

DRAFT

2021-02-22



Minutes of the Advisory Group tele meeting 22 January 2021

Time: 9 - 12 Reykjavik, 10 – 13 Copenhagen, Oslo, Stockholm, 11 – 14 Helsinki

Participants: Sigurður M. Magnússon (IRSA, Chairman); Antti Daavittila (STUK); Nici Bergroth (Fortum); Christian Linde (SSM); Roberta Concilio Hansson (Vattenfall); Ole Christen Reistad (IFE); Mikael Meister (Vattenfall); Kresten Breddam (SIS); Peder Kock (SSM); Aleksi Mattila (STUK); Astrid Liland (DSA); Pia Vesterbacka (STUK); Anneli Hällgren (SSM); Carsten Israelson (DEMA), Ari Leppänen (STUK), Kasper Andersson (DTU), Finn Physant (FRIT, meeting secretary)

Excuses: Per Strand (DSA)

1 Opening

The Chair welcomed all the participants to this first Advisory Group meeting. The Chair had received excuses from Per Strand.

The Chair had received the sad news that Tarja Ikäheimonen has passed away. He remembered Tarja as a valued member of the NKS family, a good colleague and a wonderful person - with fond memories of their co-operations for many years. The Chair asked Pia Vesterbacka to convey NKS' sincere condolences to Tarja's family.

The Chair reminded that the decision to restructure the NKS board and to establish the AG is one of the outcomes of the policy discussions that began in the NKS board in June 2017. The evolution of the policy discussion is well documented in the minutes of NKS board meetings that are available on the NKS website. Outcomes of policy discussions are

reflected in **the NKS policy document** approved in 2019 and **the NKS rules of procedure** document approved in 2020. Both are on the NKS web site.

2 **Practical remarks**

Finn Physant was appointed meeting secretary.

3 **Approval of the agenda**

The agenda was approved.

4 **NKS R-part**

A: status

Ari Leppänen made a presentation of the status of the ongoing R-part activities. Overall the work in NKS-R is progressing according to plan. Status for the activities from CfP 2020: Contracts signed for all 6 activities and no major delays have been reported. Few activities have asked to postpone the final report to February. This has been granted. All activities from 2019 are completed including published final reports and payments. Two activity seminars (online) have been carried out for BREDA-RPV and PROSAFE 2020. Travel assistance has been granted to one young scientist.

B: CfP 2021 proposals: evaluation and funding of new activities

Ari Leppänen presented the evaluation results and funding recommendations for CfP 2021. NKS-R received 9 proposals this year (five continued and four new proposals), with a total funding request of 4511 kDKK. Three funding alternatives were presented based on the evaluations with an expected budget of 3000 kDKK. Ari Leppänen recommended funding of alternative #1 including the following six activities in 2021: BREDA 2021, STATUS, COCOS, WPS-MAF, THEOS, POMMI (funding requested is 3245 kDKK, with 7% cut the funding requested is 3018 kDKK).

The Advisory Group supported the funding recommendation.

The Chair noted that the amount of 3000 kDKK is not absolutely fixed. This is for the board to decide at its meeting 2 February 2021.

From the discussions concerning the evaluation results and funding recommendation the following was noted:

- NKS-R received the lowest number of applications since 2008 for CfP 2021
- Mentioned possible reasons for the low number of applications: covid 19, relatively many continued proposals compared to new, organisations prioritising other tasks instead of NKS activities.

The Chair concluded that the Advisory Group recommends funding of Ari Leppänen's recommendation to the NKS Board.

5 **NKS B-part**

A: status

Kasper Andersson presented a status report for ongoing activities. In an overall view the work in NKS-B is progressing well. Delayed activities (initiated before 2020): none. Activities commencing in 2020: 3 activities and a seminar part of a fourth postponed due to Corona. The rest of the activities are progressing according to (revised) schedule. No young

scientist travel claims in 2020. No NKS-B seminars were carried out in 2020 (due to Corona; 4 postponed).

