



Nordic Research Council for Criminology

Protocol from the Nordic Research Council for Criminology (NSfK) Council Meeting

Date: 13-14 March 2023

Times: 1. pm. – 6.15 pm & 9.am – 2.pm

Venue: Domus Juridica, Faculty of Law, Department of Criminology and Sociology of Law, Oslo.

March 13th 1.pm – 6.pm

Present from the Council in Oslo: Hanna Rún Sverrisdóttir (IS), Rannveig Þórisdóttir (IS), Linda Kjær Minke (DK), Annick Ingrid Prieur (DK), Anne-Julie Boesen Pedersen (DK), Ann-Karin Ivert (SE), Tove Pettersson (SE), Erik Grevholm (SE), Minna Piispa (FI), Mikko Aaltonen (FI), Ragnhild Helene Hennum (NO), Arnt Even Hustad (NO) and Chair Heidi Mork Lomell (NO).

Present from the Council via zoom: Helena Huhta (FI) both days, Ann-Karin Ivert (SE) 14th of March.

Absent: Kolbrún Benediktsdóttir (IS).

Minute taker, Executive Secretary: Per Jørgen Ystehede (NO).

1. *Welcome, Quorum and agenda*

The Council has this year two new members: Helena Huhta from Finland and Anna-Karin Ivert. The Chair welcomed the new members and there was a round of introduction prior to the approval of the quorum for the meeting and agenda.

2. *News from the Ministries of Justice*

Similar to the meeting in Stockholm 2022, The Chair asked the representatives from the Nordic Ministries to please address the following three questions: i) What has been the key criminal justice topics and policies for the Ministry in the period 2022-2023? ii) What are (some) of the plans for the coming year? iii) What criminological knowledge needs do you see the Ministry may have for the period 2023 and onwards?

Attached find the PowerPoint-presentations of the Danish, Finnish and Swedish representative.

From Norway was especially mentioned the need for reform of correctional services as the prison population now more and more consists of marginalized groups, some too sick to stay in prisons, as well as recent debates regarding drug reform and the role of the police and increase in self-reported rape cases.

Iceland especially mentioned the process of revising gun laws, including the intentions to ban of automatic weapons. Of the shared topics of interest, the Council especially noted the shared interest and need for further research into youth crime (gangs), sexual violence as well as conditions for various groups of prisoners.

3. Annual report 2022

Executive Secretary Ystehede presented the annual report, which this year has been modernised. The Council was satisfied with the report. For next year was requested in the "Facts and Figures" section also an overview of financed research projects from the last 10 years.

3. 1 Annual report 2022

NSfKs Annual report for the year 2022 was seen and approved by the Council.

3.2. Closing of Accounts 2022

The Executive Secretary informed about the closing of accounts 2022 (appendix 2). NSfK has still a robust financial situation due to the pandemic, which make it possible this year to give out more research support. The Council had no comments regarding the closing of accounts.

4. Budget 2023

The Chair presented the budget proposal for 2023 (appendix 3).

The Chair presented the suggestion for state grants 2024 (appendix 4). The suggestion was that the total government contribution should not be index regulated and stay the same as it has been in the years 2019-2023. The basis for calculating each government contribution is the most recent model decided by Nordic Council of Ministers.

Next on the agenda was payments to the Chair of NSfK 2022 (appendix 5). The Chair left the room while vice-Chair Rannveig Þórisdóttir headed the proceeding. The Council approved to continue the previous year set remuneration of the Chair.

5. Applications for Research Applications

The call for NSfK research grants 2023 opened on **Wednesday October 12th 2022 and closed on December 7th 2022**. NSfK received **3** applications for a joint Nordic project, **10** applications for individual research projects, **6** applications for working groups and **1** for a contact seminar.

The joint Nordic project was sent out for evaluation to all the Council members while the individual research project applications was sent to three members of the Council for evaluation. The Chair Heidi Mork Lomell and Vice-Chair Rannveig Þórisdóttir reviewed the working group and contact seminar applications.

