

KVL's Newsletter – Thursday 16 November 2006

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Final deadline for editorial changes is Tuesday at 11 am before publication of KVL's Newsletter on the following Thursday afternoon.

This version does therefore not contain the latest articles from the online version. These can be found in the next edition.

Editorial changes may occur in relation to the online newsletter – all pictures, teasers and some of the articles have, for example, been omitted.

As regards links in the newsletter, please refer to the Danish online version at KVL's website http://www.kvl.dk/Maalgruppe/medarbejdere/kvl_internt/nyhedsbrev.aspx



News and debate

The merger is now a reality – letter from the three rectors

Dear employees at KVL (DFU and KU),

The merger is now a reality

The boards of the Danish University of Pharmaceutical Sciences (DFU), the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University (KVL) and the University of Copenhagen (KU) have at meetings in the past week agreed to implement the merger between the three universities. They have signed a formal merger agreement, and the merger comes into effect on 1 January 2007. It has been agreed that DFU and KVL continue as faculties within the framework of a common KU. The new university will be called the University of Copenhagen. DFU will be called the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences in English and *Det farmaceutiske fakultet* in Danish. KVL will be called the Faculty of Life Sciences in English and *Det bio-og jordbrugsvidenskabelige fakultet* in Danish.

The merger agreement can be viewed at http://www.ku.dk/fusion/?page_id=61.

As rectors of the three universities, we are pleased with the academic perspectives offered by the merger and are looking forward to our future collaboration. The fact that the merger is being effected at the same time as the implementation of the welfare reforms and the subsequent growth in university funding creates the best possible framework for realising the academic synergies, and we will do our utmost to ensure that the merger will be a success, so that together we can realise the gains which are intended by the merger.

Future management

As of 1 January 2007, a transitional board will be established. This transitional board consists of the existing board of KU supplemented with three external and three internal members appointed by the boards of DFU and KVL.

KU's present rector and pro-rector will continue as rector and pro-rector, and the present rectors and pro-rectors of DFU and KVL will become the deacons and pro-deacons of the respective faculties.

In relation to the administrative management, the titles and areas of responsibility will change in line with the established organisation, such that the senior administrative managers at DFU and KVL take up positions as faculty directors of the new faculties.

Development of academic synergies

The academic synergies must now be developed and specified in the local research environments across the merged university.

Immediately after New Year, work will be launched to develop the academic synergies within the research and educational areas with a large academic conference. The conference will, among other things, contribute to setting the

framework for KU's "Barcelona efforts" (the new funds from the welfare reform). Work to develop the academic synergies will be an ongoing process in future, but in the course of the first six months of 2007, a number of specific projects within research and education will be prepared.

Administrative organisational changes

The development of the organisation at the future KU is currently taking place in collaboration between KU, DFU and KVL. In December, the future administrative organisation at the new KU will be decided and announced to employees.

As part of the merger, it has been decided that it is necessary to optimise the support functions – comprising administrative functions and services as well as different types of services for the entire university. This optimisation will take place within the framework which has also been agreed for the merger, including agreements about job security.

The boards have agreed a budget for the merger which will ensure the necessary progress in integrating services and other administrative activities. In the administrative and operational area, it is estimated that, as a result of the merger, 4 per cent can be saved each year in the 2007-2010 period, however such that 2007 and 2008 can be regarded as a single year and together give savings of 4 per cent. This also includes savings from the harmonisation of licences, streamlining purchases and better utilisation of joint resources. As one of the benefits of the merger, it is for the new university to decide how to spend the savings on operations and administration which total 12 per cent of the combined spending of the three universities in these areas in 2006.

Staff conditions

The merger and the basis for the merger have been considered by the relevant works councils at the three universities. It has been agreed that the merger will be carried out according to the principles outlined in the Danish Company Transfer Act (*Lov om Virksomhedsoverdragelse*), and agreement has been reached on a number of conditions for employees. The most important are:

- Job security. No employee will be dismissed as a direct result of the merger. There are jobs for everybody in the new university. At the same time, it is important to stress that job security is not the same as changelessness. Changes will be taking place in how the work is organised and, for some employees, what their job involves. Our starting point is that employees follow the work.
- In cases where employees have jobs which will no longer be carried out, the university will, through relocation, attempt to find another suitable position while also providing relevant competence development.
- The merger agreement attaches considerable importance to competence development in connection with any job changes.

