

Minutes from NordForsk 60th Board meeting Stockholm, Sweden, 23 September 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:

Holmberg, Daniel	Nordic Council of Ministers
Nilsson, Maria	NordForsk Administration (staff representative)
Sølvará, Annika	The Faroese Research Council

Not present:

Maijala, Riitta	Academy of Finland
Springfeldt, Christina	Nordic Council of Ministers

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

Present from the NordForsk Administration:

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

01 BM 19/934

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 19/935

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 19/936

Approval and signing of the Minutes from the Board meeting 22 March 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 19/937

Report to the NCM for the first half of the year and accounts per June 2019

Arne Flåøyen presented the half-year report submitted to NCM.

Action:

The Board was notified

05 BM 19/938

Status for Open invitation, and financial long-term prognosis

Arne Flåøyen presented the status for Open invitation initiatives. Three initiatives are currently in pipeline. The financial long-term prognosis shows that all available funds for 2020 have been allocated to new programmes and initiatives. For 2021, 9.9 MNOK is not yet allocated.

Action:

The Board was notified. The Board asked the administration to prepare a discussion on the further development of the Open invitation mechanism and a suggestion for a strategy for selecting/prioritising new programmes at the next meeting.

06 BM 19/939

NordForsk Portfolio-analysis – follow up

In order to learn more about the research funded by NordForsk, NordForsk decided to carry out a portfolio analysis, in which the NordForsk funded research has been evaluated and mapped. The NordForsk portfolio analysis was presented at the NordForsk-NordHorscs-meeting.

Action:

The Board discussed the portfolio analysis, suggested revisions to the report and gave input to the dissemination of the results. The Board also suggested two versions of the report, one for internal strategic work and one for external communication.

07 BM 19/940

NordForsk collaboration outside the Nordic region

Arne Flåøyen presented a tentative Action Plan for NordForsk collaboration outside the Nordic Region. The Action plan will help the administration to organize and follow up on these collaborations.

Action:

The Board discussed and gave input to the Action plan for NordForsk collaboration outside the Nordic Region. The principles of the Action plan will be included in the NordForsk funding guidelines.

08 BM 19/941

NOS-HS

Arne Flåøyen presented different alternatives for how NordForsk can undertake a possible responsibility for providing a secretariat for NOS-HS. The question was also discussed at the preceding NordHorcs-NordForsk meeting.

Action:

The Board discussed the issue, and decided to recommend alternative 2: NOS-HS can act as a permanent programme committee with yearly funding directly from the national research funders. Calls will be developed and launched by the call committee in collaboration with the NordForsk administration, without a financial contribution from NordForsk. The proposals will be subject to rigorous peer-review process in line with international best practice, presented to the call committee which prioritises the proposals and recommends which proposals should be funded. The final funding decision lies with the NordForsk Board.

The NordForsk director will present this to NOS-HS in late October.

09 BM 19/942

Nordic Collaboration on Research Statistics

Arne Flåøyen presented the plans for a Nordic collaboration on Research Statistics.

Action:

The Board approved the plan as outlined at the NordHorcs-meeting: NordForsk should ask for nominations for candidates to join a group that will work with existing Nordic research data. NordForsk should draft a Terms of Reference (ToR) for the group, and report back to NordHorcs about the development of their work and the ToR at the next NordHorcs-meeting.

10 BM 19/943

NordForsk Webproject – update

Mia Smeds presented the status for the NordForsk web project.

Action:

The Board was notified. The Board asked for a new status update and the possibility to provide their comment to the web pages at the next meeting in December.

11 BM 19/944

Status for the calls under the Urban Development Programme and the Migration Programme

Arne Flåøyen presented the status for the calls under the Urban Development Programme and the Migration Programme. The funding decisions are expected to be finalized at least five weeks before the next NordForsk Board meeting, and will hence be made by the Chair and Vice-Chair on delegation from the Board.

Action:

The Board was notified.

12 BM 19/945

NordForsk 15-year anniversary

Arne Flåøyen presented the plans for a 15-year anniversary in 2020.

Action:

The Board discussed the issue. The NordForsk administration welcome any ideas from the NordForsk Board.

13 BM 19/946

Information from the Nordic Council of Ministers

Daniel Holmberg informed that the Nordic Council of Ministers have formulated a new vision.

Action:
The Board was notified.

14 BM 19/947

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.

15 BM 19/948

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 19/949

Information from the Administration

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

Action:
The Board was notified.

17 BM 19/950

Information from Board members and observers

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

Action:
The Board was notified.

18 BM 19/951

Any other business

No other business was brought up at the meeting.