

# COINS Steering Committee

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*Meeting 2013-04-23*

*Minutes: Hanno Langweg*

Time: 1405-1545

Place: Finse, Norway

Participants:

- Steering Committee (SC) members: Einar Snekkenes (Scientific Director COINS), Tor Helleseth (University of Bergen), Audun Jøsang (University of Oslo), Hanno Langweg (Gjøvik University College), Chunming Rong (University of Stavanger, participation via Skype), Ragnar Soleng (University of Tromsø)



## Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Agenda
3. Admission of new project partners
  - a. University of Agder (UiA)
  - b. University of Stavanger (UiS)
4. Expectations, scope
5. Wisdom of others
  - a. Input from COINS Academic Advisory Board
  - b. Experience from other research schools
  - c. Involvement of FRISC advisory board
6. Work plan 2013
  - a. Cooperation with SWITS
  - b. Student seminar, event at NISK 18-20 November 2013
  - c. Recruitment from abroad
  - d. Metochi summer school 2014
  - e. Web site
  - f. Report to Research Council due 1 October 2013
7. Miscellaneous

## Welcome

Einar Snekkenes (ES) welcomed all participants to the first meeting of the COINS Steering Committee and thanked committee members for their willingness to contribute their time and expertise.

## Agenda

Agenda was confirmed without changes to the version sent out with the meeting invitation.

## Admission of new project partners

University of Agder (UiA) and University of Stavanger (UiS) had both sent signed declarations to join COINS as project partners.

**Decision: UiA and UiS become project partners in COINS in accordance with §3.4 of the cooperation agreement.**

The decision received 5 of 5 votes. NTNU abstained from the vote, but Stig Frode Mjøltnes as NTNU's representative had expressed in advance that NTNU was in favour of admission.

**Action item: ES requests clarification of contribution by individual agreements with UiA and UiS that specify rights and duties in accordance with §3.4 of the cooperation agreement and in line with the other project partners.**

## Expectations, scope

A lot of good recommendations were put forward in the academic advisory board (AAB) meeting the day before, but Audun Jøsang (AJ) issued caution not to attempt too much. ES reported on experience gathered from other research schools. Things that worked in other places will be collected in a "menu" from which the steering committee might choose items.

**Action item: Hanno Langweg (HL) tabulates recommendations from the AAB and other research schools for the next SC meeting.**

Ragnar Soleng (RS) brought up the question what status/relation students needed to be admitted to COINS. Tor Hellesteth (TH) intends to push all students supervised by him into COINS, might provide incentives for them to join. ES suggests that the more students are admitted, the better. RS wondered how similar or different students from the individual institutions were. AJ pointed out that it was important for student to be eligible to take courses taught by other institutions.

**Action item: Activity management office (AMO) defines routines and a web form for admission of students to COINS. All project partners ensure that their students eligible to be admitted fill in a request for admission before the next SC meeting.**

Recognising coursework offered by other institutions was no problem at UiT; professors can assess equivalence of content and workload. Existing distance courses could be integrated in COINS. RS suggested to look at edx.org where Harvard and other institutions contribute. AJ

proposed to develop courses individually, it should not happen under direction of COINS, but results could be shared. UiB offers 20 ECTS worth of courses locally, but could accept 10 ECTS provided externally. Chunming Rong (CR) proposed to gather students physically and to award ECTS credits to summer/winter schools. This could be done by having a course description at one institution and then negotiate transfer agreements to get the course acknowledged in other places. An alternative could be identical course descriptions at individual institutions to cover the same course with local course codes. Hanno Langweg (HL) proposed to have a shared course description for participation in smaller COINS events. COINS should appear in the title of the course description, and descriptions should be identical. That way, ECTS credits could be awarded for participation in smaller units under governance of local course codes.

**Action item: Shared course descriptions will be discussed at the next SC meeting.**

HL remarked that the budget had a size of 2m NOK p.a. on average, but was ca. 40% for 2013, 80% for 2014 to account for lower activity rate in start-up phase. The Research Council of Norway contributes 75% of the budget, 25% needs to be contributed by project partners, typically as in-kind contributions of personnel time or use of facilities. TH stressed the importance to use up the money, that was a recurring challenge in NISNet.

**Action item: A detailed budget proposal for 2013 and 2014 will be put forward by AMO in the next SC meeting.**

Based on the FRISC logo, a temporary COINS logo has been put on the web site. There was some discussion about potential modifications (having the rainbow's end point to Finse instead of Bergen, use of a different font). It was consensus that a decision about a logo should be made soon and the logo should stay constant for the duration of the project.

**Action item: HL will collect suggestions for a future COINS logo and find out about usage restrictions of the temporary logo. A decision about a future COINS logo will be made at the next SC meeting.**

## Wisdom of others

AJ supported to have students organise their own workshop and proposed to move funding for a student seminar from FRISC to COINS. Funding for a student seminar was already included in the funding application, so this should be feasible.

**Action item: HL will check the budget for 2013 and get in touch with CR as the local chair for NISK 2013 to find out how COINS could financially support a student seminar co-located with NISK.**

ES highlighted experiences from a study tour to several research schools in the Netherlands, Germany, and Luxembourg. Many use a research school as a trademark for recruiting and for better international visibility of national research. General skills training is often provided locally. Discipline-specific training might include writing and reviewing conference papers. HL pointed out widespread issuance of (formally worthless) certificates for participation in

school events and experience from cooperation between Dutch and Belgian research schools, similar to COINS in Norway and SWITS in Sweden.

**Action item: HL will provide a report on the experience gathered on the study tour and incorporate suggestions in a "menu" from which the steering committee might choose items.**

AJ reported that employers value practical experience of graduates and supported placements in industry through COINS. ES expressed confidence that a research school with a strong trademark would facilitate easier access to businesses. Industrial partners could become official sponsors with a certain number of placement opportunities. AJ argued that there should be no compensation paid to students to keep the bar low for industrial partners. RS reminded of the Industrial Ph.D. funding scheme. UiT entered into such a project with Sparebanken Nord-Norge. However, banks seem to be content with master students and show little interest in Ph.D. training.

**Action item: HL will get in touch with Leif Nilsen to get recommendations for COINS on the agenda of the next FRISC advisory board meeting.**

### **Work plan 2013**

**Action item: ES/HL will participate in the next annual SWITS seminar to explore how SWITS and COINS could benefit from joint activities or the participation of students in events held in the neighbouring country.**

**Action item: HL will get in touch with the NIK program committee to get a slot for promotion of COINS to the computer science community in Norway.**

RS urged to keep an eye open for Industrial Ph.D. opportunities and reported that there are plans for a Public Service ICT Ph.D., similar to the Industrial Ph.D. funding scheme, but open for public sector entities. FFI could be a potential applicant.

HL distributed posters featuring the COINS web site and logos from all project partners. These posters could be taken on visits to institutions abroad with recruitment and visibility in mind.

**Action item: A summer school at UiA's Metochi study centre will be discussed on the next SC meeting.**

HL suggested to include a picture, homepage link and short description of the Ph.D. project for all students seeking admission to COINS. This would help to demonstrate the relevance of information security research to industrial partners and funding agencies.

**Action item: AMO will include picture, homepage URL and a short description of the Ph.D. project in the admission form.**

RS proposed to link to the COINS web site from all project partner web sites.

**Action item: Every project partner installs a link to <http://www.coinsrs.no> from the partner institution's web site before the next SC meeting.**

### **Miscellaneous**

AJ was impressed by the AAB and SC meeting and noticed that we had a lot of substance in COINS. That impression was unanimously concurred.