



# The Nordic e-Infrastructure Collaboration



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NordForsk



Nordic e-Infrastructure  
Collaboration

## Mission

The mission of the Nordic e-Infrastructure Collaboration – NeIC – is to facilitate the development of high-quality e-Infrastructure solutions in areas of joint Nordic interest.

By collaborating on developing new services there will be broader use of available technical skills across the Nordic countries and it will be possible to develop common services for a larger user community. The added value for the user communities will be a wider range of available services tailored to their needs, increased opportunities for Nordic collaboration and increased international competitiveness.

## Important Goals

- To establish new strategic areas and elicit new opportunities for Nordic e-Infrastructure collaboration
- To strengthen the collaboration between the countries on e-Infrastructures at all levels
- To increase the international visibility of the Nordic region in the area of regional e-Infrastructure collaboration
- To improve the efficiency and responsiveness of the ecosystem of e-Infrastructures in the Nordic region
- To provide the best available storage and computing service, through the Nordic Tier-1 service, for our users based on the limited resources by the sites, and to provide a shining example of excellence to other service providers within The Worldwide Large Hadron Collider Grid (WLCG).

## Background of NeIC

In 2002 The Joint Committee of the Nordic Natural Science Research Councils (NOS-N) supported a pilot project with the purpose to set up an inter Nordic Data Grid test facility (NDGF). The purpose of NDGF was to distribute computing infrastructure. After a two year pilot period NDGF was mandated to propose a Nordic Grid infrastructure and an organization to manage and develop Grid for scientific computing in the Nordic countries. NDGF was hosted by NORDUnet A/S.

This NDGF pilot has since matured into the successful deployment of the first and only distributed Tier-1 service within the WLCG collaboration, and has served as a role model for regional collaboration.

After an evaluation in 2010, it was recommended to continue this successful endeavour into the future as committed by the Nordic countries to the CERN experiment.

The Nordic e-Infrastructure Collaboration (NeIC) resulted from dialogue between the stakeholders, including national funding agencies, and is administered by NordForsk. This includes employing the Director, and providing other secretarial and legal assistance to NeIC.

An important focus of NeIC in the coming years will be innovation into new e-Infrastructure solutions, in addition to selected services such as the successful Nordic Tier-1 service for the WLCG community.

## NeIC Organization

NeIC has a Board consisting of 10 representatives from five Nordic research funding agencies and national e-Infrastructure providers. The NeIC Board decides on priorities for NeIC. NordForsk is hosting organization for NeIC. The NeIC Board reports to the NordForsk Board annually or on request by the NordForsk Board.

Activities are organized in four areas with dedicated Area Coordinators. There are areas for the Tier-1 service, Bio- and Medical Sciences, Generic Services, and Administration. Within each area projects are developed in collaboration with national partner institutions on a cost-sharing basis. New areas may emerge in the future.

In collaboration with Nordic universities and institutions, NeIC employs IT experts based on requirements from Nordic user communities.

Area Coordinators engage users and the national e-Infrastructure provider organisations through dedicated stakeholder forums to guide the development of services within the activity areas.



### The Nordic e-Infrastructure Collaboration

NordForsk, Stensberggata 25, NO-0170 Oslo

For further information visit: [neic.nordforsk.org](http://neic.nordforsk.org)

Gudmund Høst, NeIC Director: [gudmund.host@nordforsk.org](mailto:gudmund.host@nordforsk.org)



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**NordForsk** is a platform for joint Nordic research and research policy development. The aim is to facilitate cooperation in all fields of research and research-driven innovation when this will add value to activities being conducted in the five Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, including the autonomous areas of the Faroe Islands, Greenland and the Åland Islands. NordForsk carries out assignments from the Nordic Council of Ministers, and provides input based on analysis of the Nordic research and research policy landscape. NordForsk is governed by a Board composed of its main stakeholders: the national research funding agencies in the Nordic countries, higher education institutions and industry.