

Minutes from NordForsk 65th Board meeting Zoom-meeting, 25 March 2021, 12:00 – 16:00 CET

Present:

Board Members:

Björck, Jonas	The Swedish Research Council Forte (Chair)
Danielsen, Kristin	The Research Council of Norway (until 13:00)
Haanes, Vidar	Nordic University Cooperation (NUS)
Helgadóttir, Ragnhildur	Science and Technology Policy Council of Iceland
Mogensen, Johnny	Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Sciences
Vauhkonen, Jussi	Academy of Finland

Observers and guests:

Christiansen, Julie	The Research Council of Norway
Herou, Anna	NordForsk Administration (staff representative)
Sølvará, Annika	The Faroese Research Council
Mattila, Johanna	Åland University of applied sciences
Waller, Jonas	Nordic Council of Ministers

Not present:

Springfeldt, Christina	Nordic Council of Ministers
Adler Reimer, Gitte	University of Greenland

Present from the NordForsk Administration:

Flåøyen, Arne
Aanes, Guttorm
Heimonen, Mikael
Minge, Marianne Aastebøl (Minutes)
Bjarnar, Siri
Aurstad, Bodil (Item 8)
Høst, Gudmund (Item 7)

01 BM 21/1036

Approval of the Agenda. Any conflict of interest to be announced

The Chair opened the meeting. No conflicts of interest were noted. Kristin Danielsen informed that she had to leave the meeting at 13:00, and the board decided to discuss Item 13 before this.

Action:

The agenda was approved.

02 BM 21/1037

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 all members present for Item 1-5 and 13, and five members for Item 6-12, and 14-18.

03 BM 21/1038

Approval of the minutes from the Board meetings on 11 December 2020

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 21/1039

NordForsk Annual report and Annual accounts 2020

Arne Flåøyen presented the annual report and accounts. The report show that the expectations as described in the regulation letter from the Nordic Council of ministers have been fulfilled.

Action:

The Board approved the Annual Report 2020 and the annual accounts.

05 BM 21/1040

Financial prognosis 2021-2024 and status for Open Invitation

Arne Flåøyen presented the financial prognosis for 2022-2024. The funding from the Nordic Council of Ministers is expected to be reduced, but it is currently unclear how large this reduction will be for NordForsk. No new Expressions of interest were submitted in 2020, but several initiatives are currently in pipeline for a possible submission in 2021.

Action:

The Board was notified.

06 BM 21/1041

Revision of the NordForsk strategy 2019-2022

Arne Flåøyen informed of the status for the strategy, addressing how the COVID-19 pandemic and the new vision for the Nordic Council of ministers will influence the fulfilment of the strategy.

Action:

The Board discussed the strategy and decided that no substantial changes are needed before the development of the new strategy for the period 2023-2026. Themes that should be discussed as preparations for this revision is Open Access and Plan S, ethical standards including responsible research and evaluation and diversity, as well as cooperation with non-Nordic countries.

07 BM 21/1042

Future funding of Nordic e-Infrastructure Collaboration, NeIC

Arne Flåøyen presented the item. The current contract between NordForsk and NeIC expires in 2022, and NeIC has approached NordForsk with an Expression of Interest (EoI) asking for funding for five new years starting in 2023.

Action:

The Board noted that NeIC is a strategically important collaborator. Before taking a decision on future funding, the Board asked the administration to coordinate an evaluation of NeIC on how they have contributed scientifically and to create Nordic added value. The Nordic Research Infrastructure Cooperation Committee should issue an external evaluation and, on that basis, make a recommendation to the Board. The Board

also expects the national funders to clarify their commitment to further funding. The Board decided to prolong the current agreement with NelC until 31.12.2023.

08 BM 21/1043

Evaluation of NordForsk 2022

Arne Flåøyen presented the status and background for the upcoming evaluation of NordForsk, including possible issues of interest, and suggested main milestones and a timetable.

Action:

The Board discussed the issues of interest and the milestones and suggested some modifications to the draft document (annex 1). The Board asked the NordForsk administration to forward the Board's advice to the Nordic Council of Ministers secretariat, and to enter into a dialogue on the evaluation process as well as the mandate for the evaluation.

09 BM 21/1044

Mobilising the Nordics – status

Arne Flåøyen presented the status for Mobilising the Nordics. The work is running as planned.

Action:

The Board was notified.

10 BM 21/1045

Nordic Commons – status

Arne Flåøyen and Jonas Waller informed that NordForsk had received a regulation letter from the Nordic Council of Ministers regarding the project Nordic Commons. The project will receive 22 MDKK over 4 years.

Action:

The Board was notified.

11 BM 21/1046

Appointment of new Chair for the Nordic-UK Integration and migration Programme

Arne Flåøyen presented the item. The former Chair Maria Lähteenmäki has resigned from the Committee.

Action:

The Board appointed Gunnlaug Daugstad as Chair of the Programme Committee for the Joint Nordic-UK Research programme on Migration and Integration.

12 BM 21/1047

Appointment new Chair for the Nordic Programme for Interdisciplinary Research

Arne Flåøyen presented the item. The former Chair David Dreyer Lassen has resigned from the Committee.

Action:

The Board appointed Jan Philip Solovej as new Chair of the Programme Committee for the Nordic Programme for Interdisciplinary Research

- 13 BM 21/1048 NordForsk Director, extension of contract (Board members only)**
- The Board members discussed the item without representatives from NordForsk administration present. The current 4-year contract with the NordForsk director ends 31.12.2021.
- Action:**
The Board expressed their support to prolong the contract with the NordForsk director with 4 years from 2022, and will forward this to the secretariat of the Nordic Council of Ministers. The Board decided to establish an annual evaluation of the Director and the administration.
- 14 BM 21/1049 Information from the Nordic Council of Ministers**
- Jonas Waller informed that the NCM will start a new cooperation with civil society and NGOs, and the members of the NordForsk Board are invited to suggest possible collaborators.
- Action:**
The Board was notified.
- 15 BM 21/1050 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 21/1051 Information from the Administration**
- The information was presented in writing in the documentation to the Board meeting.
- Action:**
The Board was notified.
- 17 BM 21/1052 Information from Board members and observers**
- The Board members gave a short update from their respective country/organisation.
- Action:**
The Board was notified.
- 18 BM 21/1053 Any other business**
- No other business was brought up at the meeting.