding in three calls in a row, hence in total 300 000 €. The same course can also be funded three times in a row.

To make the application process easier for the applicant, the budget system uses fixed unit costs that automatically calculates the amount that can be applied. The granted sum, however, is allocated as a lump sum that shall be used based on real costs and may freely be used for travels, subsistence, organisation and in projects for development work. If major changes in the project plans occur and the need for the use of the grant changes, the network coordinator shall contact the main administrator (Finnish National Agency for Education, EDUFI)..

Budget models to be used

When applying for a project activity and/or network meetings, the applicant must use budget models that are provided in the application form in Espresso and at nordplusonline.org. There are two types: one for Intensive courses and another for Development projects, Joint study programmes and Network meetings.

The forms calculate automatically the requested amounts based on the inserted data. The applicant should then insert these calculated amounts in the budget fields in the online Espresso application. It is necessary to match the amounts in the application with the amounts in the attached budget forms. Project activities and network meetings without attached budget models will be rejected.

Ineligible costs

- Overheads, i.e. general unspecified costs not directly connected to the Nordplus project activities.
- Purchase of office equipment (such as IT equipment).
- Costs for participants from non-Nordic and non-Baltic organisations.
- Costs for activities outside the Nordic and Baltic countries.

Special needs

Costs involving participants with special needs can be covered by 100%. In the event of participants with special needs requiring additional help and support, the coordinator may apply for further funds, also after the ordinary application deadline. The application should be addressed directly to EDUFI in Finland. Additional funds may be provided to cover the cost of companions, interpreters or similar. Please contact EDUFI in good time before the planned exchange.

Contract period

Grants for mobility, network and project activities are allocated for a fixed contract period that starts on 15 May and ends on 1 October the following year. The final report must be submitted within 30 days after the contract period is terminated.

Payments, audits and reporting

Applicants may receive full funding (the sum applied for), partial funding (only some of the activities applied for are funded, or the budget has been reduced due to ineligible costs or inaccurate calculations), or the entire application may be rejected. All applicants receive information on the decision. If funding has been granted for part of the application only, the applicant will receive information about this and the reasons for the reduction upon request from EDUFI.

When the contract has been signed and submitted to EDUFI, grants are paid in full to the coordinator, who is then responsible for the funds for the whole duration of the contract period. The network/project partnership decides how the funds are to be allocated between the participating institutions.

The funds granted should be accounted for in accordance with national/ internal requirements and rules as a separate project in the accounts of the coordinating institution so that all payments are visible in the event of an audit. All documents are to be retained by the coordinator in at least five years after the end of the contract period.

When reporting the grants, no additional financial documentation is needed.

Irregular use of funds

If the funds are not used as implied in the contract, and/or reports are not submitted as agreed upon in the contract, EDUFI requires reimbursement of the grant.

Nordplus Adult

Introduction to Nordplus Adult

Nordplus Adult includes all parts of adult learning – formal, non-formal and informal learning, whether in the context of general, liberal or vocational education in the Nordic and Baltic countries.

The programme should be a catalyst for the development of the sector through grants for mobility, establishment of networks and project collaboration. It is crucial that a project involves organisations with knowledge, expertise and experience that can be of mutual benefit in the partnership.

The programme supports initiatives that improve the quality of adult education and learning, meet new learner needs or test new organisational forms and teaching methods. In practice, the programme is open to a wide range of themes and subject areas. Most importantly, each partnership should be based on the current challenges and needs that adult education institutions and organisations face in their daily work.

Examples of themes that can be addressed are key competences and basic skills, validation and recognition of prior learning, link and transition between education and the labour market – e.g. work-based learning, up-skilling, re-training and entrepreneurship. Initiatives can also focus on current societal challenges such as green transition and sustainable development, digitalisation, integration, inclusion, health, democracy and active citizenship. The programme also supports initiatives targeted at vulnerable and marginalised adults – e.g. learners with special needs, senior citizens, refugees/migrants and the unemployed. Other themes are also welcome – what is important is that the initiative derives from a specific development need within the partnership.

Target Groups for the Programme

Nordplus Adult comprises a broad and diverse sector and is open to all types of organisations engaged in the field of adult education and learning in the eight participating countries and the three autonomous regions.

Examples of organisation and institution types that can apply to Nordplus Adult are:

- Educational institutions for adult learners, including institutions with adult educator/mentor programmes, institutions involved in special needs education for adults and research-based institutions with experience and expertise in adult learning.
- Other organisations, including associations, public authorities, businesses, cultural institutions (e.g. museums and libraries) and non-governmental organisations working with adult education and adult learning in informal and non-formal settings.

Although Nordplus Adult is not limited to established educational institutions, the initiative must address education and learning directed at “adult learners”. For example, the programme covers continuing vocational training (CVET), whereas projects involving basic vocational education and training (VET) must apply the Nordplus Junior programme.

More information about target groups and specific requirements can be found below in the descriptions of the individual activities in the programme.

Activities in the Programme

Nordplus Adult welcomes applications for the following activities:

Mobility projects

- preparatory visits.
- exchange of teachers and other adult education staff.
- exchange of adult learners (adult students).

Collaboration projects

- thematic networks.
- development projects.
- mapping projects.

Collectively, these types of activities support different phases and parts of the partnership: From the proactive phase of establishing contacts, to networking and exchange of experiences onto the realisation of mapping and development work.

Mobility projects

Mobility projects must involve cooperation between a minimum of two organisations from at least two programme countries within a period of max two years. However, preparatory visits must be carried out within one year. The following project types can be applied for:

Preparatory visits

The aim of preparatory visits is to support the preparation and planning of projects and applications for the other activity types in Nordplus Adult.

Grants for travel and subsistence are available for participation in a joint meeting between organisations from at least two different programme countries with a view to clarifying scope for collaboration and/or planning a concrete application for a future Nordplus Adult application deadline.

Grants are offered for one preparatory meeting of a maximum of five days' duration (including travel time) with the participation of up to two representatives from each traveling organisation.

One of the participating organisations serves as host of the preparatory meeting. Travel and subsistence grants are only available to cover the travel expenses of the visiting organisations. The host organisation is not eligible for a grant.

An application must describe the following elements:

- A detailed programme for the planned visit.
- The background and motivation as well as general topics and objectives of the future project.
- Each organisation's contribution and expertise in relation to the future project.

Note that grants for general teacher exchange/study visits between organisations not aimed at the development of a joint project must be applied for under "Exchange of teachers and other adult education staff", which is described below.