An appendix to the letters of employment will be sent to the employees who are changing from being DFU and KVL employees to being KU employees.

On 23 November, union representatives and the management of KU, DFU and KVL are holding a dialogue day. Here the framework for a new central works council at the new University of Copenhagen will be discussed. It is important for us that the collaboration gets off to a good start, and it may therefore be that – during a transition period – we will work with a relatively large central works council, so employee representatives can reach agreement on how to compose the new council.

On 7 December, a seminar will be held at which all administrative managers at the three universities are being invited to discuss how, as a manager, it is possible to contribute to ensuring that the merger process is positive.

Further information about the merger

The three rectors have held large meetings about the merger at their respective universities, and continuous discussions have been taking place in the relevant works councils and among relevant managers. E-mails have also been sent to all employees at the three universities about the merger. We encourage you to keep yourself informed about the merger and its implications by visiting the merger website at www.ku.dk/fusion. If you have any questions in connection with the merger, you can also contact your immediate superior and/or your union representative.

Kind regards,

The three rectors

Faculty of Life Sciences (*Det Bio- og Jordbrugsvidenskabelige Fakultet*)

This news item was created on: 10.11.2006

Dear employees and students

A couple of months ago, I encouraged all employees and students to submit proposals for KVL's name for when we become a faculty at the new University of Copenhagen from 1 January 2007. I have received many suggestions – thank you so much for that. Your proposals have made it so much easier to make the right decision.

KVL's management, in cooperation with KVL Communications, has considered all the suggestions received. Last Wednesday, KVL's Board debated the issue and, last night, it was finally agreed by KVL, the University of Copenhagen and the Danish University of Pharmaceutical Sciences what KVL's future name will be in English and Danish. Our name will be

- Faculty of Life Sciences
- Det Bio- og Jordbrugsvidenskabelige Fakultet

With the increasing use of English, the English name will most likely become the most commonly used. Perhaps even to such an extent that KVL will one day also be commonly known in Danish as the "Life Sciences" faculty. But until that happens, if at all, it is good and proper to have a Danish name consisting of two parts in which *biovidenskab* (bioscience) is synonymous with life science and *jordbrugsvidenskab* (agricultural science) is a generic term for the education and research areas which many people outside KVL associate with KVL today.

Name changes are problematic pretty much by definition as they tend to stir up emotions – and because everyone has (different!!!) opinions about them. Nevertheless, it was not all that difficult to reach agreement on the name "Faculty of Life Sciences", seeing that this name clearly and in the best way possible met the requirements that the new name was to live up to. Some of these requirements were as follows:

- It must be possible to associate the name with the present KVL so that KVL's existing employees, students, collaboration partners and alumni in Denmark and abroad will be able to recognise the link from the present name to the future name. Today, KVL's payoff is "University of Life Sciences" so it will be easy for our surroundings to understand the logic in us now becoming the "Faculty of Life Sciences".
- The name must frame and comprise all the scientific activities going on at the faculty so that all researchers and students, by and large, can see that their research and education are comprised by this name. Any physician and any dentist, for example, at KVL can probably identify with health sciences. Similarly, anyone in the natural science faculty can agree that his/her field of work concerns natural science. At KVL, the joint focal point is not animals, plants or people. The joint focal point is life in the entire chain from farm to fork with a view to creating better health and welfare for animals and people. Placing life in the centre of our name is therefore an obvious choice.
- The name must be contemporary and stand by its traditions – but it should not be retrospective. In that way, "life science" is a perfect match.
- The name must be future-proof within a foreseeable time frame so that the faculty name does not impose strategic limitations vis-à-vis establishing new study programmes or research areas nationally and internationally. This is true for "Faculty of Life Sciences".
- The name must be recognisable at an international level so that collaboration partners abroad, solely on the basis of the name, will be able to form a pretty clear picture of the type of research and education that the faculty engages in. Life science does exactly that. For example, our competitors and colleagues from Wageningen call themselves the University of Life Sciences.
- Like the names of the other faculties of the University of Copenhagen, the name must be short, straightforward, easy to remember and easy to pronounce because, otherwise, the name will never really be used. "Faculty of Life Sciences" is just that.

