



Nordic Research Council for Criminology

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

Date: 14-15 March 2022

Times: 1. pm. – 6.00 pm. & 9.am – 4.pm

Venue: Hotel Kung Carl, Stockholm

March 14th 1.pm – 6.pm

Present from the Council **in Stockholm:** Hanna Rún Sverrisdóttir (IS), Kolbrún Benediktsdóttir (IS), Rannveig Þórisdóttir (IS), Linda Kjær Minke (DK), Annick Ingrid Prieur (DK), Anne-Julie Boesen Pedersen (DK), Tove Pettersson (SE), Erik Grevholm (SE), Arnt Even Hustad (NO) and Chair Heidi Mork Lomell (NO).

Present from the Council via zoom: Minna Piispa (FI), Natalia Ollus (FI), Mikko Aaltonen (FI) and Ragnhild Helene Hennem (NO).

Absent: Caroline Mellgren (SE)

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

1. *Quorum and agenda*

Quorum for the meeting and agenda was approved.

2. *News from the Ministries of Justice*

This year 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 2021-2022? 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 2022 and onwards?

Attached find the PowerPoint-presentations of the Danish, Finnish and Swedish representative. Of the shared topics of interest, the Council especially discussed the need for further research into sexual violence. It was also discussed if this should inform the

call for research grant in 2022. This is to be decided when the Council reconvenes at the Research seminar in Iceland.

3. Annual report 2021

3.1 Annual report 2021

NSfKs Annual report for the year 2021 was seen and approved by the Council. Next year the Annual report for 2022 will be in English.

3.2. Closing of Accounts 2021

The Chair informed about the closing of accounts 2021 (appendix 2). Due to the ongoing COVID-pandemic NSfK has a robust financial situation, but due to fluctuations in currency when moving finances from the Swedish to the Norwegian Presidency, this will likely negatively impact NSfKs financial situation. The Council had no comments regarding the closing of accounts.

4. Budget 2022

The Chair presented the budget proposal for 2022 (appendix 3). The Chair and the Secretariat had this year somewhat revised the structure of the NSfKs budget design. Whereas earlier costs was placed in lump sums, the different costs allocated to NSfKs various project activities in the new budget was this time specified. This to increase transparency and to give the Council a better overview of the overall expenditure.

The Chair presented the suggestion for state grants 2023 (appendix 4). Because the total government contribution has been the same since 2019, it was proposed a 2% increase to cover price and wage growth. The Council requested information regarding what would be the costs without the 2 % increase to be presented on the following day when the budget for 2022 and state grants for 2023 were to be decided.

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 2022 opened on Monday October 25th and closed on Friday November 26th 2021. NSfK received **1** application for a joint Nordic project, **17** applications for individual research projects and **3** applications for working groups. The joint Nordic project was sent out for evaluation to all the Council members while all 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 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 (appendix 6).

The Chair presented suggestion for decision making process for this year's research grants. The Council concurred that one should consider only applications that received the average grade of 3,5 or higher which meant that under evaluation were 8 Individual applications and 3 Working group applications.

The Council decided to give funding to the following 5 individual research grants:

- Antonsdottir, Hildur (IS) *Deserving and Undeserving Victims of Crime: An Analysis of Applications and Awards made by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund in Iceland.*
- Houborg, Esben (DK) *Police drug law enforcement in Denmark from 2000 to 2020.*
- Kahlmeter, Anna (SE) *Court-imposed care orders in a non-treatment paradigm: trends, demographics and outcomes in Sweden, 1994-2020.*
- Unlu, Ali (FI) *Aggression and threat rhetoric targeting Muslims and the LGBT community on social media in Finland.*
- Österman, Linnéa (SE) *Minority Women's Experiences of Desistance in Sweden.*

The Council decided to give funding to the following 3 working groups:

- Bäcklin, Emy (SE) "The Nordic network for penal voluntary sector research"
- Fornes, Ingunn (NO) "Children and young people in conflict with the law"
- Hafstad, Gertud Sofie (NO) "CHANCE – Child Abuse and Neglect in the Nordic Countries"

In total the Council gave NOK 2 675 224 in research support out of a budget of NOK 3 000 000.

6. Research support – Discussion

6.1. Call for Research Grants 2023 (appendix 7)

The Chair presented the draft for the Call 2023.

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 Iceland.