Exchange of teachers and other adult education staff

The aim of the exchange is to provide participants with new professional skills and experience of other cultures and learning traditions in order to enhance the quality of adult learning and, more generally, to strengthen cooperation and exchanges between Nordic/Baltic organisations and institutions in adult learning and education.

Grants for travel and subsistence are offered for the participation of teachers and other relevant staff in training courses as well as self-organised study or teaching stays in relevant in-

stitutions and organisations in another Nordic/Baltic country. Furthermore, a grant for project management is offered to partnerships that comply with the criteria for grant amount or number of traveling participants. These criteria are explained in more detail in the section "Funding".

Only teachers, trainers and other relevant staff responsible for the education of adults are eligible to receive support under this project type. Please note that applications for exchange of teachers from higher education or from primary/secondary education must be submitted to the Nordplus Higher Education and Nordplus Junior programme respectively.

Furthermore, applications must comply with the following criteria to be eligible for support:

- The individual stay(s) must have a duration of minimum 3 days, i.e. three full working days, travel excluded.
- The number of participants in the exchanges should normally not exceed two representatives per organisation unless the need for more participants is specifically argued for.
- The application as a whole may include the exchange of several people from several participating organisations. However, each stay must be organised on an individual basis and take place within a single partner institution. Study trips involving short visits to a number of institutions and organisations are not prioritised.
- Applications may include visits and revisit(s); however, revisit(s) are not required in order to qualify for a grant.
- A detailed programme involving planned trips with clear objectives and expected results must be included in the application.
- All planned stays must be completed within two years, which is the maximum project period for mobility projects.

Exchange of adult learners (adult students)

The aim of the exchange is to provide participants with new competences and/or professional skills and insight into other cultures and learning environments. Furthermore, the aim is to strengthen cooperation and exchange of experiences between Nordic/Baltic organisations and institutions in adult learning and education.

Grants for travel and subsistence are offered for the exchange of adult learners (adult students) between Nordic/Baltic institutions and organisations. Additionally, a grant for project management is offered to partnerships that comply with the criteria for grant amount or number of traveling participants. These criteria are explained in more detail in the section "Funding".

Adult learners participating in continuing vocational training (CVET) are also eligible participants in this project type while applications for exchange of students in vocational education and training (VET) should be submitted to Nordplus Junior.

The following criteria must be met in order to be eligible for a grant:

- The individual stay(s) must have a duration of minimum three days, i.e. three full working days, travel excluded.
- The stay must be organised as an exchange in an educational institution and/or a work placement in a company, where adult learners take part in learning activities with the host organisation together with learners from the host country.
- A detailed programme with clear objectives and expected results must be included in the application.
- Applications may include visits and revisit(s); however, revisit(s) are not required in order to qualify for a grant.
- The application as a whole may include the exchange of several adult learners from several participating organisations. However, each stay must be organised on an individual basis and take place within a single institution/company. Study trips involving short visits to a number of institutions/companies are not eligible.
- All planned activities must be completed within two years, which is the maximum project period for mobility projects.

Nordplus Adult

Please note that it is possible to apply for grants for accompanying teachers when traveling with adult learners/adult students. Furthermore, it is possible to apply for coverage of costs related to participants with special needs – read more about „Participants with special needs“ in the section Funding.

Collaboration projects

Collaboration projects must involve cooperation between at least three organisations from at least three different programme countries within a maximum period of two years. The following activities can be applied for:

Thematic networks

The purpose of thematic networks is to provide organisations, institutions, associations, etc., with an opportunity to form networks across the Nordic and/or Baltic countries. The idea of thematic networks is to form new, permanent relations and partnerships.

In thematic networks, the participating organisations work with a shared theme in the form of an issue, a topic or a challenge. The process is based on the exchange of knowledge and experience on the selected theme, which subsequently forms the basis of new knowledge and proposals for new initiatives.

The following criteria must be met in order to be eligible for a grant:

- The network must exchange knowledge and experience in relation to a specific topic, issue or challenge shared by all the involved organisations.
- A detailed work schedule with clear aims and expected outcomes must be presented in the application.
- The network activity must lead to new knowledge and ideas on the chosen theme or challenge.
- Priority is given to applications based on new constellations and partnerships, in which different types of organisations and institutions in adult learning and education are represented.

The network activity may also lead to new proposals within other parts of the Nordplus Adult programme.

Development projects

The aim of development projects is to give Nordic and Baltic organisations and institutions the opportunity to carry out joint development work within adult learning. Development projects must lead to the development of one or more "products", e.g. new teaching material, (online) courses, modules, methods, platforms etc. The aim is to improve adults' access to learning, improve the quality of adult learning or meet new or changing needs. The programme also supports the development of training opportunities for teachers, mentors and other relevant staff in adult learning.

The following criteria must be met in order to be eligible for a grant:

- A development project should be based on collected existing knowledge and experience in the relevant field. Previous projects are not to be duplicated.
- A detailed work plan with clear aims and expected outcomes has to be presented in the application.
- A development project must be product-oriented, meaning that one or more fully developed and accessible product(s) must be created during the project period. The product(s) must be made freely accessible to the wider public at the end of the project period. Furthermore, all products funded by Nordplus grants must carry the Nordplus logo.

Mapping projects

With mapping projects, the programme supports the collection, identification and analysis of existing knowledge on adult learning. The mapping project is a study and often involves descrip-

tions of and statistics on specific traditions or sectors within adult learning. The study might take form of comparisons between specific countries or areas/sectors within adult learning.

The aim of mapping projects is to take stock, define development needs, make recommendations for future initiatives, and hereby create the basis for new projects.

The following criteria must be met in order to be eligible for a grant:

- A mapping project should be based on existing knowledge and research in order to avoid duplication of previous research and mapping projects.
- A mapping project must have general relevance, and the results should be useful beyond the circle of participating organisations.
- A detailed work plan with clear aims and expected outcomes has to be presented in the application.
- A mapping project will usually involve a combination of practitioner organisations and research-based institutions with experience and expertise in adult learning – high priority is given to projects involving different types of organisations/institutions.
- The outcomes of a mapping project are to be made public. It is therefore essential that the application gives details on how the acquired knowledge will be published, e.g. in the form of a report etc. Reports, analyses etc. must carry the Nordplus logo.

Funding

Grants from Nordplus Adult are based on fixed unit costs for different types of expenses connected to the applied activity. Grants from Nordplus are contributions to project expenses, and all participating organisations must therefore expect some degree of co-financing.