The Council first started deliberations on the decision making process for this year's applications for research grants. The Chair went through the grant guidelines, criteria's and agreed policies. It was decided that all applications that had received the mark 3,5 or higher should be discussed by the Council and considered for funding.

Conflict of interest (COI): the following council members had a conflict of interest when it came to one or more of the applications: Mikko Aaltonen, Ragnhild Hennum, Helena Huhta, Anna-Karin Ivert, Linda Kjær Minke, and Tove Petterson.

As a result, Hennum, Minke and Petterson left the room when discussing the joint Nordic projects, while the individual Council members who had COI's left when it came to the respective individual project and/or working group. Following, the council members were asked to rank the applications except the ones she/he/they had a conflict of interest with 1 being the first choice.

The Council decided to give funding to the following projects:

1 Joint Nordic Project

Johansen, Mette-Louise E. (DK) *Ways Out of Street Crime: A Comparative Study of Street Crime Desistance in Denmark, Sweden and Norway*

NOK 1 482 037 000

4 Individual grants:

Vuorela, Miikko (FI) *The Historical Criminal Statistics of the Nordic Countries 1810-2020*

NOK 588 042

Carlsson, Kerstin (DK) *(Re)Imagining the Citizen: Citizenship Revocation for Crime*
NOK 599 990

Hagerlid Mika (SE) *The Blind Spot: Assessing the increase in self-reported victimization among young Swedish women*
NOK 357 957

Smith, Peter Scharff (NO) *Shaping Nordic Punishment – mapping and understanding the development of Nordic penal practice (PenalNordic)**
NOK 600 000

* Smith's application was originally a joint Nordic project application, but since it ranked among the applications with highest grades and the Council found it feasible to revise the project design, the Council decided to offer Smith NOK 600 000. In addition, under the conditions that Smith in the revised proposal should also try to include data from Finland and Iceland.

5 Working groups

Hermansson, Klara (SE) *Sentiments on justice in the Nordic countries*
NOK 77 206

Johansen, Berit (NO) *Prisoners' Access to Justice – PRISAU*
NOK 50 000

Lentz, Lene Wachter (DK) *Punitive Turn – Nordic style*
NOK 99 900

Uhnöo, Sara (SE) *Nordic Himpathy*
NOK 90 000

Skardhamar, Torbjørn (NO) *Nordic network for register-based criminological research*
NOK 99 600

In total the research support allocated was **NOK 4 039 502**. This is NOK 39 400 above the total amount of NOK 4 000 000 which is currently suggested in the 2024 budget.

6. *Research support – Discussion*

6.1. Call for Research Grants 2024 (appendix 9)

The Chair presented the draft for the Call 2023. Discussed was whether one should include a topic or theme, which would receive priority. Due to earlier experiences that this has not had an effect, the Council expressed scepticism.

Decision: The Council will decide on the final version of the text and whether to keep the sums suggested for the call at the council meeting in May in Finland.

6.2 Evaluation of the process

The Council discussed the evaluation process. The Council unanimously agreed that there was a need for a better system as to see the other evaluators comments to each individual proposal. Albeit the system has improved with providing colours to differentiate applications with different marks, the excel sheet provided by the service provider needs further improvement. For next year, the Chair should also give more direct instructions as to which applications all members must read. All evaluators in their comments should provide one sentence to be used as an answer to those applicants wanting feed-back on how to improve their project description. The Secretariat will contact the service provider (Aspicore) to implement these changes prior to announcement for research grants.

7. Contact seminars and Working group meetings

Council member Pettersson provided a short summary of the contact seminar.

No working groups or contact seminars were suggested at the Council meeting. The issue will be revisited at the Council meeting in Finland.

