

Minutes from NordForsk Extraordinary Board meeting Zoom meeting, 2 April 2020

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:

Begtrup, Jens	NordForsk Administration (staff representative)
Lassen, David Dreyer (Item 3)	Independent Research Fund Denmark
Hakala, Johanna	Academy of Finland
Holmberg, Daniel	Nordic Council of Ministers
Mattila, Johanna	Åland University of Applied Sciences
Sølvará, Annika	The Faroese Research Council
Reimer, Gitte Adler	University of Greenland

Not present:

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

Present from the NordForsk Administration:

Flåøyen, Arne
Heimonen, Mikael
Herou, Anna (Item 3)
Minge, Marianne Aastebøl (Minutes)

01 BM 20/976 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 20/977 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 five board members present.

03 BM 20/978

Additional funding – Nordic call for interdisciplinary research projects

Arne Flåøyen and Programme Committee Chair David Dreyer Lassen presented the results from the first phase of the Nordic call for interdisciplinary research projects. The NordForsk administration works to find additional funding from the national funders, and the Research Council of Norway has suggested three alternatives for additional funding from the national research funding organisations.

Action:

The Board decided to allocate the financial result from 2019 (8 MNOK) to the Nordic call on Interdisciplinary research, dependent on additional funding from the national funders in accordance with the principle of 1/3 co-funding from NordForsk. The Board asked the administration to contact the Nordic research funders and NordHorscs to inform about the new contributions to the programme, and to continue the dialogue regarding additional national funding.

04 BM 20/979

Additional funding - Nordic call on Personalised medicine

Arne Flåøyen presented the issue. The Nordic eScience Globalisation Initiative has come to its final stage as the funded activities are, or will soon be, finalised. 12 MNOK of the programme budget has not yet been spent. The NeGI steering group recommend to redistribute these funds to the Nordic call on Personalised medicine, to strengthen the Open science activities. Arne Flåøyen also presented a suggestion to change the topic for the call from Personalised medicine to a Covid-19 focus.

Action:

The Board decided to redistribute the remaining funds from the NeGI-programme (12 MNOK) to be included in the Nordic call on Personalised Medicine research. The total amount of NordForsk funding cannot be more than 1/3 of the total budget for the call. The Board supported a change of topic for the call, to a Covid-19 focus. The Board asked the administration to get the change of topic approved by the funders of the programme.

05 BM 20/980

NordForsk initiative on Green Transition

Arne Flåøyen presented a proposal sent to the national research performing organisations regarding a new cross-cutting research and innovation programme on green transition. The proposed programme would be a contribution to the new vision of the Nordic council of ministers.

Action:

The Board discussed the proposed new initiative on Green transition, and they expressed a positive view on such a programme. The Board asked the administration to call for a meeting with the relevant actors in the Nordic research councils for further discussions.

06 BM 20/981

New call within the Nordic Societal Security Programme on pandemic preparedness

Arne Flåøyen presented a proposed new research initiative on pandemic preparedness under the Nordic Societal Security Programme.

Action:

The Board approved that NordForsk can contact the national funders of research, national societal security organisations and the Nordic Council of Ministers and ask for financial contribution to a new call on pandemic preparedness with Nordic perspectives based on the Covid-19 experience on crisis preparedness, management, responses, communication and international collaboration.

07 BM 20/982

Nordic Council of Ministers, Budget 2021

Daniel Holmberg gave information about the current work on the budget in the Nordic Council of Ministers.

Action:

The Board was notified.

08 BM 20/983

Information about NordForsk and the Covid-19 situation

Arne Flåøyen presented how the covid19 situation is handled in the NordForsk administration and the Nordic center in Oslo.

Action:

The Board was notified.