

# Stipendiatororganisasjonene i Norge

## Board meeting

Date: 21.09.2020

Time: 17:00

Place: Zoom

## Agenda

1. General and organisational remarks
  - a. How we worked last year
  - b. What does the board expect?
2. Plans for the next year
  - a. What DIKU expects from us
  - b. What does the board suggest?
3. Working groups
  - a. How we did it last year
  - b. What groups exist
  - c. Who wants to join which group etc.

## Attendees

- Sin board: Yannik, Camilla, Grace, Idd, Bikal, Enrico, Margret

## Minutes

*Meeting start: 17:05*

### *1. Organisational remarks*

Google drive and minutes: Last year there was only one physical meeting and all other meetings were digital. This year, we will mostly likely have all meetings on zoom. Yannik urges everyone to upload documents and report on their activities on Google Drive. The better people report, the better people are able to follow up on work packages next year. Enrico in addition encourages everyone to check the minutes and correct or add remarks where necessary.

Board transition: Following Yizhou's re-election, he reconsidered his role as SiN liaison officer from UiODoc and decided to resign from his post on the SiN board. He will thus not be joining the SiN board for 2020-2021. Grace has had a transition meeting with Dipesh. The transition is an ongoing process and not everything is sorted yet. Grace is awaiting access to the Google Drive and a visit to the bank is pending. Hui will be managing the website.

Facebook: Yannik asks if anyone volunteers to take care of the facebook page. Last year, facebook content consisted of (among others) posting of interviews, courses, and summaries of working groups. An example that could be posted this week already is the Young Researcher Night happening in Oslo this Friday, hosted by the Young Academy. Enrico suggests the working groups take turns in posting their work on Facebook, approximately once every other week, to

demonstrate that SiN keeps active. Everyone will receive access to the SiN facebook page, and everyone is encouraged to post our activities there. So far, no single person is responsible for updating the facebook page. Bikal is on social media a lot and volunteers the take care of this.

Involvement of local organization leaders: Enrico proposes that every quarter year the presidents of all local organizations will join the board meeting, to strengthen the link between local organisations and the SiN board. This could be in addition to the monthly SiN board meetings, or scheduled together with the regular meetings. Enrico proposes to make the meeting joint. Everyone agrees on this.

## *2. Plan for the next year*

Reporting and visibility: SiN had quite some critique from DIKU last year, which was the result of low amounts of activity and visible benefits of SiN in previous years. In response, working groups were initiated to create more tangible outcomes. For the next annual report, it is important to get the data of the working groups out as soon as possible, which could be in the form of scientific publications (long-term) and flyers distributed to survey participants, local organisations and other stakeholders (short-term). In response to the last meeting with DIKU, it is suggested that our annual report should be more akin to a company's and explicitly address the costs that we incur on the one hand and the benefits that we generate on the other hand. To make the benefits visible and real, it is important that we actively present our mission and vision through the work that we do, both through channels directly targeting PhDs and postdocs and to the public. When a working group produces results, for example, information should also be sent to the local organizations with a request to disseminate it. In addition, we can leverage Khrono and other news outlets. The idea is that we can collect instances where SiN has appeared in the media, on post this on our website. As an example, the career outside academia group is going to present their results at the annual meeting of the digital life science research school. NIFU has just released their report detailing 2500 responses collected from a survey about work after PhD today as well. Camilla asks if we are going to combine our results or comments on their results. It would be beneficial and demonstrate the relevance of our work if we draw attention to both.

Press release of new board: Related to media coverage, Khrono has asked Camilla if we will send out a press release to announce the new board. Yannik agrees to prepare one in Norwegian.

Mission and vision: Yannik states that we need a stronger strategy or vision for SiN (beyond what the statutes say about us as an organization) and asks what we want to achieve with SiN this year. Idd says that it is common these days for business to describe their purpose. Margret says that while the statutes can stay the same for the next five years, the strategy and vision have to move with the times and we can formulate bold ambitions that might change from year to year. Camilla points out that we are not a business, but an organization, and will be evaluated as such. Enrico explains that while we don't generate profits, we are still expected to be of value. To make the value of SiN more practical and meaningful, ambitions can be formulated around working groups and should lead to tangible output. Yannik will create a document on Google Drive where board members can add their ideas about the ambitions of SiN, to be discussed during the next meeting.

### 3. Working groups

Enrico suggests people choose now or very shortly in which working group they want to be involved, so these can start having their own meetings in which to discuss specific targets. The following people have expressed interest:

- Career outside academia: Yannik, Grace, Idd, Bikal
- Career inside academia: Enrico, Margret
- Mental health: Ingvild, Camilla, Margret
- Open access: Miro, Enrico
- Mobility: no one – discontinue? Less relevance now due to COVID-19.

### 4. Any other business

Administration: For the registration of the SiN, Yannik still needs the personal numbers of Grace, Bikal, Idd Andrea and Ingvild (who was already registered in the previous board, so in theory her number should be known). These people are requested to email their personal numbers to Yannik asap.

Communications team: Margret proposes to have an auxiliary working group on communication strategy that supports the visibility of the other working groups. Camilla offers her services as a social media expert. Which content is shared and with whom will require a structured discussion that could be subject of a separate meetings within a small team. Facebook and Twitter require different strategies, as do press releases and news articles. Enrico proposes to officialise this as a working group. He emphasizes that the work of this group has to be sustainable, because if it stops after only one year, then there is little point. Margret points out that the initial investment in a communication strategy might be high, but that it will reduce the work load and make communication more effective later on. Enrico is interested in joining for the initial meeting to discuss ideas and set up the working group, together with Camilla and Margret. It is suggested to involve the facebook manager (Bikal) and webmaster (Hui) in this effort as well.

Working hours: Yannik stresses that it is fine if board members cannot always dedicate a lot of time to the SiN and if there are periods where board members have to prioritise their PhD (or postdoc) instead. The key is to be transparent about time constraints and to report hours faithfully. Camilla asks how we are supposed to report hours. Yannik suggests that we discuss the conventions for reporting hours during the next meeting, when everyone is there. Enrico stresses that it is important to report hours continuously, at least every month, so people don't forget.

Stipends of PhD guest researchers: Grace mentions the case of someone at NMBU whose payment is only 10,000 NOK per month and poses the question what SiN can do to help them. This a PhD student from another country who is not employed in Norway and is considered a student here (on a stipend). Upon arrival, this person discovered that the cost of living was higher than expected and is now asking SoDoc for help. Enrico observed two similar cases at NTNU and tried to contact the union, who were unfortunately not able to help. While it should be illegal to host researchers without insufficient funds to cover their stay, it does happen and when the unions cannot help, the only thing victims can do is to get a lawyer. These are not isolated cases, but we will need further information on the rules and funding schemes used to attract PhD guest researchers, in order to make any change. One of Camilla's previous co-workers is in charge of the [NORHED programme at UiO](#), so Camilla will make inquiries there to get more information.

Next meeting: Since some people have had to leave before the end of the meeting, Yannik will send out a Doodle to set the date for the next meeting.

*Meeting end: 18:27*



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Margret Veltman

Date: 22.09.2020