

Next Steps in Cross-border eRegion Development: Region Perspectives

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NordForsk is a platform for joint Nordic research and research policy development and was established by the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2005. The national research financing bodies in the Nordic countries are the main stakeholders.

The aim of the organization is to facilitate cooperation in all fields of research and research-driven innovation, when this adds value to what is going on in the five Nordic countries - Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, including the autonomous areas Faroe Islands, Greenland and Åland.

To accomplish this, priority is given to policy advice based on thorough analysis, and to funding of research which is judged to have great potential to result in long term knowledge-based progress. The vision is that NordForsk should contribute to excellence in research and thereby to economic progress and quality of life in the Nordic region, in Europe and globally.

In the end of 2009, NordForsk opened a joint call together with the research councils of Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Iceland, and Lithuania. The call was called "Innovations in Cross-Border Living Lab Structures - Empowering Users in Real Life Settings".

Living Labs is a methodology for user-driven research and innovation of new products, services and processes, as well as the organization that practices this. In Living Labs, the users are co-creators in the development process.

The key objectives of the call is strengthening the knowledge and research on Living Labs and user-driven innovation in the Nordic-Baltic region, establishing new networks and making use of existing ones. Innovative products, services and concepts shall be developed and implemented with practical impact on society. New knowledge shall be developed across borders, and be made available to the public, contributing to strengthening the competitiveness of the Nordic-Baltic region.

The budget for the Call was approximately 2.5 M EUROS and functions as a common-pot. The call is administered by NordForsk.

Funded projects may last up to 4 years and must present an active collaboration between research, industry and public sector from minimum three of the five funding countries.

Deadline of the call was 8 March 2010 and 24 eligible applications were received. The project leaders came from all participating countries. Projects were within all kinds of research areas.

Four projects have been funded within the programme:

1. A Living Labs network for user-driven innovation of ICT services
Project leader: Jan Frick, University of Stavanger, Norway
2. SOCIALL - Social software for co-creation in Living Labs
Project leader: Amela Karahasanovic, SINTEF, Norway
3. A Transnational Nordic Smart City Living Lab Pilot
Project leader: Karl Friðriksson, Director of Human Resources and Marketing, Innovation Center, Iceland
4. IVIS – creation of an online social network of visually impaired users
Project leader: Kristin Skeide Fuglerud, Norwegian Computing Center, Norway

For more information about the call please visit: <http://www.nordforsk.org/text.cfm?path=13.88>