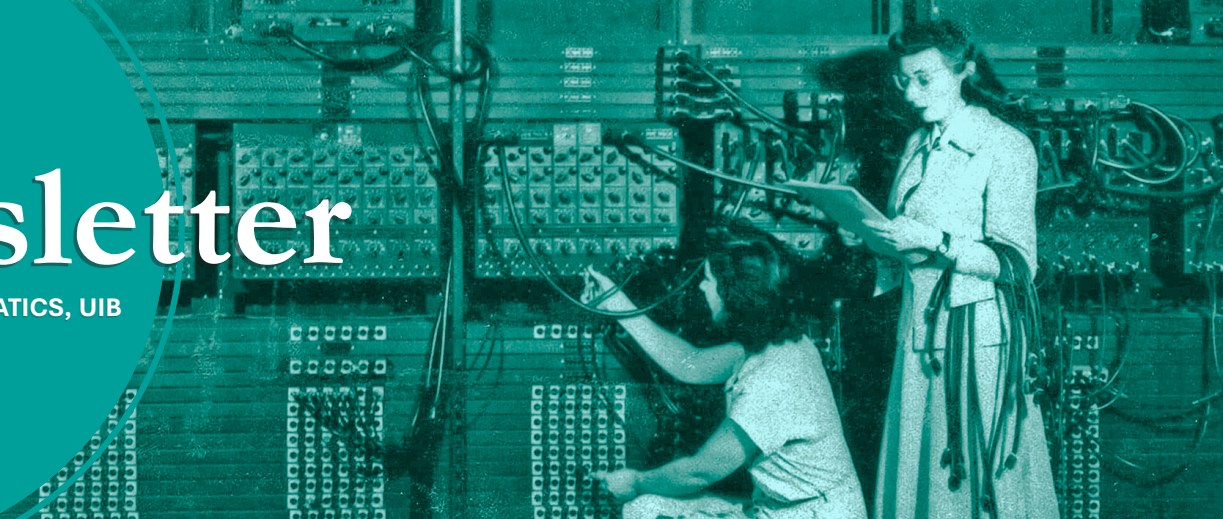


# Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATICS, UIB

No.03/2024, 02.02.2023



Editor-in-chief: Inge Jonassen. Editor: Randi Heggernes Eilertsen.  
Contributions or comments to the newsletter are very welcome.  
Old newsletters can be found [here](#).

## Dear Colleagues,

Wednesday this week was the deadline for submitting our self-assessment documents for the national [EVALMIT assessment](#) of research in mathematics and informatics performed by the Research Council of Norway. I want to thank all who have been involved in putting this together; it has been quite a bit of work!

In the three previous assessments (1992, 2002, 2012) we have done best among all informatics departments in Norway – in terms of the grades given to our research groups. We are of course hoping to continue this tradition, but this cannot be taken for granted. Whatever grades we get, I think the process we had so far is a good learning experience for me and for everybody involved. It is an opportunity to summarise and reflect on our activities and achievements, to see it all in the perspectives of the different aspects addressed by the assessment, and to look forwards. The process is focused on research, its quality and impact, as well as its relevance for the institution, the higher education sector and for society. As such it touches on education, but it does not go directly into assessing educational programs, student admission, completion rates etc. We will have to be patient waiting for the outcome: I expect it to come around March 2025. The outcome of the [EVALBIOVIT](#) assessment that CBU took part is said to come out March this year.

Wednesday this week was also [the first meeting](#) for the portfolio boards of the Research Council of Norway. I am member of the board for ground-braking research, which in terms of calls is responsible for

the FRIPRO and SFF. We had interesting discussions concerning how to process the applications that are now coming in all through the year, and how to communicate with the applicants in the best possible way. I look forward to working with the board and RCN over the coming four years. In this period, we are expected to hand out around 6 billion NOK to projects and centers – across all fields of science. I will of course not be involved in discussions regarding applications from our department (which I hope will be many and excellent!).

Thursday, I met with the board of [Bergen Chamber of Commerce and Industry](#). They have discussions about what role they can play towards their members when it comes to artificial intelligence. We had good discussions and I hope that we can develop more collaborations and joint efforts between the university, the chamber and local businesses in the years to come. Done in the right way, this will benefit both our research and education activities – as well as the local industry.

