

NorPEN executive committee

Skype-meeting 2/2020

14.30 CET, 24 February 2020

Present: Lotte Rasmussen (chair), Leena Saastamoinen (notes), Sirpa Hartikainen, Björn Pasternak, Olafur Einarsson, Hedvig Nordeng, Vera Ehrenstein, Carolyn Cesta, Morten Andersen (guest)

1. Welcome

Lotte welcomed all.

2. Common data model, Morten Andersen (development priority).

Morten Andersen talked about his experience with a common data model (CDM) he had been developing, which originally started as a part of one project in Sweden. Now this CDM has been utilized in several projects in Karolinska Institutet and Copenhagen university.

By the time the CDM has become more transparent and consistent. The main advantages of the CDM are that it standardizes data structure, helps to deal with heterogeneity in a consistent and sensible way and you don't have to do the programming several times.

There is a lot of interest about this data model. It would be useful to use the same CDM and same standardized programs and build on common experience of Nordic register data.

Challenge has been the maintenance. People ask whether they can borrow the SAS program. They may find and correct bugs and make other changes and this results in that the model may develop in different directions. Ideally, the model should be developed in a common open source effort.

Strategic discussion about the development is needed.

It was decided to include CDM in the program of the next NorPEN meeting (Stockholm) both as a general lecture and as a workshop for senior researchers.

Slides presenting the CDM are available from the EC members.

3. Accepting the minutes from last Skype meeting 30 Jan 2020.

The minutes were accepted after some final corrections.

4. NorPEN 2020 in Stockholm

Carolyn presented the current state of meeting preparations.

5. Next Skype meeting, chair: IS, notes: DK, Please remember to inform your substitute.

Next Skype meeting will be 27 April, 13-14 CET

The chair and the note-keeper for the TCs take turns by country: DK, NO, IS, SE and FI. The chair of one meeting will take notes at the next meeting.