

NCU Board meeting

5 March 2021

at 11.00 – 15.30 (EET)

Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams

Chairman: NCU President Sakari Karjalainen, Secretary General, the Cancer Society of Finland

Participants:

Finland

- Sakari Karjalainen
- Jarmo Wahlfors
- Maija Pertola
- Mikaela Lax
- Raija Jokila items 1–6
- Juha Heino 1–7

Sweden

- Ulrika Kågström Årehed
- Ulrica Sundholm

Norway

- Ingrid Stenstadvold Ross
- Ole Alexander Opdalshei items 1–11

Faroe Islands

- Durita Tausen items 1–15

Iceland

- Halla Þorvaldsdóttir

Denmark

- Jesper Fisker
- Elizabeth Hjorth
- Hans H. Storm
- Michael Henneberg Pedersen items 1–3

Guests

- Paulus Torkki item 9
- Riikka-Leena Leskelä item 9
- Dudley Tarlton items 9–11
- Daniel Grafton items 9–11
- Elina Järvelä items 9–10
- Johanna Jung items 9–11
- Janne Pitkäniemi items 9–11

AGENDA

SUMMARY

Agenda and Minutes of the Meeting – 11.00

1. Approval of the Agenda (5 min)
2. Approval of the minutes of the previous NCU meeting on December 10th, 2020, by **Sakari Karjalainen**, the Cancer Society of Finland (2 min)

Matters for decision – 11.10

3. Approval of the Accounts of the year 2020 by **Michael Henneberg Pedersen**, the Danish Cancer Society (10 min)
4. Approval of the Annual Report 2020 by **Jesper Fisker**, the Danish Cancer Society (10 min)
5. NCU budget 2021 update by **Raija Jokila**, the Cancer Society of Finland (5 min)
6. Approval of status overview of the strategic projects by **Jarmo Wahlfors** the Cancer Society of Finland (10 min)

Matters for discussion – 11.45

7. NCU's Permanent Secretariat by **Sakari Karjalainen** the Cancer Society of Finland (15 min)
Discussion
8. Updating the NCU's Strategy by **Sakari Karjalainen** the Cancer Society of Finland (20 min)
Discussion

Matters for information – 13.00

9. Total cost of cancer in Finland, Island, Norway and Sweden by **Professor Paulus Torkki (University of Helsinki) and Dr Riikka-Leena Leskelä (NHG)** (25 min incl. discussion)
10. Global UN Joint Programmes on NCDs and behavioral risk factors: Strengthening linkages to cancer prevention and control by **Daniel Grafton, Dudley Tarlon and Johanna Jung** (UNDP) (25 min incl. discussion)

11. The Impact of the Covid19 pandemics on diagnosis of cancer in Finland by **Professor Janne Pitkääniemi**, the Finnish Cancer Registry (25 min incl. discussion)
12. Cooperation agreement between Cancer Society of Finland and NCU member organisations by **Sakari Karjalainen**, the Cancer Society of Finland (5 min)

Exchange of experiences – 14.20

13. News from UICC by **Ulrika Årehed Kågström**, Secretary General, Cancerfonden, member of UICC Board (5 min.)
14. News from ECL by **Elizabeth Hjorth**, Danish Cancer Society, vice-president of ECL board (5 min.)
15. Short reports from the Member Societies (each 5 min)

Closing of the meeting – 16.00

16. Any other business
17. Upcoming NCU meetings
18. Closing of the Meeting

Item 1**Welcome and approval of the agenda****by Sakari Karjalainen, the Cancer Society of Finland**

DECISION

The agenda was accepted.

Item 2**Approval of of the minutes of the previous NCU meeting on December 10th, 2020****by Sakari Karjalainen, the Cancer Society of Finland**

DECISION

The minutes were accepted.

Item 3 Approval of the Accounts of the year 2020**by Michael Henneberg Pedersen, the Danish Cancer Society**

Case presentation (Summary)

The Financial statement for 2020 is presented by using the same accounting principles as earlier years and audited by Deloitte.

The result for the year shows a loss of 20.852 EUR for the fiscal year 2020, which is slightly better than the budgeted loss of 38.552 EUR in Budget 2021. The main reason for this relates to the low spending in travel and other costs.

In 2020 the strategic budgets were increased to 313.137 EUR compared to 228.831 EUR in 2019. The increase in budget of 84.306 EUR for strategic project was covered by a board approved increase in member fee of 100.000 EUR.

At the end of the fiscal year 2020 the equity in NCU is reduced to 123.655 EUR.

As decided by the board of directors, the intention is to reduce the equity to 100.000 EUR. This is expected to be realized at the end of 2021, if the budgeted loss of 17.953 EUR in 2021 is realized.

In summary the result of the year is deemed to be satisfactory and the unions finances to be solid.

Attachment 1: Financial statement 2020

Decission (Recommendation)

The Chairman recommends that the Board of Directors approve the financial statement 2020.

Decision/Discussion

The Board approved the financial statement 2020.



Nordic Cancer Union

Financial statement 2020

The Board Meeting adopted the financial statement on 05.03.2021

Chairman of the Board Meeting

Name: Jesper Fisker

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Statement by the Board on the financial statement

The Board of Directors and the Executive Board have today considered and approved the financial statement of Nordic Cancer Union for the financial year 01.01.2020 - 31.12.2020.

The financial statement is presented in accordance with the general accepted accounting practice.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the Entity's financial position at 31.12.2020 and of the results of its operations for the financial year 01.01.2020 - 31.12.2020.

We believe that the management commentary contains a fair review of the affairs and conditions referred to therein.

We recommend the financial statement for adoption at the Board Meeting.

Copenhagen, 05.03.2021



Jesper Fisker
Chairman of the Board

The independent auditor's review report on the financial statement

To the Board of Nordic Cancer Union

We have reviewed the financial statement of Nordic Cancer Union for the financial year 01.01.2020 - 31.12.2020, which comprise the income statement, balance sheet, notes and significant accounting policies.

Board's responsibility for the financial statements

The Board is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the general accepted accounting practice and for such internal control as Management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements. We conducted our review in accordance with the International Standard on Engagements to Review Historical Financial Statement and additional requirements under Danish audit regulation. This requires us to conclude whether anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements, taken as a whole, are not prepared in all material respects in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. This also requires us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statement in accordance with the International Standard on Engagements to Review Historical Financial Statement is a limited assurance engagement. The auditor performs procedures primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less than those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

The independent auditor's review report on the financial statement

Conclusion

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not give a true and fair view of the Entity's financial position at 31.12.2020 and of the results of its operations for the financial year 01.01.2020 - 31.12.2020 in accordance with the general accepted accounting practice.

Copenhagen, 05.03.2021

Deloitte

Statsautoriseret Revisionspartnerselskab

Central Business Registration No (CVR) 33963556

Christian Sanderhage

State Authorised Public Accountant

Identification No (MNE) mne23347

Income statement 2020

	Notes	Actual 2020	Budget 2020	Actual 2019
Income				
Income from NCU members		1.105.585	1.105.585	1.005.585
Interest from bank accounts		2.193	0	620
		1.107.778	1.105.585	1.006.205
Activity				
Research		(750.000)	(750.000)	(750.000)
Strategic projects	1	(313.137)	(313.137)	(228.831)
		(1.063.137)	(1.063.137)	(978.831)
Result before other costs		44.641	42.448	27.374
Other cost				
Secretariat function	2	(65.000)	(65.000)	(65.000)
Travel cost	3	(442)	(8.000)	(1.517)
Other cost	4	(51)	(8.000)	(1.956)
		(65.493)	(81.000)	(68.473)
Result for the year		(20.852)	(38.552)	(41.099)

Balance sheet 31 December 2020

Assets

	Notes	2020	2019
Current assets			
Prepayment		40.000	0
Intercompany account at KB		<u>205.516</u>	<u>325.606</u>
Total Current assets		245.516	325.606
 Total assets		 245.516	 325.606

Equity and liabilities

Equity

Equity at year beginning		144.507	185.606
Result from operation		<u>(20.852)</u>	<u>(41.099)</u>
Total equity		123.655	144.507

Liabilities

Current liabilities

Other current liabilities	5	<u>121.861</u>	<u>181.099</u>
Total current liabilities		121.861	181.099
 Total liabilities		 121.861	 181.099

Total equity and liabilities		245.516	325.606
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Notes - financial statement 2020

	2020	2019
1. Strategic project		
NORDCAN	58.887	57.281
Nordic Summer School in Cancer-Epidemiology	15.000	77.300
Nordic Research on Cancer Pathways	0	35.000
Cost and outcomes of cancer in the Nordic countries	59.250	59.250
Tobacco Products, snus and e-cigarettes	75.000	0
Socioeconomic inequality and cancer	75.000	0
EFPN	30.000	0
	313.137	228.831
2. Secretariat function		
Secretariat function for the period of 2018 – 2020 will not be specified in the financial statements 2020 because the tasks are carried out in different departments in the Danish Cancer Society as they are handled by existing employees next to their regular tasks.		
Secretariat function consists of the following tasks:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation, management and follow up on Board meetings • Preparation of annual budgets, annual accounts, budget follow-up and annual report • Update of overview of strategic projects • Secretariat for NCU Scientific Committee. Allocation and follow-up of scientific project funds and strategic project funds, as well as preparation of award meetings • Updating of the NCU website • Continuous correspondence and ad hoc tasks • Financial assistance • Legal assistance 		
3. Travel cost		
Travel cost Faroe Island	442	1.517
	442	1.517
4. Other cost		
Conference fee and related cost	51	1.956
	51	1.956
5. Other current liabilities		
Nordic Summer School in Cancer Epidemiology 2019	0	77.300
Nordic Research on Cancer Pathways 2019	0	35.000
Cost and outcomes of cancer in the Nordic countries 2019	59.250	59.250
Cost and outcomes of cancer in the Nordic countries 2020	59.250	0
Travel costs Faroe Island	0	1.517
Deloitte Statsautoriseret revisionspartnerselskab	3.361	8.032
	121.861	181.099

General information

The Nordic Cancer Union is a collaborative body for cancer societies in the Nordic countries. The registered office is now at Strandboulevarden 49, 2100 Copenhagen, Denmark.

