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

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NMKL Annual Report 2025

Eystein Oveland (PhD), NMKL Executive Director

NMKL – NordVal International

c/o Institute of Marine Research

P.O. box 1870 Nordnes

5817 Bergen

Norway

E-mail to NMKL secretariat: post@NMKL.org

https://www.nmkl.org/

OBJECTIVE

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

NMKL was established in 1947 with the purpose of ensuring that reliable analytical methods and procedures for food, feed and water are available for the Nordic countries and conveyed to private and official laboratories in line and in dialogue with competent authorities. NMKL has expanded to involve the whole Nordic-Baltic region with the purpose of 1) being a network for knowledge sharing and collaboration between official and private food laboratories and food safety authorities in the Nordic-Baltic region, 2) providing reliable, suitable, well-documented, and effective methods and procedures for the analysis of food, feed and water in line with international regulations, 3) offering courses in relevant topics, 4) ensuring safe rapid kits for food, feed and water testing by NordVal certification according to EU legislation and international rules, and 5) promoting Nordic-Baltic interests in related topics in international collaborations.

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 the Administrative Assistant Veslemøy Villanger. NMKL had 77 dedicated members from Nordic and Baltic countries and extends to stakeholders world-wide through international networks.

About NMKL:
https://www.nmkl.org/about-nmkl

DELIVERABLES

Projects. The NMKL workplan 2025 presented to EK-FJLS Food contained different short-term and continuous projects that were addressed in the four NMKL groups: Microbiology (9), Chemistry (9), Sensory (5), NordVal International (6), and intergroup projects (3).

New publications.

New editions were made and published: NMKL 71 *Salmonella. Detection in foods*., and NMKL PROC 11 *Procedure for sensory analysis of drinking water*.

Several actual methods and procedures were reassessed and concluded to still be valid whereas withdrawal was done for NMKL 10 *Gravimetric determination of fat in milk, cream and milk powder and milk powder products* and NMKL PROC 8 *Measurement of uncertainty in quantitative microbiological examination of foods* .

No newsletter was published in 2025.

Dissemination.

NMKL had 21 online subscribers (EUR 300/year) to methods and procedures in 2025, resulting in **DKK 68 800** in income (EUR 9 300). NMKL sold 94 methods (EUR 60 /method, EUR 5 640) and 18 procedures (EUR 65/procedure, EUR 1170) in single sales resulting in **DKK 50 410** (EUR 6 810).

A total of 884 methods and 106 procedures were downloaded. The downloads of publi-

cations include those from paid subscriptions, those from free subscriptions for NMKL members, and the single sales.

The website nmkl.org had 20 800 unique visitors with 71 000 page views from 140 different countries.

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

Experts in NMKL addressed 10-20 queries from stakeholders about analytical methods and procedures, thus striving to be an interconnecting network for food analysts in the industries, the governmental sectors, and scientific disciplines.

NordVal International certificates. NordVal International is part of NMKL organizationally and financially; the revenues from NordVal are included in NMKL's accounts and managed by the NMKL Board.

In 2025 NordVal International certified one additional alternative method (rapid kit) for analysis of Listeria in food matrices and environmental samples (NordVal 064), approved renewal and extensions to new matrices of 2 NordVal certified methods (NordVal 032, 038) and approved renewal of 23 NordVal certificates (NordVal 018,025, 033,034, 035, 036, 037,042, 043,046, 047,050, 051, 052, 053, 054, 055, 057, 058, 059, 060, 061, 062).

The NordVal list prices per method in 2025: renewal of certificate EUR 2 500, extension of certificate EUR 4 800 EUR and new method certification EUR 9 500. Without the discounts applied by NordVal the total income would have been: 1 x EUR 9500 + 2 x EUR 4 800 + 23 x EUR 2 500 = EUR 76 600. The discounts applied resulted in an actual income of 70 150 EUR, which, due to currency fluctuations throughout the year, amounted to **DKK 530 625**.

