



## **Nordic research network on vocational education and training**

### *Strategy document*

The strategy document was adopted at the Annual General Meeting of 08 June 2021. The strategy document was checked and updated in spring 2024.

### **Background**

The NORDYRK network started in 2010, to stimulate and enhance Nordic research in the areas of vocational pedagogy and vocational didactics. Through its activities, the network has contributed to the establishment, development and dissemination of research and development projects both nationally and internationally. Vocational pedagogy and vocational didactics have over time been expanded to include other important areas within vocational education, vocational teacher education and the vocational teacher assignments.

Vocational education is of great importance for society and working life. The labour market, internships and expertise requirements are constantly changing, which requires changes to vocational education. Furthermore, decision-makers and authorities are in some cases contributors to organizational or substantive changes. Vocational education pupils/students include both young and adults, which means that the education may be of a different character, depending on its purpose and the target group. Vocational education is thus both more unique and complex than other educations.

Vocational pedagogical and vocational didactic issues are still relevant areas of research and development, but there are also other important fields or starting points, such as the importance of vocational education to individuals and working life in an inclusive and sustainable society. The focus on school development and practical research that has

developed in recent years also creates opportunities for new forms of collaboration between researchers, vocational teachers and vocational education. Within the Nordic region, there are a number of similarities and differences; for example, governance and organization, educational content and teaching methods, traditions and cultures. These similarities and differences create opportunities for Nordic co-operation. Today, the network has an important role in continuing to enhance research and development.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of NORDYRK is to use Nordic co-operation 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 contact and collaboration between universities, higher education institutions, schools, colleges, public and private enterprises.
- Provide research-based knowledge in educational policy processes and decisions.

### **Target group**

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.

### **Activities**

The network organizes a three-day conference every year. The network conference rotates between the Nordic countries. The conference is organised in collaboration with regional universities/colleges. These conferences present and discuss research and development that are relevant to the network. The conference is also a meeting place for planning joint research and development efforts and other collaboration.

The scientific journal *Nordic Journal of Vocational Education and Training* was initiated by the network. Linköping University is currently responsible for the publication, published online and via open access through Linköping University's Electronic Press:

<https://njvet.ep.liu.se/>

### **Steering Group**

The network's steering group consists of three representatives from each Nordic country, and two doctoral student representatives. The members of the steering group are suggested by a nomination committee, and elected for two years.

It is the duty of the steering group 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.

**Website**

<http://nordyrk.net/>.