

# **NORDYRK - Nordic network for vocational education and training**



## **2021–2022 Activity Report**

### **Purpose of the Network and mission of the Steering Group**

The work of the steering group is based on the network's strategy document *NORDYRK Nordic Network for Vocational Education and Training - a strategy document (06/08/2021)*

Nordyrk is the Nordic research network on vocational education and training.

The purpose of Nordyrk is to promote Nordic co-operation in order to:

- Make visible, enhance and communicate the research and development efforts.
- Develop and enhance vocational education and vocational teacher education to meet future competence requirements as well as cultural and societal challenges.
- Create a meeting place for collaboration in research and development projects.
- Enhance the contacts and collaboration between universities, higher education institutions, schools, colleges, as well as both public and private enterprises.
- Provide research-based knowledge in educational policy processes and decisions.

The target groups are researchers, teacher educators, teachers and other stakeholders in vocational education and vocational teacher training, as well as authorities and decision makers. The network's main languages are the Scandinavian languages and English.

The target of the steering group is to:

- collaborate with the organizing university/college in planning and hosting the annual network conference,
- represent the entire network and actively ensure that issues of vocational pedagogy, vocational didactics and other relevant areas are brought up and discussed in order to develop knowledge and skills in the field,
- stimulate the formation of thematic networks with representatives from participating countries,
- market the network and its activities through Facebook and websites,
- be responsible for the network's joint finances, and look for partners who can help the operation of the network,
- be responsible for preparing activity plan and activity report.

### **Steering Group 2021–2022**

During the year, the steering group has consisted of three representatives from Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden respectively, and two representatives from Iceland. The steering group has a chairman and a vice-chairman. The group has held six meetings, including a two-day meeting at Linköping University in Norrköping in preparation for Nordyrk 2022 conference. The other meetings

have been held remotely. The meeting notes are kept on Nordyrk's website (see Steering Group activities 2021–2022, point 2)

### **Steering Group activities 2021–2022**

Based on the mandate, the steering group's plan for 2021–2022 has included five points. The work is presented below.

#### ***Planning for and hosting the Nordyrk Conference 2022***

According to the decision at the annual meeting in 2021, Nordyrk 2022 was carried out in cooperation with Linköping University. The steering group and representatives from Linköping University have planned the conference during the year. Information has subsequently been published on the website. The deadline for abstracts was 21 February (extended from 31 January). In total, abstracts for 74 presentations, 4 posters, 2 symposia and 1 workshop were received mainly from the Nordic countries, but also from outside the Nordic region, which means that the network is reaching an increasingly large audience. The abstracts deal with research (about 75%), development work (about 25%) or a combination of both. During the three days of the conference, five sessions interspersed parallel activities. The theme of the conference is Learning Environment in Vocational Education and Training which is primarily represented by three keynotes (Lene Tanggaard, Aalborg University and Design School Kolding, Denmark, Professor Madeleine Abrandt Dahlgren, Linköping University, Sweden; Associate Professor Camilla Björk-Åman, Nord University, Norway). The representatives of the steering group are responsible for dissemination information about the conference within their respective countries. In addition to higher education institutions, invitations have been sent to relevant authorities and organisations.

#### ***Create a repository of conference documents and a conference manual at [www.nordyrk.net](http://www.nordyrk.net)***

The minutes of the steering group, conference documents and procedures for planning and implementing the Nordyrk conference are now available and archived on an internal webpage. The steering group has log-in details for accessing the webpage. The aim of the archive is to facilitate the planning of conferences and to archive the work of the steering group.

#### ***Develop the structure of the website***

The website has a developed structure with four sections: Conferences, Journal, About Nordyrk and Contact. There are possibilities to add pages as needed. The language used at the website is mainly English. The steering group is responsible for the content of the website.

#### ***Develop Facebook (and other social media which is considered relevant) as an active place for dissemination of research and development projects, networks and other activities within Nordyrk***

The steering group has utilized Facebook page in order to actively disseminate relevant information and communicate about Nordyrk activities. The steering group has a specific responsibility to keep the page active.

#### ***Contribute to meeting places for presentation and discussion of research and development projects***

During the Nordyrk 2022 conference there are two initiatives for enhancing networking within Nordyrk.

1. *Networking for doctoral students.* In order to stimulate contacts between doctoral students and also more long-term contacts, and to make ongoing doctoral studies visible and disseminate them, the steering group is initiating a meeting for doctoral students with the intention of creating an internal Nordic doctoral network. The network can both stimulate and support

doctoral students, doctoral education and research on vocational education and training. Furthermore, the steering group proposes that a PhD student be assigned to be the contact person for the network and thus also be an adjunct in the steering group 2022–2023. Information about the PhD network and ongoing studies will be published on the website, and the Facebook page will be a place for information and communication. Three representatives from the steering group will chair the meeting during the conference. The meeting will be moved to the first day of the conference to facilitate further discussions during the conference.

2. *Symposium on school/teachers and researching/researcher collaboration.* To stimulate and strengthen collaboration in the form of practice-based research and development work, the steering group is organising a symposium on this theme. The symposium will be chaired by three representatives from the steering group. The symposium will present examples of national and local collaboration. Furthermore, forms of both stimulating and making visible the collaboration between vocational education/teachers and researchers will be discussed.