

## Minutes from NordForsk 59th Board meeting Helsinki, Finland, 22 March 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)              |
| Helgadóttir, Ragnhildur | Science and Technology Policy Council of Iceland |

#### Observers and guests:

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Hakala, Johanna    | The Academy of Finland                       |
| Holmberg, Daniel   | Nordic Council of Ministers                  |
| Nilsen, Tor Martin | NordForsk Secretariat (staff representative) |
| Sølvará, Annika    | The Faroese Research Council                 |

#### Not present:

|                        |                             |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Majjala, Riitta        | Academy of Finland          |
| Springfeldt, Christina | Nordic Council of Ministers |

Representatives from Åland and Greenland were not present. New representatives will be appointed during spring 2019.

#### Present from the NordForsk Secretariat:

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

#### 01 BM 19/915 Approval of the Agenda. Any conflict of interest to be announced

The Chair opened the meeting.

#### Action:

The agenda was approved

#### 02 BM 19/916 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 19/917

### **Approval and signing of the Minutes from the Board meeting 13 December 2018**

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 19/918

### **NordHorcs-NordForsk meeting 21 March 2019 – follow-up**

The Board discussed the NordHorcs-NordForsk joint meeting.

**Action:**

**The Board emphasised that they are very pleased with the growing maturity of the collaboration between the NordForsk Board and NordHorcs, and their valuable input to the discussions of the NordForsk Board.**

05 BM 19/919

### **NordForsk Annual report and Annual accounts**

Arne Flåøyen presented the report and the accounts. NordForsk submitted the Annual Report with Annual Accounts to the Nordic Council of Ministers on 15 February 2019.

**Action:**

**The Board approved the NordForsk Annual report and Annual accounts 2018.**

06 BM 19/920

### **Financial prognosis 2019-2024 and status for Open Invitation**

Mikael Heimonen presented the financial long-term prognosis. All available funds for 2019 and 2020 has now been allocated to new programmes and initiatives. For 2021, 9.9 MNOK is not yet allocated. Arne Flåøyen presented the status for the instrument Open Invitation.

**Action:**

**The Board was notified. The Board asked the administration to prepare a list of other possible adjustments to improve the Open Invitation mechanism to be discussed at the next NordForsk Board meeting. The main goal is to allow NordForsk to make more long-term strategical decisions regarding funding of new programmes. The list should include a change of the procedure of the NordForsk allocation of funds to new initiatives from four times a year, to only once a year.**

07 BM 19/921

### **Distribution of NordForsk contribution under the Open Invitation mechanism**

Arne Flåøyen presented the issue, and invited the Board to discuss the distribution of NordForsk funding in NordForsk programmes with a virtual common pot funding model. A central question for the Board is if NordForsk contribution should be available also for gap filling to countries outside the Nordics? If yes, should there be any limits to how much countries outside the Nordics can receive in such gap filling contribution?

**Action:**

**The Board discussed the questions. The Board decided that non-Nordic countries participating in a NordForsk Programme should not receive NordForsk funding. When non-Nordic countries participate in NordForsk programmes, their contribution should be administered as virtual common pot. The administration should negotiate the possibility of a financial contribution to the NordForsk administration from the non-Nordic countries participating in NordForsk Programmes.**

08 BM 19/922

**Expression of interest: Nordic research and innovation programme for sustainable aquaculture**

Arne Flåøyen presented an Expression of Interest (EoI) to establish a Nordic programme on critical aspects in developing a sustainable aquaculture, submitted by the Innovation Fund Denmark with support from Aquaculture Research Station of the Faroes, the Swedish Research Council FORMAS, the Icelandic Centre for Research and Ministry of Industries and Innovation, the Innovation Fund Denmark, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland, and the Research Council of Norway. The total commitment from these agencies is 48.3- 53.3 MNOK. The call will use the virtual common pot model for funding.

**Action:**

**The Board decided to support the Nordic research and innovation programme for sustainable aquaculture up to 1/3 of the total budget, corresponding to a maximum of 26.7 MNOK. Spending is expected to be in 2021.**

**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 19/923

**Nordic Research Infrastructure Hubs**

In their meeting in December 2018, 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 (see 13 BM 18/909). Arne Flåøyen presented a suggested framework.

**Action:**

**The Board decided to fund the initiative Nordic Research Infrastructure Hubs with 17 MNOK. The funding will be dependent on the participating universities, universities of applied sciences, university colleges, and research institutes to contribute resources equalling twice the amount of funding from NordForsk.**

10 BM 19/924

**NordForsk Communication strategy**

Mia Smeds presented the new NordForsk Communication strategy.

**Action:**

**The Board was notified.**

11 BM 19/925

**NordForsk at AAAS and how to follow up**

Arne Flåøyen presented experiences from the AAAS meeting. NordForsk attended the American Association for Advances Science's conference in Washington DC in February 2019 with a 90 minutes session with the following title: Nordic Registers and Biobanks: A Goldmine for Precision Medicine Research. A side event was organized by the Nordic Embassies in the USA in collaboration with NordForsk. About 40 people were gathered at the House of Sweden and around 25 of these participated actively in a round table discussion (3 tables) on precision medicine and the use of register data.

**Action:**

The Board discussed the possible role of NordForsk in future US-Nordic research and innovation collaboration within precision medicine and other fields where Nordic register data can be used. The Board decided that NordForsk should not follow up these discussions at the moment.

12 BM 19/926

**New member of the Nordic Research Infrastructure Cooperation Committee**

Arne Flåøyen presented the a new candidate for the committee. Asbjørn Mo, the Research Council of Norway, has resigned from the Committee, and the Research Council of Norway has nominated Solveig Flock to replace Mo as the Norwegian member.

**Action:**

The Board appointed Solveig Flock, the Research Council of Norway, as new member of the Nordic Research Infrastructure Cooperation Committee.

13 BM 19/927

**Board meetings 2019**

The Board meetings for 2019 were discussed.

**Action:**

The Board decided to cancel the meeting in June. The date for the NordHorcs-NordForsk joint meeting, and NordForsk Board meeting in September/October will be set as soon as possible. There will be a Board meeting 12 December 2019 in Stockholm or Copenhagen.

14 BM 19/928

**Information from the Nordic Council of Ministers**

Daniel Holmberg informed that Paula Lehtomäki has started as Secretary General in the Nordic Council of Ministers from March 18. The Council of Minsters have had negotiations with the Cooperation bodies, and a report will be published in the near future.

**Action:**

The Board was notified.

15 BM 19/929

**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.**

16 BM 19/930

**Information about Director's Decisions**

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

**Action:**

The Board was notified.

17 BM 19/931

**Information from the Secretariat**

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

**Action:**

The Board was notified.

**18 BM 19/932**

**Information from Board members and observers**

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

**Action:**

**The Board was notified.**

**19 BM 19/933**

**Any other business**

No other business was brought up at the meeting.