

Stipendiatororganisasjonene i Norge

Board meeting 28.03.2022

Time: 17:00

Location: Zoom

Agenda

1. EuroDoc feedback
2. Upcoming EuroDoc AGM?
3. Internationalization Statement update
4. Local Org. Contacts
5. Mental Health Survey update
6. PhD Day update
7. KIF Committee meeting update
8. Suggestions for SiN activities from NHH admin
9. A call for input from KD
10. Other concerns/issues?

Minutes

Present: Nicolas, Sanja, Friederike, Johanne, Anna, Siamak, Chris, Yauhen (17:10), Andrea (17:20)

Absent: ---

Meeting start: 17:00

1. EuroDoc feedback

EuroDoc wants to have job descriptions and examples for researchers, both for early and more independent researchers, so profiles and how they can be made. Positions such as dean or rector are excluded, as they are not research positions. If we have further input as SiN we can comment on that by Thursday. The board agrees, and no additional comments are provided.

2. Upcoming EuroDoc AGM?

The EuroDoc AGM is on May 18, 19. It was supposed to be physical and take place in Lithuania, but now it says it will be online. The topics are already set. The first day will be more like any other conference, and the second day will be the AGM itself. The topics of the keynotes on the first day are open science, research collaborations in Europe, how to find funding? Since there is no worry in relation to travel, Friederike will keep the rest of the board in the loop about the deadlines. If anyone else wishes to attend or run for the EuroDoc board, they should say so.

3. Internationalization Statement update

After we resolve the issue of having the right local organizations' contacts (see point 4), and make sure that all the local organizations receive the e-mails, we should finalize the internationalization statement. It would be ideal to do so by Friday. So far, the only written feedback arrived from UiO. Nicolas will finalize the statement as soon as we have the feedback in place or after the feedback deadline passes.

4. Local Org. Contacts

It seems that we have an issue with the "medlemmer" e-mail. Sanja will test whether it works by sending one e-mail using the common e-mail and another to the recently collected local organization leaders' e-mails so that we can check if it functions or not. We got feedback from NMBU that they did not receive the COVID-19 survey e-mail, although their official e-mail is listed in the "medlemmer" e-mail.

5. Mental Health Survey update

We have so far got 638 answers. The distribution is not good. UiS, UiB and NIH are extremely low. Sanja is sending the reminder tomorrow and will check why UiS is so low. UiBDoc is awaiting an e-mail to be sent out centrally, which is why it takes some extra time. The plan is to close the survey until April 5, but the board agrees that if necessary, an extension will be offered. The agreement is based on how to better have a representative sample and extend it than otherwise. Therefore, in the case of need (especially taking UiB into account and their system), the survey deadline will be extended to after Easter. Chris had not yet heard from the researchers who wanted to do an interview in relation to the survey, and Nicolas had provided them with his e-mail.

6. PhD Day update

The document where all the plans so far have been summarized is completed but not yet sent out to the local organizations. The suggestion is to send it after Easter and give one month to the local organizations to send an answer. Also, Anna will put the document on Slack so that board members can provide comments by then.

7. Kif Committee meeting update

The committee board is new, consisting of 20 different members from universities and research institutions. The first meeting was a general update on the work of the previous board and offered some updates for the future. Some future discussions will be on the social and technical backgrounds of the researchers, additionally their interest will go towards the researchers with parents who emigrated to Norway (the 2nd generation) in terms of why only a few of those people chose academia as their career path. The next meeting will be on May 19 and then we will get more updates and get a better idea of how we can contribute and what our position as SiN is.

8. Suggestions for SiN activities from NHH admin

NHH had a discussion with their administration, and these were the suggestions from the NHH administration side:

- How to increase the recruitment of both Norwegian and international candidates, especially for postdoc and ass. professor positions. So, the suggestion is to have the job listings on SiN page as well, and not only on jobbnorge.no
- The topic of mental health

After a discussion, the board came up with the following:

- We could have links on our web page to the job listing web pages of the universities. That is the most feasible solution, as we cannot follow up with all the listings in Norway. This way, interested researchers would have quick access to the updated job listings
- On the quarterly meeting, we could pose a question to the local organizations on how they have this kind of support organized at their universities.

Nicolas will inform the NHH administration that we agree with their proposal. We will continue the discussion forward.

9. A call for input from KD

We are invited to the first hearing about the government's "trust reform" within the higher education sector. The meeting will be on the 30th. They have some specific questions for us:

- What are the challenges we think are the most important in our sector?
- How can this reform increase trust in our sector?
- Any suggestions we might have?

The discussion mainly relates to the following: we do not have enough information and do not completely understand what the trust reform is about. Is it about more academic freedom, is it about SiN being important for increased working conditions and a better community for early career scholars, is it about our flexible working hours, intellectual properties, hierarchy, independence in research, and not being dependent on administration? It seems that everything we found online on this topic is very broad. The Labour party says it is an instrumental reform in a way, allowing more freedom in the working place. So, for us, perhaps not too critical, as we already have enough space to manoeuvre. We are a bit unsure whether we are allowed to provide written feedback, as no one from the board will be able to attend the meeting.

After the discussion, the agreement is the following: Nicolas will send an e-mail thanking KD for the invite, informing them that sadly we will not participate in the meeting, and saying that we would be happy to provide written feedback.

10. Other concerns/issues?

BANK ACCOUNT – Yauhen

We have 3 bank accounts in Nordea; the main account, another EUR account, and the third one, called the EuroDoc account. The suggestion is to close the unnecessary accounts. During the last year, we did not have any transactions on these two accounts, and additionally, we are paying a small fee for the existence of the third bank account. Yauhen will contact the previous treasurer to see if it is necessary to keep any of those accounts, otherwise, the main one will be kept, and the other two closed. The board agrees on this.

ARTICLES SLACK CHANNEL - Siamak

The board agrees to add the local organizations to the channel as it can promote discussions, and a better share of information.

Meeting ended 17:53