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## The Norwegian Scientific Academy for Polar Research (NVP) Annual Report 2018

The Norwegian Scientific Academy for Polar Research was founded in Oslo on March 27th 2008. NVP is a non-profit foundation with the following missions:

- Promote research and education in Polar Regions.
- Stimulate national and international cooperation and multi-disciplinary polar research.
- Contribute to scientific knowledge about the Polar Regions and their inhabitants and outreach to national and international decision makers, business and the public.
- Contribute to the understanding of environment- and climate changes and human activities that are affected and are impacted by these.
- Encourage sustainable development on Svalbard and in the Northern regions.
- Contribute to increase the competence at the University Centre in Svalbard and in the polar research community in general.

NVP is an international Academy under Norwegian leadership for some of the world's leading polar scientists. The Academy functions as a contact organization for research and higher education, between international scientific institutions and organisations in the Arctic and in Antarctica. The Academy's emphasis on interdisciplinary research and teaching complement the activities of other universities and research institutions that traditionally have a disciplinary profile.

Norway's H.M. King Harald is the Academy's patron.

### **Board of Directors and employees**

The Academy's board is as follows after the elections in 2018:

- Grete Hovelsrud (President) (2018-2020)
- Bjørn Kaltenborn (Board member 2018-2020)
- Gudmund Hernes (Board member 2018-2020)
- Gunnar Sand (Board member 2018-2020)
- Pål Brekke (Board member 2017-2019)
- Harald Ellingsen (Board member representing the University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS), 2018-2020)

The Board had four meetings during 2018.

Management and operation of the Academy are carried out by an Office Manager with office at UNIS in Longyearbyen, Svalbard and by a Secretary General in Oslo. The Secretary General's works in a 20% position and the Office Manager in a 40% position. The supervision of the



property Isdammen 1, currently leased to the company Better Moments in Longyearbyen, is under the responsibility of the Office Manager.

The administration, remuneration and other social costs related to the Office Manager and the Secretary General are invoiced and paid by UNIS. The costs related to office, administration, accounting and purchases are covered by UNIS. Because UNIS is a company owned by Norway's Ministry of Education and Research, the Government's regulations and control for corruption and procurement applies for the operations of UNIS and therefore also for NVP. NVP's accounts are audited and the reports are sent to The Brønnøysund Register Centre.

## **Academy members.**

The nominations for new individual members are evaluated by the Academy's nomination committee that prepares and present recommendations to the Board. The following individual member nominations were approved by the Board and presented to the Annual Meeting in 2018:

- Ole Lindefjeld
- Robert W. Corell

The Academy has now 148 members and one honorary member. Several members are foreign nationals representing 19 different countries. The Norwegian membership covers all of Norway, including Svalbard. The Academy has eight institutional members which contributes to the Academy's profile and work priorities relevant and user oriented.

The contact with the members is maintained with the use of the Academy's website (<http://www.polar-academy.com/>) with regular updates. The site is integrated with social media channels such as Facebook and LinkedIn, and a newsletter that is sent to all Academy members once a month with news linked to the website.

The institutional members by the end of 2018 are: UNIS – The University Centre in Svalbard, UiT – The Arctic University of Norway, the Nord University, the University of Bergen, NTNU – Norwegian University of Science and Technology and NORSAR

## **Academic Activities**

The Academy's Statutes and the Strategy 2015-2020 emphasize, among others, sustainable development in Svalbard and in the Arctic, to contribute to competence building at UNIS and other universities and extensive cooperation with Norwegian and foreign institutions. The strategy 2015-2020 has the following mission: «*The Norwegian Scientific Academy for Polar Research (NVP), founded in March 2008, is the world's only scientific academy devoted to polar research, education and development. NVP has a bipolar perspective (Arctic and Antarctic), is*



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*interdisciplinary in approach, international in effort, collaborative in solution, knowledge based in contribution, and independent in work..."*

The Academy is pursuing its national and international cooperation in many ways. A Collaboration Agreement between our Academy and the Russian Geographical Society (RGS) provided for active Russian participation at the Academy's summer school in Longyearbyen in 2017 and will be increasingly important role with regard to international collaboration in the future. The Academy has been an active participant during Arctic Frontiers in Tromsø and is aiming for continue with that and to participate at events such as "Arendalsuka" in Norway and the Arctic Circle in Iceland. We have also established cooperation with the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences with the objective to work together on joint events and projects.

