

Minutes from NordForsk's 58th Board meeting Oslo, Norway, 13 December 2018

Present:

Board Members:

Kloo, Lars	Swedish Research Council (Chair)
Agerhus, Gitte	Ministry of Higher Education and Sciences
Haanes, Vidar	Nordic University Cooperation (NUS)
Helgadóttir, Ragnhildur	Science and Technology Policy Council of Iceland (Via Skype)
Majjala, Riitta	Academy of Finland

Observers and guests:

Nilsen, Tor Martin	NordForsk Secretariat (staff representative)
Nymand, Josephine	Greenland Research Council
Springfeldt, Christina	Nordic Council of Ministers
Waller, Jonas	Åland University of Applied Sciences

Not present:

Danielsen, Kristin	The Research Council of Norway
Holmberg, Daniel	Nordic Council of Ministers
Sølvará, Annika	The Faroese Research Council

Present from the NordForsk Secretariat:

Flåøyen, Arne
Heimonen, Mikael
Minge, Marianne Aastebøl (Minutes)

01 BM 18/897 Approval of the Agenda. Any conflict of interest to be announced

The Chair opened the meeting.

Action:

The agenda was approved

02 BM 18/898 Quorum

The Board has quorum when at least 50% of the Board members, i.e. three members, are present.

Action:

The Board noted quorum with five board members present.

03 BM 18/899 Approval and signing of the Minutes from the Board meeting 24 October 2018

The minutes were approved by the Board.

Action:
The minutes were approved.

04 BM 18/900

Funding Decision: Nordic PerMed

Marianne Aastebøl Minge presented the issue. The NordForsk Board decided in December 2017 to support a Nordic Call on Personalised Medicine – “Innovations in Personalised Medicine: Towards implementation of personalised medicine in health care” - Nordic PerMed with up to 40 MNOK. The call was announced as a part of the Nordic Programme on Health and Welfare, with a virtual common pot funding model. The 35 eligible proposals were assessed by an international expert panel, and a Call-specific Committee comprising the research funding organisations contributing to the call. Based on the scientific and strategic assessments and Nordic added value, including balance of the portfolio, the Committee identified seven proposals that are recommended for funding.

Action:
The Board decided to fund seven projects under the Nordic PerMed call with in total up to 40 MNOK:

- 90452 NorDCaP
- 90458 NordSleep
- 90580 PM-HEART
- 90645 PERAID
- 90825 NORA
- 90837 PRECISE
- 90569 NORD-TREAT (conditional on additional funding from the national funders)

The funding of project 90569 is conditional on additional funding from the national funders. To ensure that the NordForsk contribution does not exceed 1/3 of the total budget, the national funding must be at least 80 MNOK.

05 BM 18/901

Funding Decision: Nordic Clinical Trial Projects on Paediatric Cancer Treatment

Marianne Aastebøl Minge presented the issue. The NordForsk Board decided in December 2017 to support a Nordic call targeting clinical trials on childhood cancer with the aim to boost personalised treatment within the area with 10 MNOK. The call was announced as a pilot within the Nordic Trial Alliance project under the Nordic Health and Welfare Programme, with a common pot funding model. Four eligible proposals were assessed by an international expert panel, and a Call-specific Committee consisting of the research funding organisations contributing to the call. The Committee recommended three of the proposals to be funded. They also recommended that one proposal was funded on the condition that a revised version of the proposal meets the requirements as described in the Joint Written Statement from the panel, receives a score of 5 or higher in a new assessment by the expert panel, and a revised budget is submitted.

Action:
The Board decided to fund three projects under the call for Nordic Clinical Trial Projects on Paediatric Cancer:

- 91172: Nordic ALLSTAR with up to 10 MNOK
- 91359: ALLTogether with up to 10 MNOK
- 91387: NOPHOMatch with up to 10 MNOK.

The Board decided that proposal 90685 PROTECT should not be given the opportunity to revise their proposal to meet the conditions suggested by the Call-specific Committee.

o6 BM 18/902

Funding for Communication activities in Education for Tomorrow

Arne Flåøyen presented the issue. The Programme Committee for the programme Education for Tomorrow suggests to spend up to EUR 50 000 /year, from 2019 – 2023, to hire a communication specialist in a 50% position for the programme phase 2 to ensure coordinated communication at the programme level. The position will be funded by the programme using funds that are already allocated to the programme, however, since the total amount exceeds 500 000 NOK, the allocation of funds must be approved by the NordForsk Board.

Action:

The Board approved the allocation of EUR 250 000 to hire a Communication specialist for the programme Education for Tomorrow. The Board emphasised the importance of including Communication activities and expenses already in the proposals and when planning the programme activities.

o7 BM 18/903

NordForsk strategy 2019-2022

Arne Flåøyen presented the issue. The secretariat presented to the board in March 2018 a plan for the development of a new strategy for the period 2018-2022. The plan was approved and has since been followed by the secretariat. Moreover, the board discussed the new strategy at their meeting in June and October. The draft presented to the board in October was also discussed with the NordHorcs, and a revised version was sent to NUS and EK-U for their comments.

