

Draft Minutes from NordForsk's 56th Board meeting Torshavn, The Faroe Islands, 26-27 June 2018

Present:

Board Members:

Danielsen, Kristin	The Research Council of Norway (Chair)
Agerhus, Gitte	Ministry of Higher Education and Sciences
Björck, Eva	Swedish Research Council
Haanes, Vidar	Nordic University Cooperation (NUS)
Maijala, Riitta	Academy of Finland (via phone)

Observers and guests:

Holmberg, Daniel	Nordic Council of Ministers
Kloo, Lars	Swedish Research Council
Nilsen, Tor Martin	NordForsk Secretariat (staff representative)
Nymand, Josephine	Greenland Research Council
Sølvará, Annika	The Faroese Research Council
Waller, Jonas	Åland University of Applied Sciences

Not present:

Helgadóttir, Ragnhildur	Science and Technology Policy Council of Iceland
Springfeldt, Christina	Nordic Council of Ministers

Present from the NordForsk Secretariat:

Flåøyen, Arne
Hovden, Eivind
Minge, Marianne Aastebøl (Minutes)

01 BM 18/864 Approval of the Agenda. Any conflict of interest to be announced

The Chair opened the meeting.

Action:

The agenda was approved

02 BM 18/865 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 18/866 Approval and signing of the Minutes from the Board meeting 13 March 2018

The minutes were approved by the Board and signed by the Chair.

Action:
The minutes were approved and signed

o4 BM 18/867

Auditor's report 2017 and Accounts per April 2018

Arne Flåøyen presented the issue. The Office of the Auditor General of Norway has issued the auditor's report for 2017. The report concludes that the annual accounts are made in accordance to national regulations and the Nordic Council of Ministers' accounting rules. The report contains no remarks.

The Accounts show that most activities will be carried out later during the year.

Action:
The Board was notified.

o5 BM 18/868

Financial long-term prognosis

Arne Flåøyen presented the issue. The prognosis is estimated based on the approved Budget with actions 2018, and adjusted continuously in response to new financial agreements on co-funding of new and existing programmes, and plans for spending.

Action:
The Board was notified.

o6 BM 18/869

Open invitation – status and next phase

Eivind Hovden presented the status for the new initiatives. There are several initiatives in the pipeline. The Board reported that the launch of Open invitation has been very well received in the research councils. The Board addressed and discussed the principle of 1/3 funding.

Action:
The Board was notified.

o7 BM 18/870

Open invitation – criteria for prioritisation

Eivind Hovden presented the issue. At the Board meeting in March 2018, and at the concurring meeting of NordHorcs, the question was raised as to what criteria of prioritisation should be applied in the case of competing Expression of Interests being submitted under the Open Invitation mechanism. Four possible criteria were presented.

Action:
The Board discussed the issue, and suggested that the criteria should be made in line with the new NordForsk Strategy and in dialogue with NordHorcs. The Board decided to postpone the decision of possible criteria to the meeting in October or December.

o8 BM 18/871

Expression of Interest: Sustainable Urban Planning and Smart cities

Eivind Hovden presented the issue. NordForsk received one Expression of Interest (Eol) to the Open Invitation deadline on June 1. The Eol is for a new Nordic programme on Sustainable Urban development and Smart Cities, and is submitted by the Research Council of Norway with support from Forte, Vinnova, and the Academy of Finland. The total commitment from these four agencies is 25 MNOK.

Action:

The Board decided to support the Nordic programme on Sustainable Urban development and Smart Cities with up to 12,5 MNOK. Spending is expected to be in 2019. If national contributions significantly exceed 25 MNOK, further funding for 2019 will be considered.

The Board delegated to the Director to appoint the Programme Committee based on nominations from the participating funding organisations.

The Board delegated to the Chair and Vice-chair of the Board to appoint the Programme Committee chair. The funding agencies, the Board and the secretariat may all suggest candidates.

09 BM 18/872

Joint Nordic-UK Research Programme on Migration and Integration: increase of NordForsk funding

Eivind Hovden presented the issue. Forte and The Research Council of Norway has increased their contributions to the Joint Nordic-UK Research Programme on Migration and Integration substantially (by 10 MSEK and 5 MNOK respectively), and the Economic and Social Research Council has joined as an additional funding partner with 1 MGBP. The co-funding from the national research funding organisations is now 54,5 MNOK. The allocated NordForsk funding of 10 MNOK equals approximately 15% of the total programme budget, well below the customary 1/3 funding. It was proposed that NordForsk increases its funding of the programme from 10 to up to 28 MNOK

Action:

The Board decided to increase the NordForsk funding of the Joint Nordic-UK Research Programme on Migration and Integration from 10 to up to 20 MNOK. The Board will discuss to allocate an additional 8 MNOK to the Programme in the Board meeting in December.

10 BM 18/873

Process for nominating Chair and Vice Chair of the NordForsk Board

Kristin Danielsen and Eva Björck will resign as Chair and Vice Chair at the Board meeting in October 2018.

Action:

The Board decided that Gitte Agerhus will arrange the process for nominating the next NordForsk Chair and Vice Chair.

11 BM 18/874

New NordForsk strategy 2019-2022

Arne Flåøyen presented the framework conditions for the new strategy, an analysis of the NordForsk strategy 2015-2018, and suggestions for a revised vision, overall goal and sub-goals.

Action: The Board discussed the suggested vision, main goal and sub-goals, and invited the secretariat to present a revised vision, main goal, sub-goals and actions at the October meeting.

12 BM 18/875

Information from the Nordic Council of Ministers

Daniel Holmberg informed that the process for the planned decreased funding for the cooperation bodies have been cancelled.

Action: The Board was notified.

13 BM 18/876

Information about decisions on delegation from the Board

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

Action: The Board was notified.

14 BM 17/877

Information about Director's Decisions

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

Action: The Board was notified.

15 BM 18/878

Information from the Secretariat

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

Action:

The Board was notified.

16 BM 18/879

Information from Board members and observers

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

Action:

The Board was notified.

17 BM 18/880

Any other business