

Minutes of the Board meeting in Copenhagen 17 January 2024

Present: Per Seltborg (Chair, SSM), Sigurður M. Magnússon (IRSA), Carsten Israelson (DEMA), Pia Keski-Jaskari (STUK), Carol Robinson (DSA), Elísabet D. Ólafsdóttir (IRSA, observer), Ari Leppänen (STUK), Kasper Andersson (DTU) and Finn Physant (meeting secretary, FRIT).

1 Opening

Sigurður opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. He noted the pleasure and privilege it had been for him to chair NKS over many years and noted the status of NKS' basic documents: the policy document and rules of procedure document as well as the NKS agreement expiring after 2025 and therefore to be prepared for renewal during 2025. Sigurður then passed over the chairmanship to Per, who thanked for the take-over.

2 Practical remarks

Practical remarks about the meeting were given by the host, Carsten Israelson, DEMA. Finn Physant was appointed meeting secretary.

3 Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved. Ari had presented in writing to the board reasons for his "PC's choice" of proposals presented during yesterday's advisory group and board meeting, This was to be taken into consideration during meeting item 8.

4 Minutes of last board meeting (2022-05-23)

The minutes were approved.

5 News since last Board meeting

a. Report by the Chairman

The Chair listed the new rotational chairmanship and the new evaluation process as the news since last board meeting.

b. News from Board members' organisations

The members informed each other about relevant news.

c. Administrative news

As news the new rotational chairmanship and the new evaluation process were noted.

6 Financial status

Finn presented the distributed material: Financial status report and financial programme specification, both dated 19 December 2023. At this date the reserve was estimated to approximately 560,000 DKK. It was concluded that the financial status was as planned. The Board took note of the financial situation.

7 Contracts

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

- R-part programme manager 2024 with STUK
- B-part programme manager 2024 with DTU
- Secretariat from 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2025 with FRIT and
- Auditing of the accounts for 2023 with Dansk Revision.

All these agreements were approved by the board.

8 R-part: status

As follow up from the Advisory Group meeting yesterday the Chair asked for any questions or comments about the R-part status. No questions or comments were received.

9 B-part: status

As follow up from the Advisory Group meeting yesterday the Chair asked for any questions or comments about the B-part status. No questions or comments were received.

10 CfP 2023 evaluation and funding of new activities

R-part: The board took note of Ari's list of proposals which, as the PC's choice, had been presented at yesterday's Advisory Group meeting. The Board agreed that, although funding should be clearly awarded to those proposals receiving the highest scores, it was also important to ensure that the funded programme should include a broad range of topics and new applicants, if possible. To achieve this balance, the Board decided that project proposals that had already received funding for a number of years should receive 50% of the funding applied for, while a reduction of 2.5% was applied for other proposals.

The board then approved the funding of the 8 proposals with the highest scores from the evaluation process (all amounts in kDKK):

CURES	280
FEMMA 2024	488
INSOLE	585
NORDIC-Smart	537
PAS-SMR	488
POSEIDON	449
REPoUSSES	250
STATUS	300

The total budget for these 8 activities is 3377 kDKK.

B-part: The Advisory Group had at its 16 January meeting recommended the funding of the 7 proposals with the highest scores as presented by Kasper as the result of the evaluation process.

The Board approved the recommendation of the Advisory Group including these following 7 activities in 2024 (all amounts in kDKK):

DISARM	570
RADWORKSHOP	435
REALMORC	509
SAMLOC	499,6
MoNi	255
MAREPR	430
THREATSEM	320

The total budget for these 7 activities is 3018,6 kDKK.

11 Budget for 2024

Finn Physant presented the distributed budget proposal of 2 January 2024. - This proposal was approved by the Board including an exchange of R-activities for 3000 kDKK with 3377 kDKK. B-activities for 3000 kDKK were exchanged with 3018,6 kDKK. The GR contribution of 24000 € was exchanged with 100000 DKK and the TEM contribution of 370000 € was exchanged with 360000 €. The TEM contribution has still not been confirmed. The budget decision is attached to these minutes in appendix A.

12 NKS seminar 2025

It had been agreed that the seminar should take place on the 21-22 May 2025.

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

The Secretariat will contact Finlandshuset for booking and quotation.

13 The NKS framework

No changes to the frameworks had been suggested. The framework documents are therefore ready for this years call for proposals 2025.

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

It was concluded that the new evaluation process used for this year's funding did work well. For further improvement the PC's will propose updates of the "Instructions for evaluators", "Handbook for NKS applicants and activity leaders" and proposal forms.

15 Information activities

Finn informed the board about the website, newsletters etc. The running user statistics for 2023 had been focused on the monthly number of visitors, which had been relatively high especially in September/October – as through many years - in connection with this year's CfP. Since the May board meeting 3 NewsFlashes have been distributed.

The list of addresses to which NKS newsletters are distributed counts more than 450 addresses. A NewsFlash will be distributed no later than a week after this meeting. NKS now has 234 followers on LinkedIn.

