

Meeting Minutes

NordForsk 86th Board Meeting

June 16th, 2026, 09:00-12:30 CET

Meeting venue: Innovation Fund Denmark

Board Members

Vistad, Rune	Research Council of Norway (Chair)
Sølvará, Annika	Research Council Faroe Islands (Vice Chair)
Brøkner, Cecilie	Innovation Fund Denmark
Ruokonen, Floora	Research Council of Finland
Jónsdóttir, Guðbjörg Andrea	Ministry of Culture, Science and Higher Education, Iceland
Lindell, Johan	Swedish Research Council
Nygård, Bo	Government of Åland (observer)
Halgrimsen, Håkon	Nordic Council of Ministers' secretariat (observer)

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

Apologies: Anders Hagfeldt, NUS, Petar Cavala, Nordic Council of Ministers' secretariat (observer), Mikael Heimonen, NordForsk administration

01 BM 25/1357

Approval of the agenda

The chair opened the meeting and asked if there were any suggested changes in the agenda.

Action: The agenda was approved.

02 BM 25/1358

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 25/1359

Approval of the minutes from the Board meeting 6 March 2026

Draft minutes from NordForsk's 85th Board meeting were included in the meeting documentation. Meeting minutes will for future meetings be circulated and approved shortly after the meeting.

Action: The minutes were approved.

04 BM 25/1360

Audit of NordForsk 2025

After the Board approved the annual report and signed the annual accounts, the National Audit Office of Norway issued an audit report which

was sent to the Nordic Council of Ministers on 15 May 2026. There were no remarks in the audit report.

In parallel with the financial audit for 2025, the National Audit Office of Norway has also conducted an audit of how internal control is documented, and the Board was informed about the dialogue between the National Audit Office of Norway and the NordForsk administration.

Action: The Board was notified.

05 BM 25/1361

Financial prognosis 2027-2030, accounts Q1 2026 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, and accounts Q1 2026.

The Board was informed of new topics or initiatives under discussion, as listed in the meeting documents and given in the meeting. The Director raised the issue that given the increased interest in Nordic research collaboration through NordForsk, the Board should consider the need for strategic priorities between proposed calls and/or consider a more flexible use of the NordForsk Nordic top-up co-funding in some future calls.

Action: The Board was notified.

06 BM 25/1362

Memorandum of Understanding: NordForsk and Novo Nordisk Foundation

The Board was reminded of the background and principles of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NordForsk and the Novo Nordisk Foundation (NNF). The draft MoU had been circulated in confidence for information and preliminary comments prior to the Board's meeting. Collaboration with NNF on NordForsk calls will be formulated based on Expression of interests which will be presented for approval in separate tracks by NNF and the NordForsk Board. The Board will assess the collaboration with private funders by the end of 2027.

Action:

The NordForsk Board delegated to the Director to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with Novo Nordic Foundation.

07 BM 25/1363

Expression of Interest: Towards Health Equality: Transdisciplinary Research on Women's Health

The Board was reminded of the background of the Expression of Interest and focus for the proposed call. The Nordic Council of Ministers' Secretariat provided further context to the discussions on the call and requested that the NordForsk Administration continues the dialogue with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation on the possibility of their

participation in the call "Towards Health Equality: Transdisciplinary Research on Women's Health", including exploring different options for co-financing.

Action:

The NordForsk Board decided to support the call with up to NOK 13.3 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. 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 25/1364

Expression of Interest: Canada-G7-Nordic call for proposals on quantum technologies

The Board was reminded of the background of the Expression of Interest and focus for the proposed call. The Board was given a status for the ongoing preparatory work with the call.

Action:

The NordForsk Board decided to support the call with up to NOK 30.5 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.

09 BM 25/1365

Expression of Interest: Japan-Nordic Frontier Research Projects on Health

The Board was reminded of the background of the Expression of Interest and focus for the proposed call. The Board was given a status for the ongoing preparatory work with the call.

Action:

The NordForsk Board decided to support the call with up to NOK 10 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.

10 BM 25/1366

NordForsk Risk Management System

The Board was reminded on the status of the Administration's work on a risk management system for NordForsk, including approach, ongoing developments and expected deliverables.

Action: The Board was notified.

- 11 BM 25/1367** **Information from the Administration**
- The information was presented in writing in the documentation to the Board meeting. The Board was given updated information in the meeting on the status of the Nordic collaboration on quantum technologies (including the G7-Nordic Eol (item 25/1364), the Nordic Council of Ministers' working group and the NordForsk working group), and of the NT1 evaluation and administration.
- Action: The Board was notified.**
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- 12 BM 25/1368** **Information about Director's decisions**
- The information was presented in writing in the documentation to the Board meeting.
- Action: The Board was notified.**
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- 13 BM 25/1369** **Information about decisions per capsulam**
- The information was presented in writing in the documentation to the Board meeting.
- Action: The Board was notified.**
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- 14 BM 25/1370** **Information from the Nordic Council of Ministers**
- The Secretariat of the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCMS) updated the Board on recent developments:
- From 15 August 2026 Magdalena Demnert will be the new chief of staff at the Nordic Council of Ministers' Secretariat. Magdalena Demnert has previously served as Sweden's representative in the Nordic Committee for Co-operation (NSK) under the Ministers for Nordic Co-operation (MR-SAM).
 - The next meeting in the Nordic Council of Ministers' working group on quantum technology will be in Oslo 22 June 2026. The working group is established as part of the follow-up on the *Joint statement by the Nordic Prime Ministers and Heads of Government on quantum technologies: Laying the foundation for future Nordic advancements*.
 - Updates on the status of the ongoing analysis of the Nordic research and innovation landscape and the analysis of Competitiveness in a Nordic Perspective commissioned by the Nordic Council of Ministers.
- Action: The Board was notified.**

15 BM 25/1371

Information from Board members and observers

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

Action: The Board was notified.

16 BM 25/1372

Any other business

N/A

Action: N/A