



Doktorgradsstipendiatenes
interesseorganisasjon ved NTNU

Annual Report 2014/2015

*DION – Doktorgradsstipendiatenes
interesseorganisasjon ved NTNU*

*The interest Organization for Doctoral
Candidates at NTNU*

Contents

1	Summary.....	2
2	Board Composition.....	3
3	Activity highlights 2014/2015.....	3
4	Email enquiries	4
5	Events	4
6	Representation at NTNU	4
7	Representation outside NTNU	5
8	Cooperation.....	5
9	Presentations.....	5
10	Statements and letters.....	5
10.1	Statement about Iranian PhD candidates	5
10.2	Response to hearing about the future organization of NTNU	6
10.3	Letter to the faculties about introductory days	6
11	Information channels and social media	6
12	Finance	7
13	Open points for the next board.....	7
14	Appendix - Meeting dates	8

1 Summary

The last annual general meeting (AGM) was held on 23rd April 2014. This annual report covers the period since the last AGM.

Since the last AGM, DION has had ten board meetings and participated in several committees, seminars and meetings at NTNU. DION has also met with the NTNU board representatives for temporary scientific staff and the students on a regular basis to discuss NTNU board issues.

The board has continued the work of the previous board in making the organization more visible, through the use of website, social media channels and NTNU's Innsida. The monthly newsletter DION News has been started and DION has participated in several introduction days for new PhD candidates.

DION has had four social events during this board term. Since the current board has had no external funding for events, the focus has been on providing a social arena for PhD candidates across NTNU.

DION has worked with responding to enquiries from PhD candidates in need, although the number of requests has decreased significantly from last board term.

DION has also, in cooperation with SiN (Stipendiatororganisasjonene i Norge), issued a statement criticising the long visa handling times of the Iranian PhD candidates at NTNU who were denied visa in Norway.

The merger between NTNU and three university colleges was an important topic at NTNU during the board term. DION participated in the discussion and submitted a response to the hearing at NTNU.



*Clara Good,
President DION*



Date, place

2 Board Composition

During the board year 2013/2014, the board had the following members:

- Clara Good (President)
- Øyvind Storesund Hetland (Vice President)
- Morten Stornes (Board member, SiN contact)
- Marthe Emelie Melandsø Buan (Board member, Event manager)
- Fernanda Acre Pacheco (Board member)
- Philipp Spenhoff (Board member)

Starting from August 2014, Andreas Noteng has been employed in a 20% position as DION's administrative support.

3 Activity highlights 2014/2015

During the board period 2014/2015, DION has:

- Responded to around 15 enquiries from PhD candidates in need of assistance
- Hosted four social events.
- Participated in several committees, meetings and seminars arranged by NTNU, including the revision group for the PhD handbook.
- Provided support to the NTNU board representatives for temporary academic staff and students during DION's board meetings.
- Published a statement criticising long visa handling times for Iranian PhD candidates
- Increased or initiated collaboration with Studenttinget, the temporary employed scientific staff's representatives in the faculty boards and Bindeleddet
- Published a response to the hearing about the future organization of NTNU (the SAKS process).
- Worked on increasing its visibility: through updating our webpages, active use of facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/DION.NTNU>), Twitter (@DION_NTNU), NTNU Innsida, by organizing events, and restarted a regular newsletter (DION news).
- Presented DION at introduction events for new PhD candidates, and sent a letter to the faculties requesting to be invited to any future events.
- Clarified the regulations regarding compensation for DION board work, and made an application template.

In addition, DION has started work on mapping the regulations and practices regarding duty work and PhD working capital at the different faculties. This work is still in progress, and is left as an open point to the next board.

4 Email enquiries

DION has received around 15 inquiries from PhD candidates at NTNU during the board period 2014/2015. This is a significant decrease since last year (32 requests). There is no obvious reason for this decrease. The topics of the questions included residence duty, duty work, change of supervisors, right to overtime, maternity leave, working capital, salary, internships and soft skills courses.

In addition to the inquiries, DION also received some request for help on how to apply to PhD positions or where to find information about the application process.

5 Events

This board term, DION has focused on arranging social activities for PhD candidates. Four events were arranged:

- 2014-10-15 DION@Studenterhytta
- 2014-12-11 DION@Den Gode Nabo
- 2014-02-24 DION@Antikvariatet
- 2015-04-14 DION@Trondhjem Mikrobryggeri

The number of attendants varied between six and around 20. The pub nights were the most popular. In contrast to last board term, DION had no dedicated budget for events.

DION was also co-host of the Tekna PhD seminar 20.01.2015.

6 Representation at NTNU

DION was invited contribute to a seminar on ethics for faculty and department leaders 2015.06.17. DION contributed with a presentation about PhD and supervisor relations.

DION participated in an evaluation meeting on EUs Charter and Code 18.06.2014.

DION has observer status (gets summons and minutes) in the Dean Meetings and the Central Research Committee, and is called to the meetings in special cases. During the board term 2014/2015, DION participated in the Central Research Committee two times (02.06.2014 and 13.02.2014)

DION has had two participants in the central revision group for the PhD handbook. The group, which is led by Ragnhild Lofthus, started its work in October 2014 and has had four meetings. The revised version of the PhD handbook is expected to be published before the fall semester 2015. DION was also represented at a workshop regarding NTNU's web pages for doctoral education, which was organized by Gro Lurås and was held in November 2014.

