



Nordic-Baltic Committee on Food Analysis  
[www.nmkl.org](http://www.nmkl.org)

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# NMKL Annual Report 2022

NMKL – NordVal International

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## Summary

NMKL finalized the revitalization initiated the year 2021 during the year 2022 as planned. The new structure of the 'Nordic-Baltic NMKL' and updated mandate took effect Aug 2022 as presented on the brand-new website which was launched May 2022.

The NMKL's 76th annual meeting 28-31 Aug 2022 in Seinäjoki in Finland was the first meeting with the new Baltic colleagues, and in total 59 participated in-person or digitally on Teams. Several inspiring presentations were held from EK-FJLS Food, Atria meat industry, Eurachem, about food fraud (FI, IS, NO), and about food analysis in the Baltic countries. The Nordic-Baltic collaboration was implemented, the new Articles of Association signed, and the project work executed in the NMKL groups. In total, 33 projects were ongoing in the four NMKL groups Microbiology (11), Chemistry (8), Sensory (6) and NordVal International (3) as elaborated in the NMKL workplan 2022. Many projects dealt with reassessment of outdated versions of NMKL methods and procedures, and several are still ongoing. Some of the projects were decided to be put on hold. The NMKL secretariat introduced obligatory project sheets for each project to improve efficiency and traceability. The NMKL workplan 2023 reflects these changes.

The [NMKL News 105](#) was published Nov 2022 where the NMKL reassessment process was clarified, and communicated that status for methods and procedures are available.

Reassessment dates and notes are now presented in the respective webpages of the methods and procedures.

NMKL published one procedure and one method on brand-new NMKL templates and confirmed one method by addition of short clarifying text. NMKL sold 29 subscriptions to methods and procedures, 74 methods and 18 procedures. Nine NordVal International certificates for alternative methods (fast kits) were approved for renewal, one certificate was extended to other matrices, one new method for *Salmonella* was certified, and one method was discontinued. NMKL Intranet was more frequently used, and two issues of NMKL IntraNews for NMKL members were published.

NMKL improved our communication at many different levels as a part of the revitalization initiated in the year 2021. The keywords are the new nmkl.org webpage, the new structural organization and Articles of Association, the frequent use of NMKL Intranet and IntraNews on SharePoint, the modernized NMKL Newsletter, and the broad range of meeting activities. Importantly, cooperation agreements with other organizations, NMKL met with the leadership of ISO TC 34/SC 9 Microbiology and confirmed mutual interests in harmonization of methods and future collaborations in accordance with the updated NMKL mandate. The mandate and our new Articles of Association are presented on the webpage [here](#).

## OBJECTIVES

NMKL was established in 1947 consisting of chemists, microbiologists, sensory analysts and statisticians from the Nordic countries

Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. NordVal International, reviewing and certifying proprietary methods, was incorporated in NMKL in 2007. Food experts from

the Baltic countries Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania joined NMKL 29 Aug 2022 and the name was changed to *Nordic-Baltic Committee on Food Analysis*.

NMKL is linked to Nordic Council of Ministers by EK-FJLS Food and funded by NMR (500 000 DKK/ Year), and the NMKL secretariat is hosted by the Institute of Marine Research (Org. No. 971 349 077), in Bergen, Norway since Nov 2020. The NMKL secretariat is led by Eystein Oveland (Executive Director, 70% position) and was supported by Susanna Petrova (Secretary, 50% position) and the infrastructure at IMR. NMKL has 75 members from Nordic and Baltic countries and extends to stakeholders world-wide through international networks. Our mandate and Nordic benefits are outlined on our webpage [here](#).

The new structural organization and revitalization took effect in the year 2022 and has resulted in a more efficient way of working, extension to the Baltic countries. The effects of the revitalization amendments and our improved web appearance will become apparent and measurable in the coming years.