- The faculty name must fit into the name structure adopted for the faculties at the University of Copenhagen. Here, with one overall concept, you indicate what the research and education activities at the relevant faculty have in common, e.g. Faculty of Health Sciences, Faculty of Science etc. This makes "Faculty of Life Sciences" the perfect choice for a name.
- The acronym of the new faculty name must match the name so that people not in the know can figure out which faculty name the abbreviation concerns – in the way that the Danish acronym SUND refers to the *sundhedsvidenskabelige fakultet* (Faculty of Health Sciences) and the acronym NAT to the *naturvidenskabelige fakultet* (Faculty of Science). Thus, LIFE matches life sciences.

The first times you use a new name, it has a funny ring to it. Naturally, many people may therefore need a little time to get used to the new name. But the more often we use it – the quicker we will become accustomed to it. So let this be a modest Friday encouragement from me to you – say the name.

I wish you all the very best.

Per Holten-Andersen
Rector

Rector Per Holten-Andersen, rektor@kvl.dk – latest update 10 November 2006

Feature: Freedom of speech under threat at universities – by Rector Per Holten-Andersen and Professor Peter Sandøe

This news item was created on: 09.11.2006

JyllandsPosten – published 8 November 2006, 3 am

On 1 January 2007, a number of large government research institutions merge with the former universities. According to the feature writers, if the situation is not handled properly, this new structure may place serious limitations on the freedom of speech of the university-employed researchers.

Making contributions to the public debate is an important social task for university researchers. Till now, it has not been deemed a problem that researchers employed with the same university voiced opposing opinions in public as long as these opinions were not directly inconsistent with scientific insight and as long as the debates were conducted in a positive atmosphere. In connection with the latest review of the Danish University Act, the Act even sets out that, as part of the purpose of a university's activities, the employees must be encouraged to participate in the public debate. This is considered an integrated part of a well-functioning democracy.

In the government research institutions, the researchers are required, among other things, to administer an obligation to provide the authorities with particular services, and, to the extent that a government research institution has offered academic advice to a minister or another public authority, it has not been considered good practice for researchers from the relevant institution to voice opposition and differing opinions in public.

Let us use a concrete example to illustrate how conflicts and ethical problems may arise in this context for the management teams at the new, large universities:

In March this year, the finding of the first wild bird in Denmark to have died of bird flu caused a media storm. One important player in the media storm was Minister for Family and Consumer Affairs Lars Barfoed. In the media, he had to defend the view that the measures taken by him and his civil servants were what it took to protect public health. In his statements, the Minister relied heavily on advice that he had received from the Danish

Institute for Food and Veterinary Research, a government research institution. Researchers from this institution, who were also often in the media, backed up the Minister, stating that the initiatives launched were necessary to protect public health. A professor at another research institution, the University of Copenhagen, disagreed. On the day the dead bird was found, Niels Høiby, Professor, DrMedSc, who also works as a consultant at Rigshospitalet, appeared on national television in the programme Profilen where he expressed the opinion that the bird flu preparedness in Denmark was inadequate in several areas. At the same time, he claimed that the people in charge of bird flu preparedness in Denmark were not up to date on the international insight into bird flu. The disagreement did not give rise to any major problems apart from, presumably, a certain degree of annoyance among the authorities in charge and the researchers at the Danish Institute for Food and Veterinary Research. But what happens next time a similar situation arises and the critical professor is now employed with the Technical University of Denmark with which the Danish Institute for Food and Veterinary Research merges at the turn of the year? Because the University of Copenhagen is not the only institution that has researchers who squarely contradict authorities and government researchers and express independent, critical opinions.

On the face of it, this would place the rector of the Technical University of Denmark in a difficult dual role. On the one hand, he is responsible for the obligation to provide the authorities with particular services in relation, e.g., to food safety. On the other hand, he is also the rector of a university which, as part of its purpose, is to contribute to the public debate.

If the university management teams are not very conscious of this dual role, Denmark may end up in a situation in which the position of the universities as the academic consultants of the authorities is weakened. Or worse yet: a situation in which it may no longer be possible for the public to rely on university researchers speaking up if they have academically based insight that contradicts what their colleagues are saying.

In our opinion, it is crucial that it be made absolutely clear that the researchers are allowed to participate freely in the public debate. If the public were to get the impression that the researchers' statements are governed by political considerations, e.g. vis-à-vis a government minister, the trustworthiness of the universities will have suffered a serious blow. Therefore, the university management teams should not merely secure the formal freedom of speech for the researchers. They should also actively discourage the researchers from applying self-censorship or in any other way assigning lower priority to their participation in the public debate.