The DION president participated in NTNU's leader seminar at Oppdal 25-26 January 2014, and the Department leader meeting 3 March 2015.

The NTNU board representatives for temporary academic staff and for the students were invited to DION's board meetings, where the first hour typically was spent on discussing the upcoming NTNU board cases.

7 Representation outside NTNU

Morten Stornes has been the president of Norway's national doctoral organisation (SiN – Stipendiatororganisasjonene i Norge) from May 2014. Marthe Emelie Melandsø Buan, who was president in SiN during last board term, has been a board member during this board term.

8 Cooperation

DION participated in a meeting with Tekna Etatsstyre 23.05.2014.

The letter of intent between Studenttinget (STi) and DION was updated and signed in December 2014. As of October 2014, STi and DION are invited to each other's board meetings.

Cooperation with Bindeleddet was initiated, with the aim of making it possible for PhD candidates to attend the industry events and seminars. This cooperation is planned to go live in the next semester.

Cooperation with the faculty board representatives for temporarily employed scientific staff was initiated during last board term in connection with a workshop on the campus case. This cooperation was continued and formalized during this board term. The faculty board representatives were invited to DION's board meeting 2015-02-23. Four faculty board representatives attended the meeting. It was agreed that a future cooperation would be useful, especially in relation to larger issues, such as the campus case or NTNU's merger. The faculty board representatives are now also getting summons minutes from DION's board meetings.

9 Presentations

DION held several presentations at information days for new PhD candidates (NT: 2014.04.09 and 2015.01.29, IME: 2014.11.07).

DION contributed with a presentation about the organization and general information about PhD studies at Tekna's PhD seminar (2014-01-20).

10 Statements and letters

10.1 Statement about Iranian PhD candidates

DION and SiN issued a statement criticizing the process and long handling times of the visa applications of Iranian PhD candidates at NTNU. The statement was issued on 2014-06-11 on the

webpages of DION and SiN. The statement was also sent to Universitetsavisa, but was not taken up there.

10.2 Response to hearing about the future organization of NTNU

DION was invited to comment on the work with future organization of NTNU, also called the SAKS process. (Letter from Trond Singaas, ref 2014/11601/TSI)

DION responded in a letter on 2015-01-19. In the statement we tried to take into account comments from PhD candidates at different faculties, although the response was limited. This was probably partly due to the short deadline and the complexity of the issue. DION's statement did not make a recommendation for alternative A, B or C, but pointed to advantages and disadvantages with all alternatives.

10.3 Letter to the faculties about introductory days

A letter (Ref 15/4491, "Vedrørende velkomstarrangement for nye stipendiater") was sent to the faculties on 2015-03-27. In the letter, DION asked to be included in the introduction activities of the faculties. DION also asked to be kept informed about who represents the temporarily employed scientific staff in the faculty board.

11 Information channels and social media

DIONs digital information channels are DION's own webpage, the internal pages of NTNU (Innsida), facebook and twitter. In addition, the newsletter was restarted during the board term.

To increase the security and ease of use, the board decided to move DION's the website to Wordpress platform. The work with moving the contents and creating the new webpage was done by Andreas Noteng. The new webpage was launched in April 2015.

The use of Innsida was increased during the board term, and around 40 messages were posted. So far the channel only has 39 followers. A request to the IT department was made in December to add the channel to the default channels for all new PhD candidates. This is still in process.

At the time of writing, DION's facebook page has 442 followers, up from 323 at the beginning of the board period. Around 50 posts have been published during the board period. DION has so far had a limited presence on twitter.

DION's newsletter was restarted October 2014. "DION news" has been sent out approximately once a month to the newsletter mailing list (*news@dion.ntnu.no*, formerly named *innkalling@dion.ntnu.no*). The mailing list currently has 189 subscribers

12 Finance

The financial year of DION follows the calendar year, and not the board period. This means that there is the full budget for 2014, and a partial budget for 2015.

Income 2014	15 000,00 NOK
Expenses 2014	11830,22 NOK
Yearly fees SIN	2000,00 NOK
Travel Expenses	0,00 NOK
Social Expenses	1572,00 NOK
Operational Costs	8258,22 NOK
TOTAL	3169,78 NOK
Capital DION per 01.01.2014	29 032,04 NOK
Capital DION per 01.01.2015	32 201,82 NOK

The following is the current budget status. Note that this is only a temporary account status as per end of March 2015.

Income 2015	15 000,00 NOK
Expenses 2015	NOK
Social expenses	3000 NOK
TOTAL	NOK
Capital DION per 01.01.2015	32201,82 NOK
Capital DION per 31.12.2015	NOK

13 Open points for the next board

- Look into ways of formalizing the collaboration with the faculty board representatives, for example a letter of intent.
- Continue the work on mapping the practices related to duty work at the faculties. The Tekna group at NTNU has expressed interest to be a partner in this work.
- Continue the work on mapping the practices related to the PhD candidates' working capital at the different faculties.
- Follow up on the work with the PhD handbook and the revision of the PhD web portal.
- Look into ways of funding future DION events

14 Appendix - Meeting dates

Date	Event
21.05.2014	Board transition workshop (present and previous board)
10.06.2014	Board meeting
21.08.2014	Board meeting
30.09.2014	Board meeting
11.11.2014	Board meeting
01.12.2014	Board meeting
23.01.2015	Board meeting
25.02.2015	Board meeting
13.04.2015	Board meeting
22.04.2015	Annual general meeting