NordVal holds per date 33 certificates, and has 14 new alternative method applications in the certification process. The validity of NordVal certificates is 2 years at a time.

Workshop and courses.

The NMKL and AOAC EUR Novel Food Symposium 2025, initially planned in Helsinki, was changed to digital symposium and successfully held 2-3 June for free.

The NMKL General Microbiology Course in Food Analysis planned to take place in Oslo 9 Feb 2026 was unfortunately cancelled due to low number of registered participants.

The cancellations resulted in some additional expenses due to exchange rate differences on reimbursements and the purchase of the Zoom web solution.

MEETINGS AND COLLABORATION

NMKL meetings and communication

NMKL spent **DKK 212 028** from the income on travelling and meetings in 2025.

Å2025. The NMKL's 79th Annual Meeting 2025 was held 14-16 Sept in Tartu, Estonia as a hybrid meeting. Angela Ivask, Estonian Research Information System, presented Innovative coating materials for antimicrobial purposes.

Internal meetings. NordVal International conducted a physical steering group meeting in Riga 20-22 May. NMKL paid for travelling and accommodation. The NMKL groups and NMKL Board conducted 2 digital meetings, and the NMKL project groups and NordVal

International conducted several digital meetings. NMKL members and project members communicate by e-mail and NMKL Intra Teams/SharePoint. NMKL paid for the accommodation for the NMKL members, and as well traveling for NordVal International members.

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, and NMKL representative attended the ISO/TC 34/SC 9/ WG 3 Method Validation work. ISO SC9 contributed digitally to NMKL Annual Meeting.

IAM. The NMKL executive Director attended the digital meetings to prepare and align opinions from the different standardization organizations in food analysis for the CCMAS44.

CODEX. NMKL attended the CCMAS44 virtual meeting in May addressing endorsement of (NMKL) methods.

AOAC International. The NMKL Executive Director attended the AOAC Annual Meeting in San Diego, USA. NMKL paid for the travelling and attendance.

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

MicroVal. The NMKL executive Director is a member of the MicroVal General Committee (MGC) and participated in digital meetings, and NordVal members attended relevant technical committee presentations.

FoodBalt 2025. A brief information slide was presented aimed at strengthening our collaboration with the Baltic countries.

Nordic Council of Ministers. NMKL, represented by the Executive Director, presented NMKL work plan digitally to the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM) EK-FJLS Food section contributing to the Nordic cooperation MR-FJLS 2025-30.

EPLO-IRIDE. NMKL, represented by the Executive Director and the NMKL Lithuanian national contact point member, presented in the International Conference on major public risks, focusing on effective regulatory supervision, Vilnius. The attendance was sponsored by the Nordic Council of Ministers Lithuanian Office.

Mikroseminar (NO). NMKL, represented by the Executive Director, presented to the Microbiology seminar in Lørenskog, Norway. The attendance was sponsored by the Mikroseminar organization.

The revenues of **DKK 51 492** were recorded in the accounts as course-related activities.

ACCOUNTS

NMKL reported the accounts for 2025 to the Nordic Council of Ministers 15 February 2026.

The income including DKK 500 000 from NCM, DKK 68 800 from subscribers to methods and procedures and DKK 50 410 from single sales, DKK 530 625 from NordVal certification services, and DKK 51 492 from course-associated activities, was in total DKK 1 201 327. The expenses, including DKK 596 962 for personnel expenses for the secretariat, DKK 212 028 for meeting expenses, DKK 168 702 for administration (web services, CMS, administrative tools, legal fees, courses, agio loss), and DKK 32 023 to the vitamin project, were in total DKK 1 009 715.

The accounts resulted in a positive annual result of DKK 191 612 to be spent on NMKL project work in coming years. As a non-profit organization, we aim to operate on a break-even basis, meaning we do not seek to make a profit. The positive financial surplus was primarily driven by lower-than-budgeted project activity, travel expenses, and NMKL secretariat working hours.