

# Stipendiatororganisasjonene i Norge

## Board meeting

Date: 18.08.2021

Time: 17:00

Place: Zoom

## Agenda

1. Government elections and state budget
2. Fall events
3. EuroDoc AGM
4. EuroDoc domain name
5. SiN positions
6. Semester planning
7. Next quarterly meeting

## Attendees

- SiN board: Yannik, Margret, Bikal, Ingvild, Camilla, Grace

## Minutes

*Meeting start: 17:00*

### *1. Government elections and state budget*

Camilla first raised this issue in May, and in the meantime several things have happened regarding the institutional handling of corona that we might not be aware of, so it is unclear what demands we should make. Margret suggests that it might still pay off to look at the various parties' political programmes and make our members aware of how these affect research and education. Ingvild proposes we could use smileys (green, yellow or red) as a simple communication tool to indicate how 'happy' we are with a given party's proposals. Ingvild volunteers to develop this 'political programme evaluation tool' and screen the political programmes for specific content. Camilla will review the result and assist with the graphic design. Following the elections it is important to also look at the proposed budget of the new government, which will be presented in November, and try to influence this. We could draw inspiration from the crisis package that was demanded earlier this Spring (and was not granted), but the state budget will be a bit later in the game so this discussion will be deferred to a later board meeting.

### *2. Fall events*

#### *Intellectual property rights workshop and working group*

With several working group members absent and/or leaving, the intellectual property rights workshop cannot be organised without more organising members. Margret says we could either split off this working group and let UiODoc (with the two surviving members being from the

UiODoc board) take the lead in organising this event with SiN as a co-organiser, or make it an inter-institutional collaboration if we can secure additional members from other PhD organisations. It is decided that we will try to attract new members to join the intellectual property rights working group at the next quarterly meeting on 31 August.

### *PhD day*

The event was initially proposed by Marit Ubbe from DIKU as a way to improve SiN's activities for the annual report. Ingvild, Enrico and Lisa Tietse were also at that meeting. Camilla wonders whether notes were taken at that meeting, or if it was discussed at a regular board meeting. Yannik will look up the original email and any notes of the meeting with DIKU and upload these on the Drive to make sure that the rest of the board is aware of the precise suggestions that were made by DIKU in order to meet the conditions for continued funding.

Regardless, it is agreed that we should organise a national PhD day in the Fall semester, ideally about two months in advance of our AGM. The purpose would be to introduce SiN and perhaps have one or two additional speakers talk about the PhD system in Norway and focusing on what PhD students need to know. Yannik volunteers taking the lead of the committee that will organise this PhD day. Bikal can help and potentially introduce EuroDoc as part of the programme. In the past Ragnar Lie also gave a talk; we could ask him again. Camilla has two other suggestions: 1) people who research PhD education in Norway, for example someone from NIKU), and 2) the currently ongoing research project on covid-19, mental health and PhDs, conducted by a research group in Bergen. They produce much relevant output, with one recent example being [this](#) article in Dagens Medisin. Yannik will contact these people and ask for their availability in early October.

### *3. EuroDoc AGM*

Bikal gives an account of the election process, which happened in an improvised manner and had some surprising results. Nominations were added at the very last minute and questions were asked about nominees that were not present to answer them. Bikal was elected secretariat coordinator, but none of the other candidates that SiN put forward were elected. No information about the election result was sent to the nominees and member organisations of EuroDoc since. Bikal has informed the secretary that it would be good if the member organisations and nominees are formally informed about the election results, but has heard that it was expected that the delegates would take care of this. Margret proposes we could offer some suggestions to the EuroDoc board for better practices in their communication with member organisations and how to approach the elections. Since Bikal is not a EuroDoc board member, he was not invited to the first board meeting, but at the next meeting he will attend and then voice his concern about the process and ask for better information provision going forward.

### *4. EuroDoc domain name*

SiN organised the EuroDoc conference in 2017 and is still paying for the domain name of the [website](#), which costs around 120 NOK per year. Everyone agrees that the domain name should be removed. Bikal will take care of this.

### *5. SiN positions*

The comments from the local member organisations are all uploaded and some still need to be incorporated before we can vote for publication. The positions on the Effects of the pandemic and Collective organisation of PhDs and postdocs are both approved and can be published on

the website immediately. Yannik will continue his revisions for the Postdoc position on Friday and ask Idd if she can do the same. Camilla has offered to help Idd if she doesn't have time, and will also slightly change the phrasing of the COVID-19 given the changing circumstances regarding extensions. The rest of the board will then have a week to approve or make comments, so the statements can be published latest 27 August. Yannik mentions that some of the comments on the statements simply ask for more details and that not all of these details can be incorporated in the final text, because it is supposed to be a general document. Margret suggests we should take these comments as signals about what our member organisations want to hear more about in the future, and that we can expand the positions on our website with subsections in the future.

