



Norwegian University
of Life Sciences

NORA Newsletter no. 3

December 2014

The Meeting in Delft, 12-14 November 2014

The Coordinator thanks you all for a successful mid-term meeting in November! Thanks to NORA fellows for impressive presentations, and thanks to every partner for active participation in secondment planning, science discussions and the mandatory evaluation by the EU.

A special thanks to TUD and Monica Conthe for organizing the meeting.



The NORA consortium at the Art Centre Delft. Photo: JBU

All presentations and minutes from the meeting are now available from the NORA intranet:

- the [Project meeting](#) (November 12-13), and
- the [Mid-term review meeting](#) (November 14)

Highlights from the NORA project meeting

- The deadline for uploading the financial statements (FormC) in the [Participant Portal](#) (PP) was set to January 20, 2015
- The next NORA meeting and Summer School will be October 1 – 4, 2015, in Aberdeen
 - o Nora Project meeting Thu Oct 1, 2015
 - o Fourth NORA Summer School “*Transferable skills including: personal effectiveness, communication, team-working and career management*”: Fri Oct 2 - Sun Oct 4, 2015
- Changes in the NORA website (within the end of 2014)
 - o The [Discussion forum](#) in the NORA intranet will be linked up to an e-mail group for all NORA fellows, i. e. they will all receive an e-mail if someone adds a topic or responds to a given topic
 - o The [Outreach Section](#) in the NORA website will be split in two; one table for *scientific outreach* and one for *popular scientific outreach*

The following sections give a presentation of the progress in the NORA project two years after the start-up. We encourage all of you also to visit the [NORA website](#), for further information.

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

An important part of a Marie Skłodowska Curie ITN project is the secondment of fellows. In the NORA project, most fellows have finished planning their secondments and some have already been on their first secondment; a secondment overview is given in Table 1.

Table 1 NORA Secondments: Picture per October 2014. Most fellows have now decided the date, place and aim for their secondments.

Secondment location	ESR1 (NMBU)	ESR2 (UEA)	ESR3 (VUA)	ESR4 (TUD)	ESR5 (ABD)	ESR6 (SLU)	ESR7 (INRA)	ESR8 (ECL)	ESR9 (UGOT)	ER1 (NMBU)	ER2 (YARA)	ER3 (Bioclear)
NMBU		Sep / Oct 2014	Dec 2015	Apr - May 2015	Jan – Mar 2015			Feb – May 2015			Nov-Dec 2015	Apr - May 2015
UEA	Oct 2014 / fall 2015		Jan - Feb 2015									
VUA	Spring 2016	May 2015										
TUD	Spring 2016				Fall 2015							2015
ABD						Spring 2016	Winter 2015	Winter 2015 / 2016	Not yet decided			2015
SLU					Not yet decided		Oct 2014 + Mar / Apr 2015		Winter 2014 / 2015			
INRA					2016	Autumn 2015						
ECL							Fall 2015					
UGOT						Jan – Feb 2015				May 2015	May – July 2015	
YARA						Autumn 2015			Mar 2015?	March 2015		
Bioclear				Sep 2014 – ongoing			Spring 2016	Jul 2015				
NCIMB	Jul 2015	Jul 2015			2016							
Paques			Not yet decided	Sep 2014 - ongoing	Fall 2015							
Adigo										Several visits 2014/15		

The Technical Committee has evaluated and approved **two internal progress reports** from all NORA fellows (June and October 2014). These reports are available in the [NORA intranet](#) so that all NORA supervisors and fellows can keep updated on the latest scientific progress. The newest progress reports were also attached to the Mid-term Report, which was uploaded in the Participant Portal October 14, 2014.

The NORA fellows presented their scientific progress on the NORA meeting in November, presentations which are available via the NORA intranet:

- [Power point presentations](#) (right side bar)
- [Posters](#) (right side bar)

A Common NORA Experiment?

To stimulate even more collaboration and strengthen the links between the NORA partners, the NORA project meeting in November suggested that we perform one common experiment to which all groups in the entire consortium contribute.

We need at first to agree on a question that is of general interest to us all. Jim, Lars and Åsa are working on this and will come up with a few suggestions to be sent to all partners as a point of departure for further discussion.

Work Package 4 (WP4) – Management

Leader Åsa Frostegård

The Technical Committee (TC) met twice in September (Ghent and Skype) to discuss NORA Summer Schools 2 and 3. Minutes from these meetings are available [here](#) (NORA intranet). TC also had two Skype meetings in October, in which the fellows' updated progress reports and planned secondments were evaluated and accepted (after revision in some cases).

The Mid-term Report was uploaded in the Participant Portal on October 14, 2014. You may read the whole report in the [NORA intranet](#). This report was an update of *Progress Report no. 1*, and based on the newest *internal* progress reports.

The next NORA meeting will be in Aberdeen, in October 2015. This meeting will be coordinated with the N-cycle meeting and the "TechFest" arrangement (both in Aberdeen).

- N-cycle meeting: Mon 28. – Wed 30. September, 2015
- TechFest Aberdeen: a two months' science arrangement open to all in Sept/Oct, 2015
- NORA project meeting, Thursday October 1, 2015.
- NORA Summer School 4 "*Transferable skills including: personal effectiveness, communication, team-working and career management*": Fri Oct 2 - Sun Oct 4, 2015

- The NORA fellows (groups of two, thus six pairs) will visit schools in Aberdeen to inform on *what* they are doing in their research - *how* and *why*. The NORA fellows will get assistance from the TechFest-people on this matter. The visits will take place on Monday and Tuesday (October 5-6, 2015), tentatively.

Upcoming reports

The NORA project will hand in the first *Periodic report* by the 1st of March 2015. This is a comprehensive report including financial statements, to which all partners must contribute. Deadline for all partners to hand in their Form C has been set to January 20, 2015 (please use the [Participant Portal](#)). The NORA management (coordinator) may ask for revision of Form C if errors are detected, thus the deadline for sending Form C to the coordinator cannot be later than this date.

You may read the general information about EU reporting [here](#) and the reporting guidelines [here](#).

Work Package 5 (WP5) – Teaching

Leader Mark van Loosdrecht

Summer Schools 2 and 3 were successfully arranged by TUD in Delft, 15-20 November 2014. All NORA fellows participated, as well as three external PhD students. The schools are described in the NORA web site:

- [Program for School 2](#) *Systems biology and biochemistry of N₂O producing bacteria; Waste water treatment technologies*
- [Program for School 3](#) *Entrepreneurial skills and IPR*
- [Literature and other material](#) for Schools 2 and 3

A QuestBack survey was sent to all school participants on December 5 2014, for course evaluation.

Work Package 6 (WP6) - Dissemination / Outreach

Leader David Richardson / Andrew Gates

Please remember that all dissemination activities related to NORA are to be registered in the NORA web site by the partners. To upload or edit activities – use the [NORA intranet](#). To see all uploaded activities – look at the [NORA internet](#).

Dissemination activities include scientific publications, oral presentations, newspaper articles, radio interviews etc. The activities will soon be divided into two:

- popular scientific dissemination / outreach
- scientific dissemination / outreach

Please remember also to report all dissemination activities directly to the WP6 leader (Andy gates). And keep in mind that we have all agreed to contribute regularly to different outreach activities!