Nopef - The Nordic Project Fund

Nopef works to strengthen the competitiveness of Nordic small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) by providing financial support for feasibility studies of companies that aim to scale up their green and sustainable solutions on global markets.

Financing feasibility studies for internationalisation

Nopef finances feasibility studies and preparatory business activities for internationalisation in a specific project country outside the EU/EFTA region. Nopef can finance up to 40% of approved feasibility study costs to a maximum of EUR 50,000. Costs covered by the Nopef grant include internal salaries, travel costs, consultants and external expertise required for the feasibility study.

The objective of the feasibility study should be to assess:

- the establishment of permanent business activities through a subsidiary, joint venture or similar investment
- the implementation of and investment in a commercial demonstration or pilot project

Nopef financing is:

- offered as an interest-free conditional loan
- disbursed against incurred feasibility study costs
- upon completion of the feasibility study, the disbursed loan is converted into a grant

Who can apply?

SMEs registered in one of the Nordic countries with proven, commercialised and green solutions that have identified an international business opportunity with Nordic interest or involvement of Nordic partners

Nopef project life cycle

Application: Accepted round the year
Funding decision: 5-6 weeks
Feasibility study: 1-2 years
Go/No-go decision: Loan converted into a grant
Further financing options

Contributing to the Nordic Vision 2030

Funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers, Nopef is aligned with the goals and action plans for the Nordic Vision 2030. Since its launch in 1982, Nopef funding has resulted in:

- 3240 projects financed
- €112m total value of support
- 1150 Nordic SMEs established on international markets

Nordic growth stories

Saving natural resources with tyre-recycling technology

The Swedish company Scandinavian Enviro Systems’ patented pyrolysis technology limits the need for fossil exploitation. Nopef funding resulted in the establishment of a tyre-recycling plant co-owned with Michelin in Chile. Read more

Energy-efficient industrial cleaning

Altum’s unique ultrasound technology makes industrial cleaning more efficient and helps reduce emissions. The Finnish company explored the North American market with a Nopef financed feasibility study, which led to successful establishment of operations in Nevada. Read more

Seabed protection, circularity and reduced fuel consumption in the fishing industry

Polar Fishing trawl doors reduce the impact of fishing gear on the sea floor, are time-efficient and reduce fuel usage. The innovative solution of the Icelandic company received Nopef support for a feasibility study in China and helped the company explore growth in new markets. Read more

Adapting to climate change with flood prevention barriers

Reusable flood prevention barriers invented by Cold, a Danish company, help protect people and buildings in flood-prone areas in an effective way. After a feasibility study financed by Nopef, Cold established operations in Vietnam and received further financing from Nefco to support expansion in Southeast Asia. Read more

Technology for a more sustainable aquaculture

PatoGen’s technology improves animal welfare and reduces negative environmental impact by preventing disease and parasitic outbreaks and providing information on fish populations. Nopef financing helped the Norwegian company expand and build a local partnership network in Chile. Read more

Contact Nopef

Email: info@nopef.com
Web: www.nopef.com
Tel: +358 (0)10 618 003

Nopef is managed by:

Nefco
NefcoNordic

Nordic Green Bank
Web: www.nefco.int

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