

**MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
of the  
REGIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION NORDIC DIVISION (NoRSA)  
Monday 5 December 2022**

Present: Markku Sotarauta Donatas Burneika, Marte Solheim, Roman Martin, Martin Henning, Anna Lundgren, Garri Raagmaa, Laura James, Suede Stanton-Drudy

Absent: Elita Jermolajeva,

**1. Minutes of the AGM held on 14 October 2021**

The minutes (copied below) of the Annual General Meeting of the Regional Studies Association Nordic Division (NoRSA) held on Thursday 14 October 2021 by Zoom were agreed to be a true and correct account.

***Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Regional Studies Association Nordic Division (Norsa)  
Thursday 14 October 2021 by Zoom***

*Board Participants: Markku Sotarauta (Chair), Donatas Burneika, Martin Henning, Laura James, Elita Jermolajeva, Anna Lundgren, Roman Martin, Garri Raagmaa*

*RSA Participants: Suede Stanton-Drudy*

*Apologies: Marte Solheim*

*Markku Sotarauta opened the meeting by congratulating Garri Raagmaa and his team on the success of 8th 2021 NoRSA Conference: Post-COVID-19 Sustainable Development and Regional Restructuring in the Baltic Sea Region of which the AGM was a part and thanked Garri and his team for their hard work.*

**2. Minutes of the AGM held on 8 September 2020**

*The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Regional Studies Association Nordic Division (NoRSA) held on Thursday 8 September 2020 by Zoom were agreed to be a true and correct account.*

**3. Minutes of the Division meeting held on 11 December 2020**

*The minutes of the Discussion Session of the Regional Studies Association Nordic Division (NoRSA) held on Friday 11 December 2020 by Zoom were agreed to be a true and correct account.*

#### 4. Actions from Previous Meetings

- *Garri Raagmaa was to organise the biennial NoRSA conference – this action has been completed.*
- *NoRSA members were to organise special sessions for the RSA Regions in Recovery Global e-festival - this action has been completed.*
- *Henrik Halkier and Laura James were to decide between them who would be the Denmark Board member. It was decided that Laura James would take the position of RSA Ambassador to Denmark and Denmark representative on the NoRSA Board. This selection was agreed by the RSA Board. Henrik Halkier was thanked for his time and effort on the NoRSA Board and welcomed to participate in any NoRSA event or activities in the future.*

#### 5. Report to the Board of Territorial Activities

##### **Territorial Representatives**

- *Elita Jermolajeva reported her activities have been as follows:*
  - *Sending the information (from time to time) about RSA activities and opportunities to colleagues at Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies and some other higher education institutions in Latvia: Latvia University, Daugavpils University, Rezekne Technology Academy, Vidzeme Applied University;*
  - *Participation at NoRSA;*
  - *Spreading information about NoRSA international conference in Parnu, Estonia.*
- *Laura James reported that she is editing a special issue with Henrik Halkier on place leadership and tourism. The deadline for abstracts has passed that they have received a good response.*

##### **RSA**

- *Suede Stanton-Drudy gave a presentation on the RSA, noting that Sally Hardy would give a fuller presentation at the RSA AGM in November and discuss the forthcoming RSA Development Plan. NoRSA Board members were encouraged to register for the AGM. Suede reported that plans for the forthcoming year included:*
  - *The 2021 RSA Journals Annual Lecture Series, 1-12 November 2021 - a series of five webinars replacing this year's in-person Winter Conference.*
  - *5 Special Issue Hubs based around the journals to be held later in 2022 – they would two-day events and would produce articles for the journals.*
  - *Available grants would be the Members Grant (MeRSA) of €5,700, the Fellowship Grant (FeRSA) of €8,500, the Early Career Grant of €11,500, and the Policy Expo grant of €16,800 for a policy-facing book.*
  - *RSA International Hour webinar series recently launched and organised by the RSA's territorial representatives – Suede invited all Nordic Board members interested in hosting a webinar to contact the RSA.*
  - *The RSA's Global e-Festival Regions in Recovery was being reprised as Regions in Recovery 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition: Re-imagining Regions, 21st March – 1st April 2022. Deadlines were: Special Session submissions - 6th December 2021; Abstract submission - 17th January 2022*
  - *A new webinar series starting in March: the 2022 RSA Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) Programme - Bridging Old and New Divides.*

- *The RSA App called “the RSA Hub” which has many useful features to enhance membership or attendance at RSA events. Suede invited NoRSA members to search for RSA Hub in their app store to download it.*

*The NoRSA Board discussed their options for participation in future RSA events and agreed the following:*

- *The Nordic countries of NoRSA would host an RSA International Hour webinar on the changing face of innovation policy in Nordic Countries. Markku Sotarauta, Martin Henning and Roman Martin would be organisers.*
- *Roman Martin agreed to consider organising a special session for the RSA’s Global e-Festival Regions in Recovery 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition: Re-imagining Regions.*
- *Garri Raagmaa agreed to organise a special issue or book chapter in collaboration with colleagues from his university and possibly Roman Martin using some papers from the conference for the Journal of Planning Studies. It was noted that this was not an RSA journal, but NoRSA would be credited.*

