

Minutes of the board tele meeting 2 February 2021

Present: Sigurður M. Magnússon (Chair, IRSA), Anneli Hällgren (SSM), Carsten Israelson (DEMA), Pia Vesterbacka (STUK), Carol Robinson (DSA), Ari Leppänen (STUK), Kasper Andersson (DTU) and Finn Physant (meeting secretary, FRIT).

1 Opening

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. A special welcome was given to the new board member Carol Robinson representing DSA. All participants presented themselves.

2 Practical remarks

Practical remarks about the meeting were given by the Chair. Finn Physant was appointed meeting secretary.

3 Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved with the following additions for meeting item 16 Other issues:

- A discussion of the "NKS-R Framework" and "NKS-B Framework", which were used in connection with the Call for Proposals 2021.
- NKS had been approached by Petri Kinnunen, VTT about possible co-operation as a stakeholder in an EU project on Nuclear Materials.

4 Minutes of last board meeting (10 June 2020)

The minutes had been approved before this meeting and no further comments were received.

5 News since last board meeting

a. Report by the Chairman

The Chair stated that NKS is in good shape.

b. News from board members' organisations

The members informed each other about relevant news.

c. Administrative news

Finn Physant informed the board about the status of the following documents:

Both the policy document "This is NKS" (4 June 2019) and the document "Rules of procedure" (16 June 2020) are still valid and will be updated as needed.

The "Handbook for NKS applicants and activity leaders" in the July 2018 version needs to be updated after the Advisory Group's start-up and participation in the Call for Proposals 2021. An updated draft version will be prepared by the coordination group.

The "NKS Administrative Handbook" has been updated in November 2020. An updated attachment 7 includes Roles and responsibilities (from the document "Rules of procedure for NKS"). Furthermore the wording "Programme Manager" has been substituted by "Programme Coordinator" and the Advisory Group is now included in the handbook.

The new document "Instructions for evaluators: Call for Proposals" was prepared October 2020 for the work of the Advisory Group. After the first participation in a Call for Proposals of the Advisory Group an updated draft version of the document will be prepared by the coordination group.

The NKS pamphlet was updated in 2020 and will be updated as needed.

The board took note of the administrative news.

6 Financial status

Finn Physant presented the distributed material: Financial status report and financial programme specification, both dated 11 December 2020. At this date the reserve was estimated to approximately 600,000 DKK - in accordance with last year's budget decision of 22 January 2020. The Chair concluded that the financial status was as planned. – The board took note of the financial situation.

7 Contracts

The following four contracts were prepared for the board's decision:

-R-part programme manager 2021 with STUK

-B-part programme manager 2021 with DTU Environment

-Secretariat from 1 August 2021 to 31 July 2022 with FRIT and

-Auditing of the accounts for 2020 with Dansk Revision.

All these agreements were approved by the board.

8 R-part: status and new activities

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.

Ari Leppänen presented the evaluation results and funding recommendations for CfP 2021. NKS-R received 9 proposals this year (the lowest number of applications since 2008 including 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).

9 B-part: status and new activities

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 hereof 2 postponed in June to the spring of 2021).

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. 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).

10 CfP 2021 evaluation and funding of new activities

R-part: The Advisory Group had already supported Ari Leppänen's funding recommendation at the group's meeting 22 February 2021 and recommended the funding of this to the board. After some discussions the board approved the recommendation of the Advisory Group including the following 6 activities in 2021 (all amounts in kDKK):

BREDA 2021	465
STATUS	558
COCOS	558
WPS-MAF	507
THEOS	558
POMMI	372

The total budget for these six activities is 3018 kDKK.

B-part: The Advisory Group had already supported Kasper Andersson's funding recommendation at the group's meeting 22 February 2021 and recommended the funding of this to the board. After some discussions the board approved the recommendation of the Advisory Group including the following 7 activities in 2021 (all amounts in kDKK):

SOCHAOTIC	525
DTM-DECOM	450
RNSARBOOK	400
BIORAD	500

COMBMORC	499
NORDICNANO	400
PERLAD	400

The total budget for these 7 activities is 3174 kDKK

It was agreed that all NKS-B seminars that it was in June agreed to postpone for fixed periods are to be postponed until the corona situation allows it.

11 Budget for 2021

Finn Physant presented the distributed budget proposal of 4 January 2021. - This proposal was approved by the board including R-activities for 3018 kDKK and B-activities for 3174 kDKK. The budget decision is attached to these minutes in appendix A.

