

# **NOVA KUF meeting number 24**

***Sept 11<sup>th</sup> 2007***

***Video meeting***

## **Agenda**

- 24.1            Opening of the meeting and agenda**
- 24.2            Follow-up and decisions from meeting no 23**
- 24.3            Activity follow up, financial report and prognosis 2007**
- 24.4            Draft activity plan for 2008**
- 24.5            Applications for MSc project funding 2008**
  - Aquaculture**
  - NORBE**
  - NorPATH**
- 24.6            Administration of intensive NOVA MSc courses – draft document**
- 24.7            Implementation of the new strategy – Local team activities**
- 24.8            Other items**
  - a) New member – Faculty of Agr. Sc. Univ. of Aarhus**
  - b) Initiative from Wageningen**
- 24.9            End of meeting**

**NOVA**

**University Network**

**KUF**

**Meeting No 24**

11<sup>th</sup> September 07

Present:

Trine Hvoslef-Eide (UMB)  
Bjørn Thorsteinsson (LHBI)  
Lena Andersson-Eklund (SLU)  
Outi Vainio (HU-V)  
Marketta Sipi (HU-AF)  
Mårten Karlow (NSF, SLU)  
Britta Cathrina Poulsen (NSF,  
LIFE)

Coordinators and others:

Michael Guldager (LIFE)  
Knut Wålstedt (NOVA)  
Melanie Etchell (NVH)  
Riitta Kaitajärvi (HU-V)  
Haavard Reksten (UMB)  
Sari Mikkola (HU-AF)  
Claes Lundin (SLU)  
Hannah Joan Jørgensen (NOVA)

Excuses from:

Representative from LIFE  
Yngvild Wasteson (NVH)

### **24.1 Opening of meeting and agenda**

Opening of the meeting. Excuses from Yngvild Wasteson, and from LIFE (no KUF representative).

No comments to the agenda.

### **24.2 Follow-up and decisions from meeting no 23**

Item: Follow-up and decisions from meeting no 23

Material: Minutes from meeting no. 23

Presented by: Trine Hvoslef-Eide, Knut Wålstedt

No comments to minutes from meeting 23. Most of the items have been completed; remaining issues will be dealt with in this meeting.

#### Decisions:

That KUF accepts the follow-up from meeting no.23.

That the NOVA seminar for 2008 will be held in Helsinki on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April.

### **24.3 Activity follow up (a), financial report and prognosis 2007 (b)**

#### **a)**

Item: Activity follow

Material: Summary of activities, activity plan for 2007.

Presented by: Trine Hvoslef-Eide and Knut Wålstedt

No comments to the accomplished items. KUF was informed that the NordPATH network have received NMR funding, and that four MSc courses have been granted NOVA funding (€5.000) by the EC. List of courses.

1. Bee genomics, genetics and breeding
2. Bee products and Economics
3. Bioinformatics for environmental scientists
4. Intensive course in Veterinary Ophthalmology (rejected by applicant).

#### **b)**

Item: Financial report and prognosis 2007

Material: Financial report and prognosis 2007.

Presented by: Trine Hvoslef-Eide and Knut Wålstedt

The updated prognosis for 2007 indicates that more than €160.000 is available for NOVA activities. There were no comments to the updated financial report and prognosis.

Decisions:

That KUF accepts the activity follow-up and prognosis for 2007

That KUF accepts that more than €160.000 is available for new projects

That KUF accepts the information about the budget frame for 2008

#### **24.4 Draft activity plan for 2008**

Item: Evaluation of applications to fund PhD courses

Material: Draft Activity plan

Presented by: Knut Wålstedt and Hannah Jørgensen

The new plan is based on the 2007 plan and is adjusted to follow the new NOVA strategy. Each section of the new plan was discussed, some minor changes were suggested.

Decisions:

That the EC and NOVA secretariat implements the suggestions from KUF in the draft activity plan

That the plan is presented before the Board at the next Board meeting

#### **24.5 Applications for MSc funding**

Item: Applications for MSc funding

Material: Applications from Aquaculture and NORBE

Presented by Knut Wålstedt

Two applications for MSc funding (Aquaculture and NORBE), in addition the NorPATH network is interested in applying in time for the November deadline. KUF is positive to supporting the NorPATH network and will await their application.

Decisions:

That 10.000 euros are granted the Aquaculture network, for the period Sept 07 to August 08. An additional fund of 5.000 euro is available to the network if they need it for additional meetings.

That 10.000 euros are granted the NORBE network for the period of Sept 07 to March 08. The grant is conditional to a report from NORBE on the network's future prospects, on potentials for student recruitment, and a consideration of what NOVA will gain from supporting them. Report to March 2008 KUF meeting.

That NorPATH is invited to come with an application to follow up the NMR funding for the Nordic Master in plant pathology in 2008. If they need to exceed the restriction of 5.000 euro for coordination, they need to justify this.

