

COINS Steering Committee

Meeting 2018-09-18

Minutes: Urszula Nowostawska

Time: 0918 - 1038

Place: Longyearbyen, Svalbard/Skype

Participants:

- Steering Committee (SC) members: Hanno Langweg (Scientific Director COINS), Stig Frode Mjolsnes (NTNU, Trondheim), Tor Helleseth (University of Bergen), Sergii Banin (Student), Xiaojie Zhu (Student) and Urszula Nowostawska (Activity Management Office).

Apologies:

- Vladimir Oleshchuk (University of Agder), Ragnar Soleng (University of Tromsø) and Stephen Wolthusen (NTNU, Gjøvik)- was not able to join due to poor internet connection.



Agenda

1. Agenda
2. Meeting minutes of SC Skype meeting 2018-05-25
3. Status, goals and milestones
 - a. Tasks from previous meetings
 - b. Admission of students
 - c. coinsrs.no: Upcoming events on front page
4. COINS 2020++
5. ECTS and participation in courses
6. Finse 2019 (5-10 May), COINS IT Security Exercise 2019 (TBD), Metochi 2019 (21-28 July), Ph.D. student seminar at UiA (TBD)
7. Miscellaneous

Agenda

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

Meeting minutes 2018-05-25

There was one modification to the previous meeting minutes, the Finse winter school will take place 5 - 10 of May 2019. The rest of the meeting minutes was accepted without objections.

Status, goals, and milestones

This year was very busy for COINS research school. We had two steering committee meetings, have organised IMT 6007 for the first time at three different locations Trondheim, Oslo and Gjøvik, as usually had Finse winter school, Metochi summer school on network security and now the northernmost PhD student seminar with the biggest ever number of participants. The COINS research school has grown a lot since the beginning. We have expected to have around 40 active students and about 100 students for the whole period of the research school. However, currently we have 93 active students, which include almost all the PhD students that are enrolled in Information Security in Norway. 37 students have already graduated, and few are very close to a completion. Funding from COINS has increased in the last two years. Students take more time to complete their studies than it was originally estimated. It is difficult to argue for more funding from Norwegian Research Council.

The funding for the research school, that has been started in 2013 by the RCN will last until the end of 2020. Until then, we will continue admitting PhD students to the research school, however after 2020 students will have an option to continue but without the funding.

Admission of students

Several students are close to the submission.

In UiA, one student is submitting now and two are almost finishing.

In UiO, there are few students close to completion.

At NTNU Gjøvik two students will defend very soon. NTNU Trondheim will have one defense in the near future as well.

There are cases where students are submitting and graduating silently, and we do not have a process to capture it, until much later. We have noticed, however, that the former COINS students are eager to come back and share their experiences with the present students. We had to say "no" to two students who were willing to talk about their "after PhD" experiences due to the very short time, four hours, schedule for this year's PhD student seminar. Sometimes, they want to join due to the exciting location, sometimes to see friends, but it is nice that they want to come back and continue the friendship they started at the research school and are happy to share the experience and join us again.

Lots of new COINS members have come to Svalbard, mostly first and second year students. The idea of spending one week away from studies was probably very appealing to them.

The programme of the PhD student seminar in Svalbard is very tight. Five alumni came with completely different topics for their talks, which was very satisfying. We will have six presentations by active COINS students at different stages of their PhD studies. Five of them will do IMT 6004. We were supposed to have 7 presentations, but a person from Tromsø needed to cancel.

Out of 93 active students less than 20% are Norwegian, around 50% are European. Out of 11 students giving presentation only 3 are Norwegian, also 3 are women. COINS does not do anything special to recruit more Norwegians. Most of the Norwegians come from the industrial PhDs, recruited by the Norwegian companies, police stations etc. Out of 129 former and present PhD students, 32 are registered with an external employer. COINS does not record the nationalities of the registered students.

Even though we have more students than we have expected, we do not spend more money than originally predicted. For example, in Finse we had to return few rooms. We have a capacity for a bigger number of students. Finse can have 44 rooms all together. We also have more capacity at Metochi summer school, at least we can have 4 more rooms and there is also a possibility of sharing the rooms, if needed. In Finse, it was possible to add more people without charging the registration. This year, there were lots of PhD students from UiB at Finse winter school, but not from the other universities and we do not know the reason. There is capacity for more students, but some rooms cannot fit 2 people. We do not know why people from NTNU did not attend the Finse winter school this year. Maybe, NTNU students are not keen on skiing. There are lots of NTNU students at the PhD student seminar and there was also a good number at the Metochi summer school. Definitely, the content of NISK conference did attract many.

