



Follow-up 29 September

Unlocking Nordic Testbeds

From cross-border barriers to joint solutions – stronger innovation cooperation in the Nordic Life Science cluster

29 September 2026 | 10.00–14.00 | GoCo Health Innovation City, Mölndal Gothenburg

Moderator: Caitriona Mullan, B-Solutions Expert and Adviser, AEHR

Optional site visit 14.00–15.00 AstraZeneca – Amazing Journey | Meeting in English

Agenda

The life science environments in Gothenburg/West Sweden and Oslo/Norway have strong research, innovation and business ecosystems. At the same time, cross-border barriers limit opportunities for companies, researchers and public organisations to use testbeds, healthcare settings, research infrastructure and innovation support across the border.

The 29 September roundtable builds on Unlocking Nordic Testbeds, held at the Swedish Embassy in Oslo on 12 March 2026. Life sciences was identified as an area with strong potential for closer cross-border cooperation, where ongoing initiatives already show opportunities for joint solutions.

The meeting will bring together key stakeholders from business, academia, innovation environments, the public sector and politics to identify the main barriers, highlight possible solutions and agree concrete actions for stronger Norwegian-Swedish and Nordic innovation cooperation in life sciences.

The roundtable is organised by the Svinesund Committee in cooperation with the Association of European Border Regions (AEHR), focusing on reducing border barriers and strengthening cross-border cooperation at regional, Nordic and European level.

Key question

How can the Nordic countries create better conditions for companies, researchers and innovation actors to use each other's testbeds, research environments and innovation infrastructure?

The discussion should identify and prioritise the main cross-border barriers, highlight good examples and possible solutions, and clarify concrete actions, responsibilities and next steps.

The aim is to end the roundtable with a shared view of the priority issues and a short action plan for continued work.

Programme on the next page >>

Shared question for the day

How can the Nordic countries create better conditions for companies, researchers and innovation actors to use each other's testbeds, research environments and innovation infrastructure?

09:30 – 10:00

Registration and refreshments

10:00 – 10:15 | Introduction, background and objectives

Welcome and framing

Cecilia Nilsson, CEO, Svinesund Committee

Caitriona Mullan, Moderator, AEBR

Key question: How can the Nordic countries create better conditions for companies, researchers and innovation actors to use each other's testbeds, research environments and innovation infrastructure?

10:15 – 10:55 | Three perspectives on needs and opportunities

Supporting cross-border innovation ecosystems with effective resourcing

Idar Kreutzer, International Adviser, NHO

Christine Wergeland Sørby, CEO, Oslo Science City

Guro Bjøntegaard, Managing Director, AstraZeneca Norway

Key question: What changes to national mandates and funding systems are needed for public funding to support cross-border innovation and Nordic cooperation?

Growth and attractiveness in West Sweden's life science sector through open cross-border innovation environments

Magnus Björsne, CEO, AstraZeneca BioVentureHub

Ulrika Edvardsson, Managing Director, AstraZeneca Bio-VentureHub

Cecilia Edebo, CEO, Sahlgrenska Science Park

Key question: How can open cross-border innovation environments drive growth, increase attractiveness and help life science companies in Sweden and Norway develop together?

Strategic cooperation between university hospitals

Cecilia Hahn Berg, Life Science Strategist, Sahlgrenska University Hospital

Key question: What is needed for strategic cooperation between university hospitals in Sweden and Norway to improve conditions for cross-border research, innovation and future healthcare development?

**10:55 – 11:20 | Roundtable 1:
What are the main barriers?**

Participant discussion led by Caitriona Mullan

Key question: Which barriers are most important to solve together to achieve real change and drive innovation in life sciences?

11:20 – 11:40 | Lessons and possible solutions

Swedish-Finnish testbed cooperation

Kjell Nilsson, Adviser to the Svinesund Committee; former Director of Nordregio; Affiliated Professor, University of Copenhagen

Key question: Which solutions and lessons from Swedish-Finnish testbed cooperation could inspire and support Swedish-Norwegian and Nordic innovation cooperation?

Lessons from life sciences:

Swedish companies testing in Norway

Shahid Jabbar, Co-founder & CTO, PhD, Mabel AI

Key question: What is needed for more Swedish companies to test products in Norway through Nordic Proof and Health Tech Lab, and for similar opportunities to be developed for Norwegian companies?

Innovation vouchers as an enabler

Speaker, Vinnova

Key question: Could the Swedish model inspire Innovation Norway or be developed into a joint Nordic solution?

11:40 – 12:00 | Morning summary

Key barriers and solution ideas

Caitriona Mullan, Moderator, AEBR

Key question: What opportunities, barriers and possible solutions should be taken forward after lunch?

12:00 – 12:45 | Lunch

**12:45 – 13:25 | Roundtable 2:
What solutions are possible?**

Participant discussion led by Caitriona Mullan

Key question: What can be done within existing structures now – and which solutions require change at national, Nordic or European level?

13:25 – 13:40 | Joint summary

Priorities, possible solutions and areas for action

Caitriona Mullan, Moderator, AEBR

13:40 – 13:55 | Next steps, responsibilities and continued cooperation

Agreeing concrete next steps

Key question: What is the next step, who will take it forward, and when will we follow up?

14:00 – 15:00 | Optional site visit

AstraZeneca – Amazing Journey