

Draft Minutes from NordForsk's 57th Board meeting Copenhagen, Denmark, 24 October 2018

Present:

Board Members:

Danielsen, Kristin	The Research Council of Norway (Chair)
Agerhus, Gitte	Ministry of Higher Education and Sciences
Haanes, Vidar	Nordic University Cooperation (NUS)
Helgadóttir, Ragnhildur	Science and Technology Policy Council of Iceland
Kloo, Lars	Swedish Research Council

Observers and guests:

Holmberg, Daniel	Nordic Council of Ministers
Nilsen, Tor Martin	NordForsk Secretariat (staff representative)
Nymand, Josephine	Greenland Research Council
Sølvará, Annika	The Faroese Research Council

Not present:

Maijala, Riitta	Academy of Finland
Waller, Jonas	Åland University of Applied Sciences
Springfeldt, Christina	Nordic Council of Ministers

Present from the NordForsk Secretariat:

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

01 BM 18/881 Approval of the Agenda. Any conflict of interest to be announced

The Chair opened the meeting.

Action:

The agenda was approved

02 BM 18/882 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 18/883 Approval and signing of the Minutes from the Board meeting 26-27 June 2018

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

Action:
The minutes were approved and signed

04 BM 18/884

Report to the NCM for the first half of the year and accounts per June 2018

Arne Flåøyen presented the issue. According to instructions from the Nordic Council of Ministers, all Nordic institutions must submit a half year report. The report consists of two parts: accounts and comments to deviations from plan.

The report was discussed at a dialogue meeting with the NCM in September this year.

Action:
The Board was notified.

05 BM 18/885

Status for Open invitation, and financial long-term prognosis

Eivind Hovden presented the issue. A list of the Open Invitation initiatives funded, in pipeline and pre-pipeline was presented. The financial long-term 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.

06 BM 18/886

Expression of Interest - Digitisation of the public sector

Eivind Hovden presented an Expression of Interest (EoI) for a new Nordic programme on Digitisation of the Public Sector, submitted by the Research Council of Norway with support from RANNÍS, The Academy of Finland, Business Finland, the Estonian Research Council, The Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (Forte), Innovation Fund Denmark, and the UK Economic and Social Research Council. The total commitment from these agencies is minimum 4 800 000 MEURO. In addition, Vinnova, the city of Reykjavik, Nordic Innovation and the Netherlands organisation for Scientific Research (NOW) are also considering their participation. The funding mechanism for the planned call is suggested as a virtual common pot where NordForsk handles all funding and contracts. However, the funding model can be subject to further negotiations before entering an MoU.

Action:
The Board decided to support the Nordic programme on Digitisation in the Public Sector with up to 24 MNOK, provided that the total national funding is 48 MNOK. Spending is expected to be in 2020. If the total sum of the national funding becomes lower, the NordForsk contribution will be equally reduced, to ensure that it does not exceed 33% of the total budget. If national contributions significantly exceed 48 MNOK, further funding for 2020 will be considered.

The Board underscored that a real common pot is the preferred funding model, and asked the secretariat to emphasize this during the development of the MoU. However, the possibility of using a virtual common pot is not excluded.

The Board welcomes partnerships between researchers, public sector, civic sector and private sector. However, the Board underscored that the research performing organisations must be project owners (main applicant and formal contract partner).

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.

07 BM 18/887

Expressions of Interest: Interdisciplinary Research

Eivind Hovden presented an Expression of Interest (EoI) for a new Nordic programme for interdisciplinary research, submitted by the Independent Research Fund Denmark with support from the Academy of Finland, the Swedish Research Council, and the Research Council of Norway. The total commitment from these four agencies is expected to be approximately 80 MNOK. The funding mechanism for the planned call is suggested as a real common pot.

Action:

The Board decided to support the Nordic programme for interdisciplinary research with up to 40 MNOK and a real common pot funding model, dependant on the total funding from the national research councils. Spending is expected to be in 2020. If national contributions significantly exceed 80 MNOK, further funding for 2020 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.

08 BM 18/888

Complaints procedure at NordForsk

Eivind Hovden presented the issue. The NordForsk secretariat has identified the need for an operation and management plan ensuring that all complaints are treated according to the same procedure and principles, in a timely manner. In order to ensure an open and accountable way to provide a high quality, responsive and transparent services, a complaints procedure for NordForsk was suggested.

Action:

The Board approved the suggested complaints procedure for NordForsk.

09 BM 18/889

NordForsk strategy 2019-2022

Arne Flåøyen presented a revised vision, main goal, sub-goals and actions for the new strategy at the joint NordForsk – NordHorcs meeting in the morning of October 24. The NordForsk Board continued the discussion, taking into account the NordHorc' input and suggestions.

Action:

The Board discussed the suggested revised vision, main goal, sub-goals and actions. The Board asked the secretariat to make a few revisions before the next Board meeting:

- **Make two separate documents, where the first document should contain the vision, main goal and sub-goals, and the second one an implementation plan**

- Adjustments to the description of how new programmes of funding will be developed
- Adjust the text on Open Science and Open Access
- Underline the importance of scientific quality and Nordic added value

The Board asked the Secretariat to prepare a document with an elaborated description of the Open Invitation mechanism to be presented at the next NordForsk Board meeting.

10 BM 18/890

Information from the Nordic Council of Ministers

Daniel Holmberg informed that Paula Lehtomäki has been appointed as the new Secretary General of the Nordic Council of Ministers. Lehtomäki will take up the position in March 2019, when the term of office of the current Secretary General, Dagfinn Høybråten, will end.

Action: The Board was notified.

11 BM 18/891

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.

12 BM 17/892

Information about Director's Decisions

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

Action: The Board was notified.

13 BM 18/893

Information from the Secretariat

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

**Action:
The Board was notified.**

14 BM 18/894

Information from Board members and observers

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

**Action:
The Board was notified.**

15 BM 18/895

Any other business

16 BM 18/896

Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair of the NordForsk Board

**Action:
Lars Kloo was appointed the Chair of the NordForsk Board. Riitta Maijala was appointed the Vice-Chair of the NordForsk Board.**

