

Meeting Minutes NordForsk 80th Board Meeting

March 6th, 2025, 13:00-14:00 CET, Online Teams meeting

Present:

Board Members

Risom, Jesper	Independent Research Fund Denmark (Chair)
Vauhkonen, Jussi	Research Council of Finland
Jónsdóttir, Guðbjörg Andrea	Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation, Iceland (absent item 8)
Sølvará, Annika	Faroese Research Council (Vice Chair)
Hagfeldt, Anders	Nordic University Cooperation (NUS)
Nygård, Bo	Local Government of Åland, Department of Education and Culture (observer)
Halgrimsen, Håkon	Nordic Council of Ministers' secretariat (observer)

NordForsk Administration: Arne Flåøyen, Bjørnar Komissar (staff representative), Mikael Heimonen, Guttorm Aanes, Bodil Aurstad, Siri Bjarnar (minutes)

Apologies: Rune Vistad, Research Council of Norway

01 BM 25/1273 Approval of the agenda. Any conflict of interest to be announced

The chair opened the meeting and asked if there were any suggested changes in the agenda or conflicts of interest that had not been reported prior to the meeting.

Action: The agenda was approved, and the meeting confirmed no conflicts of interest.

02 BM 25/1274 Quorum

The Board has quorum when at least 50% of the board members are present. The Board noted quorum with all but one member present at the meeting and no conflicts of interests concerning the funding decision (agenda item 3).

Action: Quorum was confirmed.

03 BM 25/1275 Funding Decision Sustainable Development of the Arctic

The board was reminded of the background of the initiative and informed about the 2-step call process and the results.

The call committee has recommended the board to fund 9 applications which have been rated as outstanding (grade 7, one application) or excellent (grade 6, eight applications). The call committee recommendation was based on the scientific quality as assessed by the expert panels and thereafter the aim to fund as many proposals as possible.

The committee found that the portfolio of recommended projects answers the call aims in an excellent manner. They cover a diverse array of topics relating to climate change and the consequences for nature and biodiversity as well as Arctic communities. The projects address these challenges through interdisciplinary approaches and integrating the perspectives of Indigenous peoples.

Funding eight projects would leave a significant amount of the call budget unspent. To fund the ninth recommended project, however, additional funding was needed, as explained in the meeting documentation. The NordForsk administration had suggested to the board to spend remaining funds from the two initiatives *Sustainable Fisheries from Healthy Seas* and *Green Transition*, as well as residual funds from ended initiatives, to fund the ninth project, as recommended by the call committee.

Action

The board first decided to fund the following eight research projects under the Sustainable Development of the Arctic Call:

- ID 212600, Sustainable Human Use of the Marine Environment, with up to NOK 23 178 264
- ID 213038, Addressing Unavoidable Non-Economic Losses to Climate-Induced Events for Communities in the Arctic, with up to NOK 24 000 000
- ID 213221, Arctic freshwater food systems: Influence of warming winters and increased snow cover, with up to NOK 23 998 008
- ID 213638, Sustainable Multispecies Relations in the Arctic, with up to NOK 24 000 000
- ID 213799, Sustainable and Resilient Communities in remote settlements in the Arctic in the Age of Climate Change, with up to NOK 23 980 617
- ID 215521, Marine phycotoxins in the Arctic: an emerging climate change risk, with up to NOK 23 983 394
- ID 216938, Adapting Law for MOving Targets: Climate Change, Overtourism and Biodiversity in Indigenous Arctic National Parks, with up to NOK 23 996 756
- ID 217819, Responsible mine restoration - Integrating local engagement, ecology, and engineered solutions in arctic environment, with up to NOK 23 997 439

The board decided to support the proposal from the administration to use residual funds from other initiatives to fund the ninth project.

The board decided to fund the project:

- ID 217380, Critical minerals in the Arctic: Challenges and perspectives for the Nordic countries, with up to NOK 23 299 756

The decision regarding applications ID 212600, 213221, 213038, and 215521 are dependent on the funding decision by the New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF), taking place on March 18th, 2025.

The decision regarding application ID 217819 is dependent on the funding decision by the Swedish Research Council.

04 BM 25/1276

Any other business

The NordForsk director informed of the situation with registration of board members in the Norwegian "Brønnøysundregisteret" and that the board members will likely have to bring legal copies of the passports to the board meeting in Stockholm March 18-19 and to sign new registration forms.