6.2 Evaluation of the process

The Council discussed the evaluation process and decided on minor changes in the phrasing in the evaluation form in the NSfK portal. 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

7.1. Contact seminars 2021/22

Chair Heidi Mork Lomell and Council member Anne-Julie Boesen gave a summary of the contact seminars of 2021/2022 held respectively in Oslo and online on *Corruption and unethical conduct in the Nordic police forces* and *Initiatives to prevent and combat gangs and gang-related crime in the Nordic countries*.

7.2. Future contact seminars

Council members Linda Kjær Minke and Rannveig Þórisdóttir suggested a contact seminar on Victims of gender-based violence, and Council member Arnt Even Hustad suggested a contact seminar on Crime Victim Surveys in the Nordic Countries.

The Council supported the suggested contact seminars.

7.3 Future working groups

Council member Linda Kjær Minke and Tove Pettersson suggested a working group on Research on Sense of Justice in the Nordics.

The Council supported the suggested working group.

8. (8.1.-8.4.) NSfK Research Seminar 2022 – NSfK 60 years

The Icelandic council members presented the plans for the annual research seminar, which in 2022 will be held in Iceland between May 9th, and 12. The Council decided that this year also would be invited as special guests the previous Chairs of NSfK.

As part of celebrating the 60th anniversary, NTfK has published a special Jubilee Issue, inviting young researchers to reflect on future criminological research. The Executive Secretary Per Jørgen Ystehede also presented the progression with digitalising the NSfK archive at the National Archives of Norway. The Council decided that one would make digitally available a selection of the archive of particular interest up until the sum of NOK 100 000 incl. VAT.

Due to the pandemic, a planned meeting with PhD students from the Nordic countries had to be postponed. Council member Tove Pettersson shall contact Lund University where they are planning to organise a similar event to see if it is possible to facilitate a cooperation.

9. Nordisk Tidsskrift for Kriminalvidenskab

9.1. Application for financial support

As previous years, *Nordisk Tidsskrift for Kriminalvidenskab* applied for financial support (appendix 8). The Council supported the application, but see 9.2.

9.2. NSfK as co-publisher

The editor of *Nordisk Tidsskrift for Kriminalvidenskab*, Anette Storgaard, in an application send to the Chair suggests that that NSfK should formally become co-publisher (see suggested contract appendix 9). The application had been approved by the boards in all the Nordic “kriminalistforeninger”.

The Council was in favour of becoming co-publishers for the journal, however had several comments regarding clarifications of terminology in the suggested contract, and suggested that the draft contract was translated into English. The Chair was given the mandate to directly contact the editor as to amend these. The suggested contract will be discussed with the Editor at the council meeting in Iceland.

10. Nordic Journal of Criminology

10.1. Tender

The contract with Taylor & Francis to publish *Nordic Journal of Criminology* will expire this year. The Chair presented a draft of a tender for *Nordic Journal of Criminology* (appendix 10) along with a suggested timeline. The Council supported the timeline and emphasised that it was important that i) the Journal still kept a distinct Nordic profile ii) that the journal is to be published online only, and iii) to continue publishing two issues per year. The next stages of the process will be presented by Maud Hol (NO), responsible for NSfKs journal and web pages, who coordinated the process, at the council meeting in Iceland.

11. (11.1-11.2) Budget approval 2022

The Council approved of the suggested budget for 2022 (appendix 3). When it came to the suggested 2% increase of State grants for 2023, the Council voted in favour of keeping the current rates.

12. Future organisation of NSfK

The former Secretary had started a process discussing whether the current organization of moving administration every 3 years was the most optimal one. The chair presented a draft for a mandate for a working group to evaluate this question (appendix 11). The Council agreed with the Chair's suggestion and each country nominated a representative to be in the working group. The group will also convene at the Council meeting in Iceland.

The working group consists of the following council members

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- Anne-Julie Boesen (DK)
- Hanna Rún Sverrisdóttir (IS)
- Erik Grevholm (SE)
- Mikko Aaltonen (FI)

The group will be headed by Chair Heidi Mork Lomell and secretary for the group will be Per Jørgen Ystehede.

13. Council Meeting 2023

The Council decided that the next Council meeting will take place in Oslo, Norway, 13-14 March 2023.

14. AOB.

There were no AOB.

The meeting closed at 1.p.m.