

The Nordic Demographic Society

Minutes from the General Assembly

15th of June 2017, 17:15-18:00

University of Turku, Finland

Present:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>NDS board members</i>	<i>Role</i>
Marika Jalovaara	Finland	NDS Board member	Chair
Mika Gissler	Finland	NDS Board member	Co-Chair
Helen Eriksson	Sweden	NDS Board member	Treasurer
Gunnar Andersson	Sweden	NDS Board member	
Ari Jónsson	Iceland	NDS Board member	
Janna Bergsvik	Norway	NDS Board member	
Adrian F. Rogne	Norway	NDS Board member	Secretary
Christian Skarman	Sweden		
Lena Lundkvist	Sweden		
Linus Andersson	Sweden		
Jan Saarela	Finland		
Lars Dommermuth	Norway		
Rannveig Hart	Norway		
Hanna Remes	Finland		
Johan Dahlberg	Sweden		
Ann-Zofie Duvander	Sweden		
Ana Vrbnik	Finland		
Anastasia Emelyanova	Austria		
Gerda Neyer	Sweden		
Trude Lappegård	Norway		

1. Call to order

President of the Finnish Demographic Society, Marika Jalovaara opened the meeting.

2. Election of a Presiding Officer and Secretary

Marika Jalovaara was elected as Presiding Officer. Adrian F. Rogne was elected as Secretary.

3. Report from the President

Marika Jalovaara reported on yesterday's board meeting. She especially noted the wide agreement that the Nordic Demographic Symposium is an important event and should continue biennially in its present form, and that the board emphasized the importance of the symposium as a unique meeting place for academics and the national statistical offices producing demographic statistics, both through register data and survey data.

She also presented the board's plans for collecting and sharing information about activities in the national societies for inspiration. Since the Nordic Demographic Bulletin was cancelled,

there has been little exchange of information between the national societies, as e-mails did not replace the bulletin as originally planned. She noted that an archive of the bulletins can be found at the Norwegian Demographic Society's webpage:

<http://demografi.no/index.php/nordisk-demografisk-forening/nordisk-demografi-bulletiner>.

4. Economic standing

Helen Eriksson presented the economic standing of the society. The incomes consist of annual membership fees, while expenses are restricted to the biannual symposiums. The three year gap since the last symposium has meant that the balance has grown steadily, and it is currently at approximately 60 000 SEK.

We have not received any membership fees from Denmark recently, because the Danish Demographic Society is currently inactive with no elected board. Trude Lappegård asked what can be done to revitalize the Danish Demographic Society. Members of the board replied that there are several active Danish demographers but no formal association. Attempts to contact the Danish society have been unsuccessful, and we do not know of anyone locally with the capacity to revitalize the organization. The board encourages members who are in contact with Danish demographers to encourage them to revitalize the Danish Demographic Society.

The actual accounts were not presented at the General Assembly, but are included in these minutes for reference:

	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
2014	40 958,55	14 873,63	32 647,69	23 184,49
2015	23 184,49	28 846,89	84,26	51 947,12
2016*	51 947,12	4 904,58	178,94	56 672,76

**Note: the membership fee from the Norwegian Demographic Society are not included in the 2016 accounts.*

5. Approval of membership fees for the following period

The membership fee was lowered from 40 SEK per paying member to 30 SEK per paying member in Lund 2010.

The General Assembly agreed to keep the current membership fee at 30 SEK per paying member of the national societies.

6. Election of auditors

According to the by-laws of the Society, the Swedish Demographic takes care of the treasury and bookkeeping activities and accounts. It was agreed that the auditors of the Swedish Demographic Society should also act as the auditors of the Nordic Demographic Society.

7. The next symposium

Gunnar Andersson and Ari Jónsson presented their proposal for a cooperation between the Swedish Demographic Society and Icelandic demographers to host the next symposium

between the 13th and the 15th of June 2019 in Reykjavik, Iceland. The General Assembly approved of these plans.

8. The 50th anniversary

The 50th anniversary of the Nordic Demographic Society will be celebrated in Reykjavik. The board suggested to find someone to prepare a historical review of past symposiums. Suggestions for people to ask to do this are welcome and should be sent to Marika Jalovaara, Gunnar Andersson or Ari Jónsson. Altti Majava and Lars Østby were tentatively mentioned as possible candidates.

9. Consideration of other proposals

On behalf of several others, Trude Lappegård presented a proposal for an European Population Conference (EPC) award sponsored by the Nordic Demographic Society; “The Jan M. Hoem award in social policy and family demography”.

This award should celebrate Jan M. Hoem’s effort to advance Nordic and European demography. Jan M. Hoem was a co-funder of the Nordic Demographic Society in 1968, and an educator and mentor of new generations of European demographers.

The award should be 1000 Euro, be sponsored by the Nordic Demographic Society, and should be awarded by an independent jury appointed by the European Association for Population Studies (EAPS). The jury should include one demographer from the Nordic countries. This award should be given to an early/mid-career researcher employed at a European university, statistical office or research institution, working within the interplay of social policy and family demography. The award should be given biennially at the EPC.

Several points were brought up in the discussion:

- The award should be thematically distinct from the van de Kaa award by including a social policy focus. This should be clarified in the proposal to the EAPS.
- It was also suggested that the focus not should not be fixed (e.g. social policy), but that the jury should be able to decide on it each time
- It was suggested that the award money may prove too costly. Although the current economic standing is good, this may change in the future. However, it was seen as important that the award should match the van de Kaa award. One option would be to allow the board to adjust the amount given in order not to deplete the accounts of the Nordic Demographic Society. It may also be an option to increase the membership fees in the future. In any case, it is important to signal a long-term commitment if we decide to establish such an award, although it might be necessary to have an exit plan if it proves difficult to maintain the prize in the future.
- It was noted that such an award may increase recruitment to the national demographic societies.

The General Assembly approved of these plans, including the intention to provide the award money, and authorized the board of the Nordic Demographic society to work out the details of the award in cooperation with the EAPS and make the final decision about the award and the prize money. Trude Lappegård will write a proposal to the board of the Nordic Demographic Society. The boards of the national demographic societies should be given a chance to state

their opinions on the matter before the decision is made. The goal is to establish the award by the next EPC and award it there.

10. Closing of the meeting

Marika Jalovaara closed the meeting.