Sorry to go on about what filled my days this week, but hopefully some of this is of interest to you too ;-)

I wish you all a nice weekend!

Inge



## The Dean's Blog - Gunn Mangerud

[The Dean's blog](#) aims to inform us of ongoing work and processes at The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences. Her latest posts:

- [For MatNat har 2023 vært et innholdsrikt år](#)
- [Tanker etter allmøterunden](#)

# PhD updates



**There's a new PhD in town...**

## Ramin Hasibi

Ramin Hasibi defended his thesis "Deep Learning and Deep Reinforcement Learning for Graph Based Applications" on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January.

Congratulations, Ramin!



**Upcoming PhD defence**

## Håkon Tjeldnes

Håkon Tjeldnes will defend his thesis "Unraveling the Mysteries of the Translatome" on the 12th of February from 09:00 to 12:00 in the VilVite auditorium.

[Read the defence announcement here.](#)

# Welcome, new colleagues!



## Guro Akre

Guro Akre already has 17 years of experience in various administrative roles at UiB, most recently at Centre for Elderly and Nursing Home Medicine (SEFAS), where she still works part time. The rest of the time she is working with us as a project coordinator for LEAD AI, where she will be working full time from late March.

Welcome, Guro!



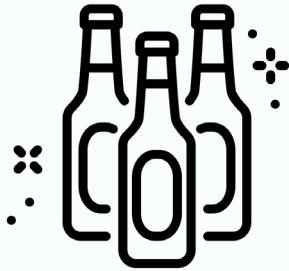
## Christoph Bottin

Christoph is originally from Germany, but he has spent three years in Norway working for ItsLearning and sixteen years working for German Historical Institute Washington DC. Now he is joining us CBU as a DevOps system administrator where he will be working on ELIXIR.

Welcome, Christoph!



# Current issues



## Lønningspils

Join us for our monthly staff meet-up on Thursday the 15th of February from 17:00 to 20:00 at the bar on the first floor, which can be found in the corner to the right when you exit the lifts.

To celebrate the very special fourth edition of the lønningspils, there will be free pizza!



## Darwin Day 2024

### Consciousness

The evolution of learning and the origins of consciousness

**Eva Jablonka**

Professor of Genetics, Tel-Aviv University

**Monday 12 February at 16:15 in Egget, Studentsenteret.**

Coffee and refreshments will be served from 15:45.

## The evolution of learning and the origins of consciousness

In this lecture, Professor Eva Jablonka, an evolutionary theorist and a geneticist, will address the question of the origins of animal mentality, and present an evolutionary approach for studying it.

Everybody is welcome! Light refreshments will be served from 15.45. The lecture starts at 16.15, on Monday 12th of February 2024 in Egget at Studentsenteret.

[Read more: The evolution of learning and the origins of consciousness](#)

## Women's self-defence course

We are once again offering a self-defence course for all female staff and students!

This year, the course will be done over two days on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of March.

Please sign up here before the 8<sup>th</sup> of March at 12:00: [Skjemaker for women's self-defence course](#)

12<sup>th</sup> of March:

15:00 Pizza in Skogen

15:30 Theory lesson

16:30 Walking as a group to Sammen city

17:00 to 19:00 Practice

14<sup>th</sup> of March:

17:00 Start of practice at Sammen city

19:15 Dinner somewhere nearby (our treat)

# University Library Open Science webinars

How to meet Open Science requirements

Introduction to data management plans (DMP)

How to make your data open & FAIR

Research data management in the active phase of research

09 Feb. 2024

08 Mar. 2024

05 Apr. 2024

03 May 2024

26 Jan. 2024

23 Feb. 2023

22 Mar. 2024

19 Apr. 2024

Finding & reusing research data

Make your research visible using researcher profiles

Introduction to data management plans (DMP)

Open Access – step by step

## Questions?

Contact the Library Research Support Team:

**Open publishing:**

[bora@uib.no](mailto:bora@uib.no)

**Research data:**

[research-data@uib.no](mailto:research-data@uib.no)

**Bibliometric services:**

[bibliometri@uib.no](mailto:bibliometri@uib.no)

Go to [uib.no/ub/kalender](https://uib.no/ub/kalender) for more information and to sign up!



