Finnish Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers
FJLS 2021

Sebastian Hielm, 25.5.2021
A new vision for Nordic cooperation 2019

The Nordic region will become the most sustainable and integrated region in the world in 2030. The co-operation in the Nordic Council of Ministers must serve this purpose.

- **A green Nordic Region** – together, we will promote a green transition of our societies and work towards carbon neutrality and a sustainable circular and bio-based economy.

- **A competitive Nordic Region** – together, we will promote green growth in the Nordic Region based on knowledge, innovation, mobility and digital integration.

- **A socially sustainable Nordic Region** – together, we will promote an inclusive, equal and interconnected region with shared values and strengthened cultural exchange and welfare.

- **12 objectives for a green, competitive, and socially sustainable Nordic Region** – workplans approved in 2020.
Cooperation program of the FJLS-sector

• Work program of 2021-2024
  • Central to the cooperation program is 1) a sustainable bioeconomy and 2) sustainable and healthy food systems
  • The work program relies on a holistic care of the Nordic natural resources, a sustainable bioeconomy sector (which acts as an engine for growth and transformation), improving resilience, mitigation of climate change effects, genetic resources, safe food, a healthy diet and joyful eating.

• MR-FJLS will also focus on achieving the UN SDGs

• The realisation of Vision 2030 is based on cooperation between the various Nordic Ministry Councils (MRs)
The Finnish presidency 2021

• The presidency program was developed under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

• This time, there are no sector-specific programs

• However, in the presidency program there are many issues mentioned belonging to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry:
  • Food security in the light of the pandemic and climate change
  • Climate-smart and climate change-adjusted farming
  • Sustainable food systems and a safe, healthy and sustainable diet
  • Promotion of bioeconomy and the circular economy

• Unfortunately, our Ministry did not get any ‘signature project’ to administer this time around (we tried!)

• As a horizontal theme, our sector emphasises preparedness and resilience in the bioeconomy and in food systems
Current FJLS-themes during our presidency

- Carbon-binding and adjusting to climate change (forest fires, drought, insect pests).
- Improve forest nature protection and multiple uses of forests.
- Upgrade the Nordic bioeconomy strategy
- Upgrade the Nordic prebreeding PPP-program for the years 2021-23
- Fish sector climate change mitigation, the importance of fish in the diet, self-sufficiency in fish meal
- Define sustainable food systems and diets, as part of NNR2022
- Initiate a common food waste work program (as requested by the NC)
- Lead preparation of a joint Nordic event in connection to the UN Food System Summit
- Arrange the ”Köksmanifestet” artisanal competition and seminar of Ny Nordisk Mat
- NordGen: Solve the financing challenges of the building of new offices in Sweden, move warehouses in Denmark, the Backlogs-project (finish undone work from previous years)
Nordic dialogues on sustainable food systems

- On June 23, a dialogue between stakeholders and NGOs (among others) will complete our national preparations for the Food System Summit

- A summary of the dialogue will be presented to the Nordic agricultural ministers on June 24

- The topic of the political discussion at the ministers’ meeting will be ‘Sustainable Nordic food systems’

- The political discussion of the ministers will be added to the FSS-dialogue process. The aim is for a joint statement, which will improve the chances for the Nordic countries to get their voices heard during the FSS preparatory process

- A Nordic side event is being prepared to be held during the run-up to the FSS