

The Nordic Demographic Society

General Assembly

September 19th, 2014 in Aalborg, Denmark

Minutes

Members present

Christian Skarman (Sweco Strategy, Sweden), Emma Lundholm (Umeå University, Sweden), Mette Wiik Kristensen (Aalborg University, Denmark), Vibeke Jakobsen (SFI, Denmark), Hanna Remes (University of Helsinki, Finland), Jessica Nisén (University of Helsinki, Finland), Lisbeth B. Knudsen (Aalborg University, Denmark), Torkild Lyngstad (University of Oslo, Norway), Fjalar Finnäs (Åbo Akademi, Finland), Gunnar Andersson (Stockholm University, Sweden), Siv Schelle (Stockholm University, Sweden), Karoline Tufte Lien (Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Norway), Elizabeth Thomson (Stockholm University, Sweden) and Lene Tølbøll (Aalborg University, Denmark).

Election of a Presiding Officer and Secretary

Chairman of the Danish Demographic Society, Lene Tølbøll opened the meeting. Lene Tølbøll was elected to preside, while Mette Wiik Kristensen was elected secretary.

Report from the President

On the idea from the Norwegian Demographic Society the four Nordic Demographic Societies made a joint statement in June last year, supporting NIDI, with an urge to the Dutch government to reconsider their proposal to reduce and discontinue the basic funding of NIDI. We were glad to learn that The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) and the University of Groningen as a consequence of the decision decided to fund the institute.

The board have again discussed the future of the Nordic Symposium, as this year's symposium was at risk of being cancelled due to lack of participants up until the very last minute. It is still the opinion of the board that the symposium is important for the Nordic researchers within the field.

It seems that funding issues is now a problem in many research institutes and departments in our countries and that limiting the participation in conferences is a consequence.

The board hopes that members in the national demographic associations also in the future will prioritize their participation in the symposium.

The Finnish Demographic Society has made a suggestion to postpone the next Nordic Demographic Symposium one year in order for the symposium to be out of sync with the European Population Conference in the future. The National boards have discussed the matter internally and all have supported the idea. Future symposiums are thus scheduled to take place in odd years.

The board have discussed the change in the mode of transferring funds from the Nordic Society to the National society organising the symposium we decided two years ago and finds it a fruitful change based on this years' experience. It is up to the organising society to decide how to spend the money.

The Danish Demographic Society was granted a contribution to spend on student travel grants and a general lowering of participation fee. After not having received any applications for grants and facing the risk of cancellation, the Danish Society was given the permission to spend the Nordic contribution on other costs related to the symposium. In the future the Swedish board, managing the finances distributes the standings each year instead of only in connection with the board meetings. The members of the board agree that any surplus after the symposiums must be returned to the Nordic Association as seen after the 2010 symposium in Lund and again after the 2012 symposium in Tønsberg.

Review of the Treasurer's statement

Emma Lundholm as head of the Swedish board, who manage the books of the Nordic Association, presents the economy. She notes that all members have paid membership fees for 2013 and 2014.

The account is in SEK

| | Opening balance | Income | Expenses | Closing balance |
|------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|
| 2011 | 61.527,57 | 5.509,47 | 41.394,50 | 25.642,54 |
| 2012 | 25.642,54 | 19.696,55 | 375,75 | 44.963,34 |
| 2013 | 44.963,34 | 26.163,33 | 30.168,12 | 40.958,55 |

Approval of the membership fees for the following period

The board suggests keeping the membership fee at its current level of 30 Swedish kroner per paying member. All of those present accepts keeping the current membership fees.

Election of auditors

It was agreed that the Swedish Demographic Society will continue to take care of the treasury and bookkeeping activities and accounts.

The Next Symposium

The Finnish Demographic Society has agreed that they will take on the task of organising the next symposium in Finland and as mentioned in the Presidents report, it will take place in 2017.

Hanna Remes, head of the Finnish Demographic Society, welcomes us all to the next symposium and ask if anyone has any requests for the upcoming symposium. There was general support for May or June 2017 and it was requested that the dates would be chosen early and would not collide with other arrangements. It was also requested, that the symposium would take place in one of the bigger cities in Finland.

Consideration of other proposals

No other proposals