

# Statutes of the Nordic Astrobiology Network

## General

The Nordic Network of Astrobiology is a network of universities, other higher education institutions and research entities in the Nordic and Baltic Countries. Its aims to

- promote research in astrobiology in the Nordic Countries
- foster co-operations between Nordic higher education and research institutions in research and graduate training
- facilitate the exchange of students, lecturers and scientists between the Nordic and Baltic Countries
- organise courses in the field of astrobiology on all levels for students
- hold scientific meetings in astrobiology
- inform national and international science funding and space research organisations about achievements and future research plans in astrobiology
- cooperate with other international astrobiology societies
- coordinate and conduct outreach work to promote public awareness on astrobiology

## Teams

If a Nordic or Baltic research entity wants to join in a network a team of scientists and students interested in astrobiology should be formed at this institution. Participation in the team should be open to all interested researchers and students in disciplines relevant to astrobiology. Each team should elect a coordinator whose tasks are:

- to represent the team in the network
- to coordinate research and other activities in the field of astrobiology at the higher education and research institution where the team is based
- to keep the other Network teams updated about the achievements and activities of the Network

The Coordination group of the Network, which consists of all team coordinators, decides upon the admission of new teams from higher education and research institutions in the Nordic and Baltic Countries. Applications should be sent to the Network Coordinator and consist.

- a description of the past and planned research and training activities in the field of astrobiology
- a list of team members
- a curriculum vitae of the team coordinator

In case of grave neglect of tasks by a team or prolonged inactivity the coordination group has the right to remove a team or its team leader, after discussing the situation with that team.

## **Coordination Group**

The coordinators of all teams make up the coordination group. The coordination group shall meet at least once a year in a Nordic or Baltic Country. If the majority of the coordination group agrees, the meeting can be held outside the Nordic and Baltic Area (e.g. in case of an important conference in which many Nordic astrobiologists take part in). The tasks of the coordination groups are

- to decide about future activities of the Network, especially conferences, courses, summer schools and the allocation of the budget.
- to partake in applications for funding
- to ensure that the allocation of funding and activities within the network reflects the diversity of sub-disciplines and countries involved in the Astrobiology Network
- to decide about the admission of new teams and removal of teams that gravely neglect their tasks or are inactive for a long time
- to elect the Network Coordinator

In case of absence of a team leader in a coordination group meeting she/he can transfer the vote to another member of her/his team present. This transfer should be announced to the network coordinator in good time before the meeting.

Votes by e-mail on network issues are possible. A single majority is sufficient for all votes except the amendments of the statutes.

## **Network coordinator**

The Coordination group elects a Network Coordinator for a period of 3 years. Re-election is possible. The responsibilities of the Network Coordinator are:

- Coordinate the common activities of the Network (conferences, courses, summer schools etc.)
- Coordinate application for funding from national and international research funding bodies
- Call for the yearly meeting
- Represent the Network at other astrobiology and science organisations

## **Funding**

No membership fees are charged. The Nordic Network of Astrobiology will apply for financial support for its activities from national and international research funding bodies. It is the duty of all teams to take part in this. The coordination group decides about the allocation of funds. Generally, it is expected that teams fund their own research activities and their participation in the Network, unless the Coordination group decides otherwise.

## **Amendments**

These statutes can be amended by the coordination group at its meeting. For such amendments a two-third majority of the team coordinators is necessary.