

Meeting Minutes

NordForsk 77th Board Meeting

10 June 2024, 14:00-15:00

Teams

Present:

Board Members

Björck, Jonas	Swedish Research Council Forte (Chair)
Risom, Jesper	Independent Research Fund Denmark (Vice Chair)
Vauhkonen, Jussi	Research Council of Finland
Jónsdóttir, Guðbjörg Andrea	Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation, Iceland
Vistad, Rune	Research Council of Norway
Hagfeldt, Anders	Nordic University Cooperation (NUS)
Sølvará, Annika	Faroese Research Council
Mattila, Johanna	Åland University of applied sciences (observer)
Halgrimsen, Håkon	Nordic Council of Ministers' secretariat (observer)

NordForsk Administration

Arne Flåøyen, Bjørnar Komissar, Mikael Heimonen, Guttorm Aanes, Bodil Aurstad, Siri Bjarnar (minutes)

Opening of the meeting

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

01 BM 24/1230 Approval of the agenda. Any conflict of interest to be announced

Guðbjörg Andrea Jónsdóttir had reported a potential conflict of interest prior to the meeting. It concerned proposal 181578 to the Green Transition call, *Land use justice for green transitions*, in which Sóllilja Bjarnadóttir is a participating researcher. Jónsdóttir and Bjarnadóttir published together in 2021. The meeting was informed that Jónsdóttir would leave the room before the funding decision on Green Transition. No other conflicts of interest were noted.

The following issues were added to the agenda point 8 on any other business: Process for recruiting a new NordForsk director, and status of recently closed calls.

Action: The agenda was approved.

02 BM 24/1231 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.

03 BM 24/1232 Approval of the minutes from the Board meeting 19 March 2024

The Board had received written draft minutes with the possibility to suggest revisions prior to the meeting. No revisions were suggested.

Action: The Board approved the minutes.

04 BM 24/1233 Funding Decision on proposals to the call on Green Transition

The Board was reminded of the background of the initiative and informed about the call process and results. The applications rated 7 (outstanding) and 6 (excellent) by four international peer review panels had been discussed by the call committee, who made their assessment of the proposals' contribution to call aims and Nordic-Baltic added value. The call committee has recommended the Board to fund 10 applications, which they deem to make up a portfolio that is highly relevant and with great potential to create Nordic-Baltic added value.

Guðbjörg Andrea Jónsdóttir left the room prior to the decision on this item due to conflict of interest.

Action: The Board decides to fund the following 10 research projects under the Green Transition Call:

- 179438 Energy efficient and resilient food production system: using hydrogen-oxidizing bacteria to convert CO₂ to protein, with up to NOK 13 207 801.
- 180898 COLD-ADAPTED BIOREFINERY CONCEPT FOR ENERGY EFFICIENT AND CARBON NEUTRAL VALORIZATION OF WASTE FROM FOOD SYSTEMS, with up to NOK 12 723 232.
- 181319 Green nitrogen transition: The potential of legumes in control environment agriculture, with up to NOK 10 028 011.
- 181659 Green Hydrogen and Platform Chemicals from Agricultural Residues, with up to NOK 10 955 489.
- 180198 Gendered norms and practices in Nordic and Baltic Climate Policy Institutions: implication for the Climate Transition, with up to NOK 13 937 395.
- 176218 Sámi democratic engagement in the energy transition: advancing justice, legitimacy and participatory governance, with up to NOK 14 999 502.
- 181118 Transformative environmental justice, with up to NOK 14 958 523.
- 181343 Legitimacy and Acceleration in Green Energy Initiatives and Transitions, with up to NOK 14 652 061.
- 181578 Land use justice for green transitions, with up to NOK 14 999 763.
- 181638 Energy Lives! Infrastructural Citizenship in Nordic Energy Transitions, with up to NOK 12 629 823.

The decision is dependent on the funding decisions by the national research councils co-funding the call.

o5 BM 24/1234 Audit of NordForsk 2023 by the office of the Auditor General of Norway

The Auditor General of Norway issued an audit report based on NordForsk's annual accounts for 2023. There were no remarks in the audit report. The report was sent to the Nordic Council of Ministers in May 2024, and can be found in the board's Teams room.

Action: The Board was notified.

o6 BM 24/1235 Status MoU Tier-1

The current MoU for Nordic e-Infrastructure Collaboration (NeIC), including their role in coordinating the Nordic Tier-1 collaboration, expires end of 2024. The Board was informed of the ongoing dialogue between NordForsk and the national research funding agencies through the Nordic Research Infrastructure Co-operation Committee (NRICC).

Action: The director informed the board of the status of the process. The board agreed to revisit this item in the October meeting.

o7 BM 24/1236 Process for electing Chair and Vice-Chair of the NordForsk Board

The mandate period of Jonas Björck as chairperson of the NordForsk board expires 30.11.2024. The board must elect a new chair and vice-chair at the board meeting October 24th, 2024.

Action: The Board agreed that the board members Rune Vistad and Guðbjörg Andrea Jónsdóttir will organise a process for electing the next chair and vice-chair of the board.

o8 BM 24/1237 Any other business

Two additional information points were added to the agenda:

- The administration informed the board of the **status of the three calls that recently closed**: *Sustainable Development of the Arctic (pre-proposals)*, *Sustainable Fisheries from Healthy Seas*, and *Research projects under the Nordic-Baltic initiative for migration and integration research*.
- Håkon Halgrimsen from Nordic Council of Ministers' secretariat (NMRS) informed about the **process for recruiting a new director of NordForsk**, since current director Flåøyen's mandate period expires end of 2025. According to the institutional handbook for the Nordic Council of Ministers, the NordForsk Board has the main responsibility, but the final decision is to be made by the Nordic Committee of Senior Officials for Education and Research (EK-U) upon the Secretary General's recommendation. The NMRS will inform the board as the process proceeds and the board will discuss how to organise the process in the October meeting.