

# SiN Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 2011-11-25, 10:30

Place: Norwegian School of Veterinary Science, Oslo

Present: Ricardo Rosado (DIOV), Melania Borit (TODOS), John-Wilhelm Vinje (PhD-UiA)

Notice of absence: Stine Huseby (FODOS), Ralph Kube (TODOS), Jon Kerr Nilsen (UiODoc)

Referent: Melania Borit (TODOS)

## AGENDA

1. Short presentations of the individual organisations present at the meeting.  
How does your organisation work? (activities, cooperation with the administration, funding, in which councils/boards are PhD's represented at your university/college, what is your main focus, what works/does not work, etc.)
2. Report from Eurodoc event (John): Eurodoc survey was published, is it any use for us? What can we do to gather information that would be useful for doctoral candidates and researchers in Norway, and for the KD and Forskningsrådet?
3. Report from Forskerforbundet Stipendiatseminar (Ricardo). At the seminar, I heard a lot of complaints about supervision and lack of standards for assessment. What can we do about it?
4. Innspill til Forskningsmelding.
5. SiN seminar 2012 (March?): ideas, suggestions, locations
6. Goals for SiN (slogans, catchy phrases, and actual goals - what do we want a national organization for? what do we stand for and how would things be different if SiN didn't exist).

7. How do we increase SiN's visibility (publicity -pens, folders, sling bags- , reports, hearings, publications). None of the other stipendiatene at the Forskerforbundet seminar had ever heard of SiN -> who do we represent?
8. How do we increase SiN's funding (apply for money, apply for part-time secretary position). No idea where to start really... Was thinking of asking the NSO and the ISU where they get their funding. What steps should we take to be an official organization, and how would this influence the workings of the association?
9. EURSA participation (Melania).
10. Gathering more members: help establish more doctoral organizations at other universities
11. How do you manage the lack of response/involvement of the PhD students at your own institutions?
12. Others

## DECISIONS

2. The EURODOC report should be sent to NIFU STEP, Ministry of Education, UHR, all member organizations and all other Norwegian universities.

Suggestion: organize the 2014 EURODOC General Assembly in Norway.

3. One conclusion of this seminar is that there are several things to be improved when talking about PhD education in Norway:

- PhD candidates' supervision -> offer supervision training
- rules for finishing the PhD program -> more information about the respective program is needed in order to be able to rank it
- safety net for PhD candidates in trouble - who one can talk to when one runs into troubles?

4. SiN will deal with this issue at a later date, as it is still time until the deadline.

5. Suggestion: organize the spring 2012 SiN General Assembly in May, in Tromsø, in connection with a half-day seminar about supervision & safety net; maybe establish a SiN supervision prize to be awarded during each General Assembly?

6. Goals for 2012:

- identify the Norwegian universities that could start up a PhD candidates/PostDocs organization;
- identify contact persons in such universities;
- make a website template for new organizations;
- draft a SiN budget for 2012;
- organize the SiN General Assembly in Tromsø together with a half-day seminar on PhD supervision and safety net for PhD candidates (?);
- establish SiN as an organization, with a physical address, bank account and secretary;
- identify possible institutions that could finance SiN and send sponsoring requests accompanied by the SiN budget.

7. - write on SiN website in what committees is SiN represented;

- make a SiN brochure that should include in what committees SiN is represented and key-words;
- establish SiN as an organization, with a physical address, bank account and secretary;
- write a list of duties for all positions in SiN Board.

8. - ask for money from UHR, Ministry of Education etc.

- write a budget proposal for SiN

Nr.	Events	NOK
1.	1-2 seminars/year	
2.	1 General Assembly/year	

3.	2-3 Board meetings in person	(1100 (travel) + 200 (lunch)) x 5 pers = 6500
4.	Web platform	
5.	Web platform including the ranking possibility	
6.	Travel expenses for other events, such as travelling to other Norwegian universities in order to start new organizations	
7.	Secretary position for SiN	
8.	Marketing for SiN	
9.	EURODOC General Assembly 2014	

9. SiN is not sure what to do yet, because we represent PhD candidates and PostDocs, which are already represented at European level by EURODOC. We wait and see how things develop.

10. - visit different Norwegian universities in order to help them starting up PhD/ PostDocs

organizations;

- make a website template for new organizations

12. Questions that came up during the discussions:

- what solution can be found for ranking the PhD programs in Norway?

- what can SiN do for its member organizations or for UHR, for example? For member organizations: information and one single strong voice that can reach UHR, Ministry of Education etc.

- how do we make the PostDocs more active?

Issues mentioned during the discussions:

- UHR is not sure if it wants to join the European Research Area -> maybe this is not such a good idea;

- maybe SiN should move its website to webs/wordpress (Ricardo should move it by 15.12);
- make a Dropbox SiN folder (Melania should do it by 15.12);
- John has to find somebody from his university that will replace him when he leaves in 2012.