



Norwegian University  
of Life Sciences

# NORA Newsletter no. 2

## July 2014

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### General information:

- **The next NORA meeting** will take place 12-14 November 2014 in Delft, co-organized by VUA and TUD. November 14 is the day for the Mid-term review meeting, involving participation of our EU project officer, Lucia Pacillo. Please read more below.
- **Summer Schools 2 and 3** will be arranged by TUD in Delft 15-20 November 2014, immediately after the Mid-term review meeting. For more information (brief schedule), see below.
- **Grant Agreement amendments** - the change of the Norwegian name, and hence the acronym of the coordinating university, resulted in amendments of the NORA Grant Agreement, now available in [the NORA intranet](#).

### Please note:

- Remember to use the [NORA webpage](#) actively! Do let us know if you have ideas for improvements. We welcome popular texts/essays on relevant topics. Please also note **the blog** on the intranet where you can discuss specific topics, exchange lab protocols etc.
- **Outreach:** Remember to report all dissemination activities! *See below under WP6.*
- **Research:** The NORA Grant Agreement states the need for *“incubator workshops/think tanks”*, to present recent results and discuss progress and plans. The first NORA workshop of this kind was on *“Mathematical modelling”*, arranged in Brussels in May 2014. All full partners should feel responsible for organizing such meetings, either as 2-day gatherings or as videoconferences. They can include a few or several partners, depending on topic. *For more information, see below under WP1, 2 and 3.*

The following contains a report from each NORA work package after 1 ½ year. We encourage everyone also to visit the [NORA web-site](#), for further information.

### Work Package 0 (WP0) - Recruitment

Finished by February 2014.

## Work Packages 1, 2 and 3 (WP1, WP2, WP3) - Science Respective leaders Rob van Spanning, Jim Prosser and Lars Bakken

Each ESR and ER has written **personal career development plans** in collaboration with their local supervisors. You may read all plans in the [NORA intranet](#).

The Technical Committee evaluated and approved **the first internal progress reports** from all NORA fellows on June 30, 2014. These reports are not available yet; we plan to upload them on the [NORA intranet](#) in the beginning of August 2014. In this way, all NORA supervisors and fellows can keep updated on the latest scientific progress.

Please let us know within August 1, 2014 if you want to reserve from this uploading.

**Secondments:** all fellows have now decided the date and aim for their first secondment. The majority of the fellows will pay their first scientific visits during the autumn 2014.

### WP “incubator” workshops:

Please remember that we are to have regular, smaller workshop meetings to present and discuss our research. In our contract (Grant Agreement) it is stated that *“The partners within **each WP will meet twice annually** in workshops that will function as “think-tanks” at which the latest results will be presented and new ideas and hypotheses formed. Depending on specific needs, workshops will be either 2-day regular meetings or videoconference meetings, thereby saving travel/time costs. WP2, which involves several groups, may need to meet ad hoc in smaller groups to interact on specific aspects of individual projects.”* Please note that these workshops can be anything from small meetings between a couple of partners, to larger workshops. Remember to inform Janne when you have had such meetings, and she will list them under “Incubator workshops”.



Photo: Lars Bakken

WP1, with some partners from WP2 and 3, had their first workshop in May 2014, in Brussels. The theme for the meeting was mathematical modelling - how to link this with experimental approaches. Please read more [here](#).

A second WP1 workshop is planned in spring 2015 (tentatively in February, in Alicante) to present and discuss the recent comparative phenotypic/biochemical studies of different denitrifying bacteria.

## **Work Package 4 (WP4) – Management**

### **Leader Åsa Frostegård**

**The Technical Committee (TC)** had a Skype meeting on June 19, 2014, to discuss the first internal progress reports. A few were accepted immediately, the rest were sent back for (minor) revisions. The TC also had a meeting on June 30 to discuss the NORA summer schools 2-3, project meetings and how we can improve our “outreach”. Minutes from the meetings are available on the NORA intranet.

**The next NORA meeting** will take place 12-14 November 2014, in Delft. Meeting organizers are VUA and TUD. On November 14, we have agreed to have our Mid-term review meeting. Our REA Project Officer will therefore attend the meeting, together with an Expert Reviewer. You can see the general guidelines for a Marie Curie ITN Mid-term review meeting [here](#).

**Next year’s NORA meeting** will be in Aberdeen, in September / October 2015. This meeting will be coordinated with the “TechFest” arrangement in Aberdeen, in which the NORA project can reach children and students with popular scientific talks. Please follow [this link](#) to read about this year’s TechFest arrangement. If possible, the 20<sup>th</sup> European N cycle meeting will be arranged in connection with this.