The co-financing is not to be specified or documented in the application or in the final report as it is presupposed in the unit cost system.

Furthermore, the unit cost system is based on the premise that the implementation of the activity and not the actual cost must be documented. This provides greater financial flexibility in relation to the project implementation. If the project partners complete all the granted activities (e.g. the granted number of traveling participants, the granted duration of stays, the granted number of working days etc.), the partnership is entitled to keep the total awarded grant, regardless of whether the real costs of the activities are lower than the awarded grant. Possible surplus funding can be spent on any project-related activities. On the other hand, if the real costs are higher than the awarded grant, the partnership will have to co-finance the extra costs. It is therefore recommended to take stock of the level of co-financing needed to carry out the project before submitting the application.

Mobility projects and collaboration projects operate with two different unit cost systems as described below. Following the signing of the contract, approved projects will receive the "Nordplus Adult guide for reporting, documentation of activities and financial management of grants", which contains detailed information on financial matters. The guide can also be found on our website www.nordplusonline.org.

Mobility projects

Grants for travel and subsistence

Allocation of grants for mobility projects is based upon fixed unit costs for travel and subsistence (lodging/board) and will automatically be calculated in the application form when information on the number of participants, their home and hosting country(-ies) and the duration(s) of the stay(s) is inserted.

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Travel unit cost (per participant, round-trip)	
To and from Greenland	1.300 €
To and from the Faroe Islands and Iceland	660 €
Between Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden and Åland	330 €
*Domestic, more than 500 km (both ways)	175 €

* The unit cost for domestic travel is an addition to the unit costs for transnational travel. Grants for domestic travel can be applied for in the home country when the distance between the participant's hometown and the airport, train or bus station of departure is more than 250 km. Domestic travel can also be applied for in the host country when the distance between the airport, train or bus station of arrival and the hometown of the hosting organisation is more than 250 km.

Subsistence unit costs (per participant)			
	Day	Week	Month
Adult learners (students)	70 €	250 €	750 €
Teachers and other adult education staff	100 €	500 €	1.350 €

The grant for subsistence is designed to cover the whole stay, including travel days (usually, two travel days).

Grant for project management

The purpose of the grant is to contribute to all kinds of project-related costs for managing and implementing the mobility project.

Costs for managing and implementing the project may be any type of costs of coordinating and participating in a mobility project such as accounting, reporting, preparing meetings and activities. In addition, costs for preparing and participating in virtual activities can be covered with this grant. The grant may also cover extra costs for implementing the project in a sustainable way, e.g. extra costs for green travel.

The grant is a lump sum and thus independent of project duration and content. The coordinating institution is awarded a higher grant since greater costs are foreseen when coordinating a project.

The following criteria must be met in order to be eligible for a project management grant:

- The mobility project must be of the type „Exchange of teachers and other adult education staff“ or „Exchange of adult learners (adult students)“. Preparatory visits are not eligible for this grant.
- The applied grant for travel and subsistence must be minimum 10.000 €, or the number of traveling participants must be minimum 15.

Rate per participating institution for project management	
Coordinator	2.000 €
Partner	1.000 €

Collaboration projects

Grants for collaboration projects are allocated according to fixed unit costs for travel/subsistence, working days and expenses for project management. The unit costs serve as a basis for determining a given grant, and the system offers flexibility in relation to moving funds between and within some types of expenses.

Nordplus Adult

The programme provides grants for three types of costs:

- Project management.
- Transnational project meetings.
- Development work.
- Grant applications can be submitted for development work when applying for development and mapping projects, but not for thematic networks since these projects do not aim at product development.

Nordplus Adult does not set a fixed ceiling for grants. This means that applicants have the opportunity to define their needs for support on the basis of their specific project. Please note, however, that the programme budget is limited to approximately 1.2 million € per year. For each project, a thorough assessment of the applied budget is made. In particular, the assessment addresses the coherence between the description of the project, its results and the support applied for. Grant reductions may be introduced if a budget is not substantiated by a sufficient project description.

An average grant for a two-year Nordplus Adult collaboration project involving three or four partners is 50.000 €.

Grant for project management

The purpose of the grant is to contribute to all kinds of project-related costs for managing, implementing and disseminating the collaboration project.

Costs for managing and implementing the project may be any type of costs of coordinating and participating in a collaboration project such as accounting, reporting, preparing meetings and activities. In addition, costs for preparing and participating in virtual activities can be covered with this grant. The grant may also cover extra costs for implementing the project in a sustainable way, e.g. extra costs for green travel.

All collaboration projects are obliged to disseminate their project results to relevant external target groups defined in the application. Examples of costs for dissemination are publication of reports and newsletters, campaigns on social media, translation, websites and organisation of conferences, seminars and meetings about the project results.

Please note that expenses for services from external suppliers, such as fees, cannot be applied for separately, but can be covered by this grant or by the institutions' co-financing.

The grant is a lump sum and thus independent of project duration, type and content. The grant is triggered automatically per participating organisation when applying for a collaboration project. The coordinating institution is awarded a higher grant since greater costs are foreseen when coordinating a project.

Rate per participating institution for project management

Coordinator:	4.000 €
Partner:	2.000 €

Grant for transnational project meetings

This grant is for travel and subsistence for staff of participating institutions for meetings between project partners during the project period. The meetings can be used for planning, coordinating, following up and evaluating the project. Network meetings, small seminars/courses with the participation of partners' own staff/adult learners are also covered by this unit cost.

Costs for external events with participation of persons outside the partnership are to be covered by the grant for project management, which is described above.

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Please note that transnational project meetings can only take place in programme countries, which are represented in the partnership. The autonomous regions Greenland, the Faroe Islands and Åland are independent programme countries in Nordplus.

Please also note that the grant includes both travel and accommodation expenses. The unit costs are based on the general mobility travel unit costs with a small contribution for accommodation.

Unit cost per participant per transnational meeting (round-trip)	
To and from Greenland	1.600 €
To and from the Faroe Islands and Iceland	960 €
Between Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden and Åland	630 €
*Domestic, more than 500 km (round-trip)	175 €
**Domestic travel and subsistence, more than 500 km (round-trip)	475 €

* The unit cost for domestic travel is an addition to the unit costs for transnational travel. Grants for domestic travel can be applied for in the home country when the distance between the participant's hometown and the airport, train or bus station of departure is more than 250 km. Domestic travel can also be applied for in the host country when the distance between the airport, train or bus station of arrival and the hometown of the hosting organisation is more than 250 km.

