

SRA-E: NORDIC

Society for Risk Analysis Nordic Chapter Newsletter

December 2015

A new regional chapter

In June 2015 SRA-Europe decided to create the regional chapter SRA-E: NORDIC.

The purpose with this chapter is to create opportunities for outstanding risk research and to strengthen both risk-informed policy making and risk research in Northern Europe. The chapter focus on the Nordic and Baltic region including Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden.

The SRA-E: NORDIC plan to act as a node for risk researchers, arrange a yearly conference, create a node for information on risk education, stimulate the creation of new risk courses and a risk research school.

The chapter has now elected a board working to fulfill the objectives in a stimulating way.



It is important to create stimulating opportunities for networking

A special objective of the regional chapter SRA-E: NORDIC is to promote risk research and knowledge and understanding of risk analysis techniques within the Nordic and Baltic countries

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The final panel debate covered what it means to be a risk researcher, why a nordic chapter and how to be useful in society.

The First Nordic Chapter Risk Conference completed

In November the First Nordic Chapter Risk Conference was organized at Lund University, Sweden. The theme was **The Future of Risk Analysis in the Nordic Countries**.

About 100 participated at the conference. During this lunch-to-lunch meeting there were 40 talks presented at four parallel sessions, six keynote lectures and a poster session.

The conference was covered in the local media, which highlighted the what it means to do research on risk and that society is concerned by many risks at the same time.

Sessions themes were Risk and responsibility • Framing risk • Risk perception • Quantifying risk and uncertainty • Managing evidence • Complex risk governance • Improving risk management by learning • Critical infrastructure protection • Improved response, recovery and safety • Climate change adaptation.

A great contribution came from the keynote speakers: Johannes Persson, Lund University, Sweden, Åsa Boholm, Gothenburg University, Sweden, Tomas Öberg, European CHemical Agency, Finland, Terje Aven, University of Stavanger, Norway, David Gee, Institute of Environment, Health and Societies, Brunel University, Ragnar Löfstedt, King's College London, UK.

Curious to know more:

www.lucram.lu.se/event/nordic-chapter-risk-conference

Attracting new people to risk

Regional conferences can be useful to attract new researchers to the risk field. The Lund conference was able to attract participants with close to zero experience of attending risk meetings. What was the trick?

We had a cross-disciplinary organizing committee and thereby non-overlapping networks, says Ullrika Sahlin.

We worked actively to encourage local research groups to attend, since the smaller effort to attend when the conference is close could convince a doubting potentially future risk researcher to come.

The meeting was short, lunch-to-lunch, reducing the “this takes too much time from me” barrier.

The meeting had a lot of content raising the opportunities that there was something for everyone.

Under-graduate students were invited to help out and attend for



The host for the conference

was Lund University Centre for Risk Assessment and Management (LUCRAM).

LUCRAM is since the 1990's a multi-disciplinary centre of excellence in risk.

As the topic risk is inherently cross-sectorial, several departments saw the need to organize multidisciplinary research in the risk and crisis management and to support education.

Today the LUCRAM board consists of 12 representatives from all faculties at the university.



Mingle after thoughtful keynotes delivered by Terje Aven and Tomas Öberg (behind).

Max Boholm - best oral presentation)
Linn Svegrup - best poster
Ullrika Sahlin, conference chair and president of SRA-E: NORDIC.

Keep the good spirit up

In order to motivate engagement and creativity the Nordic Chapter deliberately has a light structure.

This means for example that it has no financial responsibility. That is instead put on external hosts.

A regional chapter can contribute to strengthen the impact of events and get funding.

In this case, the conference in Lund was successfully funded by the Swedish research council Formas, Lund University and the Technical Research Institute of Sweden (SP).

We look forward to a long-lasting collaboration across disciplines and national borders.

Welcome to join the Business meeting of SRA-E: NORDIC at the SRA Europe Conference in Bath. UK, 20-22 June 2016!



Ullrika and Åsa Knaggård are happy since the statues got accepted at SRA meeting in Maastricht and they got a long list of emails for the SRA-E: NORDIC newsletter.

The Board of SRA-E: NORDIC constitute of

- Ullrika Sahlin, Centre of Environmental and Climate Research, Lund University, Sweden (President 2 years)
- Marja Ylönen, Technical Research Centre of Finland, Finland (President elect)
- Stian Antonsen, SINTEF, Norway
- Susanne Öhman, Mid Sweden University, Sweden
- Igor Kozine, Technical University of Denmark, Denmark
- Aistė Balžekienė, Sociology research at Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania

We still lack a student representative. Suggestions are welcome.

Contact info

The best way to receive information about the activities in the SRA-E: NORDIC is to subscribe to the newsletter list found at the homepage of SRA Europe.

Don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, information or great ideas.

Visit us on the web at www.sraeuorpe.org.

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