NKS Board only.

16 tbd – agenda items as needed

17 Other issues

1. Power of attorney

The document concerning the power of attorney of NKS from 2024 was signed.

2. Strategic questions to be discussed

The following strategic discussions were proposed to be discussed during 2024:

- Preparations for the next contract period (2026-2029)
- Call for proposal 2024 (potential adjustments of the evaluation process to be applied)
- Principles for programme funding
- Input to the Nordic strategy and enhanced Nordic collaboration (with the respect to competence management, expert support and TSO-functions etc)

3. Shared responsibilities within the board

A more explicit sharing of responsibilities within the board was discussed. The following distribution of responsibilities was proposed and tentatively agreed upon:

- Activities related to the B-part (main contact person with the PC): Carsten
- Activities related to the R-part (main contact person with the PC): Pia
- The 2025 seminar: Carol
- The evaluation process: Carsten
- Financials, contracts and general questions: Per
- Interaction with the advisory group: If questions limited to either the B- or R-part, Carsten and Pia – if general questions, Per

18 Next meeting

The next NKS Board meeting is planned as a face to face meeting in Helsinki on 6 June. The PC's and the Secretariat participate virtually.

19 End of meeting

Per Seltborg
Chairman

Finn Physant
Meeting secretary

Appendices:

A: Budget decision for 2024 dated 17 January 2024

Appendix A: NKS budget for 2024 - decision 17 January 2024

Budgets	Budget for 2024	Budget for 2024	Budget for 2023
	EUR	DKK	DKK
R-part			
Activities	453.112	3.377.000	3.016.000
Fee PC	41.353	308.200	460.000
Travels PC	2.013	15.000	15.000
Coordination/Young scientists' travel	2.013	15.000	15.000
R total	498.491	3.715.200	3.506.000
B-part			
Activities	405.024	3.018.600	3.000.000
Fee PC	41.353	308.200	460.000
Travels PC	2.013	15.000	15.000
Coordination/Young scientists' travel	2.013	15.000	15.000
B total	450.402	3.356.800	3.490.000
Seminars			
Seminars	0	0	14.873
Seminars total	0	0	14.873
Common			
Common various according to specification	24.152	180.000	180.000
Common total	24.152	180.000	180.000
Others			
Fee Secretariat	81.512	607.500	608.165
Fee Chair	0	0	390.000
Travels Chair	0	0	20.000
Travels Secretariat	1.006	7.500	7.500
Others total	82.518	615.000	1.025.665
TOTAL	1.055.562	7.867.000	8.216.538
Expected incomes according to app. 1	982.149	7.319.857	7.696.860
Surplus	-73.413	-547.143	-519.678

Any deficits to be covered by the reserve available for the board, which according to the financial status report of 19 December 2023 is:	561.894,00
Proposed budget for 2024	-547.143,12
Present reserve and surplus/deficit	14.750,88
Interest income	50.000,00
Funding reserved for use in 2023, but not used, will amount to ca.:	75.000,00
Gain/Loss due to the development in exchange rates 2023-2024 ca.:	-30.000,00
Old reservations from before 2021, not claimed, amount to:	429.195,00
Total reserve end of January 2024: ca. DKK:	538.945,88
Total reserve end of January 2024: ca. EUR:	72.313,58

Specification of "Common" for 2024

	2024	2024	2023
	EUR	DKK	DKK
Common			
Reports, materials etc.	1.593	11.875	12.500
Bank fees etc.	1.342	10.000	15.000
Equipment	1.342	10.000	10.000
Internet	9.392	70.000	70.000
Auditing, consulting	7.128	53.125	52.500
Information material	1.342	10.000	10.000
Various expenses	2.013	15.000	10.000
Common total	24.152	180.000	180.000

Appendix 1 for budget for 2024

Pledge for funding in 2024 - Incomes

	Pledge for 2024	Pledge for 2024	Actual for 2023
	EUR	DKK	DKK
SSM	410.073	3.056.235	3.042.130
TEM	360.000	2.683.044	2.751.505
BRS	50.316	375.000	375.000
GR	13.418	100.000	178.476
DSA	71.167	530.400	565.840
Total EUR / DKK	904.974	6.744.679	6.912.951

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

	EUR	DKK	DKK
Fortum	27.500	204.955	204.504
TVO	0	0	204.504
IFE	10.675	79.560	84.876
Forsmark	13.000	96.888	96.675
Ringhals	13.000	96.888	96.675
OKG	13.000	96.888	96.675
Total EUR / DKK	77.175	575.178	783.909

Complete EUR / DKK	982.149	7.319.857	7.696.860
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IFE contribution NOK	120000
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Exchange rates 2023/24:

NKS 2024:	
DKK	100,0000
EUR	7,4529
NOK	0,6630
SEK	0,6717
NKS 2023:	
SEK 2023	0,6686
EUR 2023	7,4365
NOK 2023	0,7073