**The unit cost for domestic travel and subsistence can be applied for by participants from partner institution(s) in the same country as the hosting institution if the distance between the address of the partner organisation and the address of the hosting organisation is more than 250 km.

Grant for development work

The grant is a contribution to coverage of the working days spent on the development of substantial, educational products of mapping and development projects. Thematic networks are not eligible for this grant since they do not aim at development of products. The products are described in the application – examples are curricula, IT tools, analyses, reports, open source materials, teaching material and methods, etc.

Please note that time invested in other project work than concrete product development cannot be covered with the grant, but may be covered by the grant for project management, which is described above.

The application must state an estimated number of working days required for each individual partner for development of the project product(s). The calculation is based on unit costs per person per working day within two groups of countries.

Unit cost per participant per day for development work	
Baltic countries	125 €
Nordic countries	250 €

There is no fixed grant ceiling for development work, but all budgets will undergo a careful assessment, which will compare the description of the products and development work with the applied number of working days. It will also be taken into account whether the project's scope and scale fall within the budget frame of the Nordplus Adult programme.

Nordplus Adult

On average, Nordplus Adult grants 25 working days per year per institution. The total number of granted working days per institution for a full project period can exceed 40 days only in exceptional cases. It must be explicitly substantiated in the application if the total number of working days exceeds 40 days.

Ineligible costs

- Overheads, i.e. general unspecified costs not directly connected to the Nordplus project.
- Purchasing of office equipment (such as IT equipment).
- Costs for non-Nordic and non-Baltic participants.
- Costs for activities outside the Nordic and Baltic countries.

Participants with special needs

Expenses for adult learners and staff with special needs can be approved with up to 100% of real costs if these costs are not covered through other sources.

At application time, it is possible to apply for known real costs related to special needs directly in the application form.

If the need for additional funds related to special needs arises during the project period, this may be applied for outside the ordinary application round. In this case, please send an e-mail directly to the main administrator of Nordplus Adult (nordplus@ufm.dk).

Examples of costs related to special needs include expenses for an accompanying person, interpreter, single room or similar. This grant is only available to participants in activities that have already been approved. The reason for special needs coverage must be duly substantiated in the application or e-mail to the main administrator. Prior to acceptance of special needs costs, the Nordplus administration may request a doctor's certificate or other documentation.

In the final report, invoices and/or other documents proving the real costs for special needs must be attached.

Irregular use of funds

If the funds are not used as implied in the contract, and/or the final report is not submitted as agreed upon in the contract, the main administrator can decide to hold back or to withdraw funds.

Payment and auditing

Applicants may receive full funding (the sum applied for), partial funding (only some of the activities applied for are funded, or the budget has been reduced), or the entire application may be rejected.

Applicants of awarded projects receive detailed information on their grant. If funding has been granted for part of the application only, the applicant will receive information about this and the reasons for the reduction.

The grant is paid to the coordinator, who is responsible for the funds throughout the contract period. The partnership determines how resources are to be distributed among the partners. For grants of 15.000 € or more, the approved grant is paid in two separate instalments: 80% after the contract has been signed and the remainder (20%) after the final report has been approved. For applications granted less than 15.000 €, 100% of the funds are paid after the contract has been signed.

The Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science will issue the payment no later than 45 calendar days after the signed contract has been received.

The grant must be recorded in accordance with national and internal regulations as a separate cost item in the organisation's account so that all payments are visible in the event of an audit.

Nordplus Horizontal

Introduction to Nordplus Horizontal

Nordplus Horizontal awards grants for cross-sectoral projects and network activities in the Nordic and Baltic countries. Any institutions and organisations working with education and life-long learning may apply, and projects may also involve partners outside the field of education.

A grant application for project and network activities from Nordplus Horizontal must involve participants from at least three Nordic and/or Baltic countries. A further prerequisite is that the application must involve participants from at least two sectors. Accordingly, the programme is open to participation from institutions and organisations such as enterprises, public and private sector organisations, labour market organisations and various administrative entities in addition to institutions and organisations involved in education at any level. Nordplus Horizontal is flexible in the sense that grants are available for a number of educational activities, ranging from conferences to major development projects.

Nordplus Horizontal awards grants for a wide spectrum of themes and areas. Examples of themes eligible for support are activities that link education and work life, activities that concern entrepreneurship, integration, democracy and active citizenship, inclusion of marginalised groups, digitalisation/ICT, in-service training, and further education for teachers at all levels, development of new teaching methods, environment and sustainable development, health, sports, art and culture. The main point is that the activity is cross-sectoral and educational.

Target Groups for the Programme

Nordplus Horizontal is aimed at institutions and organisations in the eight participating countries and the three autonomous regions that mainly work in the education and lifelong learning sectors. A Nordplus Horizontal application for project and network activities must involve partners from at least two sectors. They may be sectors within the education system, e.g. partnerships between institutions in higher education and schools (pre-schools and kindergartens as well), or between organisations, institutions and businesses across the public, private and/or voluntary sectors, provided that the project applied for is an education partnership.

The activities should involve a minimum of three partners from three different participating countries. Applications may also include participants from countries outside the Nordic/Baltic countries that are deemed relevant by the network or by the project partners. However, expenses for partners from outside the Nordplus countries are not eligible for financial support. A good application is cross-sectoral, both in terms of participating institutions/organisations, and in terms of content and activities.

The programme does not offer support for individual mobility, be it pupils, students, teachers or staff, unless such travel is linked to project and network activities.

Activities in the Programme

Nordplus Horizontal can support the following activities:

- Workshops.
- Seminars for exchanging experiences.
- Conferences.
- Studies and analyses.
- Statistics projects.

Nordplus Horizontal

- Projects aiming to exploit the results of educational research.
- The production of materials for innovative language training, teaching and translation, or similar materials in other areas of expertise.
- The establishment of new course modules using new learning and teaching platforms
- The publication, distribution and exchange of results and experiences in education.

Other examples of cross-sector networks and project activities may include activities that build on and expand previous Nordplus-supported networks and projects, e.g. activities that to a greater extent focus on analysis, the exchange of experiences, comparisons and the dissemination of results. The maximum duration of a Nordplus Horizontal project is two years.

Funding for projects and networks

Nordplus grants should be seen as a contribution towards the actual costs of activities in the project.

The Nordplus Horizontal programme provides grants for four types of costs:

- Project management.
- Travel and subsistence.
- Project and network activities.
- Extraordinary project activities (including special needs).