For a while, the universities have had strong focus on the researchers' abilities to disseminate the results of their research to international journals. This kind of publication of research results has been the pivotal quality parameter for the research and the primary way of gaining academic acclaim. Although we fully appreciate and acknowledge the importance of this, we believe that there is reason to point out the danger that research results which are solely presented in international scientific forums may not necessarily benefit the Danish society, Danish companies and, in particular, the public. At the same time, we believe that continuous participation in the public debate can also contribute to enhancing the researchers' ability to view their own research in a wider perspective.

As repositories of knowledge and culture, the institutions need to exchange knowledge and competences with the surrounding society and they need to encourage the employees to participate in the public debate. Participating in the public debate does not just concern the dissemination of the results on one's own research. It also concerns the use of academic insight to pose open, controversial or diverging questions that provoke new questions and which, in some situations, will show that the research cannot provide ultimate or eternal truths.

Some will probably think that, if some researchers voice opposing opinions like, for example, in connection with the bird flu debate, this contributes to undermining the credibility of the research. We do not agree on this point. In connection with complex academic issues as the one above, there is no simple, universal truth. The academic conclusions depend on various perspectives and are often highly uncertain. And decisions are rarely rendered less tenable if the decision-makers have weighed different views. There is therefore nothing odd in the fact that two researchers with each their academic perspective can reach different results. It is part of the nature of research that the interpretation of research results sparks controversy. Such is reality, and people outside the research world understand this very well.

But what about advisory tasks in relation to the public authorities? Will there not be room for those in the new universities? Naturally, there must be. It is crucial that the universities can take on advisory tasks vis-à-vis the authorities in future. This is not

possible, however, unless the directly involved researchers accept that there are certain boundaries as regards the extent to which they can participate in the public debate in relation to the issues that fall within the relevant advisory tasks.

At the same time, the authorities ordering the advisory tasks cannot expect that the entire university is subject to limitations on the freedom of speech. We are fully aware that it may be a source of irritation for the authorities in question that this may cause "noise on the line". But we believe that a general limitation on the employed researchers' freedom of speech is an overly high price to pay for attracting and maintaining these advisory tasks.

There is therefore a need for a balancing of expectations, not just internally towards the employed researchers, but also externally in relation to the authorities requesting advice on research-related issues. Moreover, there is a need to develop forms of collaboration so that researchers, who to a large extent see it as their job to play an active role in the public debate, are allowed to contribute to providing advice to the authorities without them unnecessarily having to refrain from voicing their opinions in public. A key to the solution of this problem is clear agreements between the institution and the authorities and also internally between the institution and the employees involved in the obligation to provide the authorities with particular services.

Our Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation has spoken with great enthusiasm about a strengthening of the universities' role in order to utilise the results of the research in practice. "From research to reality" (*Fra forskning til faktura*) has been an important mantra in the work on creating the new, large mergers. At the same time, the Minister has pointed out time and again the benefits of combining the government research institutions' obligation to provide authorities with particular services with classical university research.

In our opinion, it is high time that the Minister strikes a blow for the right and duty of the researchers to voice their opinions in the public debate. Man shall not live by bread alone. The possibility for researchers employed in the public sector to use their knowledge and commitment to strengthen the public debate is, in our opinion, an inestimable good that ought to be a matter of course in any liberal democracy like ours in Denmark.



Announcements

FOKUS invites you to an after-work meeting on environmental planning and management after the structural reform, on Tuesday, 21 November, 4-6 pm

This news item was created on: 13.11.2006

The structural reform means many new tasks for the municipalities in the environmental field, and much of the expertise that was formerly placed in the counties is now to be moved to a municipal level. The municipalities are facing a major challenge after the turn of the year – when, as you know, the new municipal structure takes effect, but the final local planning for the future management of the environmental field will not be ready until 2009.

The municipalities need to gather information and knowledge about the various environmental fields from many sources and must be ensured access to both county and national data on, e.g., area information, nature data and water and air pollution. At the same time, the environmental management needs to incorporate the quality requirements set out in the Danish Quality Management Act (*Kvalitetsstyringsloven*).

How can the municipalities tackle this situation? How do you create quality in environmental management when the overall administrative basis will not be available until 2009? How are the citizens ensured correct treatment in relation to environmental issues? And what role does the national centres play in the organisation of the environmental management?

