

COINS Steering Committee

Meeting 2018-09-18

Minutes: Urszula Nowostawska

Time: 1430 - 1520

Place: Finse, Norway/Skype

Participants:

- Steering Committee (SC) members: Hanno Langweg (Scientific Director COINS), Tor Helleseth (University of Bergen), Audun Jøsang (University of Oslo), Vladimir Oleshchuk (University of Agder) from 14:55. Stig Frode Mjolsnes (NTNU, Trondheim) and Stephen Wolthusen (NTNU, Gjøvik) via Skype.

Apologies:

- Ragnar Soleng (University of Tromsø), Urszula Nowostawska (Activity Management Office) and Shukun Tokas - was not able to join due to poor internet connection.



Agenda

1. Agenda
2. Meeting minutes of SC Skype meeting 2018-09-18
3. COINS 2020++
4. Finse 2019 (5-10 May), 2019 (21-28 July), Ph.D. student seminar (TBD), Finse 2020 (TBD), Metochi 2020 (TBD)
5. Miscellaneous

Agenda

No modification or any changes to the agenda. Agenda was approved.

Meeting minutes 2018-09-18

There was no modification to the previous meeting minutes, the meeting minutes were agreed.

COINS 2020++

The funding for COINS research school is until the end of 2020 and the Research Council will not continue the funding of COINS under the Research Schools scheme. At present, it is not even clear if the whole scheme will be continued or replaced with something else. We have two choices:

- Find a different funding source,
- Scale down the activities and perceive what we can do with a limited budget.

If we want to continue with the brand of COINS, even without funding from the Research Council, we can increase our stock of hoodies and T-shirts and cups and live on that. We can keep the course description for PhD student's seminar and for winter and summer schools and continue to have PhD student seminars as part of NISK. It will fill into a special session at NISK and this could be a very convenient way to bring many PhD students to NISK, however this time it will be without the travel funding that was so far provided through COINS. With the Finse winter school, the most probable solution would be to distribute costs among participants, a similar way it was particularly done under the FRISC project. We will have a fee that needs to be paid by participants, in order of NOK 10 000 or a little bit more for the invited speakers.

For the summer school, there are not any visible working alternatives. If we would have a system similar to the winter school, it would also require a commitment by partners to send enough students and paying the fee to the study centre.

Realistically, we would have to distribute costs between the institutions for events like Finse winter school but there is not certain, what the cost of attendance even would be. Another uncertainty is if the attendance is going to change significantly considering that there is no single fund to rely on.

We have been successful in the past in changing the funding source, we started with NISNet, moved to FRISC and COINS. It is not completely excluded that we can find another one. Audun Jøsang suggested the funding programme that could be used for COINS, so-called International Partnership (INTPART). It has several options, as finance the fees etc. This funding is for networks, for many partners, for summer school and winter schools. We would not have to apply for Finse every year, it lasts typically for 3 years. For this funding, we would need international and Norwegian partners. We can also invite other lecturers, but it

does not need exclusively the international partners. The funding is about 1-1.5 MNOK per year. The funding has been going for years and Research Council continues supporting it. UiO has INTPART with two French Universities and Technical University in Darmstadt. We could be able to send PhD students and Post-doc for internships. The funding application is not very competitive, maybe because not many people know about it. Moreover, it is not for research but for internship and exchange, so perhaps people are not interested in it as much. In addition, it is not for employing researchers, but you can pay a traveling honorarium to invited speakers; it is for direct costs of organising events.

It should be a good opportunity to get a funding thus it is worthy to investigate.

The other funding we could look at is NordForsk.

The model that our Swedish counterpart (SWITS) is using is having a PhD seminar once a year. They get funding of several hundred thousand from MSB and that is enough to pay for an accommodation and social event at the PhD seminar. The seminar usually lasts 1.5 days and everybody usually covers their own travel costs.

Perhaps that could also work in Norway. Maybe we should approach some ministries. However, it might need good connections, thus it is very uncertain if that would end up with a positive reply.

Several ministries have their centres and they fund SIMULA or CCIS. We might need to approach one of those larger clusters and get some funding from them.

Summarising the best options we have for funding:

- Plan A - call from Research Council,
- Plan B – NordForsk,
- Plan C - directly approaching ministry,
- Plan D - our own financing of fees through participations.

Audun perhaps can be involved in the writing proposal in plan A. He may have something already lined up. He will check INTPART call how does it look. Because Audun has INTPART funding at present, which could be an obstacle, perhaps somebody else will need to be a leader of the application. It is important to find out the constraints of INTPART application and pick the leader that Research Council may like. Audun will investigate the INTPART option.

We have to think of our preferences regarding the activities that we have in COINS and we would prefer to keep. The winter school has the longest tradition. The opportunity for students to participate at the conference where they do not have a paper to be published would be luxury and this would be definitely cut out as first. Students still should be able to have the opportunity to get funding from own university, if the conference is very good. The winter school has the longest tradition and it would be a pity to cut it. It is a very valuable activity. Traveling to Finse is very reasonable; everybody can get there under NOK 1000, traveling by train. At NTNU we have a reiseløftet, which promotes travel in environmentally

friendly way. This has few partners including France. PhD student seminars collocated with either NordSec or NISK would be very valuable as well. It is a great opportunity for students to meet other students and network internationally.