Grants for project management as well as travel and subsistence are based on fixed unit costs, whereas grants for project activities and extraordinary project activities are based on actual costs.

Applications to Nordplus Horizontal must include a budget with an overview of the total estimated costs for the activities. Applicants should use the budget template that can be found in the application form. The template can also be found here: <https://www.nordplusonline.org/programmes/horizontal/>.

Nordplus Horizontal does not define a maximum allocation limit, preferring instead to let the applicants themselves define their need for funding for any given project. However, applicants must note that Nordplus Horizontal has a limited budget and that approximately EUR 1 million is awarded in total annually. For that reason, careful consideration is given to whether the amount applied for is proportionate to the description of the individual project, its activities and results. The Nordplus Horizontal administration may reduce allocation to a project approved for a grant if the need for the grant is not clearly described or justified in the project description.

Support for project management and administrative expenses

The purpose of the grant is to cover the administrative costs and expenses. Administrative expenses may be any type of costs of coordinating and participating in a project, such as work hours, accounting, reporting, meetings, etc.

The grant is a lump sum and thus independent of project duration, type and content. The grant is triggered automatically per participating organisation, up till seven. The coordinating institution is awarded a higher rate since greater administrative costs are foreseen when coordinating a project. Neither coordinators nor partners need to provide supporting documentation of administrative expenses.

Rate per participating institutions for project management	
Coordinator	4.000 €
Partner (up till 6)	2.000 €

Support for travel and subsistence

For projects and networks, travel and subsistence (lodging/board), are based on fixed unit costs, and these will be approved as long as the expenses are related to project- or network activities. The support includes travel and subsistence for staff of participating institutions for meetings between project partners to plan, follow-up or coordinate the project. Other forms of meetings, e.g. network meetings, conferences, seminars, courses etc. are also covered by this unit cost.

Unit cost, travel and subsistence per project participant	
To and from Greenland	1.600 €
To and from the Faroe Islands and Iceland	960 €
Between Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden and Åland	630 €
* Domestic, more than 250 km (one way)	175 €
**Domestic travel and subsistence, national meetings, more than 250 km (one way)	475 €

*The unit cost for domestic travelling is an addition to the unit costs for transnational travel. Grants for domestic travel can be applied for when the distance between the participant's hometown and the nearest international airport, train or bus station in their home country is more than 250 km one way.

**Unit cost for domestic travel and subsistence can also be applied for by participants from partner institution(s) in the same country as the hosting institution, if the distance is more than 250 km one way.

Support for project and network activities

Expenses for project activities are based on real costs. Here you can apply for direct costs in relation to the activities that are to be carried out within the context of the Nordplus Horizontal project, and can include actual costs for arranging workshops, seminars and conferences, studies and analyses, production, translation, publication and distribution. Note that the support for Project Activities should not include work hours, that should be applied for under Extraordinary Project Activities and motivated accordingly in the application.

Support for extraordinary project activities and special needs

There is a possibility of applying for extra grant, beyond the project management support, to cover expenses connected to particularly research-based or labour-intensive projects, including development work of any kind directly related to the project's objectives. It should be argued and justified that the project management support is not sufficient for carrying out the project. Other reasons for applying for extraordinary project activities can be found, but should be motivated accordingly in the application.

Costs involving participants with special needs may be met by a grant of up to 100%. In the event of disabled participants requiring additional help and support, the network/project may apply for further funds after the ordinary application deadline. The application should be addressed directly to the main administrator of Nordplus Horizontal. A medical certificate is usually required. Additional funds may be provided to cover the cost of a companion, interpreter or similar.

This rule only applies to participants in activities that have already been given a grant.

Ineligible costs

Please note that the following costs may not be covered by Nordplus:

- Overheads, i.e. general unspecified costs not directly connected to the Nordplus project.
- Purchasing of office equipment (such as IT equipment and inventory).
- Costs for non-Nordic and non-Baltic participants.
- Costs for activities outside the Nordic and Baltic countries.

Irregular use of funds

If the funds are not used as implied in the contract and/or final reports are not submitted as agreed upon in the contract, the main administrator can decide to hold back or to withdraw funds.

Payments and audits

Applicants may receive full funding (the sum applied for), partial funding (only some of the activities applied for are funded, or the budget has been reduced due to ineligible costs or inaccurate calculations), or the entire application may be rejected. All applicants receive detailed information on the grant they have been awarded. If funding has been granted for part of the application only, the applicant will receive information about this and the reasons for the reduction.

The grant is paid to the project or network coordinator responsible for the funds throughout the contract period. The project/network determines how resources are to be distributed among the partners. The approved contributions are paid in two separate instalments: 80% after the contract has been signed and the remainder (20%) after the final report has been approved. For applications granted 15,000 euro or less, 100% of the funds are paid after the contract has been signed.

The grant must be recorded in accordance with national and internal regulations as a separate cost item in the institution or organisation's account so that all payments are visible in the event of an audit.

Nordplus Nordic Languages

Introduction to Nordplus Nordic Languages

Nordplus Nordic Languages provides grants to institutions and organisations in the field of Nordic languages in the Nordic and Baltic countries. The programme is aimed at all levels of education and is open for institutions, organisations and actors interested in working with or promoting the Nordic language.

Nordplus Nordic Languages should stimulate interest in, and knowledge and understanding of the languages of the Nordic countries essential to society which are Danish, Finnish, Faroese, Greenlandic, Icelandic, Norwegian, Sami and Nordic sign language.

In particular, the programme puts focus on activities that improve language comprehension of the Nordic languages among children and young people, primarily Danish, Norwegian and Swedish. The programme places a strong emphasis on projects that seek to develop materials, methods, and strategies for improving comprehension of the Nordic languages within the educational system.

Other thematic areas and activities covered by the programme include methods of teaching neighbouring languages in schools, development of teaching plans for Nordic languages in the school systems, second language learning in adult education, language technology projects, development and publication of learning and teaching materials, and other activities that focus on improving educational and didactical methods in relation to the Nordic languages.

Nordplus Nordic Languages only supports activities that aim to improve the comprehension of another Nordic language than the Nordic mother tongue of a given target group. However, Nordplus Nordic Languages also supports projects aimed at language learning of Nordic languages for new inhabitants of the Nordic countries, e.g. immigrants and refugees. The programme also supports projects that aim to revitalise national minority languages in the Nordic Region.

Applications may be written in Danish, Norwegian, Swedish or English..