B: CfP 2021 proposals: evaluation and funding of new activities

Kasper Andersson presented the evaluation results and funding recommendation for CfP 2021 – a total of 11 (of these 1 is continued) proposals were received. The total amount requested was 4979 kDKK from an expected budget of 3000 kDKK. One funding recommendation and one alternative were presented with total budgets of 3000 kDKK.

Kasper Andersson recommended funding of the following seven activities in 2021: SOCHAOTIC, DTM-DECOM III, RNSARBOOK, BIORAD, COMBMORC, NORDICNANO, PERLAD (total applied for 3174 kDKK).

The Advisory Group supported the funding recommendation.

The Chair noted that the amount of 3000 kDKK is not absolutely fixed. This is for the board to decide at its meeting 2 February 2021.

The Chair concluded that the Advisory Group recommends funding of Kasper Andersson's recommendation to the NKS board.

6 NKS R and B seminar 2022

The Chair opened this meeting item by noting that the R and B seminars have become both very important and succesful. The Chair invited the Advisory Group members to comment on the on-going planning of the upcoming 2022 seminar. Kasper Andersson made the programme coordinators' presentation.

The Chair did sum up the following discussions between the participants as follows:

- The seminar must be a face-to-face rather than a virtual meeting
- The seminar could be scheduled later in 2022 for instance during the summer 2022 (due to Corona)
- The seminar theme, topic and title have to be developed. Inputs will be considered
- The mixing of R and B presentations/sessions has to be developed
- Young scientist and poster presentation are under consideration
- Only one session (not parallel sessions) is possible with one big room at the venue
- Possible VIP and other speakers were noted
- Suggestions of possible speakers are welcomed. Names and other suggestions can be forwarded to Kasper Andersson kgan@env.dtu.dk

The Chair thanked the participants for the very interesting and good discussions and inputs for the upcoming seminar.

7 Evaluation of the evaluation process

The Chair reminded that from time to time there have been concerned expressed in the NKS board regarding the NKS evaluation process, lack of written instructions for the evaluators and variance in evaluations.

Therefore, it had been decided to have a seminar on the evaluation process in the afternoon of the day before for this meeting which was to be a "face to face" meeting in Oslo. Due to

the pandemic this was not possible, and it was decided to have Evaluation of the evaluation process on the agenda today.

The planning group for the seminar Astrid, Carsten, the PC's Ari and Kasper and the NKS chair took the Criteria for NKS activities against which all project proposals have been evaluated as a starting point in developing instructions for evaluators .

Instructions for Evaluators were sent together with the proposals to be evaluated after the deadline on 15 October.

The Chair concluded by asking for the views of the AG on the evaluation process and the instructions for Evaluators. In particular if the process and the instructions are fit for purpose and if not – how can we best improve?

The PC's presented a statistical analysis of the evaluations from 2016 to 2020 that showed that there actually is quite good accordance between the evaluators.

The discussion reflected clearly that the evaluators are satisfied with and find both the process and the instructions fit for purpose. Also that there are different views on the relative importance of the criteria used for the evaluation. It was noted that the scope of the programs is broad and in some cases an evaluator may feel that he does not have the expertise needed to evaluate. It was suggested to modify the text in the instructions to better address such cases. The question was raised if "new-innovative", "emerging technology" should be given more emphasis than now is. The importance of avoiding conflict of interest was also raised.

The Chair concluded that the evaluators are satisfied with the process and the instructions and both are fit for purpose. The issues raised in the discussion will be addressed in the next review/revision of the instructions for evaluators.

8 Other issues

Nici Bergroth asked for a presentation of all participants. The Chair apologised that he had forgotten to do so at the beginning of the meeting. Then all the participants made presentations of themselves.

9 Next meeting

Next meeting will be in January 2022 possibly in connection with the upcoming seminar in Stockholm. Alternatively the meeting again will be carried out as a tele meeting.

10 End of meeting

The Chair thanked all the participants for their contributions to the meeting.