Basis of preparation and statement of compliance

The Financial Statement are prepared in accordance with general accepted accounting practice. The Financial Statement have been prepared on a going concern basis and under the historical cost convention. The Financial Statement are presented in EURO, except when otherwise indicated.

Use of estimates and judgements

The preparation of the Financial Statement requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities, and the disclosure of contingent liabilities, at the end of the reporting period. Use of available information and application of judgement are inherent in the formation of estimates. Actual results in the future could differ from such estimates and the differences may be material to the Interim Financial Statement.

Foreign currency transactions

Transactions in foreign currencies are initially recorded at the exchange rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are retranslated at the exchange rate ruling at the balance sheet date. Gains and losses resulting from the translation of foreign currency transactions are taken to the income statement.

Income

Income from NCU members is contribution from NCU members. Interest income on bank accounts is recognised when earned.

Accounts receivables

Accounts receivables are initially recognised at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for impairment of trade receivables is established when there is objective evidence that the association will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables. The director's assessment is that no provision is needed at year end.

Prepayments

Prepayments comprise incurred costs relating to subsequent financial years. Prepayments are measured at cost.

Trade payables and other payables

Trade payables and other payables are recognised initially at the transaction price or fair value. These financial liabilities are normally non-interest bearing. Trade payables are normally settled within 2 months, and other payables within 12 months.

Item 4 Approval of the Annual Report 2020 v/ Jesper Fisker, the Danish Cancer Society

Resume

According to the statutes article 4.4 the NCU Board approves the Annual Accounts and Annual Report of the previous year.

The Annual Report is according with previous decision by the NCU Board only published in an electronic version at the NCU website.

The NCU accounts /financial report 2020 will be included in the Annual Report, when it has been approved by the NCU Board.

Attachment 1.

NCU Annual Report 2020) DRAFT

Recommendation

The Chair recommends, that the NCU Board approves the NCU Annual report 2020.

Decision/Discussion

Kræftens Bekæmpelse will amend the draft according to the comments provided earlier by email. There were no comments on the text but a few logos were changed. Annual report will be published only electronically.

The NCU Board approved the NCU Annual report 2020

Item 4 Attachment 1 NCU's Annual Report 2020



DRAFT Annual Report 2020
The Nordic Cancer Union

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Nordic Cancer Union
www.ncu.nu

NCU Secretariat

The Danish Cancer Society, Strandboulevarden 49, DK-2100 Copenhagen, Denmark

Jesper Fisker, NCU Chairman jf@cancer.dk

Elizabeth Hjorth, NCU Coordinator eh@cancer.dk

Christina Jaqué Blohm Koefoed-Hansen, NCU Research Administration ckh@cancer.dk

Anne Mette Bak, NCU Research Administration amb@cancer.dk

NCU in short



Nordic societies and welfare models have so many similarities, that close cooperation between our countries is extremely fruitful. Key words for the NCU – Nordic Cancer Union collaboration are mutual inspiration, trust and a willingness to raise and jointly deal with important issues and initiatives in the field of cancer.

Jesper Fisker
NCU chairman

The Nordic Cancer Union (NCU) was founded in 1949 to enhance collaboration between the cancer societies in the Nordic countries. Its main aim is co-operation on relevant strategic issues, exchange of experiences, and to be a forum for inspiration for the Cancer Society of Finland, the Icelandic Cancer Society, the Swedish Cancer Society, the Norwegian Cancer Society, the Faroe Cancer Society and the Danish Cancer Society.

Strategic Plan 2018 – 2020

In August 2017, the NCU Board decided that the existing Strategic Plan 2015-2018 would continue in the period 2018-2020. The decision was taken on the basis, that NCU had a thorough review of the NCU statutes in 2015-2016, and that NCU's statutes are therefore up-to-date, form a framework with a through line that allows NCU to raise issues and act if / when there is desire, and will.

Chair and secretariat

A board comprising representatives of each of the member organizations directs the NCU. The chairman of the board is responsible for the NCU's function during a three-year mandate period. The strategies and priorities for the NCU are stipulated by the board and should be valid during the three year alternating chairmanship of the member organizations.

The Danish Cancer Society is responsible for the NCU chairmanship and the NCU secretariat 2018 – 2020.

The Finish Cancer Society will be responsible for the NCU chairmanship and the NCU secretariat 2021- 2023.

NCU finances, including research grants

The total income of the NCU in 2020 was € 1.107.778. Membership fees accounted for € 1.105.585 and interests/exchange rates on bank accounts was accounted for € 2.193

Every year the Nordic Cancer Union grants € 750.000 to cancer research and up to € 250.000 for strategic activities decided by the board.

In 2020, the NCU awarded 16 grants totalling € 750.000 to cancer research. Grants ranged from € 40.000 to € 65.000.

NCU 2020 activities

In 2020 the chairmanship of the NCU, coordinated the collaborative activities and organized

- four NCU board meetings – one meeting in Copenhagen and due to the COVID-19 situation two virtual meetings and one meeting in written procedure. The Chairman of the NCU Scientific Committee was invited to meet the NCU Board in November 2020.
- one NCU Scientific Committee meeting.
- workshop on "The art of navigating the ever-changing media landscape".

Inspirational presentations on selected topics of current common interest

As being a forum for exchange of experiences and mutual inspiration for the Cancer Society of Finland, the Icelandic Cancer Society, the Swedish Cancer Society, the Norwegian Cancer Society, the Faroe Cancer Society and the Danish Cancer Society each NCU Board meeting includes inspiring presentations on selected topics of the NCU members current common interests. Topics have been:

Inspirational presentations regarding models for funding of cancer research

Presentations regarding Danish Cancer Society research funding strategy and models, Norwegian Cancer Society research funding strategy, Cancerfondens research funding strategy and CRUK – Cancer Research UK were given.

Focus was on topics such as:

- Quality in research
- The importance of openness to give priority to new or underfunded areas of the cancer field
- The importance of being a role-model for others – and to open the scope for cancer related topics to support with research funds.
- Interesting perspectives in moving towards more international co-operation in some research projects.

A modernised view on Nordic cancer statistics

A new, dynamic version of NORDCAN, the analytical tool and database that enables the comparison of cancer statistics for the Nordic countries, is available as a result of cooperation between the Association of Nordic Cancer Registries (ANCR), International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and the Nordic Cancer Union (NCU).

Long history of collaboration

The Nordic Cancer Registry collaboration stretches all the way back to the early 1950'ies. One of the fruits of this collaboration is the NORDCAN web tool, established as a pilot in 2002 and with the first full version in 2003, with both IARC as developer and host of the web tool, ANCR with data and analytical expertise and NCU with financial support and request for specific statistics important for the work of the NCU.

Even though many changes and improvements has been done over the years, the main framework of the tool remained the same for years and technically outdated and unable to fit the future needs of NORDCAN. Continuing the fruitful collaboration between ANCR, IARC and NCU, a process for a complete makeover of the NORDCAN web tool was initiated in 2019, and the result is already present at <https://nordcan.iarc.fr>.

What is new in NORDCAN 2.0?

NORDCAN 2.0 still contains the same, high quality database from the Nordic countries as before and currently displays statistics on incidence and mortality. The overall look of the web tool is modernised and new tools, like the D3 JavaScript library, is used for better and more dynamic data visualisation. The new web tool also allows for more flexibility, giving better opportunities for the further development of comparable cancer statistics in the Nordic countries in the future.

Future work in NORDCAN

This launch of NORDCAN 2.0 is only the beginning of the planned NORDCAN update. Apart from continuously fixing small bugs and refining the data visualisation, future work will focus on replacing all parts of the old NORDCAN web tool, including statics on prevalence, survival and predictions. At the same time the NORDCAN work group focus on further development to keep NORDCAN as up to date and relevant as possible. Current initiatives involve, for instance, new ways of doing data harmonisation, enrichment and aggregation. An important milestone is the update of the NORDCAN database in May/June, including cancer statistics for 2017 and 2018.

Read <https://www.iarc.fr/news-events/iarc-and-partners-launch-nordcan-2-0-comparable-cancer-statistics-for-the-nordic-countries/>

“Det Gode Testamente” (The Good Will)

In 2015, three Danish charities (Gigtforeningen, Hjerteforeningen and Kræftens Bekæmpelse) decided to launch an initiative to inform the Danes about the possibility of including a charity in their will. As a result, 31 charities formed the collaboration Det Gode Testamente in 2017. Det Gode Testamente launched a web portal: <https://www.detgodetestamente.dk/> where all Danes can search for information and advice on how to include a charitable bequest in their will. Today “Det Gode Testamente” consists of 40 charities.

The overall message is that it is relevant and sensible to write a will, and that donating money to a good cause is a positive and life-affirming choice. It is all about passing on something good.

Det Gode Testamente works closely with two Danish bar associations: Danske Familieadvokater and Danske Arveretsadvokater. A nation-wide network of more than 200 attorneys was established and provides through the web portal free counseling on inheritance and writing a will.

