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| Working group for International Services |
| **Reporters name:**  | Helge Onsrud  |
| **Chairman**  | Helge Onsrud, Kartverket Norway  |
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| **Purpose of the group** | Coordinate and monitor Nordic activities. Assist with planning Lille and Store sjefsmøte  |
| **Reporting for 2017/2018** |
| **Progress compared to last year*** **Please inform also how the strategic goals of the Nordic Cooperation Strategy have been implemented**
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| NIC has arranged one physical meeting and two skype meetings since Store sjefsmøte 2017. Focus has been on preparing the agenda for Store sjefsmøte 2018 and to communicate with the WGs. With the help of Eydis Finnbogadottir it has been prepared a proposal for a new web site for the Nordic cooperation. The agenda for next Store sjefsmøte is being prepared as an annotated agenda and all documents for the meeting should be available on the website. Contact has been established with Nordic Council of Ministers, and a positive meeting with the secretariat was held in May 2018 in Copenhagen. NIC (Anders Lundquist) has prepared an oversight of how the Nordic Mapping Agencies are involved with reporting to the SDGs.Starting Store sjefsmøte from 2018, the NIC WG has decided to present a verbal summary of the activities of the WGs, rather than each WG giving a verbal presentation. The chairman of the NIC WG submitted a proposal to the DGs to better streamline the Nordic cooperation and meetings, in line with the Nordic Hydrographic Commission. The proposal was only partly supported, i.e. preparing annotated agendas and a web site were supported, but not to prepare statutes and appoint a chairperson among the DGs.  |
| **Tasks/ activities for 2018-2020** |
| Following the change of Nordic representation in the EG Board, it will be a new NIC chairperson, who will lead the work on:* Preparing the agenda for Stor sjefsmøte, draft ready for Lille sjefsmøte
* Ensuring that WG reports are delivered in due time before Store sjefsmøte 2019, progress reports and summary reports delivered to Lille sjefsmøte 2018
* Maintaining/Improving the Nordic website (supported by LM Iceland)
* Following up the contact with Nordic Council of Ministers
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| Planned meetings for the next year |
| To be decided  |
| **Coordination with other working groups** |
| NIC should continue to monitor the work of the WGs to see that they contribute to the overall strategy for Nordic cooperation among the NMAs.  |
| Tasks or Consequences for other Nordic WG/Network |
| Land Mapping WG could be engaged in following up the contact with the Nordic Council of Ministers, *inter alia*, helping them to get in place a better solution for access to maps of the Nordic region |
| Future strategy of the group - 2 years view |
| **Future priorities** | 1. Help with improving the relevance and quality of Store sjefsmøte
2. Help with improving the relevance of the Nordic WGs
3. Maintaining/improving a website for the Nordic cooperation
4. Expanding the cooperation with Nordic Council of Ministers - as found relevant during 2018/19.
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| Anything else you would like to tell? |
| Cooperation/communication between the NIC WG and the DGs should be improved, to get better inputs from the DGs to preparing relevant agendas of the Store sjefsmøte. Lille sjefsmøte should, *inter alia*, be used to prepare a consolidated proposal for the agenda for Store sjefsmøte. The web site should facilitate easier access to relevant documents. The website should be open to all, not only to those actively involved in the Nordic cooperation. The cooperation with Nordic Council of Ministers should be continued. The secretariat of the Council was positively interested, also to give a presentation at next Store sjefsmøte 2019. The cooperation could possibly be used to promote the NMAs at political level and give access to research funding. Contact should as well be established with Nordregio to explore the use of maps for statistical purposes. The NMAs could help the Council of Ministers to establish a better map application at their website.  |