



# NORDISKA KOMMISSIONEN FÖR GEODESI

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## MINUTES

### 72<sup>nd</sup> NKG PRESIDIUM MEETING

Time: 23-24 August 2018.  
Place: Radisson Blu Oslo Airport Hotel, Norway

#### **Item 1) Opening of the meeting (Niels)**

Since Niels was delayed to the start of the meeting, Søren welcomed us and thanked our Norwegian host for organising it. The meeting agreed that Søren would chair the meeting until Niels arrives. We also welcomed Holger Steffen (Sweden) to this meeting as he is replacing Matt Simpson as chair for the working group on Geodynamics.

#### **Item 2) Approval of the agenda**

The agenda was discussed and agreed.

#### **Item 3) Approval of the Minutes from NKG Presidium meeting No 69 (March 2018) and No 71 (June 2018)**

The minutes from the meetings no 69 (March 2018) and no 71 (June 2018) were approved.

#### **Item 4) NKG General Assembly 2018**

Markku gave a report on the preparations for the NKG General Assembly that will take place in a few weeks' time in Helsinki, Finland. Everything seems to be under control. The number of participants registered is about 85 and the number of abstracts is also acceptable. A preliminary program is available on the webpage for the event.

Markku went through the program and talked about both the technical program as well as the social program. The presidium agreed that the program looks very interesting and that we are looking forward to this event.

Presentations during the opening session will be given by Arvo Kokkonen, Markku Poutanen, Niels Andersen, Erik Grafarend and Martin Ekman. We discussed the content of Niels presentation and noted that it should include a welcoming, thanking of the host, remembering the passed away members as well as noting the resolution committee. The resolution committee will be chaired by Martin Lidberg (Sweden).



Later during the first afternoon of the General Assembly, there will be reports as national reports, working group reports and Presidents report. The latter will also be given by Niels. The meeting discussed the content and believe that it should include the focus areas and future organisation. It was also decided that any feedback from the audience on these things should be given to Mikael Lilje before Wednesday at 3 pm during the GA to be able to prepare for a general discussion on the Thursday that week as well as need for any other action from the presidium during the week.

## **Item 5) NKG focus areas and future working groups**

The presidium has been working on the focus areas as well as proposals for organisation since late last year. The material has further been developed since last meeting. The meeting went through the prepared descriptions of focus areas and decided that it can, with minor changes, be shared to all national groups prior General Assembly. The minor changes will be made by Mikael with the help of others in the Presidium and should be ready and available early next week. It was also suggested that a good start for the next period would be to organize a joint meeting in the autumn to coordinate all the milestones and decide on how we proceed within NKG.

We discussed proposals for working group chairs and agreed that we should try to share the obligations with working chairs from Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. The suggestion is that;

- Sweden: Geodynamics and Earth Observations, chair: Holger Steffen.
- Finland: Reference Frames, chair: Pasi Häkli
- Norway: Future Height systems and geoid, chair: tbd
- Denmark: Future Positioning Services and applications, chair: tbd

We also have the project Dynamic Reference Frame were Halfdan P. Kierulf (Norway) is suggested to continue as project leader. He would like to do so but with focus on the geodetic part.

## **Item 6) NKG organisation**

NKG need an organization to support its focus areas. We agreed on these in the previous agenda item. We need to have focus to ensure deliveries and secure resources. This is important for all parts of NKG but especially for the cross-working group projects. The presidium had a lengthy discussion on different ways on organizing this and the different strengths and weaknesses.

We decided that we would like to test for a period of two years if a coordinating board can help us to ensure deliveries and resources. The coordinating boards tasks are to follow the progress in ongoing projects, coordinate the entire portfolio, and allocate necessary resources. Preferably, the participants in this board are persons in charge of the projects as well as persons responsible for resources in the respective organization. The members will therefore depend on what projects that are in the portfolio. The board normally should meet 3-4 times per year and preferably using Skype (or similar). The chair of the coordinating board should be someone from the Presidium.

