

# Nordic *Arabidopsis* Network

<http://www.arabidopsis.org/portals/masc/countries/Nordic.jsp>

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## Norway

The Norwegian Plant Functional Genomics Program (NARC, <http://www.narc.no/>) is 1 of 10 genomics technology platforms forming the national functional genomics program (FUGE). The plant platform includes service activities within transcriptional profiling, bioinformatics, genotyping and clone collection, *in situ* hybridization and yeast two-hybrid screening. Most of the activity involves *Arabidopsis thaliana*, and systems biology is an important topic in the FUGE II program (2008-2012), which has support for plant research. A small grant has been provided to keep the NARC microarray service going. In addition, four plant projects were granted. Overall, less money will be provided for plant science service activity and more money for plant science projects in FUGE II. More information at: [www.forskningsradet.no/servlet/Satellite?cid=1088005968933&pagename=fuge%2FPage%2FHovedSideEng](http://www.forskningsradet.no/servlet/Satellite?cid=1088005968933&pagename=fuge%2FPage%2FHovedSideEng). A plant science initiative has started in Norway in 2007 with the goal to organize a joint Norwegian plant science program as a part of the Norwegian Research Council. Practically all organizations having plant science activity support this initiative. The report from this initiative is at present being evaluated by the national biology board and other authorities. In 2007, the 6th Norwegian Arabidopsis meeting was held at UIS in Stavanger. There will be a 7th Arabidopsis meeting in 2008 in Tromsø (UIT). Norway is a partner of the EU Plant Genomics network ERA-PG.

## Finland

The 16<sup>th</sup> Congress of the of the Federation of European Societies of Plant Biology (FESPB) will be held in Tampere, Finland in August 2008 ([www.fespb2008.org/](http://www.fespb2008.org/)) The Congress is organized by SPPS ([www.spps.dk](http://www.spps.dk)), the Scandinavian Plant Physiology Society, an international society that promotes experimental plant biology. The chairman of the organizing committee is MASC representative Jaakko Kangasjärvi. Researchers studying Arabidopsis are highly represented in the program. Finland is a member in the European plant functional genomics network ERA-PG.

## Sweden

The Umeå Plant Science Center (UPSC ([www.upsc.se/](http://www.upsc.se/))) is a center of experimental plant biology in Umeå. UPSC groups have also received National Center of Excellence status and

funding for functional genomics. Their activities are mainly concentrated in trees (hybrid poplar). However, Arabidopsis functional genomics is heavily utilized for the determination of the function of poplar genes. The UPSC is also a partner in the European Complete Arabidopsis Transcriptome MicroArray (CATMA) project, [www.catma.org/](http://www.catma.org/).

## Denmark

In Denmark, a number of groups at the University of Copenhagen, Aarhus University, and Aalborg University work on Arabidopsis. The research, which in most cases is funded by the national research councils, involves studies of several aspects of plant life. The activities are coordinated through the Plant Biotech Denmark-network ([www.plant-biotech.dk](http://www.plant-biotech.dk)).

## Arabidopsis Resources

### Norway

- Norwegian *Arabidopsis* Research Centre (NARC): The Norwegian service facilities are open for all scientists at equal conditions. The program is coordinated by Atle M. Bones (NTNU) and information about the services can be found at [www.narc.no](http://www.narc.no) or by request to [narc@bio.ntnu.no](mailto:narc@bio.ntnu.no).
- University of Oslo: *in situ* hybridization and yeast-two-hybrid analyses ([www.imbv.uio.no/gen/groups/narc/](http://www.imbv.uio.no/gen/groups/narc/))
- UMB: *Arabidopsis* transformation, T-DNA genotyping, seed collection: ([www.umb.no/?viewID=2552](http://www.umb.no/?viewID=2552))

## Arabidopsis Funding Sources

- Norway: Research Council of Norway ([www.forskningsradet.no](http://www.forskningsradet.no)): Functional Genomics in Norway (FUGE)
- Sweden: Wallenberg Consortium North (WCN)- Funding ([www.wcn.se/](http://www.wcn.se/))
- Finland: Finnish Project Program on Plant Genomics-Funding ([www.mm.helsinki.fi/esgemo/pg/eng\\_index.htm](http://www.mm.helsinki.fi/esgemo/pg/eng_index.htm))