



## Nordic Cattle Database

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## Agenda

- **Co-operation under the theme of 'Common Nordic Cattle Database'**
  - Background
  - What is the 'Common Nordic Cattle Database'
- **What are the benefits of the 'Common Nordic Cattle Database' ?**
- **What are the key issues to be solved?**
- **Where are we now?**
  - The Nordic Cattle Database Forum
  - The key tasks of the Forum
  - What has been achieved so far?
- **Questions and discussion**

## Co-operation under the theme of 'Common Nordic Cattle Database'

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## Background

- **Nordic Database Project study (September 2011 – May 2012)**
  - Participants: Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Norway
- **Key conclusions**
  - *Significant cost savings and indirect benefits* (e.g. better products and services) can be achieved by pooling resources, information and know-how
  - It is preferable to adapt a more *longer term strategic roadmap* towards a common Nordic database and applications within 10 – 20 year time frame.
- **Key recommendation was to setup a forum ('organization') to take a lead on this strategic co-operation and developing a viable roadmap towards the future that could realize some or all of these benefits**

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## What is the Common Nordic Database?

- In the widest sense it is about having 'one' database and common applications shared by all (or some) of the Nordic countries
- In narrow sense it is about closer cooperation on ICT development and maintenance of databases and applications in some or all areas
  - This co-operation has seen significant increase in the last few years in terms of actually developing common IT solutions shared by two or more Nordic countries
- Focus is on cattle (e.g. milk recording and breeding): cattle database and farm applications for advisors and farmers
- The road is more important than the destination!

## What are the benefits of the 'Common Nordic Cattle Database' ?

## What are the benefits of the 'Common Nordic Database'

- **Significant direct cost savings**
- **Stronger financial strength to fund R&D projects and IT – development,**
  - Helps to mitigate the long term adverse effects from decreasing number of farms
- **The benefits from pooling know-how and data leading to better products and services**
  - Not easily quantifiable, but in the end even more significant than the direct savings
- **Existing strong Nordic cooperation with long traditions**
  - Excellent starting point for deeper co-operation
  - Has already lead more harmonized information/business processes (e.g. breeding)

What are the key issues to be solved?

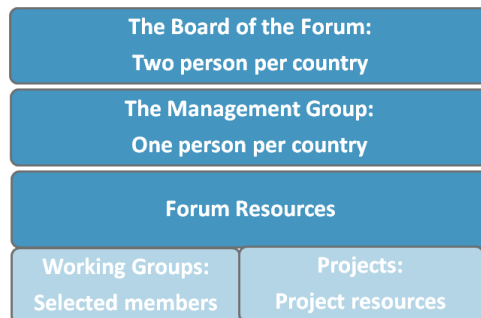
## The key issues to be solved

- Technologically there are no major problems, but there are practical constraints
- The most significant challenges relate to information and business process harmonization
  - major differences in codesets (how information is registered) and identifications (e.g. animals, farms and customer)
  - differences in national rules, structural differences (e.g. farm sizes and geographic distances, organizational and cultural differences)
  - the cost of developing and maintaining common database and application becomes exponentially more expensive and difficult the lower the commonality is
  - It is not practical to have a common database and applications unless business processes and information are harmonized to a high degree. This is not the case yet
- Developing a common cattle database and applications in a 'single' project would have prohibitive costs, complexity, duration and project risks
  - Roadmap is needed to map a common path forward that allows realizing benefits in incremental steps
  - Again, the road is more important than the destination!

Where are we now?

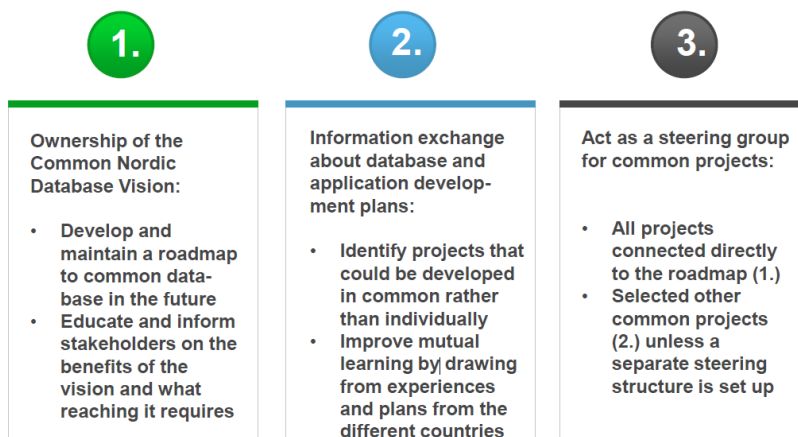
## The Nordic Cattle Database Forum

- The project group from the study was authorized in late 2012 to develop a proposal for the forum and start activities for the year 2013
- Forum was formally launched in 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2013 with the first board meeting taking place
- Forum is a way of cooperating, not an organization as a legal entity



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## The key tasks of the Forum



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## What has been achieved so far?

### ■ The Nordic Data Exchange (NDX) project

- Nordic data exchange standard and a model for data exchange with farm management systems including all the major FMS providers
- The implementation project has now started with project kick-off 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2014 and estimated completion no later than May 2015
  - ADPC does the technical development of the NDX
  - All four countries have their own national development projects to integrate with the NDX
  - VLF is in charge of the overall project management and coordinating the activities with the FMS's

### ■ Initial review of on-going harmonizing work

- In summary, there has been a lot of good work done already and on-going. The challenge is to coordinate that work and ensure that it gets implemented as well

### ■ Developing the common vision and roadmap

- The board has been working now on developing a common vision and objectives
- That vision will form the groundwork for developing a more concrete roadmap for 2015- on which basis new activities can be planned and executed in the coming years
- Finalish this vision and roadmap is the key task for this year

**Together we gain more!**

**Together we are Better!**

**Thank You!**