

2024-02-12



Minutes of the Advisory Group and board meeting in Copenhagen 16 January 2024

Participants: Sigurður M. Magnússon (IRSA, Chairman); Nici Bergroth (Fortum); Christian Linde (SSM); Roberta Concilio Hansson (Vattenfall); Ingrid Helen Hauge (IFE); Mikael Meister (Vattenfall); Asser Nyander Poulsen (SIS); Peder Kock (SSM); Aleks Mattila (STUK); Elísabet D. Ólafsdóttir (IRSA, observer); Pia Keski-Jaskari (STUK); Carsten Israelson (DEMA); Carol Robinson (DSA); Per Seltborg (SSM); Ari Leppänen (STUK); Kasper Andersson (DTU); Finn Physant (FRIT, meeting secretary)

Excuses: Antti Daavittila (STUK); Jørgen Trømborg (DSA)

1 Opening

The Chair welcomed all the participants to the meeting, which would be his last as Chair of NKS. A rotating chairmanship of two years will start with Per Seltborg as the new Chair. Special welcomes were given to Asser Nyander Poulsen, who replaces Kresten Breddam from SIS and Elísabet D. Ólafsdóttir, who participated in the meeting as an observer from IRSA.

2 Practical remarks

Practical information about the meeting was given by the Chair and the host, Carsten Israelson. All the participants presented themselves. Finn Physant was appointed meeting secretary.

3 Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

4 Approval of the minutes of the last Advisory Group meeting (2023-01-17)
The minutes were approved.

5 Follow up from the last Advisory Group meeting
The Chair informed about two issues as follow up since last meeting. Firstly the group's recommendation on changes in the NKS Framework Program from the last meeting had been approved by the board on the day after the last meeting. Secondly Mikael Meister had raised the issue and problems with the current lack of involvement from the co-financiers in NKS-B activities. Kasper Andersson will in his presentation under meeting item 7 handle this as: "Possibilities for enhancing participation of the co-financier group and inclusion of their interests in NKS-B CfP proposals".

6 NKS R-part

A: status

Ari Leppänen made a presentation of the status of the ongoing R-part activities. Generally the work in NKS-R is progressing well.

Status for the activities from CfP 2023:

BREDA: the work is progressing well or exceeding the expectations. DATA4Decom: no status report received but PC has earlier been in contact with the project. FEMMA: overall progress is good. INSOLE: overall progress is good and progressing according to plan. STATUS: task 1 literature review is complete, task 2 containment failure scenarios almost complete, task 3 scenarios of the recovery of the containment spray system is being prepared, task 4 Melcor modelling of MVSS filter is currently on hold. TRIO: the project is nearing it's conclusion. All data has been collected and analyzed.

Status for the activities from CfP 2021 and CfP 2022:

WPS-MAF: combined report from CfP 2021 and CfP 2022 is under preparation. First draft was supposed to be ready by the end of December, however this has been delayed.

5 reports have been published in 2023. Seminar/workshop: DATA4Decom and INSOLE. One request for travel support for a poster presentation outside Nordic countries was declined.

B: CfP 2024 proposals: evaluation and funding of new activities

Ari Leppänen presented the evaluation results for CfP 2024. NKS-R received 11 proposals this year (four continued and seven new proposals), with a total funding request of 5965 kDKK. Ari provided a list of proposals which, as the PC's choice could be granted.

Different views were shared that other factors than the numerical outcome of the evaluation could be used. After some discussions the Chair concluded that Ari should provide the reasons for his "PC's choice" in writing and present at next day's board meeting. The members of the Advisory Group were invited to provide their views on which project to fund in writing before the board meeting the next day.

7 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 2023): none.

Activities commencing in 2023: all activities progressing according to (in some cases slightly revised) schedule. One young scientist travel claim in 2023. 5 reports have been published in 2023. NKS-B seminars in 2023: ANTHROPIC and GAMMASKILL.

B: CfP 2024 proposals: evaluation and funding of new activities

Kasper presented the evaluation results for CfP 2024 – a total of 9 (two of these continued) proposals were received. The total amount requested was 3558.6 kDKK from an expected budget of 3000 kDKK.