## *6. Events*

*Donatas Burneika volunteered to host the next NoRSA conference in 2023 as an in-person conference with the potential to flip to hybrid or online if necessary. The Board expressed a desire to have all three Baltic Countries eventually host the NoRSA biannual conference.*

*Action: Donatas to report any plans to the next NoRSA AGM*

## *7. Chair of RSA Nordic Division (NoRSA)*

*The Board agree the appointment of Markku Sotarauta as Chair of the Division until the next NoRSA AGM.*

## *8. To elect new members to the Board and to accept resignations, retirements and co-options if any*

*The following people came to the end of their term of office at this AGM as members of the Board of the RSA Nordic Division (NoRSA) and were re-elected for a further term:*

- *Markku Sotarauta*
- *Garri Raagmaa*
- *Elita Jermolajeva,*
- *Donatas Burneika*
- *Laura James*
- *Martin Henning*
- *Anna Lundgren*
- *Marte Solheim*

## *9. Any other items for discussion but not decision*

*Board members were encouraged to promote the online RSA Regions in Recovery 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.*

*Suede Stanton-Drudy confirmed that the minutes of the meeting would be reported to the next RSA Board meeting.*

*Minutes End.*

## 2. Actions from Previous Meetings

### Action 1

Donatas Burneika reported on plans to host the next NoRSA conference in September 2024 in conjunction with the RSA CEE conference. Donatas expected this to be an in-person only event. Donatas foresaw advantages and challenges of conjoining with the CEE conference. It would be much more difficult for him to organise such a large and complex event, and he was unsure about his university's capacity to host a 350+ person event. In addition, although his university had good facilities, they were situation some distance from the centre of Vilnius.

The advantage of conjoining with the RSA's CEE conference was the the RSA would assume much of the financial risk of hosting a large conference.

It was noted that although NoRSA conferences were usually cited intentionally in the peripheries, it would be a good opportunity for NoRSA members to be able to participate in both large and small conferences and to discuss common problems shared by Nordic and CEE regions.

It was agreed that rather than organise a committee now and assign tasks, Donatas would lead the project and reach out to NoRSA Board members as needed for assistance.

Anna Lundgren suggested that the Nordic Council of Ministers which has an office in Vilnius might be a good organisation to approach.

### Action 2

Markku Sotarauta previously suggested creating a Nordic/Baltic online repository of recorded lectures on the regional structures and regional policies in the Nordic and Baltic countries for teaching purposes. This action had not been progressed, as the challenge of keeping it current was perceived as overwhelming.

## 3. Report to the Board of Territorial Activities

Elita Jermolajeva's written report was noted.

Roman Martin reported that he had co-organised and participated in a special session at the RSA Regions in Recovery Second Edition 2022. There had been quite good attendance with 3 sessions and 4 papers in each. The Board congratulated Roman on these successful sessions.

Marte Solheim reported that she is preparing a special issue for the Norwegian Journal of Geography targeting early career researchers. She acted as the Academic Lead for the recent Commissioner Seminar on Cohesion Policy in Brussels, a collaborative venture organised between Commissioner Ferreira and her Cabinet; the European Commission's Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO) in partnership with the Regional Studies Association's European Foundation (RSA Europe).

Marte suggested that Board members should make more use of the NoRSA webpage and make it more visual and vibrant with links to events etc.

**Action: Board members to send Suede Stanton-Drudy information and links to any events or opportunities relevant or of interest to Nordic RSA members.**

Suede Stanton-Drudy presented a report on the current opportunities at the RSA and plans for the coming year.

## 4. Events

Roman Martin suggested NoRSA could host a special session at the RSA Annual Conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia in June 2023. The Board supported this idea, particularly as it was planned to be hybrid, allowing those who were unable to attend in person to participate. Martin Henning and Marte Solheim both confirmed they would attend the conference and participate in the special session. Garri Raagmaa reported that colleagues from his university would be hosting a special session which possibly provided scope for collaboration.

**Action: all Board members to communicate by email to arrange a special session for the RSA Annual Conference 2023.**

**Action: Suede Stanton-Drudy to alert the conference manager that NoRSA would submit a special session, but may miss the deadline.**

## 5. Chair of RSA Nordic Division (NoRSA)

The Board agree the appointment of Markku Sotarauta as Chair of the Division until the next NoRSA AGM.

## 6. To elect new members to the Board and to accept resignations, retirements and co-options if any

The following people came to the end of their term of office at this AGM as members of the Board of the RSA Nordic Division (NoRSA) and were re-elected for a further term:

- Markku Sotarauta
- Garri Raagmaa
- Elita Jermolajeva,
- Donatas Burneika
- Laura James
- Martin Henning
- Anna Lundgren

- Marte Solheim
- Roman Martin

Martin Henning raised the question of whether two representatives from Sweden should be on the Board. The Board agreed this was acceptable.

## 7. Any other items for discussion but not decision

Board members were encouraged to promote the 2023 RSA Annual Conference entitled *Transforming Regions: Policies and Planning for People and Places* in Ljubljana, Slovenia from 14 Jun 2023 - 17 Jun 2023.

Papers End