8. NSfK Research Seminar 2023

The Finnish council members presented the plans for the annual research seminar, which in 2023 will be held in Aulanko between May 8th, and 10th. The topic for this year's research seminar - The future of punishment: Reducing recidivism and promoting societal integration? – has gained a lot of interest and there will be many participants, also not given support from the NSfK. The Council decided that this year also would be invited as guests extra representatives from the Nordic ministries of Justice. Whether to have a separate event with the representatives from the Ministries and Council members was also discussed. This would be later decided pending on programme schedule.

9. NSfK support of Nordic PhD students in criminology 2023

9.1 and 9.2 Nordic PhD seminar 2022 and Future Nordic PhD seminar 2023

In 2022 NSfK supported a seminar for PhD students in criminology held in Lund, Sweden in collaboration with the The Ulla Bondeson Fund Research seminar. The seminar was very successful and the PhD students had held a vote wanting that a new seminar should be held in Oslo in November 2023. The Council supports this initiative.

9.3. Establishment of Working Group

The Chair suggested that NSfK to stimulate further Nordic cooperation in criminology should establish a working group that examines the possibility of closer collaboration between the national PhD programmes in Criminology, and also the possibility of creating a joint Nordic PhD Programme in Criminology. The Council was supportive, but many council members pointed out the challenges and complexities involved. In Sweden, the Nordic country with the most PhD programmes in Criminology, there is a process looking into extended collaboration. Council member Anna-Karin Ivert is part of these dialogues and would both convey the interest of NsfK to support this, as well as reporting to the Council how this process develops. A working group will not be established in 2023.

10. Nordic Journal of Criminology

10.1. Open Access of Previous NJC volumes and Scandinavian Studies in Criminology Online

Adviser and Web editor for NSfK Maud Hoel informed the Council of the offer made by the Scandinavian University Press (Universitetsforlaget) to publish the backlog previously held by Taylor & Francis online. The Council decided to accept the offer.

Scandinavian Studies in Criminology was a book series funded by the Council that was published in the time period 1965 to 1999. The series includes seminal works by Nordic criminologists in English. The rights for the majority of the series is still held by Scandinavian University Press. Hoel was given the task to investigate how much it would cost to get these published in digital format and accessible online and whether this should be part of costs budgeted for 2024 activities.

11. Status of NSfK Archives

As part of the 60th anniversary, the Council had decided to make the NSfK archives digitally available. Executive Secretary Ystehede informed the Council about the work. The digitalization is now completed, and the secretariat is working on a manual on how to access and use the archive.

12. Revised Budget 2023

The Council approved of the revised budget. The suggestions for state grants for 2024, together with the annual report for 2022, will be sent to the Nordic Ministries of Justice.

13. Future organisation of NSfK

In 2021, former Chair Felipe Estrada and Secretary Carina Johansson, raised the question of whether the current practice of moving the secretariat every 3rd year when new national Chair is elected is sustainable, as this move is both time and financially consuming. This issue was discussed at the Council Meeting in Stockholm. The chair presented a draft for a mandate for a working group to evaluate this question. The Council agreed with the Chair's suggestion and each country nominated a representative to be in the working group. The working group has consisted of the following members from the council: Anne-Julie Boesen Pedersen (DE), Mikko Aaltonen (FI), Erik Grevholm (SE), Hanna Rún Sverrisdóttir (IS) and Heidi Mork Lomell (NO). A memo from the working group was presented which recommended that establishing a permanent secretariat would be the preferable solution. The working group recommended The European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations – HEUNI as a fitting candidate.

The Council decided to further explore the possibility of permanently establishing the secretariat at HEUNI, while keeping some local administrative support for the Chair, which function will still rotate on a 3 year basis. The process will be in dialogue with HEUNI and the Nordic ministries. Council member Minna Piispa will have a meeting with HEUNI in April to start talking to the Director of the feasibility of this plan. The NSfK Secretariat will before the April meeting present a first draft describing the secretariat functions.

14. Council Meeting 2024

It was decided that the next year's Council meeting would be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, 11-12 March 2024.

15. AOB.

There were a discussion regarding the 2024 seminar which will likely be in Sweden.

The meeting closed at 2.pm.