## Konferanse: RESPONS

Universitetet i Bergen og Utenriksdepartementet har gleden av å invitere deg til dagskonferanse om Norges utenrikspolitikk, tirsdag 13. februar.

Tema for konferansen er «Global orden og demokratiske verdier i en tid med maktforskyvning og stormaktrivalisering». Utenriksminister Espen Barth Eide vil delta.

**Tid:** Tirsdag 13. februar, klokken 10.00–15.30

**Sted:** Universitetsaulaen i Bergen

Konferansen er en del av regjeringens landsomfattende konferanseserie Respons. Målet med Respons-konferansene er å skape et forum for innspill og debatt om norsk utenrikspolitikk; hvilke utfordringer står vi overfor, og hvilket handlingsrom har vi? [Les mer om konferanseserien på regjeringens nettsider.](#)

Respons-konferansen i Bergen vil forsøke å gjøre opp status for demokratiske verdier, rettsstaten og menneskerettighetene i verden i dag, og diskutere på hvilke utenrikspolitiske områder og hvor i verden norsk utenrikspolitikk kan utgjøre en positiv forskjell for disse verdiene. [Les mer, og se program for konferansen på uib.no.](#)



UNIVERSITETET I BERGEN



Utenriksdepartementet



UiB Ferd Career Centre supports doctoral candidates, postdoctoral fellows, researchers and associate professors. We offer a range of services designed to help you develop your career within or beyond the university.

[You can sign up for the UiB Ferd newsletter here.](#)

09.02.24: [Finding & reusing research data](#) (Course)

Registration deadline: 08.02.2024 at 12:00

12.02.24: [How to write a competitive CV for the Industry?](#) (Course)

Registration deadline: 09.02.2024 at 23:55

23.02.24: [Introduction to Data Management Plans \(DMP\)](#) (Course)

Registration deadline: 22.02.2024 at 12:00

08.03.24: [Make your research visible using researcher profiles](#) (Course)

Registration deadline: 06.03.2024 at 10:00

13.03.24: [How to create a solid elevator pitch for job opportunities or academic advancement](#) (Course)

Registration deadline: 11.03.2024 at 23:59

The UiB University Library and its [Digital Lab](#) offer a wide range of interesting courses and events – please find more information in the [calendar](#).

## International Newsletter

UiB has a newsletter made especially for internationals, where you can find useful tips and news about upcoming events.

If you have moved to Bergen from a different country, we highly recommend subscribing to the newsletter [here](#).

You can also follow the International Centre calendar to find events that are of particular interest to international staff and students.



## Vacant positions

- [PhD Research Fellow in Informatics – Cryptology](#)
- [PhD Research Fellows \(2 positions\) in Informatics: Algorithms, Logic and AI](#)

[See all open positions at UiB](#)

Please visit the [HSE page on uib.no](#) for info about health and safety efforts at our department, as well as info about your representatives

# Upcoming Funding Opportunities

Please contact research coordinator [Stefanie Meyer](#) if you plan to apply. All applications need to be approved by the department leadership before submission. By following the link, you can find out more about our [research support services](#).



## Forskningssrådet

**FRIPRO:** The Research Council of Norway has published information about the current FRIPRO (groundbreaking research) calls on their website.

- [Researcher Project for Experienced Scientists \(FRIPRO\)](#)
- [Researcher Project for Early Career Scientists \(FRIPRO\)](#)
- [Three-year Researcher Project with International Mobility \(FRIPRO\)](#)

Application deadline: open-ended



## Forskningssrådet

**Researcher projects (thematic calls):** The Research Council of Norway has published preliminary information about researcher project calls for [early career scientists](#), [experienced scientists](#) and [large interdisciplinary projects](#) for a variety of pre-defined topics.

Application deadline: 6 March 2024



## Forskningssrådet

**Support for events:** In 2024, there are also [funds](#) available within the portfolio of Enabling technologies!

Application deadline: open-ended



### Utrecht Network Young Researcher's Grant:

"This grant is intended for self-organized [mobility](#) at one of the Utrecht Network partner universities. Minimum length of stay 4 weeks (mobility is not restricted to semesters but may also take place during the holidays). The period of mobility must start between 1 May 2024- 31 March 2025."

Application deadline: 20 February 2024



**New north2north program:** North2north is the mobility program in the UArctic network. UiB sends one institutional application for n2n funding.