Since Det Gode Testamente was established, there has been a significant increase in the number of charitable bequests. From 2017 to 2019, the organizations have reported an increase in the number of grants given to wills benefitting charities of more than 118%. For further information contact: Charlotte Hjeds, Danish Cancer Society, chj@cancer.dk

Prevention of overweight and obesity in the Nordic countries - dilemmas, challenges and common Nordic activities/initiatives by Mette Lolk Hanak, Head of Prevention & Information, Danish Cancer Society

Both IARC and WCRF has recognized obesity as an important risk factor for at least 13 different cancers. The obesity prevalence in the Nordic Countries are high and rising, this implies that we can expect more cancer cases in future. In addition, more than 40 other NCDs and chronic conditions can be attributed to overweight and obesity.

Obesity and overweight induce stigma and are perceived as an individual problem. That is why it is a sensitive topic to address and to deal with. WHO describes our society as an obesogenic environment, where cheap, high-energy dense foods and drinks in large portions are available around the clock. At the same time much of our incentive to be physical active has disappeared, whilst we use much of our waken hours inactive in front of a screen. Overweight and obesity are unevenly distributed in the populations, thus population groups with low SES experience higher prevalence of obesity. In addition, obesity generates more social inequality in health.

All sectors, institutions and organization must contribute, if we are going to succeed in ending the unfortunate developments in obesity and counteract its negative societal consequences and increased cancer prevalence. NCU has good prerequisites for contributing to some of the solutions by initiating different actions.

Link: [Danskernes viden om og holdninger til overvægt og sundhed 2019](#)

The NCU Board decided, that NCU members would focus on exchange and development of ideas and ways to prevent overweight and obesity in the Nordic countries.

For further information: Mette Lolk Hanak, Head of Prevention & Information, Danish Cancer Society, mhanak@cancer.dk

One small step for man, One giant leap for mankind by Mef Christina Nilbert, Research Director, Danish Cancer Society

Being a cancer researcher, an epidemiologist, a surgeon, a hematologist or an oncologist these days is an extremely rewarding job. We can look back at decades of advances. More patients

survive. We have new tools. For researchers these are called gene editing, next-generation sequencing, single cell biology, nano robots, super-resolution microscopy if you are a cancer researcher. For clinicians these are called artificial intelligence, prehabilitation, laparoscopy, targeted therapy and immunotherapy.

Prevention, early detection and treatment of cancer have developed very positively during the last 50 years and significant results have been achieved.

Nordic collaboration and Nordic coordination are key elements in reaching further in preventing the preventable and making the future mission of 3 out of 4 survive cancer a reality.

For further information: Mef Christina Nilbert, Research Director, Danish Cancer Society, nilbert@cancer.dk

NCU workshop 2020 on "The art of navigating the ever-changing media landscape".

As part of the NCU chairmanship the Danish Cancer Society hosted a November 12th workshop called: "The art of navigating the ever-changing media landscape – or how to communicate facts and scientific evidence in the post-factual era".

On the workshop a range of strategic perspectives and hands on learnings on the following topics were presented and discussed:

- How do we deal with the ever changing media landscape?
- How to communicate facts and evidence in a complex news ecosystem with fake news and social media?
- The strategic importance of a good video strategy
- Insourcing content production and going all in on digital advertising. Key learnings from our upcoming door-to-door collection in Denmark

The overall messages were:

- Building coalitions with other health authorities and building engaged social communities help you stand through crisis communication in a post factual world
- Facts does not win the argument alone. Listen to your opponent and communicate both from the brain (facts) AND the heart (emotions) and show that you actually care.
- Strive for making content that creates quality engagement. Video content is key to that and can be produced relatively easy from authentic raw material put in the right frame. A good story wins over high production value

NCU Nordic Cancer Union and EFPN – European Fair Pricing Network

NCU has entered into a partnership agreement with EFPN – European Fair Pricing Network. EFPN aims to achieve fair prices for cancer and ensure possibilities for patients to be given better access to new drugs. EFPN was successfully launched on 30 November 2020. NCU is actively involved in the EFPN Steering Group with Ingrid Stenstadvold Ross, Norwegian Cancer Society as Chair and Jesper Fisker, Danish Cancer Society as member of the Steering Group.

Exchange of information regarding corona situations impact on cancer treatment in the Nordic Countries.

NCU launched during April – June 2020 a weekly informal exchange of information regarding the Corona situations impact on cancer treatment in the Nordic Countries.

The exchange of information focused on

- National screening programs
- Investigation of symptoms of cancer / cancer package course
- Cancer surgeon
- Oncological treatment
- Oncological post-treatment / preventive treatment / adjuvant treatment
- Rehabilitation

The focus of cancer and COVID 19 led to the need for initiating and financing of a strategic research project on COVID 19 and cancer.

NCU Strategic Funds and projects

The Nordic Cancer Union provides funding for strategic projects of high standard within the field of cancer amounting to 250.000 euros annually. The projects funded by the NCU meet strict requirements, with priority given to projects and initiatives that reflect the current general strategy of the NCU and have added Nordic value. Regulations and guidelines were adopted by the board of the Nordic Cancer Union in 2016, and came into use immediately.

Researchers working in two or more Nordic countries must be involved in the project. The projects applied for must have cancer relevance, be uniquely suited to be carried out within the Nordic countries, and the effect of collaboration should be synergistic.

The NCU Board decided to support four strategic projects in 2020:

New confirmed financial support 2020

- | | | |
|---|-------------|---------------|
| • COVID-19 and cancer in the Nordic region | 2021 – 2022 | 200.000 euros |
| • Nordic Summer school in Cancer Epidemiology | 2021 – 2022 | 80.000 euros |

Total confirmed support

280.000 euros

COVID-19 and cancer in the Nordic region

The NCU Board allocated 200.000 euro for a Strategic research project on Covid-19 and cancer in the Nordic region in 2021 – 2022.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all Nordic countries. In addition to the direct effects of the severe acute respiratory syndrome-related coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), preliminary data suggest that the pandemic has had an indirect impact on health, including the provision of timely cancer care. Cancer screening programs were temporarily stopped, delayed, or experienced reduced attendance, and cancer patients in general may have experienced delays in diagnostics and treatment. The magnitude of the COVID-19 impact on cancer diagnostics and care in the Nordic countries is currently unknown.

The project aims to estimate these effects.

Among those infected with SARS-CoV-2, evidence is conflicting on whether cancer patients are at higher risk than the general population of developing serious complications as reflected in hospitalizations, respiratory failure and death. Many of the first studies attempting to address these questions were based on case series or hospital-based collection of cases, precluding firm conclusions. Population-based data are needed to further clarify possible associations between cancer and COVID-19 outcomes.

The project aims to provide such data.

The project takes advantage of the Nordic cancer registry collaboration, the five Nordic population-based cancer registries, as well as other Nordic health registry data.

By combining high-quality population-based registry data from the Nordic countries a number of questions, relating to COVID-19 and cancer will be addressed. The Nordic countries with a combined population of 27 million inhabitants provide an optimal setting for addressing outcomes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Contact: Giske Ursin, Director and Professor, Cancer Registry of Norway,
Ursin@kreftregisteret.no

Nordic Summer School in Cancer Epidemiology 2021 - 2022

The NCU Board allocated 80.000 euro for a Strategic research project on **Nordic Summer School in Cancer Epidemiology 2021 – 2022**.

The aim of the course is to increase research competence and the utilization of population-based databases in cancer (cancer registries etc.) for new knowledge, benchmarking and follow-up and thus policy development and evidence base for cancer societies.

During two weeks of intensive basic training, the course introduces theories of research and cancer epidemiology, population based as well as clinical, and provides a network between students and competent researchers and peers in the field. Each student is provided a tutor from a cancer registry research group and a research project to complete during the two-month practical work period. Half a year after the theoretical part students and tutors meet to present and discuss results. Hence, the course is comprehensive from idea, theory, and practical to reporting and peer review.

Many previous students are now active in research - most in public health, registries and clinics but also laboratory research has received researchers with good skills in epidemiology, strengthening translational research. Impact of this activity is long-term for students, but also short-term benefits for the institutes having projects carried out during the course period. The course is unique in its set-up mixing theory and work on real data of which most end up in peer reviewed publications.

Any development in cancer prevention, treatment and care requires competent researchers. Competence and availability of researchers in the cancer field requires investments with targeted training specific to cancer. The Nordic Summer School in Cancer Epidemiology is such an investment and has been rated very important by the Cancer Societies' advisory research committee. The need to attract the best brains to cancer research and population based cancer research in order to meet the goal of reducing the burden of cancer and cancer deaths in the future is obvious. The course includes education on the unique possibilities related to effective use of all Nordic register-based data. This type of education is not available in any of the international courses of epidemiology, neither in the handbooks, nor in university settings.