12 NKS R and B seminar 2022

Kasper Andersson made the PC's presentation. The PC's had as requested established a virtual advisory group for the seminar. In co-operation with this group a mature draft seminar program has been developed. The draft program was presented and feed-back received from the NKS Advisory Group at its meeting 22 February 2021.

From the board's discussions the following was noted: the seminar must be a face-to-face rather than a virtual meeting and the seminar could be scheduled later than originally planned in 2022 for instance during the summer 2022 (due to covid 19) in order to have a physical meeting. Seminar topic interests were expressed for lessons learned from covid 19 and reactor safety concerning specific reactor types. Relevant key speakers were mentioned and noted.

Based on the discussions the Chair concluded that the board is looking forward to a presentation of the next seminar program, including proposals for names of key speakers and topics to be addressed at its June meeting.

13 NKS evaluation process

The board discussed the outcome of the meeting of the Advisory Group, see minutes of the AG meeting. The main outcome was that the evaluators are satisfied with the evaluation process and the instructions for the evaluators. They also feel that both are fit for purpose. There had been two proposals for a review of the instructions that were discussed.

It was decided that the PC's would review the instructions for the evaluators before the June board meeting. The aim is to:

- soften the wording concerning "exceptional cases" as the scope of proposals can be very broad and an evaluator may feel that he/she does not have the expertise to evaluate a specific proposal.
- increase emphasis on "new-innovative" in the text.

14 NKS 2021-2023

The agenda item was postponed to a later board meeting due to lack of time.

15 Information activities

Finn Physant informed the board about the website, newsletters etc. – Website visitor statistics were presented concluding that the level of use of the website has been relatively low during 2020 probably due to covid 19. The list of the top 10 downloads of reports from

the website 1 January to 31 December 2020 was presented. On the list 3 of the 4 Bo Lindell Books are present, but on the rest of the list very old reports (more than 5 years old) show up.

Since the last board meeting 3 NewsFlashes have been distributed. The first of September 1 announced the CfP 2021, the second of September 15 announced upcoming seminars and presented new reports and the third of October 1 was a reminder of the CfP 2021. Besides this a NewsLetter was distributed 15 January including an overview of the CfP 2021 proposals.

There is a list of more than 540 e-mail addresses, to which NKS electronic letters are distributed. NKS now has 118 LinkedIn followers.

16 Other issues

Framework for NKS R and B.

The PC B was asked to reflect on the interface between social sciences and emergency preparedness and how this could be addressed in the Framework for NKS B. To be discussed at the June board meeting.

NKS involvement in an EU project.

The Chair had received a proposal from Petri Kinnunen, VTT that NKS be included in a group of interested stakeholders in an EU research project on Nuclear Material Research. This means that outcomes of the project are shared with NKS and NKS has the opportunity to express views and offer comments on the project. To do so will enhance the visibility of NKS in the European nuclear arena.

The board agreed to the proposal. The PC R will be contact point and will involve the AG as needed concerning any input from NKS. The Chair will inform Petri of the board's agreement.

17 Next meeting

If possible next meeting will be held in Oslo in June 2021. Alternatively a tele meeting will be held.

18 End of meeting

Thanks for a good meeting were expressed by the Chair.

Sigurður M. Magnússon
Chairman

Finn Physant
Meeting secretary

Appendices:

A: Budget decision for 2021 dated 2 February 2021

B: Actions from the board meeting

Appendix A

NKS budget for 2021 - decision 2 February 2021

Budgets	Budget for 2021	Budget for 2021	Budget for 2020
	EUR	DKK	DKK
R-part			
Activities	405.683	3.018.000	3.060.000
Fee PC	61.834	460.000	460.000
Travels PC	2.016	15.000	30.000
Coordination/Young scientists' travel	2.016	15.000	30.000
R total	471.550	3.508.000	3.580.000
B-part			
Activities	426.653	3.174.000	3.150.000
Fee PC	61.834	460.000	460.000
Travels PC	2.016	15.000	30.000
Coordination/Young scientists' travel	2.016	15.000	30.000
B total	492.519	3.664.000	3.670.000
Seminar 2022			
Seminar 2022	6.721	50.000	0
Seminar 2022 total	6.721	50.000	0
Common			
Common various according to specification	24.196	180.000	190.000
Common total	24.196	180.000	190.000
Others			
Fee Secretariat	84.480	628.469	641.363
Fee Chair	52.424	390.000	430.000
Travels Chair	2.688	20.000	
Travels Secretariat	1.008	7.500	15.000
Others total	140.600	1.045.969	1.086.363
TOTAL	1.135.587	8.447.969	8.526.363
Expected incomes according to app. 1	1.087.737	8.092.000	8.043.086
Surplus	-47.850	-355.969	-483.277

