

OPEN CALL



NORDIC AMBITIONS

2025-2026

**NORDISK
KULTURFOND** svensk scenkonst



National
Theatre
of Iceland



SUOMEN TEATTERIT
FINLANDS TEATRAR



DANSK · TEATER

Suomen Teatterinjohtajaliitto
Finlands Teaterchefsförbund

NTO

NORSK TEATER- OG ORKESTERFORENING

Who can apply?

Nordic Ambitions is targeted at leaders with direct or overall responsibility for artistic programming, currently employed at one of the Nordisk Teaterlederråd (NTLR) network's member theatres or connected to The National Theatre in Greenland or Faroe Island. You can be either new in your role as leader or more experienced. Most importantly, you have strong motivation to develop your leadership skills, broaden your horizons and expand your Nordic peer network. If you are not certain about your eligibility, please contact your regional contact for consultation.

When is the open call?

The application period is open until **February 17.th 2025**.

How to apply

If you want to apply for the program, fill out **[this form](#)**
Please read this information thoroughly before applying.



About Nordic Ambitions

Nordic Ambitions is a mentorship program for theatre leaders in the Nordic region, initiated by Nordisk Teaterlederråd in collaboration with The Nordic Culture Fund.

The Nordic Culture Fund

Supporting Nordic initiatives

The Nordic Culture Fund, established in 1966, supports cultural cooperation between the Nordic countries and beyond. We believe in people connecting – even more so now that recent major global and social events are threatening to distance us from one another. We believe that art and culture are without borders and that in times of upheaval, when nations close in upon themselves, art can act as a focal point connecting us and bridging gaps.

Nordic Ambitions is shaping the future of the performing arts by connecting and supporting theatre professionals. The program creates a platform for meaningful networks and collaboration across the Nordic region. We are delighted to support the Nordic Ambitions initiative. After all, it is perfectly aligned with our own objectives. We look forward to a year of encounters, exchanges and experiences!

Søren Merrild Staun

Deputy Director, The Nordic Culture Fund

**NORDISK
KULTURFOND**



Program Outline 2025-2026

Mentorship

Mentoring builds on the model of experience and support being shared from established professionals to younger peers. In the Nordic Ambitions program, participants also benefit from networking with other pairs.

Mentees and mentees are selected based on OPEN CALL applications and matched so that they come from different Nordic countries. The selection committee also looks to the overall dynamics and diversity of the group as a whole. All mentors within the program are experienced theatre professionals currently active in the Nordic regions.

Fees and funding

There is no participation fee. Participants should however be prepared to cover their own travel costs. Remember to check with your employer if you may travel at your organization's expense. Nordic Ambitions has reserved travel subsidies to democratize participation from smaller theatres and remote locations. Partial subsidies may be granted to participants at the discretion of the organizers. Please specify your circumstances in the open call application if your attendance depends on subsidies.

Language

The shared language of the program is English. All participants are encouraged to network also in their local languages. Special needs and accessibility requirements are registered in the application.

Participant commitment

Nordic Ambitions builds on personal contacts, group work and shared experiences. The program includes three onside network seminars where all mentors and mentees come together to network, participate in workshops, share experiences, and engage in various activities that foster professional growth. It also includes one online seminar.

Mentor meetings outside of the seminars are scheduled by the pairs themselves. Ongoing contact between mentor and mentee is a core element of the program. The program encourages a minimum of seven individual meetings alongside the seminars.

Before applying, make sure you are able to attend the network seminars and that you can commit to meeting your mentor regularly throughout the year.

Schedule

6. MAY 2025

Online coaching session for mentors

26.-27. MAY 2025

Kick-off seminar, Copenhagen

17.-18. NOV 2025

Fall-seminar, Helsinki

24. FEB 2025

Online-seminar

27.-28. MAY 2026

Closing seminar, Copenhagen

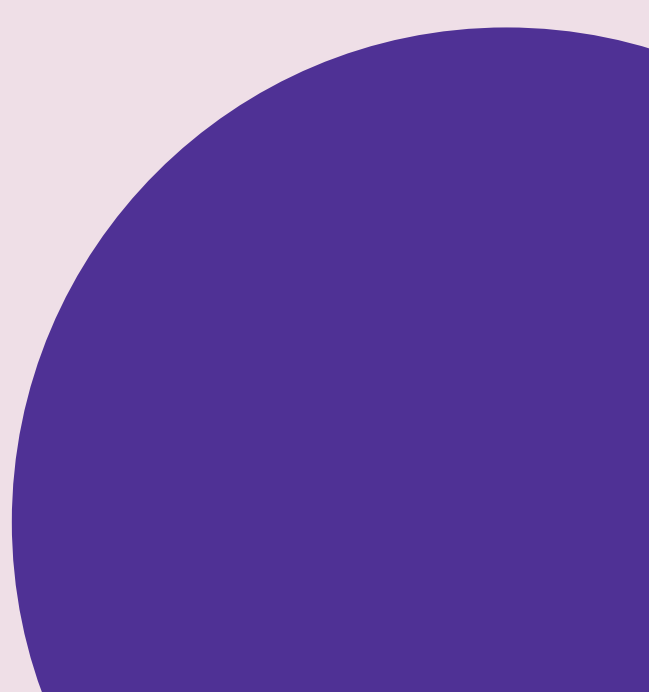
Feedback from participants in the 2024-2025 program

The Nordic Ambitions program is unique, and in my opinion the best leader training. To be part of a group of theatre leaders from all the Nordic countries, exchanging and sharing experience and knowledge across the borders, gives a unique insight. It has been of immense value and inspiration, and has already been implemented in my work as a leader.

Mentee, Kari Ramnefjell, Unge Viken, Norway

Participating in the Nordic Ambitions program is one the best things I've given to myself throughout my 12 years as a theatre director. Sharing thoughts, strategies and reflections on complex matters makes me feel part of a trusting community with equal colleagues.

Mentee, Jakob Engmann, BaggårdTeatret, Denmark





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