



Nordic-Baltic Committee on Food Analysis
www.nmkl.org

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NMKL Annual Report 2023

NMKL – NordVal International

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OBJECTIVE

NMKL is linked to, and funded by, the Nordic Council of Ministers EK-FJLS Food (500 000 DKK/ Year), to support reaching the strategic goal of a green Nordic region with sustainable consumption.

The revitalization process of NMKL as stated in the NMKL Annual Report 2022 has increased our productivity, and the Baltic countries are now fully integrated in NMKL contributing with expertise to various projects, resulting in added value to the Nordic cooperation.

NMKL granted free access to NMKL publication for educational purposes to assist sustainable development and young people in the Nordic-Baltic region. E.g., laboratory technology students at Erhvervsakademi MidtVest (DK) use 33 publications for educational purposes.

Experts in NMKL assisted 11 stakeholders in addressing questions about analytical methods received as queries to the NMKL secretariat, striving to be an interconnecting network for food analysts in the industries, the governmental sectors, and scientific disciplines.

The NMKL secretariat is hosted by the Institute of Marine Research (Org. No. 971 349 077), in Bergen, Norway since Nov 2020. Eystein Oveland is the Executive Director supported by Veslemøy Villanger as the Administrative Assistant. NMKL currently has 78 members from Nordic and Baltic countries and extends to stakeholders world-wide through international networks.

About NMKL webpage:

<https://www.nmkl.org/about-nmkl>

DELIVERABLES

Projects. In the NMKL workplan 2023 to EK-FJLS in total 22 projects were ongoing in the four NMKL groups, Microbiology (9), Chemistry (5), Sensory (3), NordVal International (3), and in projects across these groups (Intergroup, 2). Some of the projects were finalized during 2023 and new were introduced as reflected in our Workplan 2024. Reassessments of outdated versions of NMKL methods and procedures were addressed in addition and are still ongoing.

Publications. NMKL published one completely new method ([NMKL 205](#)) and one completely new procedure ([NMKL Procedure 33](#)), as well as 2 new editions of methods ([NMKL 150](#), [NMKL 140](#)) and 3 new editions of procedures ([NMKL Procedure 6](#), [NMKL Procedure 31](#), [NMKL Procedure 29](#)). The editions of NMKL methods and procedures reassessed and concluded to be still

valid were stated on the respective nmkl.org web shop pages, e.g. [NMKL 47](#), [NMKL 100](#), [NMKL 177](#), [NMKL Procedure 32](#).

NMKL published updated contact information for both Nordic and Baltic [National Reference Laboratories and Official Control Laboratories](#), as well as updated information concerning [NMKL microbiology methods, NordVal certified methods and EC 2073/2005](#).

Two newsletters, [NMKL News 106](#) and [NMKL News 107](#), were published in June and August, respectively.

Sale. NMKL sold 34 online subscriptions to methods and procedures, 5 more than in 2022.

In total, nmkl.org had 929 unique downloads for methods and 233 for procedures. According to Pirsch Analytics the website nmkl.org had in total 14 077 unique visitors from 100 different countries and 71 067 page views with an average bounce rate of 53%. The Nordic countries were among the top 19 and the Baltic countries among the top 37 visiting countries. In addition,

NMKL sold 80 methods and 15 procedures by manual invoicing.

NordVal International certificates. NordVal International certified 6 additional alternative methods (rapid kits) for food analysis. To date NordVal holds [31 certificates](#) for alternative methods that are biannually reviewed by NordVal International to be certified in accordance to international standards at all time.

Workshop. NMKL held a joint [workshop](#) on the two projects MALDI-TOF and Vibrio spp. as a physical/digital event in Bergen in August.

COMMUNICATION

NMKL meetings and communication

Å2023. The NMKL's 77th annual meeting was held 3-6 Sept 2023 in Stockholm and in total 50 participated in-person or digitally on Teams. Several inspiring presentations were held in the respective NMKL groups as well in plenary by EK-FJLS Food secretariat and Holmen Iggesund Sensory Department (SE).

Digital meetings. In addition to the Annual Meeting, the NMKL groups had 2-3 digital meetings. The NMKL Board had one digital meeting. Further, the projects groups and NordVal Technical committees had several digital meetings.

NMKLIntra. NMKL members and project members communicate by e-mails and through NMKLIntra on SharePoint.

Two issues of NMKL IntraNews for NMKL members were published on NMKLIntra.

Collaborating organizations.

Through our [collaborations](#) NMKL was involved in different meeting activities:

ISO. NMKL is a liaison organization. An NMKL representative attended the ISO TC 34/SC 9 Microbiology meeting in Stockholm in June. An NMKL representative attended

the ISO/TC 34/SC 9/ WG 3 Method Validation digital meeting in May.

IAM. The NMKL executive Director attended the meeting in Budapest in June to prepare and align opinions from the different standardization organizations in food analysis for the CCMAS42.

CODEX. NMKL attended the CCMAS42 meeting in Budapest in June. NMKL methods were endorsed.

AOAC Europe. The NMKL Executive Director is a board member and attended several digital meetings, and common activity on analytical challenges with novel foods is being planned with NMKL in 2025.

MicroVal. The NMKL executive Director is a member of the MicroVal General Committee (MGC). The NordVal International Technical Committees attended the digital 59th MicroVal Technical Committee (MVTC) Meeting where our organisations individually had reviewed the same alternative methods for certification. The expert lab presented study plans and validation reports.

FoodBalt 2023. The NMKL executive Director was invited Keynote speaker at the FoodBalt 2023 conference in Latvia in May and

aimed at strengthening our collaboration with the Baltic countries.

Mikroseminar. The NMKL Executive Director attended the Norwegian Mikroseminar in Trondheim in October to present NMKL activities.

Nordic Council of Ministers. NMKL, represented by the Executive Director and the President, attended several meetings

with the Nordic Council of Ministers EK-FJLS Food section. E.g., a physical meeting in Copenhagen in March to promote NMKL as an important contributor in the Nordic Cooperation, digital meeting to present the NMKL Workplan 2024, and digital meetings contributing to outlining the Nordic cooperation program for MR-FJLS 2025-30.

ACCOUNTS

NMKL reported the accounts for 2023 to the Nordic Council of Ministers 15 February 2024.

The income including DKK 500 000 from NMR was in total DKK 1 109 667, and the expenses were in total DKK 1 221 718, giving an annual result of DKK – 112 051.

The negative result was expected and covered by earned capital from previous years.