Any deficits to be covered by the reserve available for the board, which according to the financial status report of 11 December 2020 is:	601.689,00
Proposed budget for 2021	-355.969,43
Present reserve and surplus/deficit	245.719,58
Funding reserved for use in 2020, but not used, will amount to ca.:	165.000,00
Gain/Loss due to the development in exchange rates 2020-2021 ca.:	-20.000,00
Old reservations from before 2018, not claimed, amount to:	355.367,00
Total reserve end of January 2021: ca. DKK:	746.086,58
Total reserve end of January 2021: ca. EUR:	100.289,89

Specification of "Common" for 2021

	2021	2021	2020
	EUR	DKK	DKK
Common			
Reports, materials etc.	1.680	12.500	12.500
Bank fees etc.	2.016	15.000	20.000
Equipment	1.344	10.000	10.000
Internet	9.409	70.000	70.000
Auditing, consulting	7.057	52.500	52.500
Information material	1.344	10.000	10.000
Various expenses	1.344	10.000	15.000
Common total	24.196	180.000	190.000

Appendix 1 for budget decision for 2021

Pledge for funding in 2021 - Incomes

	Pledge for 2021	Pledge for 2021	Actual for 2020
	EUR	DKK	DKK
SSM	452.413	3.365.635	3.255.525
TEM	360.000	2.678.148	2.689.092
BRS	50.408	375.000	375.000
GR	24.000	178.543	179.273
DSA	75.846	564.240	606.960
Total EUR / DKK	962.667	7.161.566	7.105.850

SSM contribution SEK	4.550.000
DSA contribution NOK	800.000
BRS contribution DKK	375.000

	EUR	DKK	DKK
Fortum	27.000	200.861	201.617
TVO	27.000	200.861	201.617
Fennovoima	10.750	79.972	80.273
IFE	11.377	84.636	89.844
Forsmark	13.000	96.711	97.075
Ringhals	13.000	96.711	97.075
OKG	13.000	96.711	97.075
SKB	9.943	73.970	72.660
Total EUR / DKK	125.070	930.433	937.236
Complete EUR / DKK	1.087.737	8.092.000	8.043.086

IFE contribution NOK	120000
SKB contribution SEK	100000

Exchange rates 2020/21:

NKS 2021:	
DKK	100,0000
EUR	7,4393
NOK	0,7053
SEK	0,7397
NKS 2020:	
SEK 2020	0,7155
EUR 2020	7,4697
NOK 2020	0,7587

Appendix B

Actions from the board meeting (if nothing else is mentioned the actions will be carried out by the coordination group)

Action A - ref. item 5: The "Handbook for NKS applicants and activity leaders" in the July 2018 version needs to be updated after the Advisory Group's start-up and participation in the Call for Proposals 2021. An updated draft version will be prepared by the coordination group.

Action B – ref. item 5: The new document "Instructions for evaluators: Call for Proposals" was prepared October 2020 for the work of the Advisory Group. After the first participation in a Call for Proposals of the Advisory Group an updated draft version of the document will be prepared by the coordination group.

Action C – ref. item 12: Based on the discussions the Chair concluded that the board is looking forward to a presentation of the next seminar program, including proposals for names of key speakers and topics to be addressed at its June meeting.

Action D – ref. item 13: It was decided that the PC's would review the instructions for the evaluators before the June board meeting. The aim is to:

- soften the wording concerning "exceptional cases" as the scope of proposals can be very broad and an evaluator may feel that he/she does not have the expertise to evaluate a specific proposal.
- increase emphasis on "new-innovative" in the text.

Action E – ref. item 16: The PC B was asked to reflect on the interface between social sciences and emergency preparedness and how this could be addressed in the Framework for NKS B. To be discussed at the June board meeting.

Action F – ref. item 16: The board agreed to the proposal. The PC R will be contact point and will involve the AG as needed concerning any input from NKS. The Chair will inform Petri of the board's agreement.