## 6. Semester planning

To give some predictability for everyone's calendars this Fall, it is decided that the board meetings, AGM and the transition period will be planned already now.

### *AGM planning and transition*

Camilla asks about the rationale for moving the AGM, which was explained at last year's AGM. Ingvild replies that SiN wanted to align the board year with the fiscal year. Yannik says it was agreed back then to hold the AGM in late November, to take December for the transition, and install the new board for the start of the new board year in January 2022. Margret asks if this means that the treasurer will be working on the accounting for 2021 and the transfer of responsibilities to the new treasurer still in January 2022, because this means that the transition cannot be fully completed in December. December is also a busy month for many, and we might not have much time to prepare a full-day introduction meeting alongside the assembly, if the AGM is in late November. In addition, since it concerns a full day, the introduction day would have to be scheduled in consultation with the new board members, who have to reserve availability in their calendars, which necessarily delays some aspects of planning until late November. It is therefore decided to have two separate meetings:

- As soon as possible after the AGM (in December) we should meet up with the new board members to take care of some infrastructural things. This meeting can be on zoom and will have to be scheduled in coordination with the newly elected members directly after the AGM. At this meeting we will briefly inform the new board about some key practicalities and the plans for the transition month, which will then take place in January.
- In January we will do a full day of introduction presentations, cases and workshops and additionally 1-on-1 meetings between the predecessors and successors for each role. Ideally this would be scheduled in person to create a more interactive and stimulating environment.

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#### *AGM date and location*

The new AGM is tentatively scheduled for the 27th of November (a Saturday), in order to minimise the number of working days that people need to take off in order to attend. Yannik proposes to organise it in Oslo again, because it is easy to travel to. However, the last AGM was hosted by UiODoc and we should try to visit another member organisation this time. NMBU and OsloMet are also in the Oslo region and therefore also close by for many delegates. Alternatively, there are two member organisations in Bergen as well and hosting it there might be a good way to consolidate their involvement in SiN and attract more of their local members to nominate themselves for the SiN board. Yannik will approach the organisations in Bergen to ask if they could host the AGM on the 27th of November. Margret volunteers to help organise the AGM and can be the secretary at the AGM itself. Ingvild will take care of the digital voting solution (e.g. Menti). Once the delegates from Bergen have confirmed they can host the AGM, Yannik will set up a meeting with them, Ingvild and Margret to start planning.

#### *AGM preparation*

Yannik proposes to have a board meeting on the 9th of November to prepare the AGM. According to the statutes we need to invite the member organisations and send out any proposed changes to the statutes at least one month in advance of the AGM. Ideally we would do this sooner so people can already buy plane tickets and appoint delegates and observers. Camilla asks when we will aim to send out all information so we have a deadline to work towards. Ingvild, Yannik and Margret will present a status update on 5 October to finalise and send out the information latest 15 October. Since there is no other urgent information to distribute before the next quarterly meeting (31 August), we will skip one newsletter cycle and the next newsletter will include the formal AGM invitation in October.

#### *Newsletter and quarterly meeting schedule*

A brief discussion ensues of the desired timing of sending out the quarterly newsletters vis à vis the quarterly meetings themselves. We had agreed to send them in the lead up to the quarterly meetings when we started hosting them at the end of 2020, with an invitation/agenda and any relevant requests for information, but in practice the doodle has been sent separately and important information has been disseminated afterwards. A new (tentative) schedule is agreed

on as follows, where the AGM substitutes for what would normally be the fourth quarterly meeting with the member organisations:

Newsletter schedule:

- January (invitation to first quarterly meeting)
- April (invitation to second quarterly meeting)
- August (invitation to third quarterly meeting)
- October (AGM invitation)

Quarterly meeting schedule:

- February
- May
- September
- November/December (AGM)

### *Fall board meetings*

If the location for the AGM is confirmed, we can already inform the local organisations at the next quarterly meeting about the date and location (31 August). The next regular board meetings will be on: 16 September, 5 October and 9 November.

### *Guidelines*

Yannik and Margret have drafted a task division for guidelines, which is available on Google Drive. Camilla's comments have already been incorporated in this document and everyone else is invited to give input as well. Yannik and Margret will take any input as a basis for expanding the guidelines, which should be ready well in time before the AGM to ensure that we can follow these guidelines in preparation for the AGM. The guidelines will be approved at a regular board meeting at least a month before the AGM, so on 5 October.

### *7. Next quarterly meeting*

The next quarterly meeting will be on 31 August, and will be the first quarterly meeting where all member organisations are (hypothetically) represented. This is a big achievement! The agenda for the next quarterly meeting will focus on recruiting new members for the intellectual property rights working group, collecting information about Norwegian language course offerings at their university, and the AGM. Yannik will finalise and send around the agenda.

*Meeting end: 19:04*



Stipendiatororganisasjonene i Norge

Org. nr: 885 485 472

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Margret Veltman

Date: 18.08.2021