Contact: Lina Steinrud Mørch, Head of Cancer Surveillance and Pharmacoepidemiology, Danish Cancer Society Research Center, Danish Cancer Society Denmark, e-mail: morch@cancer.dk

Table 1 Strategic projects overview

Project overview - Agreed by the Board of

NCU in November 2020

All amounts in EURO

	Notes	Total support	Planned in 2018	Planned in 2019	Planned in 2020	Planned in 2021	Planned in 2022
1. Confirmed financial support							
Secretariat for Nordic NECT	1	148.000					
UICC/IARC summer school	2	32.800					
NORDCAN	3	106.500	35.500				
Nordic Summer School in Cancer Epidemiology	4	92.300	46.150				
Pakkeforløb i de nordiske lande	5	70.000	35.000	35.000			
Nordic Summer School in Cancer Epidemiology 2019	6	92.300		77.300	15.000		
Canceromkostninger i de nordiske lande	7	118.500		59.250	59.250		
NORDCAN - Cancer statistics for the Nordic countries	8	176.706		57.281	58.887	60.538	
Tobacco Products, snus and e-cigarettes	9	150.000			75.000	75.000	
Socioeconomic inequality and cancer	10	150.000			75.000	75.000	
EFPN	11	70.000			30.000	40.000	
COVID-19 and cancer in the Nordic region	12	200.000				100.000	100.000
Nordic Summer School in Cancer Epidemiology 2021..	13	80.000				60.000	20.000
Total confirmed support		1.487.106	116.650	228.831	313.137	410.538	120.000

		Total support	Actual payments 2018	Actual payments 2019	Actual payments 2020	Actual payments 2021	Actual payments 2022
2. Actual payments							
Secretariat for Nordic NECT	1	148.000	50.000				
UICC/IARC summer school	2	23.687					
NORDCAN	3	106.500		35.500			
Nordic Summer School in Cancer Epidemiology.....	4	74.000	-18.300				
Pakkeforløb i de nordiske lande	5	70.000	35.000		35.000		
Nordic Summer School in Cancer Epidemiology 2019..	6	92.300		77.300	15.000		
NORDCAN - Cancer statistics for the Nordic countries	8	116.168		57.281	58.887		
Tobacco Products, snus and e-cigarettes	9	75.000			75.000		
Socioeconomic inequality and cancer	10	75.000			75.000		
EFPN	11	30.000			30.000		
Total actual payments		810.655	66.700	170.081	288.887	0	0

Notes:

1. Confirmed on a Board Meeting in Helsingör in September 2015
2. Confirmed on a Board Meeting in Reykjavik 22 May 2015 and revised 17 February 2017
3. Confirmed on a Board Meeting in Oslo 19 February 2016
4. Confirmed on a Board Meeting in Copenhagen 25 November 2016
5. Confirmed on a Board Meeting in Copenhagen 19 February 2018
6. Confirmed on a Board Meeting in Copenhagen 24 October 2018
7. Confirmed on a Board Meeting in Copenhagen 24 October 2018
8. Confirmed on a Board Meeting in Copenhagen 8 May 2019
9. Confirmed on a Board Meeting in Copenhagen 13 November 2019
10. Confirmed on a Board Meeting in Copenhagen 13 November 2019
11. Confirmed on a Board Meeting in Copenhagen 13 November 2019
12. Confirmed on a Board Meeting held digitally at 10 December 2020

13. Confirmed on a Board Meeting held digitally at 10 December 2020

		Total support	Planned in 2018	Planned in 2019	Planned in 2020	Planned in 2021	Planned in 2022
3. Unpaid confirmed financial support	Notes						
Canceromkostninger i de nordiske lande	7	118.500		59.250	59.250		
NORDCAN - Cancer statistics for the Nordic countries..	8	60.538				60.538	
Tobacco Products, snus and e-cigarettes	9	75.000				75.000	
Socioeconomic inequality and cancer	10	75.000				75.000	
EFPN	11	40.000				40.000	
COVID-19 and cancer in the Nordic region	12	200.000				100.000	100.000
Nordic Summer School in Cancer Epidemiology 2021...	13	80.000				60.000	20.000
Total confirmed support		649.038	0	59.250	59.250	410.538	120.000
4. Unapproved applications to be discussed	Notes						
Total unapproved applications		0	0	0	0	0	0
		Total support	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total unpaid and unapproved (3 og 4)		649.038	0	59.250	59.250	410.538	120.000

NCU Research Cancer Funding

NCU funding provides a very valuable basis for establishing professional networks across the Nordic countries. This is important, as the Nordic public health care system and registers provide research possibilities rarely found elsewhere. In this way, the NCU funding can serve also as seed money for joint applications to other funding agencies.

The NCU funding makes it possible to undertake clinical studies not of direct interest for the drug industry, e.g. testing of new surgical procedures. Several applications come from epidemiologists utilizing the Nordic population- and health registers. As an example, the NCU has now for many years supported the NOCCA study where combined data on occupation, industry and cancer incidence make it possible to identify cancer risks related to social position and work place.

NCU Scientific Committee recommendations 2020

The tasks of the committee are to assess scientific grant applications, secure high scientific quality and formulate recommendations regarding the applications to the Secretaries-General for their decisions on grants. Further, the Committee give consultation concerning strategic projects regarding research to the Secretaries-General for their decisions on grants, and to evaluate funded research and follow-up on the application of the results in the Nordic countries. Each year 750.000 euros are granted for cancer research. The secretariat of the

committee is located at the Danish Cancer Society. The NCU has been awarding research grants since 1989.

The scientific committee comprises one member with scientific competence from each member country appointed by the NCU Board after recommendations from the national cancer societies.

Members of the NCU Scientific Committee 2019-2021

Denmark:

Elsebeth Lynge, Chairman of committee, Professor, mag.scient.soc, Department of Public Health, University of Copenhagen

Finland:

Klaus Elenius, Ph.D., Professor of medical biochemistry, University of Turku

Sweden:

Klas Kärre, Ph.D., Professor of Molecular Immunology, Dept. of Microbiology, Tumor and Cell Biology, Karolinska Institute

Norway:

Tom K. Grimsrud, Ph.D., Senior Researcher, Cancer Registry of Norway, Institute of Population-based Cancer Research, Dep. of Research

Faroe Islands:

Johan Paulsen, Consultant urologist, Department of Urology, Aalborg University Hospital, Denmark and Part time consultant urologist Kings College Hospital, London

Iceland:

Eiríkur Steingrímsson, Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Faculty of medicine, University of Iceland

Report from the NCU Scientific Committee

The annual NCU Scientific Committee meeting was conducted virtual on 1 December 2020. The Nordic Cancer Union (NCU) received 30 grant applications in 2020.

The committee recommended that 16 projects are granted by the NCU Board.

A list of the projects for which funding is recommended is presented on pages 16-18. The committee's assessment is based on scientific quality, quality of researchers, level of Nordic synergy, and relevance to NCU's strategy.

Table 2 provides an overview of the number of applications received and the level of funding granted from 2017 to 2020.

Table 2: Number of applications and level of funding granted

	2020	2019	2018	2017
Number of applications received	30	29	30	42
Number and ratio (%) of applications funded	16 (53 %)	15 (53 %)	16 (53 %)	19 (45 %)
Total amount of funding applied for (€)	4,821,440	3,441,605	4,432,625	4,042,386
Total funding grant (€)	750,000	750,000	750,000	750,000

Conflict of interest in the evaluation process

The chairman of the SC assigned two main reviewers for each application. One member had a conflicting interest, and therefore, he left the meeting during the evaluation and did not participate in the assessment and scoring of those applications.

Quality of applications

The number of applications has been low the past years (2020:30, 2019:29, 2018:30, 2017:42, 2016:34, 2015:41, 2014:35, 2013:42). In general, the committee found the quality of the applications to be good.

NCU received applications for 11 on-going and 18 new projects. SC recommends 10 on-going and 6 new projects for funding in 2020. Table 1 shows the projects recommended.

LOCATION OF PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Figure 1 shows the number of applications from each of the Nordic countries in 2020 (determined by the workplace location of the principal investigator). Figure 2 shows the total number of grant applications received by the NCU from 2017 to 2020.

Figure 1: Number of applications (recommended and not recommended) by location in 2020

