

# Programme board for Russia and Western Balkan

## Minutes

28 March 2007, the Research Council, Oslo  
Meeting room Frisch, 09:00 h – 14:00 h

### **Present:**

**Board Members:** Olav Refsdal, Gunnar Jordfald, Jasna Bogunovic Jakobsen, Elisabeth Roman, Magny Thomassen (Elisabeth Roman left early, and did not participate in the discussions on issue 8/10, 9/10, 10/10 and 12/10)

**Observers:** Unni Poulsson, Lene Oftedal, Harald Sandhåland

**Secretariat:** Birgit Jacobsen, Arne Haugen, Randi Isaksen, Ragnhild Solvi Berg

**Apologies:** Alf Håkon Hoel, Tone Bringa

### **01/2007: Adoption of agenda**

#### ***Decision:***

*The invitation to the meeting and agenda were approved, with the following note:*

*Due to an early flight, Elisabeth Roman announced that she would leave the meeting at 12:00 am. Issue 07/2007 should be discussed before this time.*

### **02/2007: Adoption of minutes from meeting 18 December 2006**

#### ***Decision:***

*Minutes from meeting 18 December 2006 were adopted.*

### **03/2007: Conflicts of interest**

#### ***Decision:***

*The issue of conflicts of interest was not relevant for the agenda for this meeting.*

## Cooperation Programme with Western Balkans

### **04/2007: Internal call for applications within the programme**

During the discussion of this matter, observer from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Unni Poulsson informed the programme board of a general cut in the annual allocation to the Western Balkans section. The programme allocation for 2007 has not been reduced, but the Board should be reminded that the annual allocation to the projects in the programme is subject to the budget resolutions of the Norwegian Storting.

Other comments to be included in the proposed call for applications:

First line: “for additional support **for** established”

The term **Mobility support** is to be used in stead of **scholarships**.

***Decision:***

*The Board takes notice of the information provided by Unni Poulsson. The secretariat includes the relevant comments from the Board and announces an internal call for applications. Only funds not allocated in 2006/2007 are available in this call. The secretariat adjusts the maximum amount to apply for accordingly.*

**05/2007      Monitoring visit and follow-up seminar for project coordinators**

Due to a late start of the Cooperation Programme with Russia 2007-2010, the allocations within this programme will be the main task for both secretariat and Board in the fall of 2007. The secretariat therefore suggests postponing the planned visit and seminar to the spring of 2008.

***Decision:***

*The project coordinator seminar in the Cooperation Programme with Western Balkans is postponed from the fall of 2007 to the spring of 2008.*

**06/2007      Progress reports, education projects 2006**

The Programme Board has given the responsibility of approving progress reports to the secretariat. The secretariat presents the reports to the Board for their information. The Board can comment upon the report, and ask the secretariat to inform the projects of the comments. In case of serious divergence, the Programme Board should be consulted before a decision is to be made. (25/2006)

SIU presented seven reports to the board.

The Programme board **takes notice** of the following reports processed by SIU:

WB 01/06

***Decision:*** *The report is approved, with the following comment from the Board: Many of the publications listed can, given the publishing dates, not have been financed through the programme. Such publications should not have been included in the report; the project should be notified of this.*

WB 03/06

**Decision:** *The report is approved of, but SIU asks for an explanation of the changes in financial dispositions, reminding the project of the preconditions for the programme.*

WB 04/06

**Decision:** *The report is not approved. SIU asked for a revised economy report.*

WB 08/06

**Decision:** *The report is approved.*

The Programme Board has been asked to **decide** on the following reports:

WB 02/06

**Decision:** *The report and the application of transfer of funding are approved. SIU asks for a revised budget.*

WB 05/06

**Decision:** *The report is approved. The application of funding is partly granted, on the condition that the funds are relocated as described in the annual report:*

*Covering expenses in 2006: NOK 26 000*

*Participating in seminar in November: NOK 3 500*

*Cooperation with the Faculty of Law: NOK 24 000*

*Anthology: NOK 7 300*

*Sum: 60 8000*

*The rest of the unspent funds should be returned to the programme.*

WB 06/06

**Decision:** *The report is approved. Un-spent funds are approved transferred to the conclusion of the project in the spring-term of 2010.*

The Programme Board was informed of one lacking report from project 07/06. SIU reminds the project of the report, and call their attention to the fact that further financing depends on the project's fulfilment of their obligations according to the project contract.

**Decision:** *The Board takes notice of the information.*

## Cooperation Programme with Russia

### 07/2007      **New cooperation programme 2007-2010**

The secretariat presented drafts of call for application and programme document for discussion in the Programme Board. The agreement between the MFA, the Research Council and SIU (not yet signed) was presented as background document for the discussion.

***Decision:***

*The secretariat completes the programme document and the call for application in line with the comments from the Programme Board. Final drafts of the documents are to be sent to the Board members by e-mail for their approval as soon as possible. The call for applications will find place in week 15.*

### 08/2007      **Final reports, education projects**

RU 02/02

***Decision:*** *The final report is not approved. The secretariat asks for a revised economy report. The report will be sent to the Board members for approval by e-mail correspondence.*

RU 03/02

***Decision:*** *The report is approved.*

RU 05/02

***Decision:*** *The report is approved.*

RU 06/02

***Decision:*** *The report is approved.*

### 09/2007      **Final reports, research projects**

152710

***Decision:*** *The report is approved.*

152809

***Decision:*** *The report is approved.*

152861

***Decision:*** *The report is approved.*

### 10/2007      **Information**

#### a) Conclusion of the Cooperation Programme with Russia 2002-2006

- Concluding seminar in St. Petersburg 14-16 March
- Concluding publication

*Decision: The Board takes note of the information with the following comment to the memo from the seminar: The participation from the Ministry of Education and Research in the seminar should also be mentioned.*

*Revised memo and seminar programme are attached to the protocol.*

#### **b) Ukraine**

**Arne Haugen presented the report from the working group to the MFA. SIU and the Research Council of Norway await response from the MFA.**

*Decision:*

*The Programme Board takes note of the information.*

**11/2007      Next meeting**

*Decision:*

*17-18 October 2007*

**12/2007      Any other business**

#### **a) Embassies on the Western Balkans**

- Observer Unni Poulsson from the Ministry of Foreign affairs proposed to orient the relevant embassies on the Western Balkans regarding the ongoing activities within the Cooperation Programme, and that the embassies might be consulted in case of conflicts/difficulties within the projects.

#### **b) Change of project coordinator at NIVA**

- The Research Council oriented about a dialogue with NIVA on the change of project coordinator within an ongoing Western Balkans project.

#### **c) Research council in dialogue with the MFA on a strategic research programme on security and foreign policy related to the High North areas.**

- The Research Council oriented about a new scheme with a call for applications in June 2007. A Norwegian research environment within political sciences and its network will be chosen as a competence body. One project will be granting financial support (3-5 mill. NOK) over 3-5 years.

#### **d) “Guide to Higher Education in Norway” translated to Russian**

- SIU informed about a translated version of the “Guide to Higher Education in Norway”, which is meant to serve as a tool in the recruitment of Russian students to Norway.

*Decision: The Programme Board takes note of the information.*

Oslo and Bergen

Olav Refsdal

Birgit Jacobsen  
Arne Haugen