

Programme board for Russia and Western Balkan

Minutes

18 December 2006, The Research Council, Oslo
Meeting room Frisch, 14:00 h – 17:00 h

Present:

Board Members: Gunnar Jordfald, Jasna Bogunovic Jakobsen, Olav Refsdal, Elisabeth Roman, Alf Håkon Hoel

Observers: Unni Poulsson, Lene Oftedal, Harald Sandhåland

Secretariat: Birgit Jacobsen, Arne Haugen, Ragnhild Solvi Berg, Randi Isaksen

Apologies: Magny Thomassen, Frode Lieungh, Tone Bringa

34/2006: Adoption of agenda

Decision:

The invitation to the meeting and agenda were approved, with the following additions:

Chair of Board Gunnar Jordfald asked for an orientation from the secretariat on the Ukraine project and the next agreement for the Cooperation programme with Russia.

35/2006: Adoption of minutes from meeting 1 November 2006

Decision:

Minutes were adopted, with the following comment from the Chair: Orientations presented orally in the meeting should be summed up in the minutes.

36/2006: Conflicts of interest

Decision:

The issue of conflicts of interest was not relevant for the agenda for this meeting

Cooperation Programme with Russia

37/2006: Discussion: Concluding seminar in St. Petersburg

The secretariat presented a preliminary programme and information on practical details for discussion in the board.

14-16 March have been pinned out as the dates for the seminar, registration has been set to January. The General Consulate and the

Norwegian University Centre in St. Petersburg have agreed to assist with the planning of the seminar.

Some of the comments from the board members:

General comments to the programme

Good way for the projects to report

The programme could focus more on the “lessons learned”-bit, more explicit

Maybe useful with a session in the end pointing on the future – new ideas for future cooperation

It could be useful with sum-ups at the end of the programme

Russian project coordinators should be encouraged to participate

Russian chairs, not only Norwegian

Key-note speech Wednesday, start “lessons learned” Thursday.

Comments to the practical arrangement

Conference dinner Wednesday, not Thursday

Programme Board should be represented, the ones who have opportunity should participate

The observers from MFA and KD will suggest who to participate from the Norwegian Ministries

Decision:

The secretariat continues to elaborate a final programme for the concluding seminar on the basis of the suggestions put forward by the Board members in the meeting.

Cooperation programme with Western Balkans

38/2006 Discussion: Use of non-allocated funds

Decision:

The non-allocated funds should be allocated to ongoing projects in the programme. The secretariat prepares a call for application to be presented in the board meeting 22 February 2007. The focus for the call should be mobility/scholarship, but applications aiming at strengthening existing projects can also be considered.

39/2006 Information

a) Final publication, the Cooperation Programme with Russia 2002-2006

Memo presented by secretariat

Decision:

*The Programme Board takes note of the information, with the following comment from observer from MFA Harald Sandhåland:
The objective of the publication should be formulated more broadly to “displaying activities under the programme”.*

b) The Norwegian Government’s High North strategy

*Presentations in meeting by:
Harald Sandhåland, MFA
Lene Oftedal, KD
Jesper Simonsen, The Norwegian Research Council*

Presentation by the MFA: *Main objectives and visions in the strategy. Further, Sandhåland underlined that the strategy is not a Russia strategy, but cooperation with Russia is an important part of the strategy. A separate plan of action for Russia has been discussed, but not decided upon yet.*

Presentation by the Research Council: *The Research Council has formulated its own High North Strategy, and is discussing financial opportunities with various ministries. Main subject areas are:*

- *Petroleum*
- *Environment- and marine resources*
- *Living conditions*
- *Innovation and industry*
- *Unique research in the High North*
- *Foreign policies*

Presentation by the KD:

- *Competence development is important when talking about the High North*
- *important to see education and research in one*
- *relevant areas are: Petroleum, technology, social sciences, polar research, public health, indigenous people*

Decision:

The Programme Board takes note of the information

c) The conference ”International Cooperation in Higher Education, the High North Dimension”, arranged by SIU and Bodø University College

Invitation and preliminary programme

Decision:

The Programme Board takes note of the information

40/06 Any other business

New agreement for the Cooperation Programme with Russia

The Research Council and SIU are presenting a joint proposal for a new agreement to the MFA in January 2007 and the MFA will decide on the economic framework for a new programme period. Some changes in the scope for the programme will probably appear in the new agreement.

Decision:

The Programme Board takes note of the information. A draft call for application will be presented to the Programme Board at the next board meeting.

Ukraine

The Research Council and SIU are working on a report with a recommendation for a new cooperation programme with Ukraine. The report will be submitted to the MFA in January 2007.

Decision:

The Programme Board takes note of the information

41/06 Next meeting

Decision:

22 February 9-13 h, at the offices of the Research Council, Oslo

Oslo and Bergen 5 January 2006

Gunnar Jordfald

Birgit Jacobsen
Arne Haugen