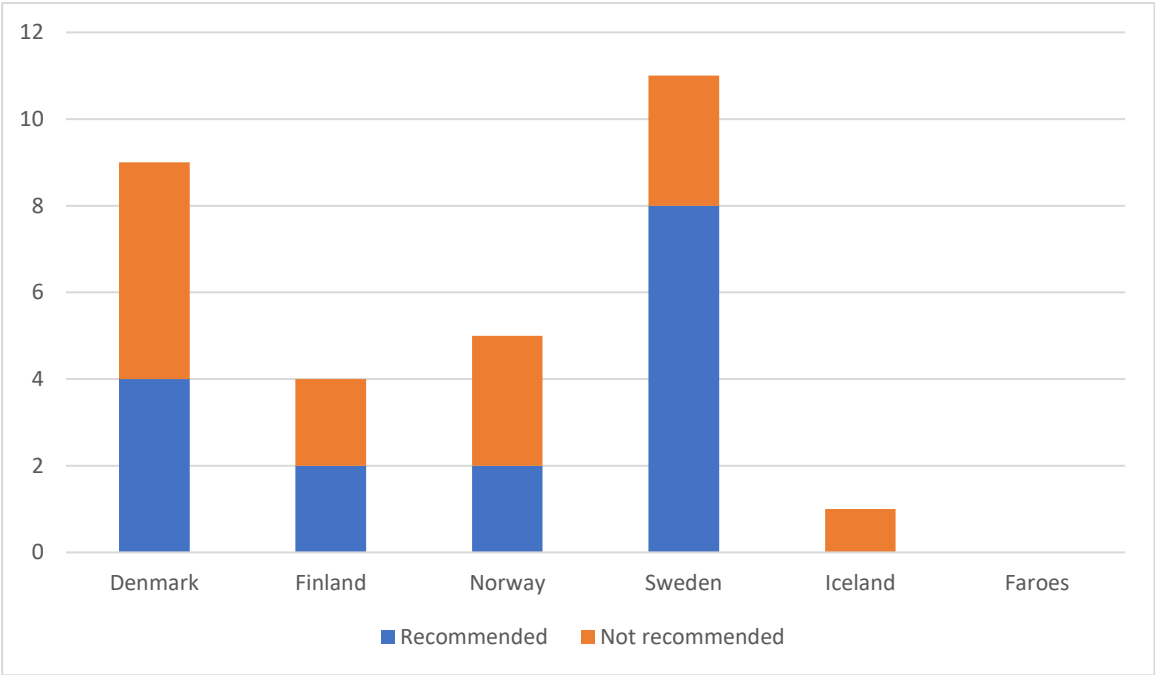


Figure 2: Total number of applications by location from 2017 to 2020

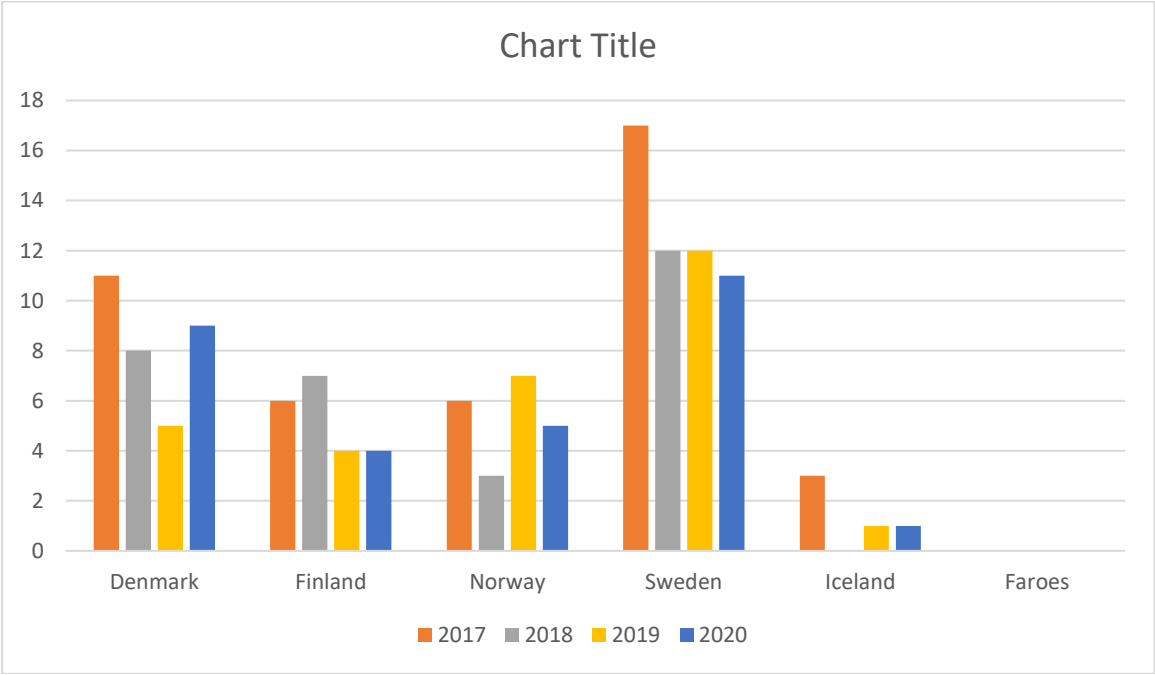


Table 3: Projects recommended to the NCU Board for funding in 2020

Principal Investigator	Project title	Project workplace (principal investigator)	Applied amount	Recommended amount
Anna Bill-Axelson	SPCG-17: Prostate Cancer Active Surveillance Trigger Trial (PCASTT)	Uppsala University	157.356	65.000
Satu Mustjoki	Immunological monitoring of therapy response in chronic myeloid leukemia by the Nordic CML study group (NCMLSG)	University of Helsinki	96.500	65.000
Karin Smedby	Life after Lymphoma - how can we individualize treatment and care to reduce complications and improve lymphoma survivorship in the Nordic countries	Karolinska Institutet	55.611	40.000
Martin Eklund	International multisite clinical validation of artificial intelligence assisted diagnosis and grading of prostate cancer in needle biopsies	Karolinska Institutet	69.285	50.000
Björn Nilsson	Genetic predisposition for multiple myeloma: clinical impact of recently identified risk variants	Lund University	151.300	50.000
Jesper Lagergren	The risk of oesophageal and gastric cancer after eradication of Helicobacter pylori	Karolinska Institutet	75.225	60.000

Bo Terning Hansen	Risk factors for pre-cancer and cancer: Registry follow-up of a population-based cohort of 118.000 women surveyed in Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden	Cancer Registry of Norway	81.000	40.000
Ahti Anttila	Comparing cervical cancer screening in the Nordic countries: Transition from cytology to HPV testing	Finnish Cancer Registry/ Cancer Society of Finland	50.000	40.000
Jørgen Bjerggaard Jensen	Nordic Urothelial Cancer Research Group Study on Reduced BCG Dwell-Time in High Risk NMIBC - NORTH-REG Dwell-Time Study	Aarhus University	70.000	40.000
Henrik Falconer	Robot-assisted approach to cervical cancer (RACC) : an international multi-center, open-label randomized controlled trial	Karolinska University Hospital	59.000	40.000
Karen-Lise Garm Spindler	NOAC 9 - A Phase III Randomized Nordic Anal Cancer Group Study on Circulating Tumor DNA guided Follow-Up	Aarhus University Hospital	75.000	50.000
Mats Jerkeman	Mantle cell lymphoma - a comprehensive Nordic initiative to improve patient outcome	Lund University	377.000	40.000

Hedvig Nordeng	Nordic Medications in Pregnancy and Childhood Cancer Study (NorMedPreCCS)	University of Oslo	108.950	50.000
Jiong Li	Maternal autoimmune diseases during pregnancy and childhood cancer in the offspring: a cohort study of 8 million children in five Nordic countries	Aarhus University	75.000	40.000
Niels Junker	A phase 2 study on dual blockade of the PD-1/L1 pathway and beta-adrenergic receptor in advanced Angiosarcoma and Undifferentiated Pleomorphic Sarcoma	Herlev Hospital	60.000	40.000
Cecilie Hveding Blimark	Treatment and survival in multiple myeloma in the Nordic countries collaborative registry studies within the Nordic Myeloma Study Group	Sahlgrenska University Hospital	128.000	40.000

The recommendations from the Scientific Committee was approved by the NCU Board 10 December 2020.

NCU member information



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The Cancer Society of Finland

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**Item 5 NCU budget 2021 update
by Raija Jokila, the Cancer Society of Finland**

Case presentation (Summary)

The budget 2021 is based on the budget approved in 2020. The budget takes into account that the Danish Cancer Society has paid the research grants decided in December 2020 and transferred the remaining NCU funds (81 353 €) to the Cancer Society of Finland.

The Cancer Society of Finland is responsible for paying the confirmed and unpaid supports for the strategic projects total of 309 250 € (incl. strategic projects of Malila, Rimpelä and Ursin as well as project of Nordic cancer costs installment) during the April 2021. To be able to do so, the Cancer Society of Finland will collect the membership fees as decided in December 2020 already in March 2021.

Attachment 1: NCU budget 2021

Decision (Recommendation)

The Chairman recommends that the Board of Directors approve the NCU's budget update for 2021.

Decision/Discussion

The NCU Board approved the budget update.

Item 5 Attachment 1 NCU budget 2021 update
by Raija Jokila, the Cancer Society of Finland

Budget 2021

Income

Denmark	345 964 €	28,0 %
Faroe Islands	2 471 €	0,2 %
Finland	185 338 €	15,0 %
Norway	343 493 €	27,8 %
Sweden	345 964 €	28,0 %
Iceland	12 356 €	1,0 %
Income from NCU members	1 235 585 €	
Total income from NCU members	1 235 585 €	100,0 %

Activity

Research	750 000 €
Strategic projects expected	309 250 €
Total activity	1 059 250 €

Results before other cost

176 335 €

Other cost

Secretariat function	65 000 €
Travel cost Faroe Island	4 000 €
Other cost (incl. new web page)	20 000 €
Total cost	89 000 €

Result for the year

87 335 €

Cash balance

Cash balance at year beginning	81 353 €
Result from operation/budget	87 335 €
Cash balance at year end	168 688 €

**Item 6 Approval of status overview of the strategic projects
by Jarmo Wahlfors, the Cancer Society of Finland**

Case presentation (Summary)

Active NCU (as per March 5, 2021) strategic projects are shown in attachment 1.

One of the projects NORDCAN - Cancer statistics for the Nordic countries is still active, but no further payments are due. The final installment of 60 538 Eur was paid in January 2021.

The other 5 active projects Canceromkostninger i de nordiske lande; Tobacco Products, snus and e-cigarettes; Socioeconomic inequality and cancer; COVID-19 and cancer in the Nordic region; are active and have due payments in 2021 (309 250 Eur) and 2022 (160 000 Eur). Furthermore, Nordic Summer School in Cancer Epidemiology 2021 has applied postponement of the funding to 2022 – 2023.

Reports of finished strategic projects and status overviews of ongoing strategic projects will be presented during the Finnish presidency period 2021-23.

Discussion regarding the topics of the strategic project calls will begin: NCU members will be asked for suggestions both short and long term i.e. topic(s) for 2021 call and ideas for other topics to be considered during the Finnish presidency period 2021-23.

The 2021 strategic call topic will be decided in the June NCU board meeting, the call opened in June and decisions made in the December meeting.

Attachment 1**Active NCU strategic projects****Decision (Recommendation)**

The Chairman recommends that the Board of Directors approves the status overview of the strategic projects and considers the plans for future strategic calls.

Decision/Discussion

The NCU Board approved the status overview of the strategic projects.

Members will be asked to provide suggestions for new strategic topics by May 14th, 2021. Further discussion on future strategic projects will be carried out at the June meeting. This discussion will also include the issue of the EFPN funding in future.

