

NORDYRK - Nordic network for vocational education and training



2022–2023 Activity Report

1. 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.

2. Steering Group 2022–2023

During the year, the steering group has consisted of three representatives from Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Iceland respectively. The steering group has a chairman and a vice-chairman. The group has held six meetings (30.8., 5.10., 16.11., 29.3., 26.4., and 22.5.), and a two-day meeting

at Western Norway University of Applied Sciences (Høgskulen på Vestlandet, HVL) in Bergen, Norway, in preparation for Nordyrk 2023 conference (21.-22.2.2023). The other meetings have been held remotely. The meeting notes are kept on Nordyrk's website (see Steering Group activities 2022–2023, point 3).

3. Steering Group activities 2022–2023

Based on the mandate, the steering group's plan for 2022–2023 has included five points. The work is presented below.

Planning for and hosting the Nordyrk Conference 2023

According to the decision at the annual meeting in 2022, Nordyrk 2023 was carried out in cooperation with at Western Norway University of Applied Sciences. The steering group and representatives from Western Norway University of Applied Sciences have planned the conference during the year. Information has subsequently been published on the website. The deadline for abstracts was 15 February (extended from 31 January). Altogether, the programme includes 103 paper presentations, 6 posters, 1 symposium, 2 workshops received mainly from the Nordic countries, but also from outside the Nordic region. They present both research, and development projects. During the three days of the conference programme there are five slots for parallel sessions. During the sessions, up to eight presentations, symposia or other activities take place in parallel. The theme of the conference is *The role of 'Bildung' in vocational education and training and professional higher education*. The conference theme is addressed both by the three keynotes (associate professor, Dr. Grethe Nina Hestholm, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, Norway; professor dr. Philipp Gonon, University of Zurich, Switzerland; senior lecturer Dr. Ruhi Tyson, Stockholm University, Sweden) and several paper presentations during the conference. The representatives of the steering group have been 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 organizations.

Maintaining and updating the repository of conference documents and a conference manual at

www.nordyrk.net The minutes of the steering group, conference documents and procedures for planning and implementing the Nordyrk conference are 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.

Updating 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 utilization of relevant social media as an active place for dissemination of research and development projects, networks and other activities within Nordyrk

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

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

During the activity year 2022-23 the network for doctoral students has been adopted as part of the Nordyrk activities.

- *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 has had an assigned doctoral student contact person and vice-representative in the steering committee to enhance their position in the network and to create an internal Nordic doctoral network. The purpose of the doctoral student network is to both stimulate and support doctoral students, doctoral education and research on vocational education and training. Information about the PhD network has been published on the website. The doctoral students have also their own Facebook group, which is a place for information and communication. The doctoral students meet during the Nordyrk 2023 conference.