Target groups for the programme

Nordplus Nordic Languages is aimed at institutions and organisations in the eight Nordic and Baltic countries and the three autonomous regions.

As a general rule only participants from these countries and regions are entitled to support from the programme. However, the programme activities can include participants from other countries if this is considered necessary or helpful to the execution of the project, but Nordplus grants cannot be used to cover these expenses.

All organisations within the Nordic language area can participate in Nordplus Nordic Languages such as:

- Pre-schools, primary and secondary schools, adult education institutions, universities and research institutions.
- Organisations and associations.
- NGOs and other informal learning arenas.
- Networks.
- Private companies.

Activities in the programme

Nordplus Nordic Languages welcomes applications for the following activity types: Projects and networks. Projects and networks must involve cooperation between at least two organisations from two Nordic and/or Baltic countries. Grants may be awarded to establish networks, between institutions or organisations in the area of languages, or to various project activities within the language area.

The following activities may be carried out in the context of a Nordic Languages project:

- Methods for including neighbour language learning in schools.
- Development of school curricula concerning the position of Nordic languages in the school systems.
- Information campaigns about the Nordic languages.
- Conferences.
- Seminars.
- Publications.
- Language technology projects.
- Development and publication of educational aids and teaching materials.

It is possible to apply for funding for a project/network with duration of up to 2 years.

Preparatory visit

The aim of preparatory visits is to support the preparation and planning of projects and applications within Nordplus Nordic Languages.

Grants for travel and subsistence are available for participating in joint meetings between organisations from different countries with a view to clarifying scope for collaboration and planning a concrete application for the next Nordplus Nordic Languages application deadline.

Grants may be given for one preparatory meeting of a maximum of five days' duration (including travel time) with the participation of up to two representatives from each organisation. The activity must be carried out within a period of one year.

One of the participating organisations serves as host for the preparatory meeting. Travel expenses grants are only available to cover the travel expenses of the visiting organisations.

An application must describe the following elements:

- A detailed programme of the planned visit.
- The background and motivation as well as general topics and objectives of the future project.
- Each organisation's contribution and expertise in relation to the future project.

Funding

Nordplus grants are a contribution to cover the costs of project and network activities. Grants for Project management as well as Travel and Subsistence are based on fixed unit costs. Grants for project activities and extraordinary project activities are based on actual costs.

Applications to Nordplus Nordic Languages must include a budget with an overview of the total estimated costs for the activities and a plan of how these costs will be financed. Applicants should use the budget template that can be found at www.nordplusonline.org.

Nordplus Nordic Languages

Nordplus Nordic Languages does not define a maximum allocation limit for Project Activities or Extraordinary Project activities, preferring instead to let the applicants themselves define their need for funding for any given project. However, applicants should note that Nordplus Nordic Languages has a limited budget and approximately EUR 0,6 million is awarded in total annually. For that reason, careful consideration is given to whether the amount applied for is proportionate to the description of the individual project, its activities and results. The Nordplus Nordic

Languages administration may reduce allocation to a project approved for a grant if the need for the grant is not clearly described or justified in the project description..

Please note that Nordplus Nordic Languages does not award grants for individual mobility except for preparatory visits. For projects and networks, travel and subsistence (lodging/board), are based on fixed unit costs, and these will be approved as long as the expenses are related to project- or network activities.

Funding for preparatory visits

Grants for preparatory visits is based upon fixed unit costs for travel and subsistence, (lodging/board) and will automatically be calculated in the application when information on the number of participants, their home and hosting country(-ies) and the duration(s) of the stay(s) is inserted.

Travel unit costs (per participant)	
To and from Greenland	1.300 €
To an from the Faroe Islands and Iceland	660 €
Between Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden and Åland	330 €
* Domestic, more than 500 km (both ways)	175 €

*The unit cost for domestic travelling is an addition to the unit costs for transnational travel. Grants for domestic travel can be applied for when the distance between the participant's hometown and the nearest international airport, train or bus station in their home country is more than 250 km.

Accommodation/board per participant	
	Per day
Participant	100 €

Funding for projects and networks

The programme provides grants for four types of costs:

- Project Management.
- Travel and subsistence.
- Project Activities.
- Extraordinary Project activities (including Special Needs).

Support for Project Management and administrative expenses

The purpose of the grant is to cover the administrative costs and expenses. Administrative expenses may be any type of costs of coordinating and participating in a project such as accounting, reporting, meetings, etc.

The grant is a lump sum and thus independent of project duration, type and content. The grant is triggered automatically per participating organisation, up till seven partners inclusive the

Nordplus Nordic Languages

project coordinator. The coordinating institution is awarded a higher rate since greater administrative costs are foreseen when coordinating a project. Neither coordinators or partners need to provide supporting documentation of administrative expenses.

Rate per participating institutions for project management	
Coordinator	4.000 €
Partner (up till 6)	2.000 €

Support for Travel and Subsistence

Grant for travel and subsistence for staff of participating institutions for meetings between project partners to plan, follow-up or coordinate the project. Other forms of meetings, e.g. network meetings, conferences, seminars, courses etc. are also covered by this unit cost.

Travel unit cost (per participant)	
To and from Greenland	1.600 €
To and from the Faroe Islands and Iceland	960 €
Between Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden and Åland	630 €
* Domestic, more than 500 km (both ways)	175 €
**Domestic travel and subsistence, national meetings, more than 250 km (one way)	450 €

*The unit cost for domestic travelling is an addition to the unit costs for transnational travel. Grants for domestic travel can be applied for when the distance between the participant's hometown and the nearest international airport, train or bus station in their home country is more than 250 km.

**Unit cost for domestic travel and subsistence can also be applied for by participants from partner institution(s) in the same country as the hosting institution, if the distance is more than 250 km one way.

Support for Project Activities

Expenses for project activities are based on real costs. Here you can apply for costs in relation to the activities that are to be carried out within the context of the Nordplus Nordic Language project and can include method or school curricula development, information campaigns, conferences, seminars, publication, development of language technology, development and publication of educational aids and teaching materials etc.

Note that the support for Project Activities should not include work hours, that should be applied for under Extraordinary Project Activities and motivated accordingly in the application.

Support for Extraordinary Project Activities and Special Needs

There is a possibility of applying for extra grant, beyond the project management support, to cover expenses connected to particularly research-based or labour-intensive projects, including development work of any kind directly related to the project's objectives. It should be argued and justified that the project management support is not sufficient for carrying out the project. Other reasons for applying for extraordinary project activities can be found but should be motivated accordingly in the application.