Furthermore, there was a discussion regarding the reporting of the strategic projects. Currently, projects need to provide their brief intermediate report to obtain the 2nd instalment of their

grant. It was indicated that the on-going strategic projects are invited to give oral presentations at the forthcoming meetings of the Board. This would give more comprehensive idea of the progress and results of each project.

Item 6 attachment 1 Strategic projects overview

Strategic projects overview

All amounts in EURO

		Total actual support 2021 - 2023	Actual payments 2021
1. Actual payments during the Finnish presidency	Notes		
Canceromkostninger i de nordiske lande	1	0	0
NORDCAN - Cancer statistics for the Nordic countries.....	2	0	0
Tobacco Products, snus and e-cigarettes	3	0	
Socioeconomic inequality and cancer	4	0	
COVID-19 and cancer in the Nordic region	5	0	
Nordic Summer School in Cancer Epidemiology 2021	6	0	
Total confirmed support		0	0

		Total planned support 2021 - 2023	Planned in 2021	Planned in 2022	Planned in 2023
2. Unpaid confirmed financial support	Notes				
Canceromkostninger i de nordiske lande	1	59 250	59 250		
NORDCAN - Cancer statistics for the Nordic countries.....	2	0			
Tobacco Products, snus and e-cigarettes	3	75 000	75 000		
Socioeconomic inequality and cancer	4	75 000	75 000		
COVID-19 and cancer in the Nordic region	5	200 000	100 000	100 000	
Nordic Summer School in Cancer Epidemiology 2021	6	80 000		60 000	20 000
Total confirmed support		469 250	309 250	160 000	20 000

1. Confirmed total of 118 500 € on a Board Meeting in Copenhagen 24 October 2018, paid 59 250 € in 2021
2. Confirmed total of 176 606 € on a Board Meeting in Copenhagen 8 May 2019, paid in 2020 and 2021
3. Confirmed total of 150 000 € on a Board Meeting in Copenhagen 13 November 2019, paid 75 000 € in 2020
4. Confirmed total of 150 000 € on a Board Meeting in Copenhagen 13 November 2019, paid 75 000 € in 2020
5. Confirmed total of 200 000 € on a Board Meeting held digitally at 10 December 2020
6. Confirmed total of 80 000 € on a Board Meeting held digitally at 25 September 2020

		Total support	Planned in 2021	Planned in 2022	Planned in 2023
3. Unapproved applications to be discussed	Notes				
Total unapproved applications		0	0	0	0

	Total support	2021	2022	2023
Total unpaid and unapproved (2 and 3)	469 250	309 250	160 000	20 000

Item 7 NCU's Permanent Secretariat
by Sakari Karjalainen, the Cancer Society of Finland

Presentation (Summary)

At the Board Meeting on September 25th, 2020, Secretary General of the Norwegian Cancer Society (Kreftforeningen) Ingrid Stenstadvold Ross raised a question, whether, in future, the Secretariat of the NCU should be established in one of the Nordic countries on permanent basis. It was decided that this will be discussed at one of the future meetings of the Board.

"Der blev stillet forslag om en principiel drøftelse af, hvorvidt formandskab og sekretariatet løbende skal rotere mellem NCU medlemmerne, eller det kunne være en mulighed at formandskab roterer hvert 3. år, og at et eller begge sekretariater varetages af et NCU medlem på mere stationær basis." (Minutes of the Board Meeting on September 25th, 2020)

The roles of Presidency and Secretariat were for the last time reviewed during the Icelandic Presidency in 2015–17. The statutes of the NCU were amended as a part of the process.

The NCU is not a legal entity but rather a network of cancer societies with a common strategy at the Nordic level. The NCU has statutes, but they are not legally binding. Now, one of the Member Societies is responsible for presidency and secretariat. This presidency rotates in three-year terms.

Having the Secretariat in one place while the Presidency is rotating could bring more continuity for NCU's activities. Furthermore, it would make it easier to establish a legal entity called the Nordic Cancer Union. However, would the legal status bring some added value for our joint activities. We have, after all, managed well in past. To establish a Secretariat in one place does not necessarily require the NCU to be transformed to a legal entity.

Based on the Board's discussion today, the Presidency will prepare next steps (a roadmap for preparation).

Discussion

The Chairman recommends that the Board of Directors discussed the possibility of founding a permanent secretariat for the NCU. The Board may consider, for example, the following questions:

- Should the NCU become a legal entity? What are the advantages? Are there any disadvantages?
- Is a permanent secretariat better or worse than a rotating one? Why?

Decision/Discussion

Conclusion:

No one supported the idea of establishing a legal entity; everyone preferred the present system of a flexible network. Everyone agreed on rotating presidency and saw that there's an added value on having the secretariat at the same site as the presidency.

A rotating system has a potential to renew the ideas and practices ideas. On the other hand, the 3-year rotation creates more stability and sustainability than a 1-year rotation. A rotating presidency and secretariat also strengthen the Nordic dimension of our network.

The board decided to continue with previously used model i.e., the presidency and the secretariat will rotate every 3 years. Flexibility of the model can be used (as earlier) if the resources of the chairing country are not sufficient for full-scale secretarial operations.

Item 8 Updating the NCU's Strategy
by Sakari Karjalainen, the Cancer Society of Finland

Case presentation (Summary)

The NCU Board decided on 29th August 2017, that the Strategic Plan 2015–2018, including the 5 earlier overall defined themes, will be continued in the period 2019–2021.

The Board made the decision on the basis of the Boards thorough review of the NCU statutes during 2015–2016 and concluded that NCU's statutes are up-to-date and constitute a consistent framework that allows NCU to raise issues and act if / when there is desire and will.

The Board discussed thoroughly in 2015, when the Strategy was originally approved, whether it should include more specific goals and actions under the five overall themes. A draft including more specific goals was discussed but it was not formally adopted. However, the Board saw these specific goals as an example of what the NCU could do and they are presented on the NCU website.

Attached, please, find the existing Strategy document.

Attachment 1: **NCU strategy for the years 2015–2018 (and renewed for the years 2019–2021)**

Decision (Recommendation)

The Chairman recommends that the Board of Directors decides whether to start a process for reviewing and renewing the existing strategy or to extend the existing strategy for the years 2022–24.

Decision/Discussion

It was decided that the current strategy is sufficient but needs an amendment to specify the NCU's future priorities. These should include for example clinical research and consider the recent EU Beating Cancer Plan's priorities.

The new priorities will be discussed at the June board meeting. To facilitate discussion, Sweden will present Cancerfonden's results on Impact of research -project.

Item 8 Attachment 1**NCU strategy for the years 2015-2018**

The Nordic Cancer Union (NCU), established in 1949, is a collaborative body for the cancer societies in the Nordic countries. The NCU is comprised of six organizations: Danish Cancer Society, Cancer Society of Finland, Icelandic Cancer Society, Norwegian Cancer Society, Swedish Cancer Society and Faroese Cancer Society. The aim of the NCU is collaboration to improve knowledge and understanding of cancer diseases, their effective prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. The principal role of the NCU is to provide a forum for the national cancer societies in the Nordic countries to meet and exchange relevant information about national and international activities, best practices and future plans.

The members of the Nordic Cancer Union have a common vision: “more life without cancer and the best possible life for those with cancer and their families.” The challenge of today is an increasing number of elderly people and their risk of contracting cancer, combined with the gap in knowledge of important risk factors and population behaviour. The Cancer Societies cannot solve this problem, but they can create a basis for well-founded advocacy through the activities they support, and thus point to societal changes related to health and health care. Advocacy is thus a major pillar in the NCU strategy alongside collaboration and synergy in research, prevention and care.

In addition to providing a forum for information sharing, the NCU funds Nordic cancer research in accordance with the NCU Research Strategy. The NCU has also taken the initiative in common Nordic projects carried out by national cancer societies and different strategic projects. The NCU strategy is formed taking account of the similarities between the Nordic populations, totalling more than 25 million people. The Nordic populations live in relatively affluent and public-service-based environments with effective high-quality monitoring. Using this situation intelligently can significantly contribute to the global fight against cancer.

This strategy is a reflection of the shared priorities of the national cancer societies in the Nordic countries. It is grounded in the NCU statutes, the NCU strategy for the years 2010-15, the NCU research strategy 2014 and the NCU proposal to the Nordic Council of Ministers on future collaboration. The strategy will provide guidance for the NCU in establishing joint projects and allocation of NCU funds, currently one million euro each year.

There are five main points in this strategy, for each of which a number of implementation approaches are described. Targets will be developed as needed during the three-year period to which the strategy applies.

The main points of the 2015-18 strategy are:**- These points will be continued in 2019-2021**

1. Reduce risk of cancer; implement existing knowledge with the aim of preventing up to 40% of cancer diseases.

2. Improve life with cancer; optimal diagnosis and treatment according to high international standards including rehabilitation and palliative care as necessary.
3. Support joint and comparable monitoring of cancer and outcome as a basis for equal and best possible care, and clinical research.
4. Nordic countries as leaders in excellent collaborative cancer research, both basic and clinical, utilising the special conditions related to well-monitored populations and national biorepositories.
5. Joint up-to-date information on cancer to the public, and common Nordic advocacy to influence public policy in the Nordic countries and globally.

EXAMPLES (NOT A FORMAL PART OF THE STRATEGY)

1.0 Reduce the risk of cancer; implement existing knowledge to prevent up to 40% of cancer diseases.

1. The NCU will promulgate evidence for best practice on cancer preventions to the Nordic public and to decision makers, in the native languages.
2. The NCU will promote research, development and evaluation of methods to modify population behaviour towards a healthier lifestyle.
3. The NCU will by its actions, as far as possible, raise awareness of governments in the Nordic countries of the necessity to counteract socioeconomic differences in the Nordic populations.