Kasper presented the evaluation results with the following seven activities in 2024: DISARM, RADWORKSHOP, REALMORC, SAMLOC, MoNi, MAREPR, THREATSEM receiving the highest marks. He recommended those seven to be funded in full. Total applied for 3018,6 kDKK with no reduction needed.

The Advisory Group took note of the results presented. The discussion reflected good agreement with the recommendation by Kasper.

The Chair concluded from the discussions that the Advisory Group recommends funding of the seven activities recommended by Kasper.

Finally Kasper informed the group about "Possibilities for enhancing participation of the co-financier group and inclusion of their interests in NKS-B CfP proposals". After some discussion the Chair suggested that Kasper together with Mikael Meister continue to reflect on how to get more proposals involving the co-financiers' organisations and that they involve other co-financiers in their work..

8 NKS seminar in 2025

Kasper presented on behalf of the PC's and Secretariat a possible work plan for the May 2025 seminar.

Carol Robinson suggested that a seminar format different from earlier could be considered. It was discussed if a possible collaboration between NKS and NSFS should be initiated until it was recognised that NSFS is planning for a seminar in late summer of 2025.

Carsten Israelson noted the importance of the right seminar headline.

At this stage it was concluded that a seminar advisory group must be formed. The Chair asked each of the board members to point out a national representative for the group. The board members will by 1 February 2024 provide the PC's with the names of the representatives.

The group will besides the 5 national representatives consist of the PC's and Secretariat. The Secretariat will contact Finlandshuset for booking and quotation. It was agreed that the seminar should take place on the 21-22 May 2025.

9 NKS Framework Program

The frameworks were addressed and no changes were suggested.

10 The evaluation process (both for proposals and final reports)

The evaluation process was discussed, and it was found that other factors than the nominal outcome of the work of the evaluators is needed, to provide an adequately justified and contextually balanced background for making the decisions on CfP project funding. The PC's are asked to continue to make funding priority recommendations (perhaps including three-colour-code as in earlier years indicating PC's view on proposal's suitability for funding), but if the recommendations deviate from nominal evaluation result, a thorough written argumentation is also needed. Proposed reasons for deviations might be diverse,

including funding in prior years (aiming for a mix of continued and new projects), proving funding to allow a project to finish, and balance between the programme's research areas (particularly in NKS-R, where these are very distinct) and topics.

The suitability of the current evaluation criterion descriptions was discussed, and it was found that in the section describing applicant merits and competence, the text 'in a national and international perspective' should be taken out, as it really only served to complicate understanding. An important part of the competence assessment should ideally come from reading the proposal. An earlier version of the document importantly included assessment of the quality of distinct project goals and deliverables. Somehow, however, this must have fallen out of the document by mistake during a revision in 2023. It was agreed to add a bullet point under the feasibility section, with a wording like 'To what extent are the project goals and deliverables clarified?' Goal and deliverable descriptions were very weak in the two lowest graded NKS-B proposals this year.

11 Other issues

As the new Chairman of NKS, Per Seltborg expressed many thanks to Sigurður for his long devotion to NKS: with about 15 years as chairman and about 40 years in NKS activities Sigurður has marked and shaped NKS. Referring to the challenges as yet the networking of NKS is more important than ever. I'm honoured to take over after Sigurður. We will bring it on. Many thanks – wishing you a successful future Sigurður.

12 Next meeting

Tentatively the next meeting will take place in Copenhagen on Tuesday 14 January 2025 followed by a board meeting on Wednesday 15 January 2025 with DEMA as host for both meetings. NKS will host the dinner on Monday 13 January 2025.

13 End of meeting

The Chair thanked Carsten Israelson/DEMA for the meeting arrangements and all the participants for their contributions to the meeting.

Sigurður gave a short historical resumé of NKS starting from NKA and his own first appearance in 1984 and finally stating: all good things come to an end – to chair NKS was one of the highlights of his professional career and many thanks to all for excellent co-operation!