Administrative and scientific staff at UiB can apply for support for visiting n2n partners. In addition, one can apply for funds to invite employees from North American and Scottish n2n partners. For more information, please contact the study administration.

UiB application deadline: 1 March 2024



**New UiB ide:** «[UiB idé](#) gives employees and students the opportunity to apply for support to test and develop good innovation ideas.»

Application deadline: 19 April 2024



**New Klima og energiomstilling - utlysning av såkornsmidler og reisestøtte 2024:** Det lyses ut:

- Såkornsmidler til prosjektsøknader og utvikling av utdanningstilbud innen klima og energiomstilling. Søknadsfrist 15. mai 2024 kl. 14:00
- Reisestøtte for masterstudenter og ph.d.-kandidater. Søknadsfrist 16. februar kl. 12:00

Ta kontakt med Stefanie Meyer for full utlysningstekst og søknadsskjemaer.



**New Student Entreprenørskap (STUDENT):** Innovation Norway has opened a call to support [student entrepreneurship](#). The call is specifically targeting students that would like to start a business based on the knowledge they have acquired during their studies at a Norwegian university of university college.

Application deadline: 29 February 2024



**UTFORSK:** “The Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills announces up to NOK 90 million in funding to [educational partnerships](#) between higher education institutions in Norway and Brazil, Canada, China, India, Japan, South Africa, South Korea, and the United States of America (USA).”

Application deadline: 15 April 2024

**Peder Sather:** “The [Peder Sather Center](#) for Advanced Study supports projects carried out by researchers at UC Berkeley in collaboration with researchers from eight Norwegian universities. [...] Grants can support activities such as workshops, mini-conferences, virtual intellectual exchanges, the undertaking of exploratory and pilot studies, activities such as PhD student exchanges, longer-term stays for Principal Investigators, the collection and analysis of data, and other core research activities.”

Application deadline: 1 April 2024



**Forskningssrådet**

**Collaboration projects:** The Research Council of Norway has published preliminary information about [Collaborative Project to Meet Societal and Industry-related Challenges](#). “The purpose of the funding is to encourage research organisations to collaborate with relevant actors from the industry sector and society in order to develop new knowledge and build research competence that is necessary to address important societal challenges. We require you to collaborate with at least two relevant actors from outside the research sector.”

Application deadline: 13 March 2024



**Forskningssrådet**

**Knowledge-building projects:** The Research Council of Norway has published preliminary information about [Knowledge-building Project for Industry](#). “The purpose of the funding is to encourage research organisations to cooperate with trade and industry to generate knowledge that business and industry and society need to solve major societal and business challenges. We require the business sector to provide cash financing for the projects.”

Application deadline: 13 March 2024





## Forskningssrådet

**SFI:** “The [Centres for Research-based Innovation \(SFI\)](#) develop expertise that is important for innovation and value creation. Long-term research in close cooperation between R&D-active companies and prominent research groups will strengthen technology transfer, internationalisation and researcher training. The centres have been established for a maximum period of eight years. The SFI centre will be announced in 2024, where funding will be announced for at least eight centres through a two-stage application process.”

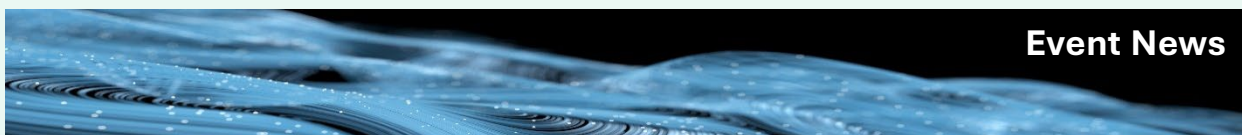
Call text to be published: April 2024  
Application deadline: 18 September 2024



## Forskningssrådet

**SFF:** The [Norwegian Centres of Excellence scheme \(SFF\)](#) “scheme gives Norway’s best researchers the opportunity to organise their research activities in centres that seek to achieve ambitious scientific objectives through collaboration. The research conducted at the centres must be innovative and have major potential to generate ground-breaking results that advance the international research frontier. [...] The next call for proposal by the SFF scheme is planned in 2025 and allocated towards the end of 2027.”