Out of 93 active students not everyone is very active. Maybe sometimes our expectations are too high. However, there are always some students who are keen to travel and go on exchange programmes.

COINS 2020++

The Norwegian Research Council originally announced that it is not possible to fund a research school in the same area (albeit in a similar/extended area). In an evaluation performed by NIFU, research schools do not significantly contribute to students completing their studies faster, the research school does not help universities as much as it was expected in terms of efficiency as regards running a Ph.D. programme. One option would be to extend the scope of the school, reuse the activities, but also extend them a little bit further. We are good at technical aspects and we could extend further to safety and societal security. We could apply for another research school and continue as we like, maybe

extended into risk and safety operations research. The area of (information) security research is quite wide, and we could make it even wider.

If we decide, that more funding for the research school is necessary that could be a road to take. It could be challenging e.g. applying for funding from SAMRISK, and we may need several divisions. We have quite few students in law, who would like to commit to GDPR and privacy legislation. We need to be representative and this combination could be quite good as crypto, and law would interact together. The law students have found difficulties to follow the summer school in network security.

People at Department of Manufacturing and Civil Engineering (IVB) at NTNU Gjøvik are very inspired by COINS research school. They really like the idea of the research school for PhD students and would like to have either their own research school or contribute to the existing school. They would be happy to collaborate in the research in robotics, 3D printing, security of data operations. There are many active professors at the department who are willing to communicate with other departments.

We need to start with 2-3 possible strategies for the future of the research school and discuss it at the next steering committee meeting. We need to think how we can scale down the activities of the school to be useful for the students: Finse winter school may still exist with the contribution of hosting institution and own input of PhD students. COINS can stock T-shirts and hoodies.

COINS events

Finse 2019, 5 - 10 May 2019

The Finse winter school will take place on 5-10 May 2019. For the Finse 2019 we have already two invited speakers: Bart Preneel and Joan Daemen. We are still working on Adi Shamir. There are no problems of having the same people twice.

Metochi 2019, 21 - 28 July 2019

The summer school in Metochi is on the last week of July, 21 - 28 July 2019. We have to think about the topic for the summer school: system security, operating systems, distributed systems. Last time when we asked students for the specific topic that would interest them, and we chose that topic for the summer school, those students have not showed up.

The possible topics of the summer school could be: Biometric Security, Industry Controlled System Security, Malware, Real time operating systems. Students tend to go for more specific topics. Summer school on information security and safety of society would be good not only for our people but in connection to SAMRISK. We could invite people to come for the winter school and afterwards apply for the research facilities.

Perhaps to achieve the higher quality of the research we might need to select the students we are granting funding to. So far, we have been accepting all applications for funding,

especially for mobility activities, except if there was a COINS organised event at the same time or if the student only applies for the specific events that no other students would go or irrelevant to his/her studies. We have an annual budget from RCN 2 million and we need to spend it.

Ph.D. student seminar at UiA (TBD)

In 2019 we could have a PhD seminar at University of Agder. This is only one of the consortium members which did not host the PhD student seminar, yet. We will need a room for the meeting and expect to have around 50 people. The best time would be November-December, perhaps also September, but not too close to the NISK conference since people would rather go there. Since the facilities at Metochi are owned by University of Agder, this could be considered as hosting of PhD students.

Another option for the next PhD student seminar could be Hurtigruten before the start of NISK. We could get on the boat in Trondheim Saturday 23 November 12:00 and return to land in Finnsnes 11:00 on Monday. From Finnsnes, it is 2.5 hours (160 km) by bus to Narvik where NISK starts Tuesday 26 November.

In 2020 we need to have two PhD seminars at both NTNU campuses, in Gjøvik and Trondheim, so that all campuses will have been represented with hosting the seminar. We should rent Skibladner for the social event in Gjøvik. NISK is expected to be held at Sundvolden hotel. We could start the Gjøvik seminar in Gjøvik and then transfer to Sundvolden close to Hønefoss which is 2 hours (120 km) by bus.

Miscellaneous

We do not plan to have any more steering committee meetings before Christmas this year. The next steering committee meeting will be probably in January or February in Grimstad or Oslo Gardermoen.