With an international membership that encompasses virtually all disciplines and with considerable expertise and experience, our Academy has a unique opportunity to stimulate interdisciplinary research and education and to contribute with assessments and with cooperation across different areas of interest and national borders. The Academy's multi- and interdisciplinary approaches represents an alternative to activities at universities and other research institutions in Norway and abroad that traditionally has a disciplinary character. The increasing international interest for the Arctic and Antarctica sets NVP and the academic community up against demanding challenges, but represent also many opportunities. The consequences of climate change are particularly evident in the Arctic. In recent years, we have witnessed significant changes and reductions in Arctic sea ice distribution and volume. Seized as an opportunity, plans are being made for expansion of economic activities such as shipping, fisheries, petroleum extraction and deep-sea mining. Changes in ice cover and distribution will also have consequences for national and international management regimes. This is embedded in a vision developed by the Academy in 2018 – The Global Arctic. See attachment to this report.

This new situation represents challenges for scientists, managers and policy makers and for the private sector. More and better communication between different stakeholders is required, and the best way forward needs to be further developed for sound management and sustainable use of the Arctic's vast renewable and non-renewable resources. The NVP acknowledgment of this is stated in our strategy 2015-2020. In cooperation with our members, with research institutions and business, the Academy can make important contributions to realize national and international strategic ambitions to place Norway in terms of development of knowledge and management opportunities in and for the Arctic.

In 2018 the Academy celebrated its ten years anniversary and to commemorate this the Academy organized and hosted two jubilee seminars during the year. The first one in Longyearbyen in June; "*Research in the Arctic Ocean*", was part of the Academy's celebration



of the anniversary, and was launched in cooperation with the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Class for Geosciences. The second seminar was in Oslo in conjunction with the Annual Meeting in November. "The Global Arctic" was the basis for the seminar where various interdisciplinary topics were presented and discussed. Researchers, project managers and politicians with leading national and international roles held lectures on topics related to relevant Norwegian policies, on natural sciences research and on field work in the Arctic Ocean with focus upon the possible far reaching consequences of climate change for ecosystems and societies in the Arctic and beyond.

The Academy is member of the University of the Arctic, which gives us access to a big network with opportunities to develop an education offer and research projects in cooperation with "like minded" institutions.

### **The economic situation and property.**

The Academy had a total income of NOK 825.927,60 in 2018. Of this amount, NOK 700.000, was paid by the institutional members with contributions of NOK 150.000 from the University of Bergen, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Nord University, NTNU and contributions of NOK 100.000 from NORSAR. Rental income from the property Isdammen 1 amounts to NOK 125.337,60. Financial income items amounts to NOK 590,00.

Operational costs decreased in 2018 to NOK 766.761,71 compared with NOK 1,264,085 in 2017. The largest expense items were NOK 469.915,46 for salaries and social costs. Other operating expenses amounted to NOK 296.846,25 compared with NOK 629,444 in 2018. The accounts show an operational surplus for 2018 of NOK 59.165,89 against a deficit of NOK 75,185 in 2017. Deviations from the budget and surplus are explained by adjustments related to UNIS's institutional membership and registration of rental income from our building Isdammen 1 in Longyearbyen. After financial adjustments, the annual result in 2018 shows a surplus of 58.575,89

The Board sees a further strengthening of the capital base as a priority task in the coming years. The accounts have been prepared on the basis of continued operations.

### **Environment.**

The Foundation's activities does not have any negative impacts upon the external environment.



Longyearbyen, 20. March 2019

Grete Hovelsrud

Gudmund Hernes

Gunnar Sand

Bjørn Kaltenborn

Pål Brekke

Harald Ellingsen