

The Programme Board for the Cooperation Programme with Russia

Time: Wednesday, 20 October 2010

Place: Forskningsens 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 (Forskningsinstituttene fellesarena - FFA), Karsten Fledelius (University of Copenhagen), Karin Hilmer Pedersen (University of Aarhus)

Observers: Kristian Svanes (Utenriksdepartementet)

Sekretariat: Gro Tjore (SIU), Ingeborg Revheim (SIU), Birgit Jacobsen (Research Council of Norway)

Apologies: Magny Thomassen (University of Life Sciences)
Gro Beate Vige (Ministry of Education and Research), Kari Steenstrup Vaalund (Ministry of Education and Research)

11/10 Adoption of agenda

Decision: The Agenda was adopted.

12/10 Adoption of Minutes from Meeting on 04 February 2010, 1/2010 Minutes

Decision: The Minutes were adopted.

13/10 Conflicts of interest

Decision:

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

14/10 The Cooperation Programme with Russia – final conference/High North conference

Decision: The Programme Board approves the plan for the conference and the secretariat will include suggestions from the Programme Board.

15/10 Review of the The Cooperation Programme with Russia

RCN and SIU will continue the discussions with the MFA on how to proceed. The Programme Board forwarded draft Terms of Reference for a review in February 2010 and these could with minor revisions still be valid for an end review.

Decision: The Programme Board recommends that of a review of the programme should be carried out after activities have been finalized. It is a precondition that funds will be allocated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to this review, if no unspent funds are available from the programme budget.

16/10 The Cooperation Programme with the Western Balkan countries: final reports and accounts from the final conference in Sarajevo

Decision: The final reports are approved according to the recommendations from the Secretariat. The Programme Board takes note of the accounts from the final conference. Final reports that will be received in 2010 will be circulated to the Programme Board.

17/10 Final reports from the Cooperation Programme with Russia

Decision: The Programme Board supports the procedural approach suggested by the Secretariat.

18/10 Information

- a. Institutional visits to Arkhangelsk and Murmansk by SIU
SIU made a trip to Arkhangelsk and Murmansk from 31. May to 4. June 2010 with the dual purpose of monitoring progress in the projects supported by the Cooperation programme with Russia and visiting the Norwegian teachers supported by the MFA programme for Norwegian teachers abroad. A report from the trip has been produced and will be shared with the programme board.
- b. Call for proposals NORGLOBAL WBC/ Development Studies, meeting of June 16 (NRC)
This is the new programme for support to Western Balkan Countries, HERD. 14 proposal were received by the deadline in April, 5 of which were supported, and one proposal has been revised. The objective of the programme is to generate knowledge on various social and political aspects in the region, and the awarded projects represent a mix of ongoing projects and new initiatives.
- c. New research programme NORRUSS: call for applications, deadline, award meeting 23. November (NRC)
This is a programme to support knowledge about the Russian society, and it does not require Russian partners. A call for proposals under theme 2: Russian policy and social conditions in the northern areas was launched in August, deadline was early October. 14 proposals were received.
- d. Institutional cooperations – future perspectives (SIU)
SIU will continue discussions with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for future cooperation with Russia on higher education.

19/10 Any other business

- Cooperation programme with Eurasia – SIU
SIU gave a brief presentation of a newly launched cooperation programme between Norway and Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, Moldova, Tadzshikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. The overall goal is to contribute to renewal and internationalization of higher education in the cooperating countries. The first call for application had a deadline in September, and the Programme Borad will meet in late November to award funds.