

The Nordic Demographic Society General Assembly

September 14, 2012, 17.15 in Tønsberg, Norway

34 members were present.

1. Election of a Presiding Officer and Secretary

Chairman of the Norwegian Demographic Society, Trude Lappegård, opened the meeting. Trude Lappegård was elected to preside, while Silje Vatne Pettersen (Norway) was elected secretary.

2. Report from the President

2.1. Cooperation between the national Societies

The Board generally encourages the exchange of newsletters and other types of information between the Nordic Societies. All four Nordic Societies have their own up and running websites. The Finnish website is currently only in Finnish but some of the content will be translated to English in the near future.

2.2. The future of the Nordic Demographic Society

There was wide agreement among the Board members that the Nordic Demographic Symposium is an important event and should continue biennially in its present form. The Board emphasises 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.

2.3. Issue of a Symposium website

At the previous General Assembly in 2010 the Board recommended the creation of national conference websites with abstracts and papers for future Symposiums. This solution was not chosen after Lund. Instead, abstracts and contact information (not papers) were distributed through e-mail to all participants after the conference. The Board acknowledges that to establish and run national conference websites is too laborious and not realistic. The Norwegian Society opted for a different solution this year, by distributing abstracts and contact information of presenters and participants ahead of and at the Symposium. In terms of website, all information about the Symposium 2012 was posted on the *existing* website of the Norwegian Society. Abstracts were also uploaded onto this webpage, while full papers were not collected nor distributed. The Symposium program with abstracts, contact information and list of participants will remain on the Norwegian site as the final outcome of the Symposium. It has been agreed that the other Societies will provide a link on their websites to the Symposium 2012 output on the Norwegian site.

2.4. New procedure regarding Symposium expenses

The Board has discussed two concerns regarding the money covering the Symposium and related expenses. First, the issue of when the money transfer to the host country should take place, and second, what the money should be used for. Up until now the money has been transferred *after* the Symposium has taken place, which makes it challenging for the host country to budget and cover running expenses ahead of the event. The Board agreed that national membership dues of 30 SEK per paying member are to be paid to the Nordic Society annually by January 31. The total balance of the Nordic Demographic Society, minus 2000 SEK for account fees, should be transferred to

the host country in January the same year as the Symposium takes place. This ensures that money is available for the host country *ahead* of the Symposium. Furthermore, it was decided that the host country must submit to the Board a formal application requesting financial support for the Symposium including a description of how the money will be spent. The application must be approved by the Board before any money transfer. The above decisions reflect the opinion of the current Board and apply for the next two years and the Symposium in 2014.

2.5. Transition from old to new procedure

The board decided that these changes apply after the Symposium in Tønsberg. That is, Norway receives 2/3 of the balance of the Nordic Demographic Society in January 2013. Denmark will receive their contribution a year in advance; in January 2014. As Sweden has offered to pay back 20 000 SEK that was not used for the Symposium in Lund 2010, Denmark will receive an amount similar to earlier hosts.

2.6. Distribution of grants

The Norwegian Demographic Society, with the approval and financial contribution from the Board of the Nordic Demographic Society, decided to use the membership fees to award up to six travel grants to MA students at the Symposium in 2012, covering the conference fee, accommodation, and travel costs not exceeding NOK 1 500. Current or recent master students (graduated after June 2010) studying demography or demography related issues, who are paying members of one of the national demographic societies could receive the grant. The grant holder had to present a paper at the Nordic Demographic Symposium 2012. All candidates for MA grants had to submit abstracts for the symposium. At the same time an extended abstract of 2-4 pages or a full paper had to be submitted to the organising committee together with a short letter stating that this is an application for MA travel grant. The decision about who were to receive the travel grant was made by a selection committee consisting of one member from each national board. The selection committee nominated the candidates for the grant (up to six) including at least one candidate from each country. The president of the Nordic Demographic Society is responsible for the process. A total of four grants were awarded in 2012.

3. Review of the Treasurer's statement

Ann-Zofie Duvander, chair of the Swedish Demographic Society presented the economic standing. The accounts have been accepted by the Swedish Demographic Society.

	Opening Balance	Income	Expenses	Closing Balance
2009	67 395,26	18 370,04	45 305,00	40 460,30
2010	40 460,30	21 442,27	375,00	61 527,57
2011	61 527,57	5 509,47	41 394,50	25 642,54
2012*	25 642,54	12 780,00	382,50	38 040,04

*As of 31. June 2012

In 2011, the income comes from Swedish and Finnish membership dues. Sweden and Finland also paid their membership dues in 2012, while Norway and Denmark paid the membership dues for both years in 2012. The Swedish Demographic Society received 41 018,00 SEK in 2011 to cover the expenses in connection with the Nordic Demographic Symposium in Lund in 2010. The accounts were endorsed by the general assembly.

4. Approval of membership fees for the following period

A majority of those present voted in favour of keeping the current membership fees at 30 SEK per paying member of the national society.

5. 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 auditors of the Swedish Demographic Society, Siv M. Schéele and Karin Lundström automatically act as auditors of the Nordic Demographic Society.

6. The Next Symposium

Lene Tølbøll Blenstrup, chair of the Danish Demographic Society, confirmed that Denmark will host the Symposium in 2014, probably in the early fall.

7. Consideration of other proposals

7.1. The Board encourages future hosts of the Nordic Demographic Symposium to invite and cooperate with national demographic societies of the Baltic States and interested parties from Iceland. This requires a deliberate outreach towards contacts in those countries during the next years. Iceland does not have a national society, but they, including the Baltic States, were invited to participate at this years Symposium. Unfortunately, very few were present, despite the fact that for instance Estonia and Lithuania have active demography groups at the university. Lappegård mentioned that costs seemed to be one reason why few could attend. It was suggested that the Nordic Society could sponsor the participation from the Baltic States through the membership fees. Alternatively organize a separate session on Baltic demography to encourage participation.