- New NMKL homepage: implemented 3 May 2022, [nmkl.org](http://nmkl.org)
- NMKL extension to the Baltic countries: implemented at the Annual meeting 2022. New Nordic-Baltic NMKL logo.
- New NMKL structural re-organization years 2021-2022: finalized as outlined [here](#) and signed in the new [Articles of Association](#) Aug 2022.
- EK-FJLS Food potential cooperation with other work groups: in progress.
- Sustainable development and children/ young people: Erhvervsakademi MidtVest (EAMV.dk) was granted free access to NMKL publications and students use 33 publications for educational purposes (Laborant og Procesteknolog).
- Sustainable development and NMR vision 2030; evaluating NMKL methods and procedures for use with alternative raw materials such as side-streams, and methods for detecting food fraud: Food fraud was a topic addressed with talks at the Annual meeting 2022. NMKL is following the research field of alternative food/feed ingredients.

## DELIVERABLES

### Amendments

- NMKL will not adopt or create methods where a similar standard is already existing but supplement them, when needed, with adaptations and additions for Nordic conditions. When methods have been reassessed (5y for non-validated and 10y for validated) info will be given on the NMKL.org webpage.
- Protocols, templates and the sales process for publications and certifications have been further improved.

- The NMKL secretariat introduced project sheets for each project to improve efficiency and traceability. Projects not alive should be put on hold and archived for future interest.

### Outcomes

- **Projects.** In total, 33 projects were ongoing in the four NMKL groups Microbiology (11), Chemistry (8), Sensory (6) and NordVal International (3) as elaborated in the NMKL workplan 2022. Several projects dealt with reassessment of

outdated versions of NMKL methods and procedures and are still ongoing. Some of the projects were decided to be put on hold and archived as project ideas: Side-streams (intergroup), Food authenticity (intergroup), Fluorescent compounds (Chem), Amino acid compositions (Chem), Algae (Chem).

- **Development of methods and procedures.** NMKL published one procedure (Project I-4), one method (Project M-3), and confirmed one method with additional text, during year 2022:
  - [NMKL Procedure 17](#). Guidelines for Requirement Specifications for Food Analysis. 2nd Edition. Published October 2022.
  - [NMKL 117](#). Pathogenic *Yersinia enterocolitica*. Detection in food, animal feed and environmental samples. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. Published December 2022.
  - [NMKL 184](#). Ed. 2006. "Aerobic count and specific spoilage organisms in fish and fish products." revised and clarifying text added Jun 2022.
- **Reassessments of methods and procedures.**

- Confirmed to be valid: 5 methods and 2 procedures
- Withdrawn: 4 methods

- **Sale of methods and procedures.**
  - 29 subscriptions to methods and procedures sold
  - 74 methods sold
  - 18 procedures sold
- **NRL.** List of National Reference Laboratories, NRL list, updated Jan 2022. NRLs from the Baltic countries will be included during 2023.
- **NordVal International certificates for alternative proprietary methods (fast kits).**
  - Methods that are certified by NordVal and valid for 2 years at a time (Feb 2023): 25 microbiological methods and 4 chemical methods, and several projects in the pipeline.
  - The reviewal activity of methods can be seen in [NordVal International News archive](#)
  - 1 new method for *Salmonella* was certified by NordVal International
  - 9 NordVal International certificates were approved for renewal
  - 1 NordVal International certificate was discontinued.

## COMMUNICATION

### Amendments

Networking is essential for NMKL, and communication is continuously being improved between:

- the NMKL secretariat and EK-FJLS
- the NMKL secretariat and the NMKL groups
- NMKL project leaders/members and the respective NMKL group

- the NMKL groups and 8 member countries through the NMKL Board
- NMKL and the stakeholders worldwide
- NMKL and cooperate organizations

### Outcomes

Improvements and work that induced the NMKL communications year 2022.

- **NMKL Intranet on SharePoint (for members).**
  - Project sheet for each project was implemented for increased efficacy and traceability.
  - Two issues of NMKL IntraNews for NMKL members were published 3 Feb and 4 Dec 2022. The latter introduced the new secretariat members, Inghild Øye and Veslemøy Vilanger, taking over for Susanna Petrova in 2023.
  - Log for stakeholders' questions about methods and procedures and the answers from NMKL (Q&A) introduced during the year 2022: 20 questions were answered by NMKL.
  