### **Reports**

The next EU report is the *Mid-term Report*, due in October 2014. This is a short report, i. e. an updated version of the [Progress report #1](#) (February 7, 2014).

In January 2015 the NORA project is to hand in the first *Periodic report*. This is a comprehensive report including financial statements, to which all partners must contribute. Please download the general information about EU reporting [here](#) and the reporting guidelines [here](#).

### **Mid-Term Assessment questionnaires (all fellows)**

Before the Mid-term review meeting, all fellows are obliged to fill in a standard questionnaire via SESAM. Deadline: October 31, 2014. The questionnaire is available at the following link: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/sesam-fp7/questurl.do>

The Instrument, Project type and Questionnaire type options must be chosen in order to edit and submit the questionnaire (see picture next page):

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/sesam-fp7/questurl.do>. The page is titled "RESEARCH & INNOVATION Participant Portal - Grant Management - Scientific Reporting". The main content area is titled "Select questionnaire type" and contains the following instructions:

1. In the 'Instrument' selection list, set the instrument of your project.
2. In the 'Project type' selection list, set the type of your project.
3. In the 'Questionnaire type' selection list, select the type of questionnaire you wish to fill-in.
4. Click the button 'Edit Questionnaire' to proceed.

The form fields are:

- Instrument:** MC-Support for training and career development of researchers (Marie Curie)
- Project type:** MC-ITN-Networks for Initial Training (ITN)
- Questionnaire type:** Mid-Term Assessment Questionnaire

There is an "Edit Questionnaire" button below the form. At the bottom of the page, there is a navigation menu with links: Top, CORDIS, About, Help Desk, FAQ, and a logo.

The information requested in the questionnaire will be treated confidentially by the REA and will mainly be used for assessing the level of satisfaction of the fellows and the overall impact of the action.

## Work Package 5 (WP5) – Teaching Leader Mark van Loosdrecht

**Summer Schools 2 and 3** will be arranged in Delft, 15-20 November 2014. These schools are major events within NORA and we expect all fellows to participate. Below is a preliminary schedule for the two courses (Day 5 will be common to both):

**School 2:** “*Systems biology and biochemistry of N<sub>2</sub>O producing bacteria; Waste water treatment technologies*” (responsible: TUD and VUA). The course will take place in rooms at the TU Delft, if available. If not, rooms will be rented elsewhere. All NORA fellows will attend plus 1-2 more students from each partner lab. Max 30 students.

**15<sup>th</sup> November: A recap and further elaboration of selected topics from the previous NORA Summer school 1**

- Lecture on biochemistry of respiratory processes, enzymology (Andrew Gates)
- Lecture on bioenergetics (Rob van Spanning)
- Lecture on nitric oxide (NO) chemistry; and scavenging of NO

- Presentation Exercise tasks: Calculations on enzyme kinetics ( $V_{\max}$  and  $K_m$  values); bioenergetics of enzymes; NO gas kinetics. The students will be provided with raw data and will work in groups.

*16<sup>th</sup> November: Exercises/group work*

- Exercises continued. Wrap-up with report from each group, discussions. (Andrew gates, Lars Bakken)

*17<sup>th</sup> November: Wastewater treatment technologies and modelling*

- Lectures on wastewater treatment technologies; N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from wastewater treatment plants (Mark van Loosdrecht; PhD student of Mark)
- Mathematical modelling of wastewater complex communities/predictions of performance (Mark van Loosdrecht and coworkers)

*18<sup>th</sup> November: Exercises*

- Web-based exercises (Rob van Spanning; Mark van Loosdrecht)

*19<sup>th</sup> November: Excursions*

- Excursion to modern wastewater treatment plants (anammox) Rotherdam

**School 3: "Entrepreneurial skills and IPR" (responsible: TUD, Bioclear, Yara and Paques).**

*20<sup>th</sup> November: Entrepreneurship and IPR*

- Entrepreneur skills workshop. Delft Valeurisation centre; Bioclear; Paques; Yara (?) Responsible: Mark van Loosdrecht

## **Work Package 6 (WP6) - Dissemination / Outreach Leader David Richardson**

All dissemination activities related to NORA should be registered by the partners in the NORA web site ([NORA in the public](#)). This site is open to all readers, but can be edited by NORA partners only (if logged on the NORA intranet). Dissemination activities include scientific publications, oral presentations, newspaper articles, radio interviews etc. In addition to being uploaded on the NORA web-site all dissemination activities must be reported to the WP6 leader. Please keep in mind that we have all agreed to contribute regularly to different outreach activities!

A blog site has been made ([here](#)) on the NORA intranet, open for all NORA partners. You are all encouraged to please test it and report to the coordinator how it works.