Tuesday, 21 November 2006, 4-6 pm

at KL Huset, Weidekampsgade 10, Copenhagen S

At the meeting, talks will be given by:

Professor Helle Tegner Anker, Danish Research Institute of Food Economics, KVL

Eske Groes, head of office, Office of Technology and the Environment, Local Government Denmark (LGDK)

Municipal manager within the technological and environmental field

Chairman of the meeting: Anders Larsen

Refreshments will be served during the break. Everyone is welcome to attend and admission is free.

Registration is required and can be made at

www.fokus-net.dk/kvalitetimiljoeforvaltningen

Anders Larsen, Chairman of FOKUS

For further information, please contact the FOKUS sekretariat via e-mail to peb@akf.dk or on tel. +45 33 14 59 49, extension 146

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Gudrun Lau Bjerno, KVL Communications, gfb@kvl.dk – latest update 13 November 2006

New and exciting offers from the KVL staff association

This news item was created on: 13.11.2006

The KVL staff association has received a favourable offer on the books “Gastronomisk turist i Frankrig” and “Gastronomisk turist i Norditalien”: DKK 45 for one book and two for DKK 75 (normal price DKK 169 per book). The travel guides focus on French and North Italian food and wine. Order the books from Marianne Birke Ehler, mb@kvl.dk, and state how many you want. Subsequently, the books can be paid for at and collected from Marianne’s office, the Library, Dyrølægevej 10 – on MONDAY 27 November and on WEDNESDAY 29 November between noon and 1 pm.

“Bellevue Teatret” offers preview tickets for “ENDEN ER NÆR - Nu gælder det fremtiden” - a musical Doomsday show with the Lund Madsen brothers – the successor of “Mr. Nice Guy” that opened with great success in autumn 2004. We have reserved a number of B tickets for the preview on 8 February 2007 at 8 pm. The tickets normally cost DKK 295, but you can buy them for only DKK 180 for yourself and a companion if you are a member of the KVL staff association (non-members DKK 220). Order by 4 December at bhr@kvl.dk. When you write to this address, please state “Enden er Nær”, your name, phone number and number of tickets, and credit the KVL staff association’s giro account, 1-667-7833, with the total amount, stating the same details.

Preview tickets for “Cirkusrevyen 2007”. This year, the KVL staff association has again been lucky enough to reserve tickets for “Cirkusrevyen 2007”. This time for 23 May at 8 pm. The C tickets cost DKK 150 – for reservation, please email Gabino Casas, treasurer of the KVL staff association, cc bhr@kvl.dk, and credit the KVL staff association’s giro account, 1-667-7833.

REMEMBER to state “Cirkusrevyen 2007”, name, number of persons and the address to which the tickets should be sent. You will receive the tickets a couple of weeks before the show. Order now – first come, first served...

“Mini skiing holiday” to Hallandsåsen on 2 February 2007 - Sydalpin is situated 70 km from Helsingborg, at the top Hallandsåsen approximately 135 metres above sea level. The ski slope height of fall is approximately 80 metres. There are six pistes of which the longest is 750 metres. There are four lifts, both chair and t-lifts. We travel with Vridsløsemagle Turistfart and sail from Elsinore. The trip takes approximately 2 hours each way. At the ski resort, you have the opportunity to stay indoor and buy food and beverages, but we recommend that you bring your own. Ski instruction for beginners is a possibility. Departure from Thorvaldsensvej at 8 am, return at 6 pm. Registration on the basis of first come, first served (room for 30 participants) by email to Ulla Lindberg, udl@kvl.dk, by 12 January 2007 at the latest. The price is DKK 250 per person for members and one companion as well as children and DKK 450 for non-members. Please credit the amount to the staff association’s giro account, 1-667-7833. Should the event be cancelled, the money will be refunded.

Kirsten Sjøstrøm, Department of Food Science, ksj@kvl.dk – latest update 13 November 2006

Seminar: Organic farming in third-world countries, Friday 24 November 2006, between 9 am and 3.30 pm – registration by 20 November

This news item was created on: 09.11.2006

Globalisation may generally be an advantage for some third-world countries, particularly countries in Asia and South America. Not everybody, however, benefits from globalisation; the poorest populations often do not have access to the knowledge and technology that create globalisation and thus will not get their share of the increasing affluence increase. This definitely applies to the rural population in the African countries south of Sahara.