Open info meeting: Spring 2024  
Call text to be published: Early 2025



## Event News

### *Essential ERC - A very basic introduction to the European arena for excellent science*

“This is a short, very basic webinar for early stage and mature researchers who wants to know more about the grants offered to excellent researchers at all experience levels. What can you apply for, how do you apply, when and at what stage? After the presentation, there will be a Q&A.” Event date: 13 February 2024, 2-3 pm. [Registration deadline](#): 13 February 2024, 11 am.

### *NORA Annual Conference 2024*

“The [NORA Annual Conference](#) is an annual event that aims to gather the Norwegian research community within the field of Artificial Intelligence and create a platform where invited speakers and participants can share research, ideas, theories, models and new perspectives, and interact with peers from the field.” Save the date (3-4 June 2024, Kristiansand, Norway)!



**NORA Annual Conference Awards:** “The [NORA Annual Awards](#) are given to recognise exceptional efforts of individuals and actors in the Norwegian AI community throughout the year.”

Nomination deadline: 12 March 2024

# NORBIS activities

**Courses open for registration!**

- **Non-members can also register**

## Metabolic pathway analysis

**Time:** February 19th to March 1st, 2024. Please note that the course is two weeks.

**Place:** University of Bergen, Department of biomedicine

**Course responsible:** [Ines Heiland](#), [Mathias Ziegler](#), and [Suraj Sharma](#)

**Invited lecturers:** [Sascha Schäuble](#), HKI, Jena Germany

**Suggested amount of ECTS:** 10

**Number of participants:** max 20

**Registration form:** [HERE](#) **Registration deadline: February 5th**

### Course description

This course will provide an introduction to the computational analysis and reconstruction of both small and genome-scale metabolic networks. The main goal is to familiarize students with relevant state-of-the-art computational tools and databases, as well as to provide the students with hands-on experience in metabolic modelling approaches. Furthermore, we will cover the mathematical basis of constraint-based analysis of genome-scale metabolic models and provide a foundation for stability and control analysis of dynamic models.

Link to course site: <https://norbis.w.uib.no/metabolic-pathway-analysis-2/>

## Population genomics 2024

**Dates:** 18 – 22 March, 2024

**Location:** North University, Bodø

**Course responsible:** Joost Raeymaekers

**Registration:** Sign up before 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2024. [Please click here to visit the course page for registration and updated information.](#)

### Lecturers:

Joost Raeymaekers, Lars Martin Jakt, Irina Smolina, Alexander Jüterbock, George Antunes Pacheco, Emiliano Trucchi, Oscar Gaggioti, Anja Westram

**ECTS:** 5

**Course description:**



The 2024 course in Population Genomics at Nord University in Bodø brings together an international collection of lecturers and course participants to study techniques for the analysis of population genomic data. The course consists of a series of lectures, demonstrations and computer laboratories that cover theory and practice of population genomics analyses. Topics include population genetic theory, introduction to command line, data formats, coalescence/population demography, analysis of population structure, adaptive evolution and inferring selection, gene-environment interactions, landscape genomics, and the analysis of admixture/hybridisation. Both understanding theory and acquiring the skills to analyse data are part of the learning outcomes. There will be a local support team with teaching assistants.

For more information please see our website: <https://norbis.w.uib.no/populationgenomics2024/>

## Microbial comparative genomics

– phylogenetics, genome sequencing, genome annotation, antimicrobial resistance, comparative genomics

**Time:** April 8-12, 2024

**Place:** University of Bergen, Computational Biology Unit

**Course responsible:** [Anagha Joshi](#) and [Tom Michoel](#)

**Invited lecturers:** Dr. [Grigorios Amoutzias](#), [Marios Nikolaidis](#)

**Suggested amount of ECTS:** 5

**Number of participants:** Max. 20

**Registration form:** [Here](#) **Registration deadline:** March 8th.

### Course description

The course will be given over a week (5 days Monday-Friday) with lectures (34 hours including discussions) in the mornings and practical hands-on sessions in the afternoons. On the last day there will be a summing-up session where the students can provide feedback. The students will receive a reading list before the course and are expected to prepare well for the course. The students will do a project after the course and deliver a report within two weeks after finishing the course. Students must bring a laptop running a UNIX-Like operating system (any flavor of Linux, UNIX or Mac) to the course and will receive software installation instructions along with the reading list.

