

Meeting Minutes

NordForsk 85th Board Meeting
March 6th, 2026, 09:00-12:30 CET
Meeting venue: Teams

Board Members

Vistad, Rune	Research Council of Norway (Chair)
Sølvará, Annika	Faroese Research Council (Vice Chair)
Brøkner, Cecilie	Innovation Fund Denmark
Vauhkonen, Jussi	Research Council of Finland
Jónsdóttir, Guðbjörg Andrea	Ministry of Culture, Science and Higher Education, Iceland
Lindell, Johan	Swedish Research Council
Hagfeldt, Anders	NUS
Nygård, Bo	Government of Åland (observer)
Cavala, Petar	Nordic Council of Ministers' secretariat (observer)
Halgrimsen, Håkon	Nordic Council of Ministers' secretariat (observer)

NordForsk Administration: Johnny K. Mogensen, Bjørnar Komissar (staff representative), Mikael Heimonen, Guttorm Aanes, Kristin Andersen, Bodil Aurstad (secretary, minutes)

Apologies:

- 01 BM 25/1340** **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 25/1341** **Quorum**
- The Board has quorum when at least 50% of the board members are present. The Board noted quorum with all members present at the meeting.
- Action: Quorum was confirmed.**
- 03 BM 25/1342** **Approval of the minutes from the Board meeting 28 November 2025**
- Draft minutes from NordForsk's 84th Board meeting were included in the meeting documentation.
- Action: The Board approved the minutes. The Administration informed the Board of a revised approval procedure for future minutes from upcoming meetings: draft minutes will be circulated shortly after each meeting for comments and thereafter approved in written or silence procedure.**

o4 BM 25/1343

NordForsk Annual Report and Annual Accounts 2025

The Board was reminded of the structure of the annual report concerning the basic funding and the commissions from the Nordic Council of Ministers. The report is structured according to instructions from the Nordic Council of Ministers Secretariat. The Board discussed the possibilities for more strategic analysis in future reporting, including clearer targets, benchmarking of operational efficiency, and more explicit linkage between objectives and results.

The Board was informed of the accounts for 2025. The main deviations were explained and justified in the documentation to the Board meeting.

After the Board has approved the annual report, the report will be digitally signed by the Board, and the signed report submitted to the Nordic Council of Ministers' Secretariat (NCMS).

Action: The Board approved the annual report and the annual accounts.

o5 BM 25/1344

Revised budget 2026, financial prognosis 2027-2030, and new topics under discussion

The Board was presented with an updated long-term prognosis, which is estimated based on the revised budget for 2026 and adjusted continuously in response to new financial agreements on co-funding of new calls and plans for spending.

The Board was informed of new topics or initiatives under discussion, as listed in the meeting documents, and how the NordForsk administration works to facilitate the discussion between funders. The Board raised that it could be valuable with a strategic discussion on how to balance or prioritise between several smaller initiatives and fewer, strategic efforts.

Action: The Board was informed of the revised budget for 2026, the long-term prognosis 2027-2030, the updated Action Plan 2026, and the grant letter for 2026. The Board approved the revised budget for 2026.

o6 BM 25/1345

Expression of Interest: Support for preparatory activities to build Nordic multistakeholder consortia targeting proposals for the EU co-funded Raw Materials Partnership and relevant EU calls

The Board was reminded of the background of the Expression of Interest and focus for the proposed call. The initiative involves Vinnova, Business Finland and the Research Council of Norway, and aligns with the upcoming EU co-funded Raw Materials Partnership (RAMP).

Action:

The Board decided to support the call with up to NOK 7.5 million and a maximum of 1/3 of the total Nordic call budget. The Board delegated to the Director to assess the cost/benefit of the chosen funding model. 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 Call Committee members based on nominations from participating funders.

07 BM 25/1346

Expression of Interest: Food Security

The Board was reminded of the background of the Expression of Interest and focus for the proposed call. The initiative has broad support among national funders and will complement previous NordForsk calls (i.e. aquaculture, agriculture, fisheries, forestry). The funding model (real vs virtual common pot) is still under assessment.

Action:

The Board decided to support the call with up to NOK 40.33 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.

08 BM 25/1347

A Nordic Mechanism for Rapid Calls

The Board was reminded of the background and principles of the proposed mechanism.

Action:

The NordForsk Board decided on the principles for proposing and funding Rapid Calls, the criteria to launch a Nordic Rapid call, process for developing a Rapid Call and for funding decision of Rapid Call projects. The mechanism is only to be used in extremely acute situations, and decisions require a qualified majority.

09 BM 25/1348

Quantum technology

The Board was informed about the following three initiatives:

Co-ordination between NCMS and NCM institutions

Initial discussions on how to co-ordinate the discussions on quantum technology initiatives between the Nordic Council of Ministers' Secretariat (NCMS), NordForsk and Nordic Innovation at directors' level.

Joint Nordic working group

Second working group meeting to be held in late March, including innovation funders, NCMS and Nordic Innovation.

Proposed joint call with Canada – Status after the documentation was sent to the board

NordForsk has organised a meeting with the Nordic national funding agencies that has indicated interest in the proposed initiative.

NordForsk has attended a meeting organised by NSERC with representatives from research funding agencies from all G7 countries

(Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK and USA). The main objective of the meeting was to check the status regarding the interest in and possibility for joining the initiative.

Shortly after the meetings, participation from Denmark, Finland and Norway was confirmed and the work on an Expression of Interest can therefore proceed.

Action: The Board was informed about the ongoing processes and activities.

10 BM 25/1349

Process NordForsk strategy 2027-20230

The Board discussed the proposed plan for developing the new NordForsk strategy. As national representatives need to coordinate internally to provide consolidated input for the Board's strategy discussions in June, the strategy notes facilitating the preparation for the Board's discussions will be provided appr. four weeks before the strategy seminar.

Action: The Board approved the process for developing and deciding the NordForsk Strategy 2027-2030

11 BM 25/1350

Research security

The Board discussed ongoing work with further developing risk assessment and mitigating procedures at NordForsk, including risk assessment of external evaluators.

The NordForsk Administration is participating in a Nordic network of national research funders sharing experience and best practices.

Action: The Board was informed.

12 BM 25/1351

Information from the Administration

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

Action: The Board was informed.

13 BM 25/1352

Information about Director's decisions

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

Action: The Board was informed.

14 BM 25/1353

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 25/1354

Information from the Nordic Council of Ministers

The Secretariat of the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCMS) updated the Board on the ongoing review of the Helsinki Treaty, including issues related to the status of Greenland, Åland, and the Faroe Islands.

Action: The Board was informed.

16 BM 25/1355

Information from Board members and observers

The Board members gave a short update from their respective country/organisation.

Action: The Board was informed.

17 BM 25/1356

Any other business

N/A

Action: N/A