

Meeting Minutes

NordForsk 83rd Board Meeting

October 15th, 2025, 08:30-12:00 CET

Meeting venue: Ministry of Culture, Innovation and Higher Education, Reykjastræti 8, Reykjavik

Board Members

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| Sølvará, Annika | Faroese Research Council (Acting Chair) |
| Brøkner, Cecilie | Innovation Fund Denmark (Teams) |
| Vauhkonen, Jussi | Research Council of Finland |
| Jónsdóttir, Guðbjörg Andrea | Ministry of Culture, Science and Higher Education, Iceland |
| Vistad, Rune | Research Council of Norway |
| Lindell, Johan | Swedish Research Council |

Halgrimsen, Håkon Nordic Council of Ministers' secretariat (observer)

NordForsk Administration: Arne Flåøyen, Bjørnar Komissar (staff representative), Mikael Heimonen, Guttorm Aanes, Kristin Andersen, Bodil Aurstad (secretary, minutes)

Apologies: Anders Hagfeldt, NUS, NordForsk Board, Bo Nygård, Government of Åland, NordForsk Board (observer), Petar Cavala, Nordic Council of Ministers' secretariat (observer)

- 01 BM 25/1305 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 25/1306 Quorum**
- The Board has quorum when at least 50% of the board members are present. The Board noted quorum with 6 out of 7 members present at the meeting.
- Action: Quorum was confirmed.**
- 03 BM 25/1307 Approval of the minutes from the Board meeting 3 June 2025**
- 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 25/1308 Report to the Nordic Council of Ministers for the first half of the year 2025**
- According to instructions from the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM) all Nordic institutions must submit a half year report. The report consists of two parts: accounts and comments to deviations from the plan.

The report was sent to the NCMS August 20th, 2025, and discussed at the formal dialogue meeting with the NCM secretariat on September 25th, 2025.

Action: The Board was informed.

05 BM 25/1309

Status Open Invitation, financial prognosis and audit

The Board was informed of the financial prognosis and the annual start-up meeting with the National Audit Office of Norway. The Board was informed of ongoing discussions on new initiatives.

Action: The Board was informed.

06 BM 25/1310

Funding Decision: Welfare among Children and Young People in the Post-Pandemic Nordics – collaboration projects

The Board was reminded of the background of the initiative and informed about the call process and the results. A reserve list in the event that additional funding would come available.

Based on the scientific review by the panel and the call committee's assessment of the projects' potential for Nordic added value and contribution to call aims, the call committee has recommended funding of two projects within the original budget of the call. In the event that additional funding would come available, or if one of the funded projects should decline the funding, the call committee suggested to keep the last project on a reserve list.

Action:

NordForsk Board decided to fund three projects under the Welfare among Children and Young People in the Post-Pandemic Nordics - collaboration projects (closed call). The Board decided to allocate NOK 1.3 million to the call, following the increased contribution of SEK 2.5 million to the call from Forte.

The NordForsk Board decided to fund the following three projects:

- ID# 232069, with up to NOK 3.997.143.
- ID# 230738, with up to NOK 3.996.332.
- ID# 233139, with up to NOK 3.990.571.

07 BM 25/1311

Expression of Interest: Disruptive technologies

The Board was reminded of the background and focus of the initiative.

Action: The NordForsk Board decided to support the call with up to NOK 79.4 million and a maximum of 1/3 of the total Nordic call budget. The Board delegated to the NordForsk director to decide on additional funding within the 1/3 limitation should the initiative raise more support from national research councils in the Nordic region.

08 BM 25/1312

Expression of Interest: Nordic-Baltic education systems and 21st century challenges

The Board was reminded of the background and focus of the initiative.

Action:

The Board decided to support the call with up to NOK 22,7 million and a maximum of 1/3 of the total Nordic call budget. The Board delegated to the NordForsk director to decide on additional funding within the 1/3 limitation should the initiative raise more support from national research funders in the Nordic region.

The Board delegated to the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board to formally appoint the Call Committee chairperson. The Director will appoint the Call Committee members based on nominations from the participating funding organisations.

09 BM 25/1313

Rapid call mechanism

The director gave a brief reminder of the information which was presented in writing in the documentation to the Board meeting.

Action: The NordForsk Board discussed the proposed principles for funding rapid calls and asked the Administration to further develop the principles for a rapid calls mechanism in line with the Board's discussion, to be presented at the March 2026 Board meeting.

10 BM 25/1314

NordForsk as host for NT1

The director gave a brief reminder of the information which was presented in writing in the documentation to the Board meeting.

Action: The NordForsk Board decided that for 2026, the model one was the preferred one and welcome the outcome of the upcoming evaluation for further guidance. Under the model one, NT1 remains under NordForsk's legal and financial responsibility, similar to the current arrangement.

11 BM 25/1315

Nordic Quantum technology research co-operation

The Board followed up on the discussions in the NORDHORCS and NordForsk Board Joint meeting October 14th, where Special Advisor Gudmund Høst at NordForsk presented the report [Nordic Quantum technology research co-operation](#).

Action: The NordForsk Board decided that

1. NordForsk establishes a joint Nordic working group on quantum technology with the composition described in the meeting documentation and following up on comments from the discussions.

2. The working group is mandated to propose concrete Nordic activities in quantum research and innovation, including possible joint calls and funding models. The NordForsk Board delegates to the Director to develop and decide the mandate for the working group.
3. The Administration is asked to report back to the Board and NORDHORCS with a status update from the working group by the next Joint meeting March 2026.

12 BM 25/1316

New cooperation programmes and work plans in the Nordic Council of ministers

Håkon Halgrimsen, Nordic Council of Ministers' secretariat (NCMS), gave an introduction to the new cooperation programmes and work plans in the Nordic Council of ministers.

Action: The Board discussed the new cooperation programmes and work plans in the Nordic Council of ministers with relevance to NordForsk.

13 BM 25/1317

Information from the Nordic Council of Ministers

Håkon Halgrimsen, secretariat of the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM), updated the Board on recent developments:

- NordForsk's new director Johnny K. Mogensen will start [1 February 2026](#).
- The Secretary General of the Nordic Council of Ministers has prolonged Arne Flåøyens's contract as director of NordForsk until 31 January 2026.

Action: The Board was informed.

14 BM 25/1318

Information about decisions per capsulam

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

Action: The Board was informed.

15 BM 25/1319

Information about Director's decisions

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

Action: The Board was informed.

16 BM 25/1320

Information from the Administration

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

Action: The Board was informed.

- 17 BM 25/1321** **Information from Board members and observers**
The Board members gave a short update from their respective country/organisation.
Action: The Board was informed.
- 18 BM 25/1322** **Any other business**
Annika Sølvará gave information on the Changing Currents - Understanding the Forces That Shape Our Region Conference to be held in Copenhagen December 4th
Action: The Board was informed.
- 19 BM 25/1323** **Election of NordForsk Board Chair**
The Board discussed the matter without the NordForsk administration present.

The Board elected Rune Vistad as chairperson for the next two years.

Even though this is not stated in any rules for NordForsk, there was an agreement, that the position as chair should rotate between the member countries after two years. The Board finds it important that all countries take their turn.
- 19 BM 25/1323** **Evaluation of the NordForsk Administration and Director**
The Board discussed the matter without the NordForsk administration present.