

FIN3R Board Meeting

Zoom, January 30th, 2024, 12.00-13.00

Participants:

Eero Lehtonen

Reetta Hintala

Bian Mphande

Sara Sladakovic

Tommaso Serchi

Johanna Englund

Vootele Voikar

Sarka Lehtonen

Hajnalka Nadai

Johanna Åhlgren

Virve Sihvola

Anna Vallius

Dario Greco

Jenni Hakkarainen

Mikko Airavaara

Purpose of the meeting: Meeting has been organized as a first meeting of the year, starting the bi-monthly series of the meetings. Significant part of the meeting has been devoted to discussions of the upcoming board changes.

Agenda:

1. Approval of the meeting minutes: Meeting minutes from the last meeting in 2023 (November 23rd) were not ready for approval. This point of agenda has been skipped and will take place in the upcoming meeting (TBA).
2. Board changes:
Board changes regard the changes in the advisory groups as well as the change of the chair of the board. As a new advisor in the Coordination team, Hanna-Marja Voipio is joining. As well, current Chair of the Board, Eero Lehtonen, will continue as an advisor on the Coordination group, after the new Chair has been appointed. In the meantime, Eero Lehtonen will remain the Chair of the Board.
Candidates for the new Chair of Board have sent good applications and they are all qualified for the position. There have been 5 candidates in total. FIN3R board will rank the candidates based on the preference on the list, and TOKES makes the final decision. Standards used for ranking the candidates are: (1) location of work (it would be good to have cities besides

Tampere and Helsinki as it would involve people from different institutions to join the board, however it should not be the main reason); (2) good understanding of all 3Rs which would allow for bridging them within the FIN3R, experience in work and new perspective to the matter; (3) vision of what FIN3R should be and the role of the chair (bridging the communication between FIN3R and TOKES, but also with research community and public). The general overview is that the candidates are good, provided significant interest in FIN3R. However, certain candidates provided better vision of the FIN3R. The board raises three candidates above the others and considers them equal. The final list of preferences is as follows:

Petra Sipilä
Emrah Yatkin
Marianna Norring

Pirjo Laakkonen
Hanna Vuorenpää

All board members had a right to vote. Voting for multiple candidates was allowed. The process started with the chair of board stating candidates' name, members raise their hands to count the votes and proceed to the next candidate.

Arguments for voting outcome:

1. Petra Sipilä: strong experience in 3Rs and would be able to connect them within the FIN3R, would provide a strong communication.
 2. Emrah Yatkin: strong candidate, brings strong refinement perspective, active in regulatory sphere and pharma companies.
 3. Marianna Norring: provided good application, has different perspective to animal welfare.
 4. Pirjo Laakkonen: strong experience in 3Rs, good application
3. FIN3R representation in the ScandLAS 2024 meeting:
ScandLAS takes place from May 21-25, 2024 in Tampere. There will be one session dedicated to FIN3R (Dario Greco, Vootele Voikar and Pirjo Laakkonen will give talks). Additionally, exhibition of other organizations will be organized, where everyone will have an opportunity to present themselves. Suggestion is to have a booth dedicated to FIN3R as well. There should be one person always present (Sara Sladakovic), while other participants in the meeting will come when possible. FIN3R can buy a booth for non-commercial price, and it would require registration of one person (around 800 euros). As the conference allows an accompanying person, conditions to arrange that need to be checked, since someone else from the board can join as well. Brian Mphande should give an update on this. budget from this event will be 1000 euros.
4. Budget: Specification and revision
After the TOKES meeting, following comments about the budget have been made:
- budget reporting must be more detailed, including salaries, travel costs, events (which event and when was held, who was the organizer, how much was spent).
 - Reporting ways (tables that are used) have to be agreed and confirmed so there should no be miscommunication issues.

- New report needs to include approximates for the spending in 2024, it does not have to be precise. Budget estimates should be sent to Sara Sladakovic and Anna Valius as soon as possible.
 - Budget for 2024 is still unknown. It is possible to invest more in the communication materials.
 - FIN3R will sponsor a coffee break for Finnish toxicology society's annual forum (held in Tampere on 17-18th of April). There will be a session to present FIN3R as well as booth presentation.
5. Update on the activities of each group (past and future)
- Refinement group: Animal Welfare Body Network activities started; the first meeting was very successful. Next meetings were planned for April (online) and autumn (September/October, in person). As well, FIN3R's representatives were invited to a European Animal Welfare Body Network meeting. It would be a good opportunity to make new networks.
 - Coordination group: many upcoming events to represent 3Rs, Material Week in Cyprus is one of them.
6. Other issues
- FIN3R should consider joining the COST Action Improver activities. As Vootele Voikar is a part of it, he will take into consideration the activities that are happening and make the final decision if more active role will be taken there.
 - Eero Lehtonen will share the voting outcomes for the new Chair of the Board with TOKES. Brian Mphande has suggested to attach the CVs of the candidates with the short report of the voting.
 - Meetings in 2024 will be held as before – every two months. Schedule will be made at once, but prior to the meetings it will be confirmed with the Chair and Coordinator if the meeting can be held and rescheduled if needed. Additional meetings can be arranged if needed.
 - Time of the next meeting is to be announced soon.

Meeting was closed at 13.04.