2.0 Improve life with cancer; support optimal diagnosis and treatment for all according to highest international standard including rehabilitation and palliative care as necessary.

1. The NCU will work for the development of evidence-based, targeted, high-impact cancer services in the Nordic countries, delivering services to every cancer patient at the highest international standard for the given disease in the most effective way.
2. Free movement of cancer patients in the Nordic countries – the NCU will support the availability of relevant information for Nordic cancer patients, GPs and other health care professionals, so that informed decisions can be made on where and how treatment and care can best be provided.
3. The NCU will, where it identifies gaps in treatment and support between the Nordic countries, work for changes in cancer services as needed in order to establish best practice.
4. The NCU will support and facilitate information flow and use of expertise in the region, sharing of new results for fast implementation in treatment and care, and conduct of joint clinical trials. Focus will be where population impact will be high (frequent cancers) and where the Nordic countries can provide significant results adding to global knowledge (rare cancers).

3.0 Support joint and comparable monitoring of cancer and outcome as a basis for equal and best possible care, and clinical research.

1. The NCU will as a founding body for cancer registration, and hence of monitoring of several decades of cancer in the Nordic countries, continue and expand its collaboration with the ANCR and promote and use the data in their activities.
2. The NCU will promote and support the development of clinical-quality databases, including patient-reported measures, and cross-border collaboration on clinical-quality data with a view

to free movement of patients and best possible care, and Nordic expert collaboration, and highly specialised treatment in the Nordic region with special focus on rare cancers.

3. The NCU will work together to remove practical, legal and ethical obstacles to common use of data for research and patient care, and support and/or propose a common model for mutual recognition of ethical reviews in the Nordic Region, and to facilitate the use of personal data in cross-border research.

4. The NCU will promote activities to strengthen the research infrastructure for cancer in the Nordic region.

4.0 Nordic countries as leader in excellent collaborative cancer research both basic and clinical, utilising the special conditions related to well-monitored populations and national biorepositories

1. The NCU will strengthen cancer research using population-based registers across the Nordic region, including causes of cancer, treatment outcome and long-term follow-up, comorbidity, patient safety, quality of life, organisation and functionality of health care, cost of cancer, planning and sharing of care facilities.

2. The NCU will support the work of the Nordic Trial Alliance in collaboration with other interested parties, to increase non-pharma-driven clinical research in improved treatment, follow-up, rehabilitation and palliative care of cancer patients.

3. The NCU will promote joint research on personalised oncology, where a large population base is needed to properly evaluate results.

4. The NCU will promote health-service research in order to better understand and work towards an optimal healthcare system in a Nordic setting, and to share best practices across administrative and national borders.

5.0 Joint up-to-date information on cancer to the public and common Nordic advocacy to influence public policy in the Nordic and EU countries.

1. The NCU will collaborate on information to the public on cancer diseases and their treatment.

2. The NCU will collaborate on monitoring of research results and promulgating findings to the general public.

3. The NCU will collaborate on advocacy targeting domestic governments, the Nordic Council of Ministers and other relevant international bodies.

4. The NCU will partner with existing bodies relevant for the cancer agenda in order to achieve synergy and maximal advocacy power for political change and commitment in the Nordic, European and international arenas.

**Item 9 Total cost of cancer in Finland, Island, Norway and Sweden
by Paulus Torkki and Riikka-Leena Leskelä**

Professor Paulus Torkki from University of Helsinki and Dr Riikka-Leena Leskelä from the Nordic Health Group (NHG) presented their upcoming publications on total cost of cancer in Finland, Island, Norway and Sweden. This project is one of the NCU's strategic projects.

**Item 10 Global UN Joint Programmes on NCDs and behavioral risk factors
by Daniel Grafton, Johanna Jung, Dudley Tarlton**

Daniel Grafton, Johanna Jung, Dudley Tarlton from UNDP with their colleague Elina Järvelä presented their work on Global UN joint programmes on NCDs and behavioural risk factors: strengthening linkage to cancer prevention and control.

The NCU Board find these projects very interesting. The participants mentioned that some other international organisations have projects in same areas and themes, and the collaboration would be most useful.

**Item 11 The Impact of the Covid19 pandemics on diagnosis of cancer in Finland
by Janne Pitkäniemi**

Professor Janne Pitkäniemi from the Finnish Cancer Registry presented his study on the impact of the Covid19 pandemics on diagnosis of cancer in Finland. This project is a part of the NCU's strategic project Covid-19 and cancer in the Nordic region.

The board found this very interesting. Later, the Board will invite Professor Giske Ursin from the Cancer Registry of Norway to give a presentation of the NCU's strategic project.

Item 12 Cooperation agreement between the Cancer Society of Finland and other NCU Member Organisations
by Sakari Karjalainen, the Cancer Society of Finland

Case presentation (Summary)

When there is a shift of Presidency, the responsibility of the administration and finances will be transferred from one Member Organisation to another. The NCU has its own administrative and financial activities (funding of the research and strategic projects, website, secretarial functions, etc.) and the Board of the NCU makes decisions on these functions. Since the NCU is not a legal entity, the hosting Member Organisation has to take care of the administrative and financial functions. However, formally and legally the Board of the hosting Member Organisation is responsible for these functions. For that reason, the Cancer Society of Finland (CSF) has – after consulting its auditors – prepared a cooperation agreement between the Cancer Society of Finland and other NCU Member Organisations. The agreement is to interpret this complex situation to the Board Members and auditors of CSF and convince them that the Member Organisations of the NCU understand their responsibility as the financers of the NCU.

The previous NCU Coordinator Elizabeth Hjorth has reviewed the draft agreement and we have made the few amendments she proposed.

The cooperation agreement will be sent to the NCU Member Organisation for signature.

Attachment 1:

Cooperation agreement between the Cancer Society of Finland and other NCU Member Organisations

For information

Item 12 attachment 1 COOPERATION AGREEMENT

Item 12 attachment 1 COOPERATION AGREEMENT

1. THE PARTIES

- 1.1.** The Cancer Society of Finland (business ID 0202294-0), hereafter also the Cancer Society or the CSF, and
- 1.2.** The Nordic Cancer Union, hereafter also the NCU.

2. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

- 2.1.** The Cancer Society of Finland is Finland's largest patient and public health organisation and a national expert organisation. The goal of the Cancer Society is to ensure a good quality of life for people in Finland free from cancer or regardless of cancer. The CSF includes 12 regional cancer societies and six national patient organisations. The CSF also maintains a national and internationally prominent research organisation, the Finnish Cancer Registry, under which the mass screening registry operates, guiding the implementation of cancer screening. The Cancer Society of Finland and the Cancer Foundation, which is within its purview, together comprise the organisational entity that is the CSF. The Cancer Foundation, for its part, funds Finnish cancer research, promotes cancer prevention and supports people with cancer and their loved ones. The CSF participates in international networks conducting similar activities within the framework of the above activities. The aim of the parties within the scope of this agreement is to develop international and Nordic cancer control and research in a networked manner. The other members of the NCU network are Nordic non-profit cancer associations or foundations.
- 2.2.** This Cooperation Agreement sets out the principles by which the CSF will provide NCU with the administrative and certain other services it requires related to the NCU Chair and NCU Secretariat functions 2021 - 2023.

3. SUBJECT OF THE AGREEMENT

- 3.1.** The CSF may provide the NCU with the administrative, financial, communications and information management services it needs. The services provided may include, for example, financial management services (such as accounting, financial reporting, drawing up financial statements, and payment transaction services), services related to grant processes and administrative tasks for the Chair and the secretariats. The services shall include, but shall not be limited to, the aforementioned services.
- 3.2.** Changes to the services to be provided may be agreed between the CSG and the NCU at any time during the duration of this Agreement by updating this Agreement. In the same context, the date of entry into force of a change and the possible impact on the NCU's payment contribution will be agreed.
- 3.3.** The CSF will not contribute any additional costs arising from any changes to the content of this Agreement and the services other than through its membership fee.

4. NATURE, PROVISION AND QUALITY OF COOPERATION AND SERVICES

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- 4.1.** This is a Cooperation Agreement between the CSF and the NCU and therefore does not constitute an employment relationship with the NCU or the hiring of staff within the meaning of the Employment Contracts Act for persons appointed by the parties providing the services. The CSF or the persons appointed by its designated third party are thereby not performing services in connection with which there are any benefits deriving from employment law requirements, such as salary or fee, annual leave or sick pay claims in relation to the NCU, nor will the NCU make any insurance and employment pension contributions in connection with this Agreement. The NCU is not entitled to exercise managerial and supervisory authority over the persons performing the services.
- 4.2.** The CSF operates independently on its own behalf, being responsible for the outcome and quality of its own work for the NCU. In addition, the CSF is likewise responsible for the outcome and quality of the work of potential third parties. The CSF is responsible for the taxes and other official fees, social security, accident insurance and other statutory fees prescribed and binding on it, as well as for contractual obligations under agreements between the CSF and any third parties. The CSF shall not be liable for any contractual, tax or regulatory obligations that may arise in connection with its activities on behalf of the NCU membership or network. The implementation of operations is regularly reported to the boards of both the CSF and NCU to ensure a division of responsibilities.
- 4.3.** The services agreed at a given time will be provided to the NCU on a continuous basis as required. In addition to ongoing services, the NCU membership can also agree on special projects linked to service areas.
- 4.4.** The CSF may perform the services with its own personnel and use third parties to assist in their performance. The CSF may also procure some or all of the services to be provided from a third party and continue to charge the NCU for the services, if so agreed by the NCU Board.
- 4.5.** The CSF is responsible for ensuring that in all situations the services are implemented according to the required professional skills, to a high level of quality and to the extent and schedule agreed. If the CSF procures the services of a third party, the CSF is responsible for supervising the quality level of a third party's activity and for general guidance.
- 4.6.** The NCU shall provide the CSF or a third party designated by it with adequate and correct information and instructions for the provision of the services. In addition, the NCU shall provide the CSF or a third party designated by the CSF with all necessary material to perform the services.