#### **24.6 Administration of intensive MSc courses – draft document.**

Item: Administration of intensive MSc courses

Material: Draft document

Presented by: Hannah Jørgensen, Knut Wålstedt

There was agreement that the draft document prepared by the secretariat on administrative procedures is nearly completes the information that goes on the internet to facilitate easy access to information to students. All coordinators will check the document and send suggested amendments to Hannah Jørgensen.

Decisions:

That Coordinators comment back to the central NOVA coordinator on the draft document by the 1<sup>st</sup> October. And that suggested amendments are incorporated into the document before being published on the NOVA website.

#### **24.7 Implementation of the new strategy**

Item: Implementation of the new strategy

Material: The new strategy, agreement signed by the Board members, Oral information

Presented by: Trine Hvoslef-Eide, Hannah Joan Jørgensen

Short discussion regarding implementation of the new strategy, and the role of local NOVA teams.

Decisions:

That KUF members inform their local teams of the new strategy and the commitment of their own institution in accomplishing the aims of the strategy.

That the local action plans for 2008 will be anchored in the new strategy, and that draft action plans will be presented in KUF for the November meeting.

## **24.8 Other items a) New member b) Initiative from Wageningen**

Item: New members: Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, University of Aarhus  
Initiative from Wageningen

Material: Minutes from meeting in Aarhus, Email from Wageningen

Presented by: Knut Wålstedt

Agreed that Aarhus will be treated as a potential new member, ie will have observer status in KUF. Students may attend NOVA courses, will be prioritised but must pay fees. Aarhus will be asked on how they will treat NOVA students, will they be prioritised? Knut Wålstedt will have further discussions with Wageningen and set up a meeting with the Executive Committee.

Decisions:

That KUF approves of the content in points 1-4 in the minutes from the meeting between NOVA and the deanship of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences at the University of Aarhus.

That KUF is positive to a cooperation with Wageningen Institute of Animal Sciences (WIAS) and await further information from Knut Wålstedt.

## **24.9 End of meeting**

The meeting was closed at 13.00.

## **Notes**

### **24.1 Opening of meeting and agenda**

Opening of the meeting. Excuses from Yngvild Wasteson, and from LIFE. LIFE do not yet have a representative for KUF, but this will hopefully be determined this autumn. Melanie Etchell will speak on behalf of Yngvild Wasteson.

No comments to the agenda.

### **24.2 Follow-up and decisions from meeting no 23**

No comments to minutes from meeting 23. Most of the items have been completed; remaining issues will be dealt with in this meeting.

Representatives from Helsinki informed KUF that the dates for the seminar have been decided on (24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April 2008)

### **24.4 Activity follow up (a), financial report and prognosis 2007 (b)**

#### **a)**

No comments to the accomplished items.

Knut Wålstedt informed KUF that the NordPATH network has been granted funding from the Nordic Council of Ministers.

Four MSc courses have been granted funding by the EC (each €5.000);

5. Bee genomics, genetics and breeding
6. Bee products and Economics
7. Bioinformatics for environmental scientists
8. Intensive course in Veterinary Ophthalmology (rejected by applicant).

and a new deadline has been announced for MSc course applications, as suggested at the previous KUF meeting. The new deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> October.

The new method for calculating internal funding has been discussed by the Board following discussions at the last KUF meeting. A new method has been suggested which takes into account “completed MSc degrees”. Hopefully the new method will be approved by next week.

#### **b)**

An updated financial prognosis is prepared for each KUF meeting. The most recent prognosis for 2007 indicates that more than €160.000 is available for NOVA activities. This is partly due to relatively low spending by secretariat. Although it is good that KUF is not overspending, one should attempt a better targeting of budget in future.

Lena Andersson-Eklund asked why there is an anticipated increase in the spending for November. This is, in part, due to the new deadline for MSc course applications, but also because prolonged funding may be granted particular projects at the KUF-November meeting. There were no other comments to the prognosis.

#### **24.4 Draft activity plan for 2008**

A draft activity plan for 2008 has been prepared by the secretariat. It is based on the 2007 plan and has been adjusted to follow the new NOVA strategy.

##### MSc area

Knut Wålstedt informed that a differentiation has been made between developing areas, new areas and mature areas in MSc education. Mature areas should eventually be able to “stand alone”, and NOVA funding should be decreased and eventually stopped. There were no objections to this differentiation.

Developing areas: Soil Science and Apiculture are planning to send in applications for NOVA funding during 2008.

The NordPATH group had a meeting at UMB on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September, and had asked Knut Wålstedt to convey their gratitude to NOVA for initial support of the planning meeting which led to the NMR application and subsequently also the NMR funding.

NordPATH has also been listed as a developing area in the new activity plan because they may need NOVA support in 2008 or 2009. Their NMR funding ends in Dec 2007, and the network is expected to depend on support from NOVA in the continuation. Sari Mikkola informed KUF that there is a chance that the NMR funding may be extended for use also in the beginning of 2008. Furthermore, it is unrealistic for the group to start from 2008, but they are considering running a pilot project since there are some interested students. It was agreed that NordPATH may be listed as a developing area and that KUF are, at present, positive to supporting projects in this network.