One way of improving living conditions for this group is to develop organic farming and in this way ensure the supply of food on the basis of local resources.

At an open seminar to be held on 24 November in Copenhagen, organic farming as a development opportunity for farmers in developing countries will be introduced. Further, the development in trading with certified organic products will be described, and finally focus will be on biological control as a way of increasing food safety.

The issues will be presented by a panel of international experts within the area, and the aim is to shed light on the potential represented by organic farming for poor population groups in the developing countries as well as to illustrate the development and research activities necessary to realise these opportunities.

Read more about the programme at www.soar.dk > Events

Sofie Kobayashi, Department of Agricultural Sciences, sok@kvl.dk – latest update 9 November 2006

Junior Researcher Forum: Peter Ulvskov: Dinosaurs don't eat grass ...or do they?, Thursday 30 November

This news item was created on: 09.11.2006

Dinosaurs don't eat grass ...or do they? Old and brand new stories about plant cell walls. The skeleton of plants is located around each cell and consists of polysaccharides. Without this skeleton, plants would not have colonised the earth 430 million years ago. The polysaccharides of the cell walls thus raise fundamental biological questions. But this is not the only reason why we should take an interest in them. Denmark is a leading country when it comes to developing food ingredients based on the polysaccharides of the cell walls, and most of the food industrial enzymes are based on polysaccharides as substrates. Also in this field, Danish industry is leading in the world market. KVL on its part is leading within the field of biotechnological intervention in the biosynthesis of polysaccharides. So far, the polysaccharide structure has not been a direct target of plant breeding efforts, neither biotechnologically nor traditionally. This does not have to be the case in future.

Everybody is welcome! Read more at www.juniorforskercafe.kvl.dk

Jette Fugl, Danish Veterinary and Agricultural Library, jfu@kvl.dk – latest update 9 November 2006



Research

If you want to look for grants and scholarships, current deadlines for external research fund applications, research programmes etc., these can be found in the Newsletter at

http://www.kvl.dk/Maalgruppe/medarbejdere/kvl_internt/nyhedsbrev/nyt_forskning.aspx

Here you will also find relevant links.

Current deadlines as at 6 November 2006

This news item was created on: 06.11.2006

External research funds – overview of current and expected closing dates as at 6 November 2006:

13.11.06

[Funding for the building of innovation cultures or the maturing of new technologies](#) [DKK 15 million]

Next deadlines: 4 January 2007 and 26 March 2007.

01.12.06

[Transnational call for organic food and farming](#) (via the FP6 project CORE Organic) [EUR 3 million/year]

01.12.06

[Call for expression of interest: NEW NORDIC FOOD](#) [EUR 1.2 million]

01.01.07

[The Lundbeck Scholarship 2007](#) [DKK 10 million]

The Research Councils (autumn 2006):

Regular applications can be made for:

[FNU calls](#): proposals for instrument centres, foreign post doc. grants to Denmark (extensions) and EU START funds.

[FTP calls](#): research stays abroad, holding international scientific conferences (deficit guarantee), preparation of EU applications.

[FSS calls](#): research stays abroad for more than one month, scholarships, contributions for the preparation of EU applications and international scientific congresses.

[FSE calls](#): research stays abroad for more than one month (below DKK 200,000), journals, holding scientific conferences, seminars etc., special communication activities, holding exploratory workshops and contributions for the preparation of EU applications.

The Lundbeck Foundation: The Foundation has no application deadlines, but a two-month consideration period prior to presentation to the Foundation Board must be anticipated. In 2006, the Foundation Board meets on 30 May, 23 August and 4 December.

For the allocation strategy and application procedure, please see the [Lundbeck Foundation's website](#).

Contributions for the building of innovation cultures or the maturing of new technologies

This news item was created on: 06.11.2006

Under a new initiative, food companies can now get help to develop and strengthen their knowledge on how to create new ideas that can eventually lead to new products and product methods or to adjust robots, sensors and other new technologies to their company.

In this context, the Danish Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries Hans Chr. Schmidt has earmarked DKK 15 million for maturing new technologies in food companies. This is taking place with reference to the new Danish Innovation Act which supports good ideas and innovative thinking within agriculture, fisheries, aqua culture and the processing industry.

