

Minutes from the IBS-NBR Regional Council meeting, Copenhagen, June 19, 2017

Country Representatives:

- **Estonia:** Krista Fischer
- **Finland:** Jaakko Nevalainen
- **Norway:** Magne Thoresen
- **Lithuania:** Sarunas Germanas
- **Sweden:** Ziad Taib, Marita Olsson, Alexandra Jauhiainen (Regional Executive Committee [REC])
- **Denmark:** Andreas Kryger Jensen

Minutes by Alexandra Jauhiainen

Agenda items discussed/Actions:

NBBC conference in 2019

The next regional (NBBC) conference 2019 was the issue that was most discussed.

- **Location:** The following two candidate cities/countries were discussed for hosting for the next NBBC conference in 2019:
 - Vilnius (Lithuania)
 - Riga (Latvia)

Representatives from Lithuania were approached by Krista already two years ago at the NBBC conference in Iceland. Representatives from Lithuania have been active in the IBS-NBR for several years, and have experience working with the region and have also attended conferences in the past. Although the representatives from Latvia have shown strong interest in organizing the next conference, due to the reasons stated above, the council agreed that Vilnius would be the best choice at this time.

Organization committee: A local Lithuanian organization committee for the next conference will need to be set up (chair Audrone Jakaitiene).

Actions for the local organization committee:

- *Fix dates for the conference (preferably three days during the second/third week of June if possible)*
- *Look for sponsors*
- *Set up conference website with basic information (date, place, local organization committee contacts)*
- *Pre-conference activities*

Program Committee: Suggestions for chair of the (scientific) program committee was also discussed.

Actions for all members of the regional council:

Suggest possible people that would be able and willing to take on the role of chairing the program committee.

Participant costs for upcoming regional meetings: In recent years, the cost to attend the regional IBS conference has been a bit higher than what would be preferable. It has been difficult to keep the cost for the conference down mainly due to the expenses associated with inviting speakers. Invited speakers have generally paid for their own trip, but have gotten the conference fee and dinner paid for.

It was concluded that this would still be fair for keynote speakers, but may be too expensive for the regular invited speakers. It was suggested that we for future conferences should pay either the conference dinner or conference fee for the regular invited speakers, but not both. Facilities to host the conferences have for many conferences been sponsored by the host university (as in Denmark 2017, but e.g. not in Reykjavik 2015). It was suggested that the conference should be scheduled to try to benefit from such arrangements in the future.

Further, the budget for the Copenhagen conference was briefly discussed, as well as suggestions for future short courses to have at the regional conference.

Action: *Andreas to send final loss/surplus numbers for the Copenhagen conference to the REC.*

Possible collaboration with the Polish IBS region

The Polish IBS region have had fluctuating membership numbers in the past. The IBS President Elizabeth Thompson suggested that joint activities for the Polish and Nordic-Baltic regions may boost interest for IBS in both regions.

Action: *Ziad/Alexandra/Marita to talk to Elizabeth and contact the Polish region about their interest in collaboration.*

Conference manual: Krista also mentioned that she is working on a draft for a ‘manual’ on how to organize the regional conference.

Action: *Krista will, with the assistance from Ziad, continue work on the conference manual.*

International IBS conference

Krista raised the question whether the Nordic-Baltic region would like to organize the global IBS conference in the future. This would be a large conference with 800-1000 participants, and could possibly take place 2022 or 2024. Discussions will follow by email and the issue will be further discussed at the next council meeting.

Young statistician award

A young statistician award was discussed. The award would be given to a young statistician for the best presentation at the regional meeting. Prize would be sponsored travel and fee to another regional conference.

Action: *Krista to discuss with Elizabeth and the executive board to set up such an award.*

Other issues discussed

- Promoting the IBS
- Fee to join the IBS-NBR for next year