

Team briefing/ Nordic indigenous TK&IP Conference of NMR 2021 Ministry of Education and Culture & Sami Parliament

Teams @ 10.00 – 12.00 (9-11), Friday 12 March, 2021

Agenda

1. Introduction

Introduction of the [portal of dialogue](#) and a round of presentation of team members took place. The secretariat of the Conference taking place as part of the Finnish Presidency of NMC (Nordic Council of Ministers) includes Anna Vuopala, Inka Saara Arttijeffer, Riitta Orti-Berg and Jukka Liedes. The team having some 15-20 members would support with insights and meet once a month. Experts present at the meeting:

Finland: Tuomas Aslak Juuso/Sami Parliament (Samediggi); Leena Marsio/ Finnish Heritage Agency Marjo Aalto-Setälä/PRH, Patent and Registration Office; Stiina Löytömäki/Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment; Marjaana Seppinen/Ministry of Education and Culture, Coordinator for Finnish Presidency of the NMC 2021

NMC - Nordic Council of Ministers: Eva Englund/Nordic Council of Ministers, Secretariat, Culture, Sami issues

Sweden: Robert Nilsson/ Culture department, copyright and IPRs and Martin Berger/ PRS, Patent and Registration Authority

Norway: Silja Somby/ Sami Parliament (Samediggi), Jostein Sandvik/ Patentstyret and Maria Jongers/ Ministry of Culture

Experts: Rebecka Forsgren, Sweden, Oula Antti Labba, Saami Council, Aile Javo, Saami Council and Tuomas Mattila, Helsinki University, Finland

Absent: Inka-Saara Arttijeffer, Christina Hetta, Piia Nuorgam, Matilda Månsson, Jon Petter Ginttal. It was also discussed that perhaps representatives of the ICC (Inuit Circumpolar Council) and National archives, and Sami archives could be invited too.

A summary of the briefings would also be added to the portal.

2. Feedback, discussion and ideas based on the Expert seminar on TK&IP in 2020

The general feedback from the [expert seminar](#) held in October 2020 has been very positive. Regardless of the problems in the interpretation almost everyone stayed until the end. The speeches were translated to English to ensure the dialogue could take place including speakers of indigenous languages. Many in the team did participate and found seminar very interesting, others did not participate, but were interested in revisiting it via the link that was provided.

President Tuomas Aslak Juuso considered the expert seminar to be a very good start to better cooperation between Nordic countries considering also the Sami Parliamentary Council's program. Current law offers possibilities that need to be examined, and even if there are differences between the Nordic countries, there are options to make common choices. Both governments of Norway and Sweden including IP Offices also in Finland expressed interest in participating in the work.

The next steps to prepare the seminar include selection of the issues and discussion whether the approach would be ok, taking also more specifically the Sami Parliamentary Council's (SPC) project and Unesco report on protecting ICH as a concrete base. The aim is to keep conference languages

simple but ensure that indigenous languages can be used (North Sámi). Work and goals can be set on different levels - political, practical and substantive.

3. Summary of the questionnaire on options for Nordic co-operation

In order to scope possibilities for increased Nordic co-operation a questionnaire was sent to Nordic countries to clarify what ways of co-operation are already in place. A conclusion of the replies was that there was an interest to broaden co-operation, and to connect with SPC and form common Nordic views, but the existing framework for co-operation should be explored and used, at first instance.

NÄS (Nordisk ämbetsmännaorgan för samiska ärenden) and cooperation of Ministers responsible for Sámi issues is not formally part of NMC, but for instance Culture committee and legal committee could have subgroups in place. Also an ad hoc working group could be established. The traditional knowledge network between Government and other stakeholders was presented as one option for co-operation as Finland has had such a network in place since 2012.

Importance of participation from Greenland was raised by the NMC secretariat. It was confirmed that the aim is to also include Greenland Inuits and that the Danish government and Greenland had had discussions amongst themselves and who have now informed the secretariat that their representatives will participate in the coming WIPO TK workshop and conference. Availability of funding to NGO's was raised to enable a broad participation from Nordic indigenous side, for instance a representative from the ICC - Inuit Circumpolar Council. It would be important to be inclusive yet resource efficient. At this stage the Ministry of Education and Culture have secured funding for travels and accommodation to the Conference. There are also specific grants available for Copyright related information activities and studies. Governments could not confirm funding to NGOs so this will need to be followed up. Better co-operation will bring more inclusive results from both Nordic, EU and International level.

4. Working methods towards the TK&IP Conference 2021

The Conference would take place on 11 November 2021 in Inari as a physical event and the planning for a WIPO workshop the 3 days preceding it have started. **The secretariat (with Inka Saara, Riitta and Jukka) would like to hear whom of relevant TK&IP experts would be interested in participating in subgroups (on political, technical, substantive issues).** Subgroups will work in between and report at the team briefings. An outline of the programme was briefly presented, mainly that it would be a high-level conference with ministers speaking and participating, including the Secretary general of the NMC. **An important discussion started on specific outcomes** could be expected from the Conference and work as a whole. For instance, a declaration was prepared at the 2008 conference in Rovaniemi. Anna mentioned that the goal is to start the work on Nordic level, which would develop over the years and would need engagement from the incoming Presidency (Norway) too (short and long term, solutions based on the current IP systems and solutions for the gaps that are identified). A concrete goal is a WIPO booklet specifically made on Nordic indigenous TK issues (funding from Min of Foreign Affairs); for educational purposes for both IP experts and indigenous TK experts.

5. Any other business

6. Next meeting

Invites will be sent to the next meetings on 16 April; 12 May and 10 June.