

NKS(23)4
2023-07-25



Minutes of the Board meeting in Oslo, 13 Juni 2023.

Present: Sigurður M. Magnússon (Chair, IRSA), Carsten Israelson (DEMA), Pia Keski-Jaskari (STUK), Carol Robinson (DSA), Per Seltborg (SSM),
Via Teams for agenda items 7-16:
Kasper Andersson (DTU) and Finn Physant (FRIT), Ari Leppänen (STUK)

- 1 Opening
The NKS chair opened the meeting and welcomed participants.
- 2 Practical remarks
Practical information was provided by the host, Carol Robinson.
The Chair acted as secretary of the meeting.
- 3 Approval of the agenda
The agenda was approved.
- 4 Minutes of the last board meeting (2023-01-18)
The minutes of the last board meeting were approved.
- 5 News since last board meeting
The chair informed the board that support for NSFS had been increased from EUR 2000, as approved in the NKS budget, to EUR 4 000 in view of concern regarding the financial outcome of the NSFS Congress. The chair also informed that the reclamation

by Harri Toivonen which had been ongoing for about one year had finally been resolved.

Board members informed about news from their organisations.

6

NKS after 2023

- **Revision of the way NKS works.**

The Chair presented an overview of tasks and time estimates from the PC's, and Secretariat and proposed a revision of the way NKS works with the aim to reduce the workload without reducing the quality of the NKS program. The Board agreed to the proposal. The first steps include a revision of the work processes associated with evaluation of proposals and reporting to the Board including development of documents. The aim is for a 25-33% reduction in workload. The Chair will lead the revision in close co-operation with the PC's and Secretariat. The Board will be kept informed of developments. The aim is to complete the revision of PC workload before 1 November so that changes can be implemented in their contracts for 2024 and for the Secretariat in spring of 2024 so that changes can be implemented as of 1 August 2024.

The Chair presented a proposal for the workload of the Chair, reducing the workload by 33% as of 1 January 2024. The Board agreed to the proposal.

- **Instructions for evaluators.**

Revision of instructions and evaluation criteria have not been carried out as planned. Per will develop a first draft and circulate to Board for comments before 1 August. Revision needs to be completed in time for the Call for Proposals that opens on 1 September, allowing for views from the AG and PC's.

- **NKS 2026-2030.**

The present agreement on NKS comes to an end at the end of 2025.

There was a decision to explore the feasibility of transition to a new structure for NKS from 2026, at the latest, depending on the terms and timing of a new agreement on NKS. A structure where work is carried out pro-bono and rotates between the owners organizations. This includes

- Chair and administrative secretariat
- Financial management
- Website
- PC1
- PC2

There was also an agreement to have a rotating roles, two years for chairmanship and four years for the PC's with possible extension.

The feasibility of such a transition needs to be carefully thought through and thoroughly discussed as capabilities of the owner's organizations to undertake pro bono work are very different. The first step is an initial discussion with the NKS owners at the Chiefs meeting in August followed by a discussion at the January 2024 meetings (the joint NKS Board and Advisory Group meeting, NKS Board meeting).

- **NKS chair for 2024-25.**

The present term for Sigurður as Chair comes to an end at the end of 2023.

There was a question if the work of the Chair could be carried out pro bono already in 2024 and 2025. Carsten, Carol and Pia said that their organizations were not in a position to do so. Per will raise the issue with the SSM's new GD, Michael Knochenhauer, and report back to the NKS Board before 1 August.

Sigurður informed the Board that he would like to continue as Chair for 2024-2025 (with a reduced workload (and fee) of 33%) to ensure a smooth transition to a new structure of NKS in 2026.

The plan is for the NKS chair for 2024-25 to be appointed by NKS owners at the Chiefs meeting in August.

7 Financial issues

- Signing of the accounts 2022.
The accounts for 2022 were signed. Carol will send the signed accounts to the NKS Secretariat for further distribution.
- Financial status: Financial status report and financial programme specification, both dated May/June 2023.
Finn presented the financial status report and financial programme specification.

8 Status of NKS R activities

- Ari presented status report for NKS R activities dated May 2023.

9 Status of NKS B activities

- Kasper presented status report for NKS B activities dated May 2023.

10 Call for Proposals 2024 and expected funding of NKS 2024

- Call for Proposal for 2024 will open on Friday 1 September and close on Monday 16 October. Evaluations by Wednesday 15. Nov. 2023. Expected funding for each program area is 3 MDDK.

11 NKS R and B seminar 2025

- Finn informed that Finlandshuset was available for the last weeks of May 2025. A decision to establish a programme group was postponed until the January 2024 Board meeting.

12 Co-financiers and NKS-B CfP

- Kasper presented the outcome of a meeting with Mikael Meister concerning possibilities for enhancing participation of the co-financier group and inclusion of their interests in NKS-B CfP proposals. The Board agreed to a proposal that the co-financiers could be asked to define some current problems/needs (an 'idea bank') which might be placed on NKS website to inspire the technical community. Text on website needs to make it very clear that this is for information only and does not imply any prioritization. Kasper to take contact with Mikael and other co-financiers to develop these ideas further.

13 Impact of NKS research

- The PC's provided information on number of peer-reviewed articles on NKS projects that have been published since 2017 and their citations.

14 Information activities

- Finn provided information on the website, statistics, NewsLetters, NewsFlashes, LinkedIn etc.

15 Other issues

- It was decided that the NKS agreement and other important NKS documents should be more easily available on the NKS internal website, e.g. in a defined area.

16 Next meeting

- Next meeting will be a virtual meeting on 15 August - Board only.
- The next in-place meeting takes place in Copenhagen on Tuesday 16 January 2024 followed by a board meeting on Wednesday 17 January 2024 with DEMA as host for both meetings. There will be a working dinner for the Board, AG members, PC's and the Seretariat in the evening of Monday 15 January. Time and place tbd.

17 End of meeting

The Chair thanked Carol Robinson/DSA for the meeting arrangements and all the participants for the good and constructive discussions during the meeting.

Sigurður M. Magnússon
Chairman and meeting secretary