##### Intensive courses

There were no comments to the section on intensive courses.

LIFE informed that they intend to use the local teams to inform students and teachers about the courses and to promote the courses.

Outi Vainio commented that at HU-V it is difficult to promote organisation of intensive courses because the teachers are already fully occupied in teaching/clinical work etc. She asked for understanding that the intensive MSc courses are not as easily organised in all disciplines, and that it may be difficult for HU-V to live up to the expectations set in the strategy. For distance learning programmes, however, it is easier for them to contribute. Melanie Etchell from NVH supported comments from Outi Vainio, and added that some courses in the veterinary field are so expensive to organise that NOVA funding is not sufficient. This is something that needs to be addressed in the veterinary field.

##### PhD area

Seventeen PhD courses will be running in 2008.



It was pointed out that KUF should evaluate the process of evaluating PhD course applications – and that the problems encountered during the evaluation process with respect to the concept of “Nordic dimension” need to be addressed.

There was a question regarding the section entitled “Forestry area”. This issue is also mentioned in the present activity plan, but no initiatives have been made. It is expected that the issues related to forestry and Nordic-Baltic-NW research training could be handled once Joensuu is a full NOVA member.

#### Other projects

Predictnet is the only listed project in this section. Everybody agreed that this is an important area that needs to be encouraged. There is hope that a new application to NOVA will bring new life to the project.

Trine Hvoslef-Eide suggested that ICT could be a topic for the NOVA seminar, she also suggested a speaker.

#### Administrative issues

A new NOVA chairman will be elected at the next Board meeting, SLU has been asked to take on this responsibility SLU has agreed to take on the chairmanships of KUF and of the Board. Another person is also likely to be employed but no details are finalised. Claes Lundin will lend his support in NOVA matters at SLU.

With respect to local teams all KUF member reported that Local teams are functioning well. At SLU members from each of the four faculties have now been involved in the local team in order to integrate NOVA more into the institution.

#### NSF

It was suggested that NSF should have a role in the local teams and that this should be mentioned in the activity plan.

### **24.5 Applications for MSc funding**

Two applications for MSc network/project funding (Aquaculture and NORBE). These projects have been guaranteed funding from KUF for three years (from 2005). An application from each of these networks has been received.

#### Aquaculture:

The EC suggested that the Aquaculture network should be granted the €15.000 ie €5.000 more than they applied for. However, it was agreed that they will be granted the €10.000 they applied for, and that they may apply for a further €5.000 if they need it for additional meetings.

#### NORBE

There was a short discussion regarding NORBE. The network is having trouble with student recruitment. It is in conflict with the strategy to keep networks artificially alive. However, it was

agreed that the network will be granted 10.0000 euros conditional to the network preparing a report to KUF on how they see themselves in the future, potentials for student recruitment – and on what NOVA will gain from supporting the network.

## NorPATH

In addition, the network NorPATH was granted funding from NMR for developing a joint Nordic programme. The network has expressed that they may depend on NOVA support because as from 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2007 they may lack external funding. The network is interested in applying in time for the November meeting in KUF. The question is whether KUF, for the NorPATH network, can make an exception for the limit of 5.000 euros for coordination. NOVA can not match NMR with respect to funding, but may be able to extend the limit for coordination funding somewhat. However, there is a chance that the NMR funding may be extended. KUF is positive to supporting the NorPATH network but will await their application.

### **24.6 Administration of intensive MSc courses – draft document.**

After previous discussions in KUF on administrative procedures for intensive MSc courses, it is agreed that all institutions may have their own procedures as long as these are easily accessible to potential applicants. A draft document describing procedures has been prepared and has been circulated.

There was agreement that the draft document prepared by the secretariat on administrative procedures is a step in the right direction. All coordinators will check the document and send suggested amendments to Hannah Jørgensen. Deadline on October the 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **24.7 Implementation of the new strategy**

Short discussion regarding implementation of the new strategy, and the role of local NOVA teams. KUF members will inform their teams of the aims in the new strategy, and will seek methods to achieve the aims.

### **24.10 Other items a) New member b) Initiative from Wageningen**

The Faculty of Agricultural Sciences at the University of Aarhus has asked to become a member of NOVA. Knut Wålstedt and Lars Moe had a meeting with them and the minutes of this meeting was available as material for this KUF meeting. It was agreed that Aarhus will be treated as a potential new member, ie will have observed status in KUF. Students may attend NOVA courses, will be prioritised but must pay fees. Aarhus should also be requested that NOVA students are prioritised to their courses.

An initiative has been received from Wageningen regarding cooperation within PhD education. This is a well reputed institution with a lot of international students. Knut Wålstedt will have further discussions with Wageningen regarding possibilities for cooperation.

### **24.9 End of meeting**

The meeting was closed at 13.00.