Topic on the maturing of technologies:

Food companies, associations, industrial organisations, research institutions etc., can apply for funding for maturing new technologies, such as biotechnology, robot technology as well as information and communication technology to suit the needs of individual companies. The purpose is to improve the quality of production as well as the competitiveness of the companies. Research institutions can receive a contribution of up to 90 per cent. The contribution covers e.g. salaries, external assistance, purchases of necessary equipment, renting and leasing of equipment, materials and auditing.

Application deadlines are 13 November 2006, 4 January 2007 and 26 March 2007.

[Read more about contributions to the maturing of new technologies](#)

Call for expression of interest: NEW NORDIC FOOD

This news item was created on: 06.11.2006

Call for expression of interest: NEW NORDIC FOOD

– Innovation in the food, tourism and experience industries

The Nordic Innovation Centre (NICe) is launching New Nordic Food as a new focus area. Under this initiative, the Nordic Innovation Centre is investing NOK 10 millions (1.2 million Euros) in Nordic projects focusing on the establishment of Nordic constellations and cooperation platforms combining the food, tourism and experience industries.

The Nordic Innovation Centre invites Nordic and Baltic players from the food, tourism and experience industries, including primary producers, entrepreneurs and other companies; distribution, sales and marketing channels; industry federations, innovation and research institutions; public bodies and others, to submit their project ideas.

The Nordic Council of Ministers has developed a comprehensive programme called New Nordic Food. This Nordic Innovation Centre initiative focusing on enhancing “Innovation in the food, tourism and experience industries” is part of that programme. A ministerial declaration and a manifest of Nordic Cooking made by Nordic chefs are also supporting this call.

Applications

Complete call for expression of interest and application form available at: www.nordicinnovation.net

DEADLINE: December 1, 2006

Information on FP7

This news item was created on: 06.11.2006

From November 2006 until February 2007, EuroCenter holds a number of free theme meetings on the EU's 7th framework programme for research and technological development (FP7). At the theme meetings, the contents of the four programmes COOPERATION, IDEAS, PEOPLE and CAPACITIES, including the specific thematic areas within the framework programme, are reviewed.

The theme meetings will provide you with:

- A general presentation of FP7
- A description of project types and financing regulations
- A description of the specific theme focused at the relevant meeting
- Experience sharing from the 6th framework programme by a company or research institution with experience from the 6th framework
- A presentation of the Danish guidance concerning FP7
- A description of the pre-project scheme, start and network funds

[Use this link for further information and registration.](#)

The Lundbeck Scholarship 2007

This news item was created on: 06.11.2006

The Lundbeck Foundation is hereby introducing a scholarship for a particularly promising young researcher and his or her research group. The scholarship is a five-year scholarship involving total funding of DKK 10 million.

The applicant must be in his or her thirties and be able to establish or continue a research group within the health or natural sciences. A candidate for the scholarship could be a researcher who within the past five years has been awarded a PhD. The topic must be original frontline research within basic research or applied research.

Deadline for submitting the application is 1 January 2007 with expected start-up of the research group in early 2008.

For further information and an online application form.

<http://www.lundbeckfonden.dk/> under "uddelinger/stipendiat" and "ansøgningskema & vejledning", respectively".

The EU invites independent experts – deadline: 31 December 2006

This news item was created on: 06.11.2006

The European Commission invites independent experts with a view to establishing a database to assist the Commission in solving tasks in relation to the EU's 6th framework programme.

Note: The deadline for expressions of interest is 31 December 2006

If you register as an expert now, you will be registered as an FP6 expert and will be contacted at a later point with a view to registering as an expert in relation to FP7.

The tasks include:

- Assisting the Commission in evaluating proposals on the basis of the various scientific, technological and economic goals which serve as the basis for the 6th framework programme. The evaluation work includes e.g. the presentation of recommendations on how the research should be planned in the best possible way to achieve the goals of the relevant programmes.
- Assisting the Commission in supervising the projects that are selected for and awarded EU funding, including supervision of projects to which the EU already contributes under former framework programmes.
- Assisting with special expertise when needed.

One of the main tasks will be the evaluation of applications. If you want to increase your chances as a coordinator to get an EU application through, it is recommended that you register as an evaluator/EU expert now.

If you are interested, please contact [Lars Johannsen](#) (Research and Innovation Office/2044), as KVL registers evaluators/experts as an organisation.

