

COINS Steering Committee

Meeting 2019-11-25

Minutes: Hanno Langweg

Time: 1120-1210

Place: Narvik, Norway/Skype

Participants:

- Steering Committee (SC) members: Hanno Langweg (Scientific Director COINS), Vladimir Oleshchuk (University of Agder), Audun Jøsang (University of Oslo), Ragnar Soleng (University of Tromsø). Stig Frode Mjolsnes (NTNU, Trondheim) via Skype.

Apologies:

- Urszula Nowostawska (Activity Management Office) and Stephen Wolthusen (NTNU, Gjøvik) were not able to join due to poor internet connection.



Agenda

1. Agenda
2. Meeting minutes of SC meeting 2019-05-08
3. Finse 2020 (3-8 May), Metochi 2020 (19-26 July), Ph.D. student seminar Gjøvik/Sundvollen (November 2020)
4. COINS beyond 2020
5. Miscellaneous

Agenda

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

Meeting minutes 2019-05-08

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

Finse 2020 (3-8 May), Metochi 2020 (19-26 July), Ph.D. student seminar Gjøvik/Sundvollen (November 2020)

We see a tendency by COINS students to apply for individual mobility stipends and less attend COINS events. The Finse winter school had high attendance, the summer school had several empty rooms. Less than 10% of all COINS students registered for the NISK conference and Ph.D. student seminar in Narvik. NISK on Svalbard last year had a high number of registrations. It was decided that individual mobility stipends are considered a luxury and their use should be reduced to a minimum in 2020 in favour of increased attendance at COINS events. The hotel for the NISK conference in 2020 (Sundvollen) has high capacity.

Vladimir Oleshchuk proposed a seminar for supervisors, probably in July. Topics to be discussed could include what is special about supervising Ph.D. students in information security. Skibladner on Mjøsa could be a suitable facility. Hurtigruten (that was originally envisioned for the Ph.D. student seminar in 2019) could be an option.

A topic for the summer school in Metochi in July 2020 has not yet been decided. Steering committee members have all planned vacation in that time. Hanno Langweg is going to take care of the summer school as in previous years.

COINS beyond 2020

Audun Jøsang offers to look into the possibility to extend support from the INTPART project P4C "Partnership on Security and Safety for Cyber-Physical Systems" he leads with partners from France and Germany to continue COINS activities in 2021. There is no limit on potential partners apart from them being based in the respective countries. Most likely the Finse winter school can be supported by inviting researchers and some participants from the countries targeted by INTPART. A summer school in Greece might be harder to achieve as it would require extending the INTPART project further beyond its scheduled end.

Based on an evaluation of existing research schools and feedback solicited by the Research Council, there will probably a call for the establishment of new research schools in 2021 at the earliest for research schools that may start in 2022. We want to explore the possibility of applying for a research school with an extended scope into societal safety and security.

Miscellaneous

We need to get a clear answer from NTNU's advisers for project economy how much money is left in the project and how much we can spend in 2020. Several requests for information have not been answered satisfactorily.

There was a recent discussion in the media about the low number of Norwegian Ph.D. students in ICT. That was perceived by some organisations as an obstacle to recruit enough highly skilled workers that are able to obtain a security clearance. Out of experience by steering committee members, a security clearance is needed only for some jobs in information security in Norway and most non-Norwegian graduates seem to be getting employment without noticeable problems. In addition, the numbers mentioned in the media are wrong (too low). According to COINS own statistics, there are significantly more graduates than reported in the discussion. Journalists did not respond to additional information offered. Some universities announced they would happily take more money earmarked to employ Norwegians for Ph.D. positions in information security.