- **NMKL.org webpage (for stakeholders).** New webpage in compliance with rules for requirements of universal web design and privacy policy launched 3 May 2022 (<https://www.nmkl.org/about-nmkl/>).
  - Updated information has been added under [Resources](#)
  - The workflow of [NordVal International](#) has been streamlined.
  - Web statistics are difficult for the year 2022 due to the transition from Joomla to WordPress for hosting the website. However, the website has now, according to the analytics tool Pirsch, approximately 1000 unique visitors each month.
  - For the period 3 May to 31 Dec, the number of methods and procedures downloaded from single-sales and subscriptions was 625 in total (excluding downloads from the NMKL secretariat).
  
- **NMKL Newsletter.**
  - [NMKL News 105](#) was published in Microsoft Sway (to date: 711 newsletter views). The newsletter was distributed using MailChimp. The newsletter was successfully delivered to 1429 recipients with 427 opens from emails.
  - Signing up for emails has been automated on the nmkl.org webpage such that the recipients list will be updated over time.
  
- **Cooperations with other organizations.** NMKL has several active [collaborations](#).
  - **ISO.** NMKL met with the leadership of ISO TC 34/SC 9 Microbiology and the mutual interests in harmonization of methods and future collaborations toward a common strategy was clarified. NMKL stated our strategy - not to adopt standards from other standardization organizations (SDOs) and focus on developing methods/ procedures adapted to Nordic-Baltic conditions when there is a need, and that our validation data can be offered to other SDOs. NMKL Executive Director and NMKL member Jette Jakobsen (DK) are members of ISO/TC 34/WG 14 "Vitamins, carotenoids and other nutrients" through national standardization body.
  - **AOAC Europe.** The NMKL Executive Director is a board member participating in planning common activities with NMKL.
  - **MicroVal.** MicroVal was represented at the NMKL Annual Meeting 2022. Closer collaboration with NordVal to ease communication with expert labs with respect to methods that have been applied for both certificates is in progress. The NMKL Executive Director can attend the MicroVal General Committee Meetings.

- **NMKL Executive Director represented NMKL in different meetings.**
  - Inter-Agency Meeting 26 May 2022 (recorded NMKL presentation)
  - CODEX CCMAS eWG May 2022
  - Eurachem General Assembly 19 May 2022 (NMKL presentation)
  - EK-FJLS Food external evaluation
  - EK-FJLS Food meeting 29 Sept
  - EK-FJLS Food Work Groups in Norway Meeting (Karen Johanne Baalsrud)
  - ISO TC34/SC9 Microbiology meeting Sept 2022
  - Mikro (Microbiology) seminar 26-28 Oct 2022 in Bergen (NMKL presentation)
  - EK-FJLS Food autumn meeting in Oslo, 11-12 October 2022, presented the NMKL work plan 2023.
- **NMKL's 76th Annual Meeting 28-31 Aug 2022 in Seinäjoki in Finland.**
  - Hybrid digital/in-person meeting
- The Nordic-Baltic collaboration was implemented (first meeting with Baltic colleagues)
- In total 59 participated in-person or digitally on Teams
- Presentations from EK-FJLS Food, Atria meat industry, Eurachem, about food fraud (FI, IS, NO), and about food analysis in the Baltic countries.
- The new Articles of Association signed.
- The project work was executed in the NMKL groups.
- **NMKL digital group meetings during 2022 in addition to the Annual Meeting.**
  - NMKL Chemistry group: 2 meetings
  - NMKL Microbiology group: 3 meetings
  - NMKL Sensory group: 4 meetings
  - NMKL NordVal International: 4 Steering Group meetings and several Technical Committee meetings

## ACCOUNTING 2022

NMKL reports accounts to the Nordic Council of Ministers in Danish kroner (DKK).

The income was in total 857 104 DKK, 500 000 DKK from NMR and 357 104 DKK from sales of publications and NordVal certification of alternative proprietary methods.

The expenses were in total DKK 1 219 106 DKK, 985 095 DKK for the NMKL secretariat and 306 011 DKK for goods and services.

The annual result for the year 2022 was negative, -434 002 DKK, and expected due to the

installation of the new webpage. The negative result was covered by earned capital from previous years.