Further information: [The EU invites independent experts.](#)



Education



Staff news

Farmer Peter Gæmelke replaces farmer Henrik Høegh in KVL's Board

This news item was created on: 14.11.2006

Farmer Henrik Høegh has wished to retire from KVL's Board. From KVL's Representative Assembly, the President of the Danish Agricultural Council Peter Gæmelke has been appointed as the new member of KVL's Board.

Read Peter Gæmelke's [CV here](#)

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, KVL Communications, gib@kvl.dk – latest update 14 November 2006

Farewell reception: Senior Laboratory Assistant Gunnel Holden, Department of Basic Animal and Veterinary Sciences

This news item was created on: 10.11.2006

Senior Laboratory Assistant Gunnel Holden retires after 22 years at KVL.

Farewell reception on Thursday, 30 November 2006 at 2.30 pm in the library, Department of Basic Animal and Veterinary Sciences, Grønnegårdsvej 7, 1st floor.

Everybody is welcome.

Karen Meyn Christensen, Department of Basic Animal and Veterinary Sciences

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, KVL Communications, glib@kvl.dk – latest update 10 November 2006

Flemming Frandsen resigns - KVL appoints new Pro-rector for Education

This news item was created on: 10.11.2006

Professor and D.Sc. Flemming Frandsen has decided to resign as Pro-rector for Education at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University.

“It was big decision, but out of consideration for my health and my family I feel that the time is right for a new person to take up the position as Pro-rector. And with the merger between KVL, the Danish University of Pharmaceutical Sciences and the University of Copenhagen and the challenges that follow within the area of education, I believe that the timing is perfect”, says Flemming Frandsen.

Flemming Frandsen became professor in general zoology at KVL in 1988. His scientific production is extensive, and over the years he has managed several major research projects on trematodes and their intermediate snail hosts, tick-transferred diseases in Denmark (zoonoses) and has also been a part of a collaboration project with Russia on zoonoses and mammal diversity in open country side (Denmark).

Flemming Frandsen was appointed as Pro-rector for Education in 2004 and was prior to that elected Pro-rector in the period between 1998 and 2004. As Pro-rector, Flemming Frandsen has been strongly committed to developing KVL's educational profile. He has been the prime mover behind KVL's Educational Reform 2005 that has aimed at ensuring the best possible and most up-to-date education for the students. Flemming Frandsen has also been heavily involved in international activities and activities focusing on the developing countries.

“I accept Flemming Frandsen's resignation with deep regret, but I respect his difficult decision. Both professionally and personally I have truly appreciated working with Flemming Frandsen who is acknowledged and popular both here at KVL and in all contexts in which he has been involved and where he has shown his commitment”, says Rector Per Holten-Andersen.

As a consequence of Flemming Frandsen's resignation, Professor, D.Sc. Mogens Flensted-Jensen has been appointed acting Pro-rector from 20 November 2006 until 31 June 2007.

KVL will be hosting a farewell reception for Flemming Frandsen on 5 January 2007 at 2 pm.

Rector Per Holten-Andersen, rektor@kvl.dk – latest update 10 November 2006

Head of Department Jens Wolstrup, Department of Ecology, resigns at the end of the year – Associate Professor Marten Sørensen is appointed acting Head of Department

This news item was created on: 10.11.2006

The Head of the Department of Ecology Jens Wolstrup has decided to resign at the end of the year. The merger with the University of Copenhagen becomes effective the day after Jens Wolstrup's resignation. To avoid any uncertainties as to who the new Head of Department of Ecology will be from 1 January 2007, I have decided to appoint Associate Professor Marten Sørensen as acting Head of Department of Ecology in the period from 1 January until 31 December 2007.

Per Holten-Andersen, Rector

Rector Per Holten-Andersen, rektor@kvl.dk – latest update 10 November 2006

Affiliated Professor: The architect Stig L. Andersson has been appointed Affiliated Professor

This news item was created on: 09.11.2006

The architect Stig L. Andersson has been appointed Affiliated Professor from 3 November 2006 for a period of five years.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, KVL Communications, glb@kvl.dk – latest update 9 November 2006

Affiliated Professor: Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and PhD Søren Alexandersen has been appointed Affiliated Professor

This news item was created on: 09.11.2006

Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Søren Alexandersen has been appointed Affiliated Professor from 3 November 2006 for a period of five years.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, KVL Communications, glb@kvl.dk – latest update 9 November 2006