



# Portfolio board meeting 4-2022

## Global development and international relations

**Date**

Monday 5. December 2022

13.00-16.00

**Digital meeting on Teams**

**Present**

Liv Tørres (chair), Rainer Elk Anders, Nynke van den Broek, Kerry Brown, Christopher Cramer, Elise Must, Camilla Tenna Nørup Sørensen, Isabell Schierenbeck, Hanne Meldgaard, Annelies Zoomers (from item 29-32)

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**Apologies**

Niklaus Labhardt, Juliet Nabyonga, Annelies Zoomers (item 25-28), Marianne van der Wel

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**Present from the  
Research Council**

Marianne Jensen, Kristin Høiby, Nina Therese Maubach, May-Guri Sæthre, Karine Kålsås

**Item PSGLOBAL 25/22**      **Approval of agenda**

*Decision: The Portfolio board approved the agenda for the meeting.*

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**Item PSGLOBAL 26/22**      **Minutes of meeting 3-2022**

*Decision: The minutes was approved*

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**Item PSGLOBAL 27/22**      **Updates from the administration**

The administration gave brief updates on the following items.

- Call for proposals on Oceans (INDNOR)
  
- Update on the GRC collaborative funding call (NORGLOBAL2)
  
- Symposium on equitable partnerships, feedback  
The participants gave very good feedback after the event. 107 persons had signed up for the plenary sessions. However, the group discussion did not go as well as hoped for. In order keep the discussion going the administration is asked to make a summary of the symposium and look for possibility to make a follow up next year.
  
- Update on the financial situation of the RCN

*Decision: The updates from the administration were taken note of.*

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**Item PSGLOBAL 28/22**      **Re-organization of the Portfolio Boards**

The administration made a brief presentation of the outcome of the survey made to the Portfolio Board members in October.

The preliminary result of the survey shows that a majority of the portfolio board members thinks that

- there is too little interaction between the Portfolio Boards and between the Portfolio Boards and the Executive Board of the RCN.
- There is also a perception of unclear division of responsibilities and limited room for decision making in the Portfolio Boards.
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The RCN will follow up the results with a revision of the Portfolio Board's mandate and there will also be changes in the Portfolio structure.

New structure, new mandates and reappointment of board members are expected to take place by the end of April 2023.



*Decision: The Portfolio Board would have liked to have some more details of the participation in and the results of the survey. And more information about the positive feedback on the work of the Portfolio board and the Portfolio Management system. The administration is asked to follow up on the survey result and if possible, sent the board a translated version of this.*

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**Item PSGLOBAL 29/22****The Portfolio Analysis key figures of the core portfolio Presentation and discussion on How to make impact in science.**

The administration presented through the board papers and in the meeting the kind of data that is obtainable in our systems when analyzing our portfolio. An in-depth analysis of the portfolio's targeted funding schemes was presented.

Magnus Gulbrandsen, professor at the Center for Technology, Innovation and Culture at the University of Oslo made an introduction to the following discussion around the topic how to make impact in science.

*Decision: The information was taken note of.*

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**Item PSGLOBAL 30/22****The new Long-term plan for Research and Higher education (20232032)**

The Long-term plan comes across as very ambitious. It starts off very well as it tries to take in the changing global context – all the crises, but then it turns to a more comfortable view, collaboration in the spirit of optimism, globalization, and internationalization. The plan returns to current grim realities only under the theme Societal security and preparedness (research in/under crisis). The Long-term plan is written with a very Norwegian perspective, as if challenges ahead could be solved with research in and about Norway only. The global /international view on research thematic outside of the foreign affairs and security topics is lacking. Research in times of crisis should have been the title for the whole white paper, and it should follow up on the challenges from this perspective – how to deal with the fact that research is increasingly politicized and securitized, and researchers find it increasingly difficult to do international cooperation and fieldwork and the growing concern about the dual-use application of most innovation/knowledge and technology also increasingly constrains research and development. It is problematic that some mentioning of this is placed under the theme on societal security and preparedness. This is relevant for all research that requires that Norwegian researchers move outside Norway's borders.

Further comments from the board's discussion are summarized as follows:



1. The plan's ambitions should be matched with resources.
2. The Long-term plan's focus on societal needs is positive.
3. Key topics of the plan is well received, but
  - a. The plan is Norway-centered, - Norway is part of the world, the global dimension is lacking.
  - b. The plan needs a focus on development issues and research. Norway's role as a global partner must be emphasized.
  - c. There should be clearer linkage between the thematic areas of trust and security and preparedness.
4. The plan's ambitions for funding from the private sector should be linked with ambitions on how to kick-start private investments in development in low- and middle-income countries.
5. The plan should set out a clearer dimension of the world we live in, the various crisis we have in a more polarized world.
6. The plan should discuss (or mention) the issue of increasing securitization of research and the decline in academic freedom in many parts of the world needs to be addressed somewhere and how this has an impact on international collaboration.
7. The plan should state what "high quality research" means.
8. Open research funding versus thematic/strategic research funding should be made more concrete

*Decision: The feedback from the board members will be sent out to the board members for additional comments. Finalized text will be sent to the Executive Board of the RCN.*

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**Item PSGLOBAL 31/22****Investment decision GACD call for proposals**

The Global health sub-portfolio participated with NOK 20 million in the international call "A life course approach to common NCD risk factor prevention and reduction" organized by the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases (GACD) with a deadline 31 May 2022.

The board was asked to decide on which applications to fund and reject.

*Decision: The Portfolio Board funds the top two ranked applications, GACD2021-302 and GACD2021-299 dependent upon funding approval from NHMRC and FAPESP. Should co-funding from these two agencies not materialize, the Portfolio Board funds the top ranked proposal, also covering the costs applied for from NHMRC.*

*Should one of the co-funding agencies not be able to fund their respective application, the Administration will investigate alternatives and get back to the Board with possible solutions.*



*One option in such a case would be to consider application number GACD2031-142 for funding, with the RCN also covering the costs applied for from SAMRC.*

*Applications 093, 279, 086, 055 and 180 are en-block rejected due to low scores.*

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**Item PSGLOBAL 32/22**

**Any other business**

There was no other business