

Programme Board for Russia and Western BalkanTime: **Wednesday, 28 October 2009, 10 – 14**Place: **Forskningens hus, Stensberggt 26, Oslo, Meeting room Nansen****Present:** Olav Refsdal (Vestfold University College), Elisabeth Roman (Narvik University College), Jasna Bogunovic Jakobsen (University of Stavanger), Gunnar Jordfald (The Norwegian Association of Research Institutes - FFA), Magny Thomassen (University of Life Sciences)**Observers:** Harald Sandhåland (MFA- Section for the High North, Resources and Russia), Tobias Svenningsen (MFA- Western Balkans Section)**Secretariat** Gro Tjore (SIU), Ingeborg Revheim (SIU), Birgit Jacobsen (Research Council of Norway)**Apologies:** Karsten Fledelius (University of Copenhagen), Tove Lyngra (Ministry of Education and Research), Gro Beate Vige (Ministry of Education and Research), Kari Steenstrup Vaalund (Ministry of Education and Research)

12/09 Adoption of agenda*Decision: The Agenda was adopted.***13/09 Adoption of Minutes from Meeting on 28 October, 02/2009***Decision: The Minutes were adopted.***14/09 Conflicts of interest***Decision: The issue of conflicts of interest was not relevant for the agenda for this meeting.***15/09 The Cooperation Programme with Russia – presentation of the research project NorthPOP, Nataly Marchenko (UNIS)**

The Programme Board thanked Nataly Marchenko for a very informative and interesting presentation.

*Decision: The Programme Board takes notice of the information.***16/09 The Cooperation Programme with Russia – Project manager seminar, 10 December in Oslo***Decision: The Programme will be implemented according to the plan.***17/09 The Cooperation Programme with Russia – Report from the feasibility study in May***Decision: The Programme Board takes notice of the information.***18/09 The Cooperation Programme with the Western Balkan countries – Evaluation and future plans**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed that the running Cooperation Programme with the Western Balkan Countries (2006-2009) will not be

prolonged for a new period. However, higher education and research in the Western Balkan Countries will get increased support from the Ministry for the time to come, and the Ministry will ask the Research Council to administer the programme oriented towards development studies. The Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education and the Research Council will soon receive a new Programme Document, and relevant higher education institutions will be invited to participate.

Decision: The Programme Board takes notice of the information.

19/09

The Cooperation Programme with the Western Balkan countries – Concluding Conference, March 2010

The Board was in general pleased with the draft programme and the tentative mandate for the final conference. However, it was underlined that it is important that the projects are given adequate space and attention at the conference, in order for the project results to be presented more broadly. It was suggested that the conference should last for two full days, and aim to incorporate both the project perspective, and the broader aspects of the cooperation programme. One suggestion is to include a plenary session with “highlights” from the individual projects, and also organize two or three parallel groups where the projects should present their findings and discuss them in more detail.

It was also agreed that the results from the review of the cooperation programme should be presented at the conference.

Decision: The general plans for the arrangement was supported. The Secretariat will take the comments from the Board into consideration.

20/09

Information

The Programme for the Western Balkan countries – Publication Programme Board – Prolongation

Progress report (WB 05/06: Gender, Violence and Democracy..)

Consultation Meeting Cooperation Programmes, with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs 20 November

The RUN-project Seminar, UiO

The next meetings of the Programme Board: Thursdag 4 February in Bergen and 8 April in Oslo

21/09

Any other business

The Cooperation Programme with Russia:

- the Concluding Conference
- the Publication
- the Evaluation of the Programme

With regard to the concluding conference of the Cooperation Programme with Russia, the Secretariat suggested looking into the possibility of being a part of the larger High North conference of the Norwegian Research Council. This would both be cost-effective, and it would offer the projects a larger arena for presenting results and building contacts. The Programme Board felt that this should be carefully considered, so that the Cooperation Programme would not just become a minor piece of the larger picture. This will be an issue for the board meeting 4 February 2010.