5. SERVICE REMUNERATION, ACCOUNTING AND MONETARY TRANSACTIONS

- 5.1.** The NCU comprises Nordic cancer organisations, which pay an annual membership fee to maintain and develop the network. The parties' activities are non-profit and include the development of cancer work and cancer research in the Nordic countries. As this is not a cooperation for commercial purposes and the membership fees and management fee are used in their entirety to finance activities, the annual management fee reimbursement granted by the NCU to the Cancer Society of Finland for the provision of other services is treated as tax-free expenses. Service remuneration is based on the costs budgeted for the current financial year or the actual costs of the previous financial year and is agreed annually by the NCU Board.

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5.2. If the CSF applies for activities under this agreement to be subject to VAT, VAT will be added to the service charge levied on the basis of this agreement in accordance with the tax rate in force at the time.

5.3. The CSF shall maintain sufficiently detailed and up-to-date cost centre-level accounting, monitoring and reporting of the activities covered by this Agreement and the criteria for their calculation and determination. The CSF shall open its own bank account for the purposes of the operation of the network, through which all NCU money transactions are processed.

6. DATA PROTECTION

6.1. The provision of the services and compliance with the terms of this Agreement requires the processing of personal data and the transfer and submission of personal data between the parties. Data protection shall be governed by the relevant data protection laws to the extent required by this Agreement.

7. CONFIDENTIALITY

7.1. The CSF is bound to maintain the confidentiality of all classified and non-public information, documents, programs, images, etc., and related information and trade secrets provided by the NCU to the CSF pursuant to or as a consequence of this Agreement. However, the CSF may disclose confidential information concerning it to third parties from whom services are procured under this Agreement and to the extent required to perform them in accordance with this Agreement.

8. LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITY

8.1. The CSF is not liable for the obligations or responsibilities of the agreements entered into by the network in its operations. Decisions made by the NCU in its operations are discussed at meetings of the network's own governing body and are the subject of separate minutes. An individual member of the board of the Cancer Society of Finland is in no way personally or in accordance with the Associations Act responsible for the decisions of the network management.

9. VALIDITY

9.1. This cooperation agreement is valid from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2023.

9.2. This Agreement may be terminated by either party by providing six (6) months' notice. Termination must be submitted in writing. The CSF is entitled to normal administrative reimbursement for the period of notice.

9.3. On the expiry of this Agreement, the material held by the parties and belonging to the other party shall be returned or transferred to the new holder of the Agreement, and outstanding contractual liabilities and charges shall be settled or accounted for without delay.

9.4. The partner agreements used by the network in its operations shall be transferred to a new party designated by the subscriber without delay.

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10. OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS

10.1. Transfer of the Cooperation Agreement before the expiry of the fixed-term agreement

This Agreement or the rights or obligations arising therefrom may be transferred to a third party by mutual consent.

10.2. Changes

This Agreement may only be amended in writing by both parties.

10.3. Governing law and dispute resolution

This Agreement is governed by the current laws of Finland. Any disputes arising out of or in connection with this Agreement shall be settled primarily by arbitration.

11. SIGNATURES

This cooperation agreement has been electronically signed using strong authentication. All parties will be emailed the final electronically signed agreement.

Helsinki _____ 5.3. 2021

The Cancer Society of Finland
Suomen Syöpäyhdistys ry
Company code: 0202294-0

Sakari Karjalainen
Secretary General

Raija Jokila
Director, Finance and Administration

Item 12 attachment 1 COOPERATION AGREEMENT

Nordic Cancer Union

The Danish Cancer Society

Kræftens Bekæmpelse

Company code: 55629013

The Faroese Cancer Society

Krabbameinsfélagið

Company code: 343404

Jesper Fisker

Managing Director

Jansy Gaardlykke

Director

The Icelandic Cancer Society

Krabbameinsfélag Íslands

Company code: 700169-2789

The Norwegian Cancer Society

Kreftforeningen

Company code: 951 812 528

Halla Þorvaldsdóttir

Director

Ingrid Stenstadvold Ross

Secretary General

The Swedish Cancer Society

Cancerfonden

Company code: 802005-3370

Ulrika Årehed Kagström

Secretary General

APPENDICES

1. Nordic Cancer Union Rules and Regulations
2. Nordic Cancer Union Budget for 2021
3. Nordic Cancer Union Decision of the Board meeting of 26 September 2020 on the transfer of the Secretariat

Item 13 News from UICC

by Ulrika Årehed Kågström, Secretary General, Cancerfonden, member of UICC Board

Ulrika Årehed Kågström summarized the recent highlights of UICC as follows

- Current focus areas: elimination of cervical cancer, antimicrobial resistance, inequities of cancer patients (during COVID-19 pandemic)
- Anne Lise Ryel (NO) is running for the NCD Alliance President (as a private person)
- UICC is organizing the next World Cancer Leaders' Summit as a hybrid event in Boston in October with a theme related to the pandemic. <https://www.uicc.org/what-we-do/convening/world-cancer-leaders-summit/2021-world-cancer-leaders-summit>
- The next World Cancer Congress is held in Geneva in 2022 <https://www.worldcancercongress.org/world-cancer-congress-2022-hybrid-event-geneva>, no further congresses decided yet.
- UICC representative James Wells (as well as Nick Grant from the CRUK, the UICC Board Member) are invited to the June NCU board meeting to discuss about the expectations regarding the European dimension of the UICC

For information

Item 14 News from ECL

by Elizabeth Hjorth, Danish Cancer Society, vice-president of ECL board

Elizabeth Hjorth summarized the recent highlights of ECL as follows

- EU has used ECL frequently as an advisor/partner in cancer policy issues, especially regarding the European Code Against Cancer and the EU Beating Cancer Plan
- ECL has established a working group on prevention and early detection of cancer
- Elizabeth is stepping out of ECL Board this year. It was discussed about proposing a new candidate from Nordic countries. Jesper Fisker promised to consider his nomination.
- Sakari Karjalainen suggested that we should construct a map that indicates, which international organizations the NCU member societies/NCU board members are involved in.

For information

Item 15 Reports from the Member Societies

Norway

- Antimicrobial resistance still a priority issue
- World cancer day campaign (fully digital) with florists giving unsold flowers to patients' next of kin and health workers was a success
- New research strategy is finalized, and the material will be sent to the NCU Board members and discussed later

Iceland

- The number of staff is about half of what it used to be before the screening activities were moved away. However, it has created an opportunity to strengthen the research center of the Society. Prevention counselling is still working. The new screening facilities at the university are not yet working properly.
- The moustache campaign is live now!
- COVID situation is quite good, everyone can work in the office again.

Faroe Island

- COVID-19 epidemics is under control, no known patient at the moment
- New cancer plan should be ready in June
- Fundraising TV show that was supposed to happen a year ago will take place on March 27th.

Sweden

- Last year fundraising broke all the records
- COVID-19 situation: About 3.5 % of the population received both vaccine doses. Most cancer patients are in the priority group 3 and now they are vaccinating group 2. There has been a lot of uncertainty about vaccination turns, but Cancerfonden has not participated in the discussion.
- Research strategy is being updated. The impact of funded research is an especially important topic.
- Reports for COVID-19 impact on cancer patients and cancer research, and report for breast cancer rehabilitation. Report for how funding has made an impact on cancer research is still on process.

Denmark

- About 3.3 % of the population has received both vaccine doses.
- It is unclear whose turn it is to get vaccine. At first Kræftens Bekæmpelse didn't take part in the discussion, but lately has participated to request more precise information about cancer patients' vaccination schedules.

- Kræftens Bekæmpelse is dedicated to get the number of members raised to 500 000. How to get there might be a good topic for discussions later.

Finland

- Jarmo asked earlier about the annual research funding of SE, NO and DK societies.
- Fundraising campaigns, especially Pink Ribbon were highly successful last year. All-time record was reached.
- It is important to talk about our research strategies so we can have the funding instruments with the biggest impact.
- It is likely to take 7 months to vaccinate the whole population in Finland. Cancer patients with active treatment (i.e. treatment that affects the immune system) are in the first group to get vaccines, but different interpretations appear among cancer patients and doctors about the meaning of an active treatment.

For information

Item 16 Any other business

No other business was indicated

**Item 17 Upcoming NCU meetings
by Sakari Karjalainen, the Cancer Society of Finland**

Case presentation (Summary)

Next NCU meeting will be on 15th June. It will be announced by the end of the April whether this meeting is being held in Helsinki or virtually via Teams. The Oncology Days are held virtually (not in Helsinki) this year, so the session on "Pricing, Coverage and Access Innovative Cancer Drugs" is no longer on the agenda. We have on the agenda e.g. the NCU's strategic projects, continuation of the EFPN, "Inequities in survival of paediatric cancer patients in Finland" by Dr Anniina Kyrönlahti and news from the ANCR.

The third meeting will be held on December 2nd, 2021 in Turku or Helsinki. On December 1st we have a joint dinner with NCU's scientific committee.

If needed, we will arrange an extra meeting in September.

The NCU board meetings in 2021 are:

- **June 15**, in Helsinki or via Teams
- **September**, if needed
- **December 2**, in Finland

For information