

Minutes from NordForsk 61st Board meeting Copenhagen, Denmark, 12 December 2019

Present:

Board Members:

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

Observers and guests:

Begtrup, Jens	NordForsk Administration (staff representative)
Hakala, Johanna	Academy of Finland
Holmberg, Daniel	Nordic Council of Ministers
Sølvará, Annika	The Faroese Research Council
Gobel, Ursula (Item 13)	The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
Hewitt, Ted (Item 13)	The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
Palmgren, Juni (Item 15)	Karolinska Institutet

Not present:

Maijala, Riitta	Academy of Finland
Springfeldt, Christina	Nordic Council of Ministers
Helgadóttir, Ragnhildur	Science and Technology Policy Council of Iceland

Representatives from Åland and Greenland were not present. New representatives will be appointed in February 2020.

Present from the NordForsk Administration:

Flåøyen, Arne
Heimonen, Mikael
Minge, Marianne Aastebøl (Minutes)
Nilsson, Maria (Item 14 and 15)
Smeds, Mia

01 BM 19/952 Approval of the Agenda. Any conflict of interest to be announced

The Chair opened the meeting. No conflicts of interest were announced.

Action:

The agenda was approved

02 BM 19/953 Quorum

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

Action:

The Board noted quorum with four board members present.

03 BM 19/954

Approval of the Minutes from the Board meeting 23 September 2019

The Board has had the chance before the meeting to make corrections and changes to the minutes. No further modifications were suggested.

Action:

The minutes were approved.

04 BM 19/955

Accounts per October 2019

Mikael Heimonen presented the accounts pr 31.10.2019. Most activities have been carried out according to plan. The only deviations from the budget are, as reported in the semi-annual report to NCM, the funding of 5 MNOK budgeted for Open Access, and 17 MNOK budgeted for Nordic Research Infrastructure Hubs, that will be transferred to 2020.

Action:

The Board was notified

05 BM 19/956

Expression of Interest: Nordic call on Personalised medicine

Arne Flåøyen presented an Expression of Interest (EoI) to establish a Nordic call on personalised medicine research, submitted by the Swedish Research Council with support from the Academy of Finland, and the Research Council of Norway. The total commitment from these agencies is approximately 27 MNOK. The Icelandic Centre for Research RANNIS and Novo Nordisk have also been invited to join the initiative. The EoI satisfies all the requirements set out in Open Invitation.

Action:

The Board decided to support the establishment of a Nordic call on Personalised Medicine research. The Board decided to redistribute the allocation to Open Science activities (5 MNOK in the 2020 budget) to be included in this call. The Board decided that the call is handled as part of the Nordic Health and Welfare programme, and that a Call-specific committee will be appointed by the NordForsk director.

06 BM 19/957

Budget with actions 2020

Arne Flåøyen presented the NordForsk budget and action plan for 2020. The call on interdisciplinary research with deadline in November 2019, received 337 applications, which will result in a low success rate. The administration will work to find more additional national funding for this call, and it is suggested to allocate an additional 8 MNOK to the call.

Action:

The Board approved the budget 2020. The Board was notified of the Action Plan 2020.

07 BM 19/958

Open invitation: status, long-term financial prognosis, and further development

Arne Flåøyen presented the status for Open invitation and the long-term financial prognosis. The administration had prepared a discussion on the further development of the Open invitation mechanism and a suggestion for a strategy for selecting/prioritising new programmes. The Board discussed the suggested strategy.

Action:

The Board was notified of the status and the long-term prognosis. The Board decided that Nordic Added Value should be the main criteria in the evaluation of Expressions of Interest. The Board asked the administration to revise the strategy for prioritisation.

08 BM 19/959

ERC alumni

Arne Flåøyen informed that NordForsk has been contacted by the Office of the President of the European Research Council (ERC) regarding the possibility of hosting the secretariat of the Nordic branch of the ERC grantees alumni organization.

Action:

The Board was positive to this initiative and asked the administration to continue the dialogue and return to the Board with more information when this is available.

09 BM 19/960

NOS-HS

Arne Flåøyen presented the plans for transferring the secretariat for NOS-HS from the Academy of Finland to NordForsk. The Director and NOS-HS has agreed that NordForsk will undertake the responsibility of providing a secretariat for NOS-HS from 1 January 2022.

Action:

The Board was notified.

