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 to 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 50% 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:

a) the establishment of permanent business activities through a subsidiary, joint venture or similar investment or

b) 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

Funding decision

Feasibility study

Go/No-go decision

Further financing options

Accepted round the year

5-6 weeks

1-2 years

Loan coverted into a grant

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:

3275 projects financed
€ 113m total value of support
1173 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

Digital solutions to bring health care to remote areas of Africa

HealthFOX’s Imaging Room uses digital solutions powered by solar panels to provide space and equipment for a variety of health services to underserved people in rural South Africa. The Finnish company explored the South African market with a feasibility study co-financed by Nopef, which encouraged the company to enter the market. Read more

Efficiency to an energy-hungry metal industry

DTE’s innovative process to analyse molten metals using lasers and machine learning reduces waste and CO2 emissions during metal production. The Icelandic company’s feasibility study resulted in the implementation of a pilot installation with a local partner in the US. Read more

Growth of offshore wind industry to speed renewable energy in Asia

Seasight Davits cranes, developed and manufactured in Denmark, use less fuel, transfer cargo faster and are designed to avoid oil spills. The company received Nopef support for a feasibility study in Taiwan, where their cranes are used in the offshore wind industry, which helped the company’s expansion in the Asian market. Read more

Decentralising recycling solutions for a circular economy

The one-stop shop for sorting, shredding, injection and moulding plastic by Cycled Technologies contributes to the circular economy and adds value by making new products out of recycled material. Nopef financing helped the Norwegian company establish its idea and build a demonstration unit in Nigeria. Read more