Link to course site: <https://norbis.w.uib.no/sequence-analysis-comparative-genomics/>

## Courses in collaboration with Digital Life Norway Research School

**-These courses are open for NORBIS members only**

### Science communication - How to make an award-winning poster

**When/Where:** 4-6 March 2024, Røros Hotel

**Registration deadline:** 31 January 2024

How can you create a poster that does not only attract attention, but will help you get connected and even get feedback on your research? In our workshop you'll learn to use the principles of science

communication in order to tell an engaging and memorable story about your research. From this story, you will create an attractive design that helps your audience understand your main message in a few seconds.

This 3-day workshop organized by DLN Research School, TNNN and NORBIS, provides young to mid-level researchers with the techniques and tools to effectively communicate their work in a poster presentation. It covers the basics of science communication, storytelling, and design principles. Throughout this combination of lectures, exercises, discussion and assignments, you will produce your own poster and pitch it to the group.

The course is all-inclusive. This means that the research schools will take care of hotel bookings, and travel costs will be reimbursed upon submission of a travel claim.

[Read more & register...](#)

### **Science communication - Pitch your science to any audience**

**When/Where:** 7 March 2024, NTNU Trondheim & online

**Registration deadline:** 7 February 2024

Writing a short pitch is often the best start to any kind of science communication. To help you get on with this, we aim this workshop at defining your message, goal and target audience. But we will also cover some ways to formulate your message clearly and explain why this is so important. This workshop helps you to communicate with your peers, but also with subsidy organizations, policy makers or a wider audience. At the end of the workshop, you'll have a short pitch about your research.

This hybrid workshop is organized by DLN Research School, TNNN, and NORBIS. Participants based in Trondheim are welcome to attend in person for the entire day, while those located elsewhere can participate digitally from 09:00 to ~12:00.

[Read more & register...](#)

## **UPCOMING ACTIVITIES: SAVE THE DATE!**

**Workshop: Comparing genomes: Genome assembly and annotation, and hypothesis testing in comparative genomics.**

**Time:** 1-5 April, 2024

**Location:** University of Oslo or University of Bergen

**Workshop responsible:** José Cerca (UiO), Ole Tørresen (UiO)

**Workshop description:** In this workshop, we will cover the technical principles of genome assembly, annotation, and genome comparison. We will explore the techniques related to genome sequencing, the software and strategies used for genome assembly and annotation. Following that, we will delve into comparative genomics, focusing on fundamental concepts such as genomic structural features (transposable elements, genes, centromeres), orthologs, and functional characterization of genes. Through this, participants will gain the necessary skills to test hypotheses in the field of comparative genomics.



For more information, visit our workshop website: <https://norbis.w.uib.no/activities/workshops/>

## **Workshop: Genealogies and Ancestral Recombination Graph**

**Time:** April/May 2024

**Location:** Drøbak Research Station (Tollboden)

**Workshop responsible:** José Cerca (UiO) and Ole Kristian Tørresen (UiO)

**Workshop description:** The Genealogies and Ancestral Recombination Graph workshop (GARG'w) is a comprehensive 3-day program designed to introduce participants to the fascinating world of population genomics and how recombination events shape genomes. This hands-on workshop will focus on utilizing the tskit environment, a powerful tool for simulating and analyzing genomic data (whole-genome resequencing data), to explore and understand complex inheritance patterns within populations. Join us for this immersive 3-day workshop to gain valuable skills and insights into the world of genealogies and Ancestral Recombination Graphics using tskit. Unlock the secrets hidden in genetic data and discover the historical events that have shaped the genetic ancestry of species and populations.

**In addition we have soft skills courses available that are organized with other national research schools. Please visit <https://norbis.w.uib.no/activities/transferable-skills/> for more information.**

### **Travel funding from NORBIS**

Are you NORBIS member and in need funding to go to an international course or conference? NORBIS are happy to announce that we have a limited fund available for travel for our members for these activities. If you like to know more, please visit our website: <https://norbis.w.uib.no/travel-funding-f...-and-conferences/>

### **Funding for arranging courses and workshops**

Do you have a course you like to organize under the NORBIS umbrella but in need of funding? Our call for courses is open now: <https://norbis.w.uib.no/activities/proposals/>

For more information, please see our webpage: <https://norbis.w.uib.no>