10 BM 19/961

Nordic collaboration on Research Statistics - Terms of reference

Arne Flåøyen presented the plans for the establishment of a Nordic collaboration on research statistics. The Board discussed the suggested Terms of reference and noted that the group after it has been appointed should discuss the need for relevant adjustments.

Action:

The Board approved the suggested Terms of reference. The Board members will nominate national representatives to the group.

11 BM 19/962

Funding decision: Nordic Green Growth

Marianne Aastebøl Minge presented the issue. In order to distribute the remaining funding in the Nordic Green Growth programme, a call targeted towards collaboration activities between the funded projects was issued in August 2019 with deadline of 24 October 2019. After peer-review, two projects were recommended for funding.

Action:

The Board decided to fund two collaboration projects under the Nordic Green Growth Programme:

- **97329: Green Growth Policy Mixes with up to 3 MNOK**
- **97406: CONNECT4GREENTECH with up to 3 MNOK**

12 BM 19/963

Estonian Membership in NeIC

Arne Flåøyen presented the issue. Plans for Estonian participation in NeIC activities has gradually increased since 2017 and has been recognized as mutually positive. In their meeting

in March 2018, the NeIC Board recommended ETAIS to move forward with the application to the Estonian Research Council for funding for a NeIC membership. This funding has now been granted and forms a basis for the formal application from the Estonian Research Council. The Board of NeIC recommended in their meeting on 13 December 2019 to approve the Estonian application.

Action:

The Board approved the application from the Estonian Research Council for membership in NeIC

13 BM 19/964

Canada as a potential cooperation partner in Nordic Programmes

Arne Flåøyen presented the issue. Ted Hewitt (president of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada) and Ursula Gobel (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada) presented the Canadian view on future cooperation between the Nordic countries and Canada.

Action:

The Board is positive to explore the possibility for more cooperation with Canada, with NordForsk as a facilitator. The cooperation should include joint calls using a virtual pot model. The Board asked the administration to continue the dialogue with the Canadian funding agencies to find possible themes for joint calls.

14 BM 19/965

Results from the Nordic Commons project initiated under the Norwegian Presidency of the NCM 2017

The Nordic Commons project has been managed by an independent expert group on health data chaired by Professor Juni Palmgren of at Karolinska Institutet. The work is a continuation of the previous work by Palmgren (NordForsk Policy Paper 2/2017), in which the concept of a Nordic Commons for health data was launched. Professor Palmgren presented the recommendations of the expert group including potential actions directed towards Nordic funders of research and digital infrastructure.

Action:

The Board discussed the report "A Vision for a Nordic Commons on Health Data" and its recommendations for future activities targeting Nordic health data cooperation, and the further dissemination of the results. The Board was very pleased with the report, and suggested that it should be presented to NordHorcs in their next meeting.

15 BM 19/966

Nordic Research Infrastructure Cooperation Committee: status

Maria Nilsson presented the status for the work of the Nordic Research Infrastructure Cooperation Committee. The Committee will make recommendations for funding of the Research Infrastructure Hubs in at the next Board meeting. A meeting for Nordic infrastructure managers will be held in May 2020.

Action:

The Board was notified.

16 BM 19/967

Collaboration between NordForsk and Japan: status

Arne Flåøyen presented the status for the collaboration between Japan and NordForsk. The Board was positive to the progress of the work.

Action:
The Board was notified.

17 BM 19/968

Revision of NordForsk funding guidelines

Marianne Aastebøl Minge presented the revised NordForsk funding guidelines. The document will be revised annually.

Action:
The Board was notified.

18 BM 19/969

NordForsk new webpages - update

Mia Smeds gave an update on the progress for the new NordForsk webpages, which will be launched in March 2020.

Action:
The Board was notified.

19 BM 19/970

Information from the Nordic Council of Ministers

Daniel Holmberg informed that the Nordic Cooperation Bodies will be transferred to NordForsk from 2021. He also informed about the ongoing work on the new vision for the Nordic cooperation.

Action:
The Board was notified.

20 BM 19/971

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.

21 BM 19/972

Information about Director's Decisions

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

Action:
The Board was notified.

22 BM 19/973

Information from the Administration

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

Action:
The Board was notified.

23 BM 19/974

Information from Board members and observers

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

Action:
The Board was notified.

24 BM 19/975

Any other business

No other business was brought up at the meeting.