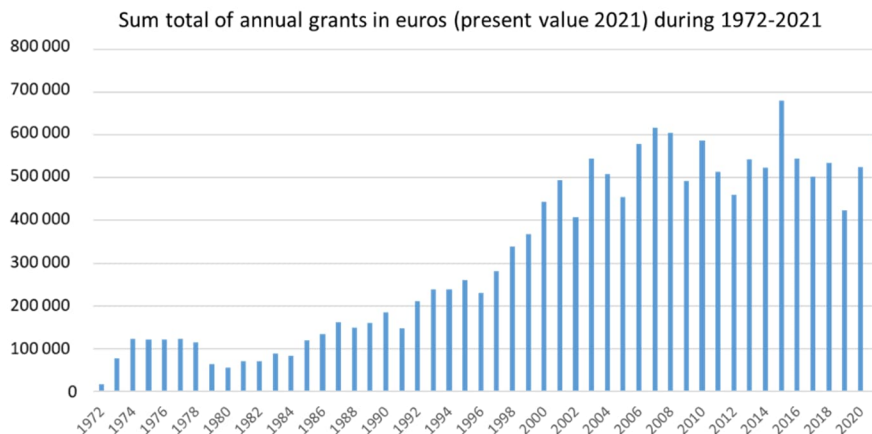


WALTER AND ANDRÉE DE NOTTBECK FOUNDATION

Annual Report 2022

The Walter and Andrée de Nottbeck Foundation, established in 1970, has been active for over 50 years. From a modest start in the 1970's and 1980's, the total volume of granted scholarships has steadily risen and is now around 600 000 € annually.



Since 2020 the Covid-19 pandemic has somewhat challenged the planning of research activities, however, both the volume and the quality of research have turned out to develop excellently.

The Foundation's Board of Directors consisted of D.Sc. (Tech.) h.c. Ole Johansson as the chairman, partner at Hannes Snellman Attorneys Ltd Henrik Mattson as the vice chairman, and as other members Group CEO Alexander Bargum, Ph.D. h.c. Carola Teir, International relations officer of the European Commission, docent of Helsinki University Maria Laamanen and prof. Jari Niemelä until July 2022, succeeded by prof. Sari Lindblom, rector of Helsinki University.

The Foundation's Scientific Committee was led by Carola Teir as a chairperson. The other scientific experts consisted of two members of Stockholm University, Sweden, prof. emer. Ragnar Elmgren and prof. Christoph Humborg, and from Finland Maria Laamanen and prof. Veijo Jormalainen from Turku University. The main task of the scientific committee is to evaluate the grant applications and together with the board of directors coordinate the foundations scientific policy.

Docent of Helsinki University Elina Leskinen functioned as secretary of the Foundation.

The Foundation's annual meeting in 2022 was held on 2 June at Tvärminne Zoological Station. Besides that, the Board of Directors held six meetings: on 17 February, 5 May, 18 May, 2 June, 1 November and 24 November. The Scientific Committee met for grant evaluation meetings on 28 April, and 1 November.

RESEARCH IN 2022

The principal aim of the research supported by the Foundation is to investigate the function and the changes in the Baltic Sea ecosystem. The Foundation is funding the professor in Baltic Sea Research Alf

Norkko jointly with the University of Helsinki. In addition, the Foundation alone funded a tenure track professor, PhD Aleksandra Lewandowska. Both professors work at the Tvärminne Zoological Station.

In 2022, the foundation made a strategic investment providing support to five PhD students in the recently established Centre for Coastal Ecosystem and Climate Change Research, CoastClim, exploring the potential of coastal ecosystems as natural solutions to mitigate climate change. The Foundation also financed six research projects, one postdoctoral researcher, six Ph.D. students in addition to those mentioned earlier, and one M.Sc. student. The Foundation funded one research visit to Tvärminne Zoological Station – in addition to those carried out in the projects. The Foundation covered some research related costs at the Tvärminne Zoological Station, including laboratory costs, boating as well as travel to and lodging at the research station. These costs were mostly incorporated in the other costs of the projects.