Costs involving participants with special needs may be met by a grant of up to 100%. In the event of disabled participants requiring additional help and support, the network/project may apply for further funds after the ordinary application deadline. The application should be ad-

dressed directly to the main administrator of Nordplus Nordic Languages. A medical certificate is usually required. Additional funds may be provided to cover the cost of a companion, interpreter or similar.

This rule only applies to participants in activities that have already been given a grant.

Ineligible costs:

Please note that the following costs may not be covered by Nordplus:

- Overheads, i.e. general unspecified costs not directly connected to the Nordplus project.
- Purchasing of office equipment (such as IT equipment and inventory).
- Costs for non-Nordic and non-Baltic participants.
- Costs for activities outside the Nordic and Baltic countries.

Irregular use of funds

If the funds are not used as agreed in the contract, and/or final reports are not submitted as agreed upon in the contract, the main administrator can decide to hold back or to withdraw funds.

Payments and audits

Applicants may receive full funding (the sum applied for), partial funding (only some of the activities applied for are funded, or the budget has been reduced due to ineligible costs or inaccurate calculations), or the entire application may be rejected. All applicants receive detailed information on the grant they have been awarded. If funding has been granted for part of the application only, the applicant will receive information about this and the reasons for the reduction.

The grant is paid to the project or network coordinator responsible for the funds throughout the contract period. The project/network determines how resources are to be distributed among the partners. The approved contributions are paid in two separate instalments: 80% after the contract has been signed and the remainder (20%) after the final report has been approved. For applications granted 15,000 euro or less, 100% of the funds are paid after the contract has been signed.

The grant must be recorded in accordance with national and internal regulations as a separate cost item in the institution or organisation's account so that all payments are visible in the event of an audit.

General Information About Applying

The Application

In this chapter, you will find information on the formal eligibility criteria that each application must meet in order to be considered for funding. Subsequently, you will find information on the qualitative criteria by which applications are assessed, as well as information on the most important things to remember before submitting an application.

Assessment of eligibility

The following criteria must be met in order for the application to be considered for funding in Nordplus. Please note that special conditions may be in the individual sub-programmes.

- The application must be submitted electronically using the Espresso application system within the application deadline.
- The application must be written in Danish, Norwegian, Swedish or English.
- All the necessary appendices must be included - Letter of Intent (LOI) and, if relevant, budget.
- All organisations participating in an application, including the coordinator, must submit a duly completed and signed LOI. The LOI is proof of the agreement between the partners involved in the project, and failure to include the LOI will result in a rejection of the application.
- The applicant institution must have fulfilled any previous obligations to Nordplus, e.g. reporting or repayment of unused funds.
- Applications for mobility must include at least two participants from two different Nordplus countries.
- Applications for project or network activities must include at least three organisations from three different Nordplus countries.
- Applications for projects or network activities for Nordplus Nordic Languages must include at least two organisations from two different countries.
- Applications to Nordplus Horizontal must include participants from at least two different sectors.
- Applications must include funding for future activities only. Ongoing or completed activities cannot be funded.

Assessment criteria

Nordplus applications are assessed according to four general aspects: project relevance, objectives and content, organisation and implementation, and dissemination of results. You can read more about what is entailed by each criterion below.

Visit www.nordplusonline.org to access a guide to writing a successful application.

Relevance

- Does the application follow the overall objectives of Nordplus? A description of these can be found in the introduction to this handbook.
- Does the application fall within the sub-programme's framework in terms of target group and activity?
- Does the application involve a true transnational cooperation, where all partners contribute actively to the implementation of the project and benefit from the outcome?
- What is the added international value of this collaboration?

General Information About Applying

Project objectives and content

- Does the application describe clear, realistic objectives and outcomes?
- Does the application describe specific, relevant activities spanning the entire project period?
- Is there a clear connection between objectives and planned activities?
- Does the application have a realistic budget in relation to the activities planned and the funding available in the programme?
- Does the application describe how the objectives will be evaluated, and how the outcome will be achieved?

Organisation and implementation

- Does the application have a clear, realistic project implementation plan with balanced distribution of tasks and responsibilities between the partners?
- Are the organisations involved relevant to the implementation of the planned activities and to the utilisation of the expected results?
- Does the application show how activities are anchored within the participating organisations?
- Does the application describe how the project will secure efficient communication and good cooperation between the participants?
- Does the application clearly define the expected effects and benefits for the participants?

Dissemination of results

- Does the application have a clear, realistic plan for dissemination of results, including a description of the intended method of communicating with relevant target groups during the project period?
- Will results and products be made available to the public so that others can benefit?
- Does the application include ideas and plans for longer-term outcomes?

Preparatory visits

A successful application for preparatory visits should describe:

- Project background and motivation.
- The subject and target group(s) of the future project and which type of project activity is planned for.
- Each organisation and its capacity within the project - e.g. the organisation's particular expertise and competencies as well as its role and contribution to the project.
- The agenda and programme for the visit.
- Place and date.

Formal checklist when you submit an application

Please make sure to fully answer the questions in the application form in Espresso, and remember to submit your application within the deadline.

Letter of Intent (LOI):

- Have you included an LOI for each organisation? (Please note the special rule for Nordplus Higher Education).
- Has the LOI been signed by the institution's legal representative and the project coordinator?

Partners:

- Is your institution eligible for support from the sub-programme?
- Project/network applications: Does the application include at least three participating organisations from three different countries? For Nordplus Nordic Languages: Does the application include at least two organisations from two different countries?
- Mobility applications: Does the application include at least two participating organisations from two different countries?
- For Nordplus Horizontal: Does the application include partners from at least two sectors?

General Information About Applying

Budget:

- Applications for project/network grants within Nordplus Horizontal and Nordic languages must include a budget – you can find a template at www.nordplusonline.org. The budget is based on unit-costs for travel and subsistence, and project management. The budget for project activities and extraordinary project activities must be clarified and motivated in both the budget and project application.
- If you apply for project/network grants under Nordplus Adult, Junior and Higher Education you must submit a budget template based on fixed unit cost categories – you can find these templates at www.nordplusonline.org. There is no need to include self-financing because these grants are based on unit costs.
- Remember that the budget is an important part of the assessment.
- If you are only applying for mobility funding, you do NOT need to include a budget.

Access for schools from South Schleswig

As of 2018, schools under Dansk Skoleforening for Sydslesvig (Danish Schools Association of South Schleswig) may participate in Nordplus.

