



**Nordic Road Association (NVF)**  
**Strategic plan, 2016–2020**

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# Foreword

This strategic plan will be valid from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2020. Sweden has the presidency during this four-year period and will lead the work in the NVF until the 2020 Congress in Sweden.

The plan outlines the key aspects of NVF's main activities during the next four years. Four strategic themes have been established:

- Safe and environmentally friendly transports
- Quality and resource-optimal transport
- Competent and effective organisations
- Innovation and renewal

During this period, the NVF will have 10 nordic committees and will have the opportunity to organise ad hoc work groups. Each committee work will be based on the strategic themes determined by NVF. Each year decisions will be taken to establish ad hoc work groups and on the basis of input from the boards of the national associations.

The committees will be supplemented with ad hoc work groups. Participation in the ad hoc groups should be regulated according to the interest of the national associations in the topic; including at least one representative from each country is desirable, but it is not a requirement in order to form an ad hoc group.

The nomination for participation in a nordic committee will begin in spring 2016 so that the members will be in place 1 July 2016. In order to have good possibility of coordination, the committee should have the chair and the secretary from the same country for the next four years. The responsibility of leading a committee should be divided among the countries in the best manner possible.

Regulations, rules of procedure, and communications policies has also been revised in connection with the work on a new strategic plan.

This strategic plan has been done by the secretarial group as a work group.

Decided by the board of the Nordic Road Association on 10 March 2016.

## **1. Vision, mission, and role**

The Nordic Road Association (NVF, until March 2008 the Nordic Road Technology Association) was founded in Stockholm on 19 June 1935. Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden were members from the beginning, while the Faroe Islands joined in 1975.

The NVF is an industry collaboration with members from both the public and the private sectors, and has around 320 member organisations in the Nordic countries.

Vision:

- Expertise without frontiers

Mission:

- To promote development in the road and transport sector through cooperation among professionals in Denmark, Finland, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden

Role:

- To exchange information, knowledge, experiences, and best practices among the Nordic countries

## **2. Organisation**

Work in the NVF is organised in four-year periods, and are concluded with a congress. Chairmanship of the NVF rotates between Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden.

Each member country has a national association connected to the NVF.

The NVF is led by the board of the association, which consists of a chair, a vice-chair and a secretary in the national association.

The chair of the Communication Group has observer status on the Board.

The chair, vice chair and secretary in the country that has the chairmanship assume the roles of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary of the NVF Board during the four-year period.

The secretaries of the national associations comprise a Secretary Group which, under the leadership of the NVF Secretary, is responsible for the on-going activities of the NVF.

A Communication Group, which is responsible for information and communication, provides support to the NVF board and the committees.

The work of the NVF takes place in committees and ad hoc groups. Each committee has a chair and a secretary. The positions of chair and secretary are shared among the countries.

## Organisation of the NVF

<b>The Nordic countries</b>	<b>Member country</b>
Board of the NVF: - the chair, vice chair and secretary of each NVF member country and the chair of the Communication Group	Board of the Association
Secretary group - secretary in the NVF country	Secretary
Communication group - communication employees in the NVF country	Communications employees
Committees at the Nordic level Ad hoc work groups	Member organisations/Members

### 3. Strategic themes

The strategic themes governs the work within the NVF. They will be the key for the sector as a whole, and reflect trends and challenges in the Nordic countries.

The question of the NVF's future as a road forum has been discussed during the work with the new strategic plan. There is still reason to maintain the NVF as a road forum, but the NVF shall to a greater extent handle the entire transport system. Where relevant, experts in other types of transport than road transports will be invited to participate in the committee work.

#### **The strategic themes for the period from 2016 to 2020 are as follows:**

##### 1. Safe and environmentally friendly transport systems

Transports should have the least possible negative impact for people's health and the environment.

##### 2. Quality and resource-optimal transports

The infrastructure, and transport services, shall live up to society's and users' expectations of quality and resource optimisation. The life cycle perspective shall lay the ground for the infrastructure, and the transport system must have a high level of accessibility, predictability, and trafficability for passenger and cargo traffic.

##### 3. Competent and effective organisations

The road and transport sector must have access to and maintain relevant competence

Organisation, utilisation of resources, and forms of cooperation shall ensure a high level of quality in the results.

##### 4. Innovation and renewal

Innovation and renewal are required in order to develop the road and transport sector. This applies to development and the application of new technology, forms of organisation, forms of collaboration, forms of agreement, forms of funding, and so on.

### 4. Committee structure, scope of work, and ad-hoc work groups

The committee structure consists of 10 nordic committees. There is no requirement to form national committee in each Nordic country. Each national association determines the rules of procedure for their country, and they are free to form their own national groups independently of the Nordic committees. Each committee will work based on the strategic themes determined by the NVF.

As a part of its search to use more flexible working methods, this strategic plan also determines the work in the ad hoc work groups. These groups shall bring together members with specific knowledge. These ad hoc groups differ primarily in that their mandates are more limited, and in that their work is intended to process for a shorter period.

The nomination for participation in a nordic committee will begin in spring 2016 so that the members will be in place 1 July 2016. In order to have good possibility of coordination, the committee should have the chair and the secretary from the same country for the next four years. The responsibility of leading a committee should be divided among the countries in the best manner possible.

		Strategic themes			
Nordic committees	Bridges	Safe and environmentally friendly transport systems	Quality and resource-optimal transports	Competent and effective organisations	Innovation and renewal
	Digitisation				
	Operations and maintenance				
	Climate and environment				
	Skills				
	Urban transport and transport planning				
	Traffic safety and transports				
	Tunnels				
	Design				
	Road technology				

The committees and their key spheres of activity are presented below. The proposals shall be seen as an inspiration when producing the committee's action plan.