Action:

The Board adopted the proposed strategy and implementation plan for 2019-2022 with a few minor changes.

o8 BM 18/904

Revision of Open invitation

Arne Flåøyen presented the issue. In light of the discussions in the NordForsk Board and in NordHorcs in October 2018, three amendments and clarifications should be made in the Open Invitation description, regarding which types of legal entities that may apply as main applicant in a NordForsk call, the amount of support from NordForsk, and specifications of the primary addressees of Open Invitation.

Action:

The Board decided the following specifications for NordForsk Open Invitation:

- **The primary addressees of the Open Invitation mechanism are the national research funding organisations in the Nordic countries: The Academy of Finland, The Independent Research Fund Denmark, The Innovation Fund Denmark, The Danish National Research Foundation, The Swedish Research Council, The Swedish Research Council Forte, The Swedish Research Council Formas, Rannis – The Icelandic Center for Research, Icelandic Science and Technology Policy Council, The Faroese Research Council, The Research Council of Norway, Vinnova - the Swedish Innovation Agency, Business Finland, and the Greenland Research Council.**

Any organisation, public or private, which is willing to fund Nordic research programmes through NordForsk, may be involved in collaboration with primary addresses

- **The amount of support from NordForsk may be from 0 to 1/3 of the total budget**

- Only research performing organisations may be main applicants (project owner) in NordForsk calls. A research performing organisation is a legal entity which is a university, university college or a research institute, and is characterised by the following:
 - A primary goal to independently conduct fundamental research and/or applied research and or research-based innovation where results are published.
 - The entity may be private or public but must not pay out dividends from its activities.
 - The entity must have significant production of academic, published research.

09 BM 18/905

Accounts per November 2018, long-term prognosis, status Open invitation

Mikael Heimonen presented the Accounts per November 2018 and the long-term prognosis. Arne Flåøyen presented the current status for initiatives for Open invitation.

Action:
The Board was notified.

11 BM 18/906

Budget 2019 and Action plan 2019

Arne Flåøyen presented the NordForsk Budget 2019 and the Action plan 2019.

Action:
The Board approved the Budget 2019. The Board was notified of the Action plan 2019.

12 BM 18/907

Expression of Interest: Nordic Societal Security Programme – Third phase

Arne Flåøyen presented an Expression of Interest to establish a third phase of the Nordic Societal Security Programme, submitted by the Research Council of Norway with support from the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, RANNÍS, and the Academy of Finland. The total commitment from these agencies is approximately 30 MNOK. In addition, the Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection, the Finnish Ministry of Interior Affairs, and the Danish Emergency Management Agency are considering their participation.

Action:
The Board decided to support the third phase of the Nordic Societal Security Programme with up to 15 MNOK. Spending is expected to be in 2020.

12 BM 18/908

Nordic-UK Programme for Migration and Integration, and Nordic Programme for Sustainable Urban development and Smart Cities: increase of NordForsk funding

Arne Flåøyen presented the issue. The Nordic-UK programme for Migration and Integration has now received 54,5 MNOK in funding from the national research funding organisations. The Nordic programme on Sustainable Urban development and Smart Cities has now received 35 MNOK in funding from the national research funding organisations. It is suggested to increase the NordForsk funding of these programmes so that the NordForsk share of the total budget is 1/3.

Action:
The Board decides to fund the Nordic-UK programme for Migration and Integration with an additional 8 MNOK.

The Board decides to fund the Nordic Programme for Sustainable Urban development and Smart Cities with an additional 5 MNOK.

13 BM 18/909

NordForsk stakeholder meeting 12 December – follow up

Riitta Maijala presented the issue and reported from the meeting of the Research Infrastructure Cooperation Committee that took place after the stakeholder meeting. The Committee suggests elaborating the possibility for a call for Nordic cooperation on research infrastructure where the Universities contribute with co-financing as described in the NordForsk instrument Nordic University Hubs.

Action:

The Board asked the secretariat to present a possible framework for a call for Nordic cooperation on research infrastructure, based on the instrument Nordic University Hubs, in the next Board meeting.

14 BM 18/910

Information from the Nordic Council of Ministers

Christina Springfeldt informed that Paula Lehtomäki will take up the position as Secretary General in the Nordic Council of Ministers in March 2019.

Action:

The Board was notified.

15 BM 17/911

Information about Director's Decisions

The information was presented in writing in the documentation to the Board meeting.

Action:

The Board was notified.

16 BM 18/912

Information from the Secretariat

The information was presented in writing in the documentation to the Board meeting.

Action:

The Board was notified.

17 BM 18/913

Information from Board members and observers

The Board members gave a short update from their respective country/organisation.

Action:

The Board was notified.

18 BM 18/914

Any other business