In order to be considered, applications must meet the requirement of representing at least two or three countries. Accordingly, in the case of mobility applications, schools in South Schleswig may participate with educational institutions from at least two countries and in case of project collaboration with at least three participating countries. Schools in South Schleswig cannot be the coordinator of a project, and must therefore participate as a partner. For participants from South Schleswig, the same mobility rates apply as for participants from Denmark.

The expenses associated with the schools' participation are covered by funds specifically earmarked for this purpose by Denmark with a total budget of DKK 200,000 per year.

For further information please contact the Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education in Denmark.

EU rules on state aid

Funding from Nordplus falls within the EU "de minimis" regulation. Accordingly, if applicants receive grants for activities that may be described as "economic activity" in accordance with EU rules (1), they will be asked to declare any previously received state aid. This is done to ensure compliance with the established limit of 200,000 euro of funding per organisation over a period of three years.

(1) Commission Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid (the general de minimis Regulation). http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/legislation/de_minimis_regulation_en.pdf.

Processing of Applications

All applications that fall within the objectives and framework of the programme will be subject to two independent assessments by the Nordplus administration. Applications are received and processed by the Nordplus programme office responsible for the sub-programme in question (if any funds are allocated, the contract will be signed and payment issued by the designated Nordplus office). All applications are handled by at least one other programme office. The programme offices may obtain external expert assessments of the applications. The decision determining which applications will receive grants is made by the Nordplus Programme Committee on the basis of a recommendation from the administration. Read more about the Nordplus Programme Committee at the end of the handbook.

General Information About Applying

Applicants to the general annual deadline in February will be notified approximately three months after the deadline, while applicants to the supplementary deadline for preparatory visits in October will be notified approximately six weeks after the deadline. If the project is approved, the coordinating organisation will receive a contract. Part of the grant amount or the full grant will be paid once the contract has been signed and returned to the Nordplus administration. The programme offices send information to all applicants regarding the outcome of the application, and a summary of results from the entire round of applications is provided at www.nordplusonline.org.

Applications can be awarded a full grant (the amount applied for), a partial grant (only some of the activities will receive a grant or the budget will be reduced) or they may be rejected. The main reasons for rejection are:

- Ineligibility.
- The application is not of sufficient quality in relation to the assessment criteria.
- Tough competition for funding can mean an application that meets the evaluation criteria is nevertheless not recommended for funding.

Reduced grant: In some cases, approved applications are awarded a lower amount than the amount applied for. The most typical reasons for this are:

- The application budget includes expenses that are not eligible for grants.
- Imprecise calculations.
- Too big a budget in relation to the activities and results described.
- Too big a budget in comparison to the total available budget for the entire sub-programme.

The rejection letter will describe the main reason for rejection. For further explanation of why an application was not approved for a grant or for information on how to improve an application, please contact the main administrator for the sub-programme in question.

How to appeal

All applicants may ask for an explanation as to why their application was rejected. Please note, however, that an explanation is not the same thing as an appeal. An appeal is only possible if the applicant can argue that the decision is based on formal procedural errors made by the Nordplus administration. Any appeal must be provided in writing to the programme office responsible for the relevant sub-programme. The appeal must clearly state any mistakes that the applicant considers were made.

The programme office will decide - if need be in cooperation with the rest of the Nordplus offices - whether an appeal is valid. If the appeal is deemed valid, the programme office decides whether the application should be reassessed or whether to recommend it for a grant award. The Nordplus Programme Committee has the final say on any award.

If the appeal is deemed invalid, the programme office will inform the applicant of the outcome and also provide information on the applicant's right to appeal the decision to the Nordplus Programme Committee. An applicant who does take the appeal further must present his/her version of the case for why the decision of the programme office is not accepted as well as the communication in the case. Similarly, the programme office presents its version of the case to the Nordplus Programme Committee.

The Nordplus Programme Committee makes a subsequent decision regarding the case.

Follow-up and reporting

All parties receiving funding from Nordplus must submit a final report no later than 30 days after expiry of the project period. The final report must be submitted electronically via Espresso. You must use the same login and password used in connection with the application. The final report is divided into a contents section and a financial section. The financial report must be authorised by the finance unit of the institution or organisation. Among other things, the final report must answer questions concerning how the activities were carried out, how the results were obtained and how the grant was used.

Audit

Documentation of realised activities is not to be included in the final report, but all documentation from all participating organisations must be collected by the coordinating entity and retained by the coordinating entity for at least five years after approval of the final report, in case an audit is conducted. Nordplus project coordinators must be prepared for follow-up visits, including audits, from Nordplus.

Contact Information

Nordplus Administration

Each Nordic country and Baltic country has a programme office, and the autonomous regions each have their own information office. Applicants must address questions about the programme and applications directly to the office in their home country.

The five Nordic programme offices have primary responsibility for the administration of its own Nordplus sub-programme. Here is the list of countries having the main responsibility of the various sub-programmes:

Nordplus Junior:

The Swedish Council for Higher Education (UHR).

Nordplus Higher Education:

The Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI).

Nordplus Adult:

The Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science (UFS).

Nordplus Nordic Languages:

The Icelandic Centre for Research (Rannís).

Nordplus Horizontal:

Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills (HK-dir).

The main administrators are responsible for processing applications for their own sub-programme. Working with the programme offices in the Baltic countries, they form a coordinated administrative system for the whole of Nordplus. The autonomous regions are part of the administration and provide information on Nordplus in their territory, but they do not participate in the processing of applications.

The Nordplus Programme Committee

The Nordplus Programme Committee comprises 16 members from relevant ministries in the participating countries. The members are appointed by the participating countries – two from each of the Nordic and Baltic countries – and the three autonomous regions have two participating observers each. The Nordplus Programme Committee determines the distribution of the funds in each sub-programme and is also responsible for the development of each sub-programme and Nordplus as a whole.

Contact Information

Denmark

The Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science (UFS)
Haraldsgade 53
DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø
Phone: +45 7231 7800
Fax: +45 3544 6201
E-mail: nordplus@ufm.dk
www.ufm.dk/nordplus

Estonia

Education and Youth Board of Estonia – Haridus- ja Noorteamet
Tõnismägi 11, 10119 Tallinn
Phone: +372 699 399
Fax: +372 697 9226
E-mail: nordplus@archimedes.ee
<https://eeagentuur.ee/projektitegijale/nordplus-programm/>

Finland

Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI)
P.O. Box 380, FI-00531 Helsinki, Finland
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