Perhaps other things that we did not try with NISNet, FRISC and COINS that we would like to try in the future under a new funding scheme could be a reaching out to non-computer science, non-engineering, non-mathematic people. Security itself is a huge area, if we look at the scope, it is very wide, if we will reach to sociology, it could get even wider and it could be even more interesting. However, we can have a problem that it might not be interesting to all PhD students, who should focus on hard security not social sciences. If we push them too much, then they could try to escape it. It is important for the PhD students to optimize their time and not waste it. The original intention of 30 ECTS credit points in PhD programme was that they should also address topics within the 30 ECTS points that are not directly related to what they do in the PhD project. They are supposed to have scientific courses, as well as ethics, and social courses, like to write papers, applications etc. Among them, they should have some compulsory subjects that are not related to their studies.

In the case of SWITS PhD student seminar, all PhD students from the research group and senior group members are invited. We have to think if this would be favourable for us too and if that would be sufficient with NISK. If we look at the supervisors, we have 60-70 supervisors that supervise COINS students. They do not appear to be visible on the national level. SWITS idea is to bring together all the PhD students and supervisors. It is similar approach to original approach in NordSec, where there was one meeting for researchers in the Nordic countries once a year. In the case of COINS, it could be done during the NISK conference where we could invite all the supervisors in some kind of workshop that they could participate. NISK should be the best venue and save time. In the past there was a possibility that some of them would be present at NIKT conference but did not interact with the students. Some of the supervisors might not interact with COINS activities, because it was mostly for PhD students not for supervisors. They do not have to come, but they are all invited. It would be valuable if in the workshop we could have a presentation of their experiences with supervising PhD students and some feedback for PhD students. If we would like to invite supervisors, we need an agenda, so the supervisors could feel like there is an important reason for them to attend the seminar. Perhaps as an example could be the best supervisor of the year competition, although that could be very subjective.

COINS events

Finse 2019, 5 - 10 May 2019

Finse winter school is right now and it is going very well.

Metochi 2019, 21 - 28 July 2019

Metochi summer school is coming soon in the last week of July. We have a lecturer in the security of critical infrastructure, lecturer in security in e-health, lecturer in security and global satellite navigation system, lecturer in communication security in ports. We will also have a session on European cyber security act and general data protection regulations. Hanno Langweg is in communication with a lecturer from security on traffic control systems. Participants have an option of visiting ENISA on Friday before the summer school. So far, we have sent only one email to students and are already filling up the capacity. We have few applications from SWITS students also. It is going to be a very interesting group this year in the southernmost campus of University of Agder.

Ph.D. student seminar

This year we are planning to have the PhD student seminar collocated with NISK in Narvik. The plan is to start PhD seminar in Trondheim and go on the Hurtigruten and get as close as possible to Narvik (e.g. Harstad or Finnsnes) on Monday. The seminar would then be in the weekend, just before the NISK conference. The idea and location are great, but supervisors may not find research reason to attend. We have done it once in FRISC, from Trondheim to Bodø. This way everybody will arrive on time for the conference. PhD student seminar will take place on the Hurtigruten, and we would include a special track for the supervisors. We could have some sessions together with supervisors and other sessions separated. Typically supervisors are also lecturing thus we could discuss the supervision of students and also the lecturing of security courses, security research and teaching workshops, some kind of security education: what should we teach PhD students and how. We have different programmes at different universities, so we could present some programmes and talk about the experiences in those courses. It could be very interesting for the others to know.

If this will not work out with the Hurtigruten, the seminar could be a part of a special NISK UDIT session (IT education and didactics track, organised with conjunction with the NISK conference). However, for UDIT a paper needs to be written, submitted and accepted. Most people would not want to write a paper. UDIT is like a workshop, for COINS it could be interesting for both audiences.

The date for NIKT is 25-27 of November 2019. If this would work with Hurtigruten, we would go on the boat on the November 23. NordSec in Aalborg, Denmark is just one week before or so on the 18 or 19 November (no website yet), deadline for papers will be probably in August.

Finse 2020, 3 – 8 May 2020

For Finse 2020, we already have a date: May 3 - 8, but no rooms booked yet. The date was chosen in advance to make sure it will not collide with the EUROCRYPT week after.

Metochi 2020

We do not have a date for a summer school in 2020 yet and we do not have topics either. One option could be to look at the big picture of the information security and to see what the fundamental problems are. Any preferences are welcome: politics, cyber warfare, etc.

Miscellaneous

Next steering committee meeting will be probably collocated with NISK on the 25th of November 2019. For most of the people, the PhD student seminar will start in Trondheim, but people from Bergen will have a chance to board the boat in Bergen.