

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

NOS-M is a cooperative body for the medical research councils in Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

The objective of NOS-M is to further develop the committee as a joint forum for promotion of medical research in the Nordic countries and to strengthen the international status of Nordic health research. Enhancement of Nordic cooperation has been of increasing importance in science policy issues; especially in relation to the European Research Area and the establishment of NordForsk, a platform for joint Nordic research and research policy development.

Composition of NOS-M

Member councils:

Forskningsrådet för Hälsa, Finlands Akademi, Finland
Rannsóknamiðstöð Íslands (RANNIS), Island
Divisjon for Vitenskap, Norges Forskningsråd, Norge
Ämnesrådet för medicin och hälsa, Vetenskapsrådet, Sverige
Det Frie Forskningsråd | Sundhed og Sygdom, Danmark

Each member country is represented by 1-2 council members and 1-2 administrative representatives. Observers from the Nordic Council of Ministers as well as NordForsk are invited, and as of 2005, observers from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania may take part in NOS-M meetings and activities. Additional observers or guests may be invited to the meetings.

NordForsk has hosted the NOS-M secretariat since 1 January 2013.

Members 2017:

Finland: Jorma Toppari, Pauli Puolakkainen
Iceland: Þorsteinn Loftsson, Bryndís Eva Birgisdóttir
Norway: Stig Slørdahl, Kåre Birger Hagen
Sweden: Jan-Ingvar Jönsson (Chair), Mats Wahlgren, Louise von Essen
Denmark: Lars Køber, Kaare Christensen

Administrative representatives:

Finland: Jarmo Wahlfors, Sara Illman
Iceland: Ása Guðrún Kristjánsdóttir
Norway: Hilde Jerkø, Henrietta Blankson
Sweden: Johan Nilsson
Denmark: Bjørn Martin Luff

Observers:

NordForsk: Maria Nilsson
Latvia: Kristine Klavina
Estonia: Irja Lutsar
Lithuania: Diana Obelienienė

NOS-M Secretariat:

NordForsk/Maria Nilsson

The chairmanship rotates among the member countries in the following order:
Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Iceland. Sweden took on the chairmanship in 2016.

Main activities during 2017

NOS-M had two meetings in 2017:

- Oslo 14-15 February
- Stockholm 25-26 September

The different topics that were discussed in the 2017 meetings are listed below.

Country reports

Country reports from each Nordic national research council are given at each NOS-M meeting. These reports are important in the mutual information exchange between the councils and also prominent in the feedback to the individual research councils.

Invited guests

Special adviser Stig Slipersæter was invited to present [the HelseOmsorg21-monitor](#) at the Oslo meeting.

Themes

One topic of special interest is brought forward at each meeting. The special themes in 2017 were "Research impact measurements - how to track and implement in research strategy and funding" and "Open Access within the medical sciences".

Regarding "Research impact measurements", it was concluded that qualitative and quantitative measurements are extremely demanding. More focus on the theme can be expected as the ministries are however increasingly asking for value for money. The topic of research impact measurements could therefore be brought up again in 2018.

Regarding "Open access" there were interesting discussions on the demand for publishing open access and data management plans in relation to medical and clinical research. Ideas to put joint pressure on publishers were discussed. The interest was so high that NOS-M wished to arrange a workshop focusing on open access issues related to clinical and medical research. The aim would be mutual learning and potential for cooperation at the Nordic level.

Follow up of the Nordic White Paper for Medical Research

The Nordic White Paper "Nordic Potential in Medical Research - Cooperation for Success" was launched in November 2014. The White Paper focuses on Nordic added value in medical research cooperation and emphasizes that together the Nordic countries are a strong actor in medical research. Enhanced strategic cooperation is however essential to realise the Nordic potential. An implementation plan focusing on how to implement the five recommendations of the White Paper has been developed.

The status of the implementation plan is a standing item on the NOS-M agenda. The main focus has been put on personalised medicine where the committee discussed if they should make a white paper on personalised medicine in 2018. It was decided that the first step should be to do a mapping of ongoing national and international activities within the area. The summary should include projects/strategic initiatives/policy statements and ideally be ready approximately one month before the next meeting. The Swedish chairmanship will take lead on the mapping but will ask for background documentations/links from the countries.

Other topics

- Information from NordForsk and the Nordic Council of Ministers
- Information about international activities
- Information from the Baltic countries

Excursions

No specific excursions were arranged in 2017.

Financial report

NordForsk has administered the finances of NOS-M during 2017. A financial report is attached to the annual report.

/Maria Nilsson, NordForsk

March 2018