

Announcement of Funding for Network and Project Development 2024/2025

The application database opens on: September 2, 2024.

Application deadline: October 15, 2024.

UH-nett Vest is a network aimed at strengthening research and educational cooperation among member institutions to support growth and development in Western Norway. The institutions in the network educate candidates to be both relevant and competent for the future workforce. Member institutions promote innovation, value creation, and regional development through research and cooperation with businesses and the labor market in Western Norway, strengthening the competitiveness of the region both nationally, and internationally.

UH-nett Vest has developed a support scheme to strengthen collaboration and build strong relationships between academia and external actors in the region. This support is provided as seed funding for networking, project development, and dissemination activities.

Funding can be applied for under two categories:

Category 1:

Under this category, funding can be applied for to undertake a wide range of projects that are socially relevant and contribute to renewal and innovation in the region. UH-nett Vest employs a broad definition of innovation, which can be related to both research and education. Here, innovation denotes the use of or existing research-based knowledge in novel ways. This might involve institutions innovating via the commercialization of research or educational innovation. It could also involve collaborating with partners in the business sector, public sector, or civil society to help them develop new services, products, or working methods.

Conditions for Funding:

Funding will be awarded if the networks have a concrete plan to apply for further project funding from the The Research Council of Norway, the EU, HK-dir., Innovation Norway, or Regional Research Funds.

Target Group:

At least two member institutions of UH-nett Vest must participate in an application. Involvement of external actors in the application is encouraged. An external actor can be a private company or an association of companies (e.g., a business association, cluster, or interest organization), an NGO, a startup, or a public partner, such as a municipality or county. The involvement of students or other citizens (e.g., citizen science) is also evaluated.

Funding Amount and Conditions:

- Funding of up to NOK 200,000 per application.
- Allocation is decided by the board of UH-nett Vest. Funds are distributed and accounted for in the 2024 budget.

- The funds must be used by November 30, 2025.
- Successful projects must submit a report by email to the UH-nett Vest coordinator on the results and use of the funds by December 15, 2025.

Application Content:

The application must provide a description of the proposed project collaboration and how the seed funding will contribute to the development of this collaboration. The application should describe the innovation the networks propose to develop together. Furthermore, it should specify the source of further project funding. Some funding sources, such as Innovation Norway and the EU's strategic partnership programs, and the Research Council's program for User-Driven Innovation Arena (BIA), require the applicant to be a private entity. The application for seed funding should indicate who the project manager will be in the future application.

Seed funding can be used for various types of networking collaboration, such as travel, networking meetings, and seminars. It can also be used to gather various types of information that contribute to preparing an application for further external funding. Seed funding cannot be used to cover salaries.

The application should include:

- A short version of the application (see the designated field in the application form)
- Project description (max 7,500 characters without spaces)
- Activity plan
- Budget

Note: Funds cannot be applied for salaries.

Application deadline: October 15, 2024.

Evaluation Criteria:

Projects are evaluated based on the same criteria as innovation projects in the Research Council of Norway and the EU: project quality, impact, and implementation.

- **Project Quality:**
 - The extent to which the project is ambitious, innovative, and at the forefront of innovation.
 - The quality of the proposed development activities.
 - The likelihood of developing a project that will achieve further funding from the Research Council, EU, HK-dir., Innovation Norway, or others.
- **Impact:**
 - Potential impact and effects of the innovation (innovation height, breadth, and potential for dissemination).
 - Plan for communication and utilization of results.
 - The significance of the funding for the development of the project.

- **Implementation:**

- The quality of the project leader and project group.
- The quality of the project's organization and management.
- Involvement of appropriate external actors, students, and citizens.

Category 2:

Support will also be provided for projects that apply for funding to disseminate research-based knowledge. Funding can be applied for to cover a wide range of dissemination initiatives aimed at reaching an audience within and beyond academia.

At minimum of two collaborating institutions must participate in an application, with one acting as main applicant.

Funding Amount and Conditions:

- Funding of up to NOK 200,000 per application.
- Allocation is decided by the board of UH-nett Vest, and the funds are distributed and accounted for in the 2024 budget.
- The funds must be used by November 30, 2025.
- Projects must submit a report by email to the UH-nett Vest coordinator on the results and use of the funds by December 15, 2025.

Application Content:

The application should provide a description of the specific dissemination project proposed, the target audience and how the seed funding will support the proposed work.

Projects that can present concrete plans for how target group(s) will be reached and describe the expected impact(s) of the dissemination initiative will be prioritized. Application for seed funding should indicate who will be the project manager in the future application.

The application should include:

- A short version of the application (see the designated field in the application form)
- Project description (max 7,500 characters without spaces)
- Activity plan
- Budget

Note: Funds cannot be applied for salaries.

Application deadline: October 15, 2024.

Evaluation Criteria:

Projects are evaluated according to the same criteria as communication and dissemination projects in the Research Council of Norway.

- **Project Quality:**

- Background of the project and justification for the need/activities.
- Description of project activities, deliverables, coordination, and collaboration.

- **Impact:**
 - Explanation of the potential impact(s) the project is expected to generate.
 - Information about, dissemination/marketing, target groups, dissemination channels, and whether user groups will be involved in the project.
 - If relevant, explain the project's societal relevance.

- **Implementation:**
 - Explanation of how the project is anchored in the applicant institution's strategic goals and plans, and how the project is anchored with partners.
 - Explanation of how the project is intended to be organized and implemented.
 - Explanation of the competencies and resources that will be available for the project.