The awarded grants are listed below.

1. STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS, total sum 150 000 €.

1.1 Norkko Alf: PhD-Collegium for integrated coastal ecosystem and climate change research (150 000 €). Five PhD students are involved in the project: Märta Brunberg, Daniel Donald, Roel Lammerant, Eva Rohlfer and Catharina Uth and Daniel Donald (until the end of June).

2. RESEARCH PROJECTS, total sum for other research costs 70 550 €.

2.1 Broman Elias: The role of aerobic methanotrophs in regulating coastal methane emissions (16 000 €)

2.2 Hellemann Dana: Check in with the microbes: using metagenomics and metatranscriptomics to comprehend seasonal organic carbon limitation of coastal benthic denitrification (15 650 €)

2.3 Lewandowska Aleksandra: Resource competitive ability of marine phytoplankton along a salinity gradient and the consequences for stoichiometric variation in the sea (3 000 €)

2.4 Norkko Joanna: Role of episodic events for biodiversity and ecosystem functioning in coastal waters (16 900 €)

2.5 Spilling Kristian: Asking the microbes: What do you do with the excess Phosphorus? (10 000 €)

2.6 Westerborn Mats: Causes of change in key habitats in the Tvärminne archipelago: A research project on spatial and temporal dynamics among Baltic Sea character species (9 000 €)

3. POSTDOCTORAL GRANT, total sum 15 800 €

3.1 Lienart Camilla: Exploring the trophic status of a key species, the Baltic blue mussel, in a rapidly changing ecosystem using stable isotopes (postdoc grant 6 months, 13 800 €, other costs 2 000 €).

4. DOCTORAL THESIS, total sum 132 850 €, including 122 850 € for personal grants and 10 000 € for other expenses.

4.1 Göbeler Norman: The role of episodic events for biodiversity and ecosystem functioning in coastal waters (12 months' grant, 23 400 €).

4.2 Ida Hermansson: Living in the danger zone: impact of increased predation on the endangered eider (12 months' grant, 23 400 €, other costs 3 500 €).

4.3 Saara Mäkelin: The role of benthic fauna in coastal carbon and nutrient cycling (12 months' grant, 23 400 €, other costs 4 500 €).

4.4 Iris Orizar: Resource competitive ability of marine phytoplankton along a salinity gradient and the consequences for stoichiometric variation in the sea (12 months' grant, 23 400 €, other expenses 2 000 €).

4.5 Roxana Preston: The origin and regeneration of free-living populations of *Fucus vesiculosus* in the northern Baltic Sea (3 months' grant, 5 850 €).

4.6 Mari Vanharanta: Asking the microbes: What do you do with the excess Phosphorus? (12 months' grant, 23 400 €).

5. PRO GRADU THESIS (MSc theses) total sum 2 000 €

5.1 Silva Lehtonen: Impact of climate change on the top-down effect of a dominant mesopredator in the Baltic Sea and the ecological consequences (2 000 €)

6. OTHER RESEARCH SUPPORT, total sum 2 200 € for expenses.

6.1 Anna Villnäs: Elemental stoichiometry of benthic invertebrates as driver of coastal biogeochemical cycles – a research visit by prof. M. Vanni (2 200 €).

7. OTHER RESEARCH COSTS

Prof. Alf Norkko used 3 003 € and the guest professor Christoph Humborg 8 028 € for research expenses, their own travel costs and the costs of guest researchers visiting Tvärminne.

TOTAL BUDGET for 2022

The Foundation's share of the cost for the two professorships was 129 507 €. The total sum of personal grants was 240 050 €. The Foundation also supported research work by subsidizing research visits, participation in meetings, laboratory chemicals, equipment and analyses, research vessel costs, etc. with the total sum of 107 028 €. Administrative costs totaled 37 514 €, covering the expert group meetings, the remuneration of experts and a secretary, electronic grant administration, home page costs and other costs, including bank costs, accountancy and auditing.

February 1, 2023

Elina Leskinen

Secretary of the Walter and Andrée de Nottbeck Foundation