Also in the organization will be the four working groups;



- Reference Frame
- Geodynamics and Earth observation
- Future height system and Geoid
- Future Positioning Services and its applications

We also discussed the importance for the Presidium to have more strategic discussions. We need to ensure that the right people are invited to our meetings, also from end-users. We decided that part of the agenda for a Presidium meeting should be dedicated for these types of discussion. To organize it, we mentioned that it would be good if one or two persons from the presidium together with the host country of a meeting set up a ½ day meeting prior a presidium meeting and invite appropriate people.

The meeting also discussed the composition of the future Presidium. We all agreed that we would like to see more representation from universities and geodetic research institutes. We believe that the following is a good set up for presidium;

- Two representatives per country, preferably one representative from NMCA and one from universities / research institute.
- four working group chairs
- one DRF leader.
- observers (Baltic countries and Faroe Islands)

The new Presidium should also decide on the next president and secretary. Niels has been president for two terms and is no longer allowed to continue. Mikael has been secretary for two terms and is happy to hand over to a new candidate. According to tradition, we share the role of president and according to the order of previous presidents it should this time be a president from Finland. We noted that there is nothing in the by-laws saying that so if there are other candidates they are more than welcome to step forward. The formal decision will be made at the first presidium meeting after the NKG General Assembly.

## **Item 7) Baltic engagement in NKG**

NKG has had a formal request from Latvia to be a member of NKG. According to our by-laws, this is not possible. However, the Baltic countries are important for NKG and we are important for them. We decided that we will invite Latvia, as well as the other Baltic countries and Faroe Island, to become permanent observers to the presidium. We also decided that the by-laws need to be revised and this is something that should be done during the next period. Mikael was asked to write a reply to the request as well as send an invitation to the other countries.

## **Item 8) Status on UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy and UN GGIM Europe: Geodesy (Per-Erik and Markku)**

The UNGGIM had its annual meeting early August in New York. Per-Erik reported on that. It is noted that the work on global geodetic reference frame and infrastructure within UNGGIM is very successful and noted by other countries. Also, the documents presented in New York were



endorsed. They are all available at the UNGGIM webpage. This means that e.g. the UNGGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy will continue to work on a future UN Geodesy Convention. Norway is currently considering if they can continue to be as active as before. Sweden, who is leading the Education, Training and Capacity Building working group is not even a member of the subcommittee and it is not sure that they can continue being a working group leader without being a formal member. The terms of reference for the subcommittee does not support this. Next meeting will take place in China in November.

**Item 9) Other Business (All)**

No other business.

**Item 10) Next meeting of the Presidium (All)**

Niels ended the meeting by thanking the host for organising the meeting as well as thanking all participants for some good discussions. The meeting also thanked Niels for being president for the Presidium for the last eight years. Even though he is president also during the General Assembly this is our last official Presidium meeting.

A 73<sup>rd</sup> Presidium Meeting will be held in conjunction to the NKG General Assembly. If necessary we will have one during the week. There will be a first meeting of the new presidium directly after the General Assembly to decide on President, Secretary and next meeting.

Current order; Iceland – Denmark – Norway – Sweden – Finland



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## Invited:

### Denmark:

Niels Andersen, DTU Space (Chair)  
Sören Fauerholm Christensen, SDFE

### Finland:

Markku Poutanen, NLS  
Jarkko Koskinen, NLS  
Pasi Häkli, NLS

### Iceland

Gudmundur Valsson, LMI  
Thorarinn Sigurdsson, LMI

### Norway:

Torbjørn Nørbech, Kartverket  
Per Erik Opseth, Kartverket

### Sweden:

Mikael Lilje, LM (Secretary)  
Jan Johansson, Chalmers  
Jonas Ågren, LM  
Holger Steffen (LM) (replacing Matthew Simpson as WG-chair)

## Apologies

Jarkko Koskinen, Torbjørn Nørbech, Gudmundur Valsson, Thorarinn Sigurdsson