<b>Committees 2016–2020</b>	<b>Scope of work</b>
Bridges	- Efficient bridge operation - Use of new bridge technology - Dimensioning of bridges
Operations and maintenance	- Maintenance planning and operation (summer and winter) - Asset management - Technological development - Climate adaptation
Digitalisation	- Automated driving - Cooperative ITS - Mobility as a Service (MaaS) - System development and administration - Models for road and geodata
Competence	- Skills development - Recruitment
Climate and environment	- Limit climate impact - Environmentally friendly transport system
Traffic safety and transports	- Driver's license training - Driver's license instructor training - Unprotected passengers - Safe, efficient transports - Accident statistics - Traffic safety locations
Urban transport and transport planning	- Mobility planning - Urban goods transport - Strategic development of the transport system - Planning methodology - National economy
Tunnels	- Efficient tunnel operation - Choice of tunnel solution - New tunnel technology - Safety in tunnels
Design	- Street and road design - Universal design of the transport system - Climate adaptation
Road technology	- Road construction - Paving - Climate adaptation

## **5. Rules of procedure and forms of work**

### **5.1 Composition of committee and ad hoc group**

The members of committees shall be members in the NVF via their employer or personal membership (in countries where this is possible).

- To the extent that it is possible, there shall be a balanced representation of member organisations.
- The members should preferably have their daily work within the work of the committee.

- Members from other modes of transport than road transport should be encouraged to participate in the work.
- A balanced age and gender distribution should be sought.

The committees will be supplemented with ad hoc work groups that shall primarily consist of NVF members. Participation in an ad hoc groups should be governed according to interest and expertise. Including at least one representative from each country is desirable., when the conditions for that exist.,

## **5.2 Work in committees**

The work of the committees consists of exchanges of information, knowledge, best practice and experiences within their fields.

It is not expected that the committees will carry out their own projects that requires funding. To the extent they conduct studies, analyses, and the like, this work shall be carried out by the members on the committee. Committees are, however, encouraged through their work to identify and propose research and development projects and other collaboration projects that can be carried out outside of the NVF, for example under NordFoU. The committee shall not coordinate points of view in the name of the NVF, or fulfil a function as a common Nordic voice *vis à vis* the EU.

The committee shall concretise its work within its assigned scope. The NVF board can give specific tasks to committees.

The committee must follow the NVF communications policy for internal and external communications. The committee should keep itself up to date and keep its own pages on the NVF web site updated, as well as follow the association's language policy.

## **5.3 Meetings and seminars**

There should be at least one nordic committee meeting per year for all committee members. Otherwise, they are free to choose how often their meetings shall take place and how the meeting is organised (e.g. Web meetings). Physical meetings shall be held at locations that are easily accessible and do not require longer trips.

The committees are encouraged to organise open seminars during the four-year period, preferably together with other committees.

Once a year (in the autumn) an NVF meeting is held for committee chairs and secretaries with the NVF Board in attendance. At this meeting the country that has the chair of each committee reports to the NVF Board. At the first NVF meeting, in autumn 2016, the committees shall submit an activity plan for the 4-year period. At the successive NVF Board meetings the committees shall submit annual reports on their activities with reference to the activity plan.

The NVF board meets twice per year. During the autumn, the NVF board participates in the annual meeting together with the chairs and secretaries of the committees in order to go through the committees' work. The secretarial group has its own meetings.

## **5.4 Information and communication**

As mentioned in section 2. Organisation, the NVF has a communication group. The group supports the NVF board and the committees in their work. The group shall profile the NVF's development and updating of the NVF web site. The national members of the group will work in particular nationally for committees, with updates of web sites, and will arrange seminars (press releases, practical arrangements, etc.).

The leader of the communication group for the period from 2016 -2020 is from Sweden, and is an observer member of the NVF Board. The communication group holds meetings as needed.

## **6. Cooperation with other international organisations**

### **6.1. Cooperation with the World Road Association (PIARC)**

The NVF coordinates proposals for Nordic chairs and secretaries in PIARC technical committees and for Nordic members in PIARC commissions. Members of PIARC technical committees are appointed by the individual member countries.

The NVF was formerly considered a national committee within PIARC, but this no longer pertains. The individual NVF member country is now free to create a national committee if it wishes to do so.

Each of the NVF's members are free to second staff to PIARC. The countries shall coordinate the secondment periods among themselves.

### **6.2 Cooperation with Baltic Road Association (BRA)**

The NVF and the BRA signed a cooperation agreement in 1992 that was revised in 2001. From 1999 up through 2012, the cooperation consisted of a joint seminar program (NordBalt) and a joint meeting of association boards and secretaries.

Experiences from the last few years show that the basis for formalised cooperation between the NVF and the BRA is not needed to the same extent as previously. Therefore, the parties have agreed to continue the cooperation in more informal forms.

Joint seminars between the NVF and the BRA can be arranged if and when the need arises. In addition, the parties will invite each other to seminars in English.

The boards of the NVF and the BRA do not meet regularly; the secretaries of the NVF and the BRA meet as needed.

## **7. Preparation and start of new cooperation period**

- The board of the Association will establish a strategic plan March 2016
- Nomination for participation in the Nordic committees will begin in the spring of 2016 so that the members will be in place on 1 July 2016.
- The chairs and secretaries of the Nordic committees will be gathered for a joint meeting by the chairmanship in early autumn.
- The committee will hold its first statutory meeting to concretise its work prior to 1 November 2016.
- Committees will produce an actionplan for the entire period that will be submitted at the NVF board meeting in November 2016. Proposals for actionplans shall be in place by 1 November 2016 at the latest.
- During this period, the NVF board can decide to establish ad hoc work groups.