



## Annual Report 2017

### NORENSE Council

Rudolf Steiner University College, Oslo

Waldorf University College, Stockholm

Snellman College, Helsinki

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## Foreword

NORENSE has since its foundation in 2008 promoted and supported research on Waldorf Steiner education, and sought to contribute to the knowledge base and legitimacy of the Nordic Waldorf Steiner higher educational institutions. Today's schools and educational practices are more and more informed by research. Still, very little research has until now been directed towards Waldorf Steiner education, and there is a strong need for all kinds of educational research; enquiring, evaluating, deepening and communicating the various aspects of Waldorf Steiner education.

Research can aid and initiate developments and new knowledge on all levels from kindergartens and schools to higher education and social therapeutic institutions. NORENSE aims at supporting qualified research that in its turn will provide insights and impulses for development to the different aspects of Waldorf Steiner education. The higher educational institutions are key factors here since they both disseminate relevant research to future and current practitioners, and also conduct research as part of their institutional policy and responsibility.

NORENSE is founded on the idea that education has an important role to play in achieving individual, cultural and ecological sustainability. NORENSE wants to take its share of the responsibility for an education in need of change and to promote an education of tomorrow that takes active part in developing sustainable knowledge, skills and life conditions. Waldorf Steiner education represents such an ethical attitude towards what it means to educate today's children and youth for their future. By promoting research and the Nordic Waldorf Steiner higher educational institutions, NORENSE want to take part in the further development of Waldorf Steiner education.

NORENSE is supporting individual and group research projects, as well as PhD and master students. In addition, NORENSE hosts a yearly seminar open to the public where supported projects and other relevant research topics are presented. By hosting yearly open seminars about research on Waldorf Steiner education, NORENSE aims at sharing research insights to a broader public. Publishing supported research projects both in popular and scholarly media belongs to the NORENSE strategy of making research-based insights more relevant and accessible.

NORENSE receives its funding resources mainly from the Waldorf school and kindergarten federations in the Nordic countries. The NORENSE Council decides on the yearly funding and are responsible for the yearly seminars and network meetings. The council consists of representatives from the Nordic Waldorf Steiner higher educational institutions; Rudolf Steiner University College (RSUC), Waldorf University College (WUC) and Snellman College,

representatives from the parent, kindergarten and school federations and representatives from three Nordic universities. NORENSE is an ideal association.

In the Annual Report for 2017, there is a presentation of NORENSE activities this year, an overview of research projects funded, a presentation of the accounts and a summary of the most important issues that were dealt with on the NORENSE Council meetings.

NORENSE Council wishes to thank all financial contributors for the grants made to NORENSE in 2017.

25<sup>th</sup> of April 2018

*Dagny Ringheim*

Rudolf Steiner University College

Norway

*Caroline Bratt*

Waldorf University College

Sweden

*Marja-Leena Ilmonen*

Snellman College

Finland

## NORENSE 2017 An overview

2017 has been an active year for NORENSE. We granted totally seven applications in 2017. We are happy that one of our scholarship holders finished his Phd in November 2017. This is of great importance to our institutions. There have been two meetings in the NORENSE Council, and two NORENSE conferences were arranged. We have been working with the legal structure of Norensen and revising the statutes. NORENSE council is now an ideal association.

## Members of the NORENSE Council in 2017

Leadership: Caroline Bratt (WLH) and Arve Mathisen (RSUC)

Representatives from the three Nordic Steiner Waldorf higher educational institutions:

RSUC: Arve Mathisen

WUC: Caroline Bratt and Leif Tjärnstig

Snellman College: Marja-Leena Ilmonen and Markku Niniivirta

Representatives from the federations:

Jens Uwe Korten, Norway

Britta Drakenberg, Sweden

Pia Pale, Finland

External academic representatives:

Dag Øystein Nome, University of Agder, Norway

Eva Siljehag, University of Stockholm, Sweden

Jan Erik Mansikka, University of Helsinki, Finland

Pia Pale and Britta Drakenberg resigned in November 2017 and were replaced by Pasi Salmela and Cia Edsberger.

## NORENSE Council meetings in 2017

The NORENSE Council meetings in 2017 were held at Snellman College in Helsinki on 8<sup>th</sup> of April 2017 and at RSUC on 27<sup>th</sup> November. At the Council meeting in March, thirteen applications for funding were evaluated and decisions made. In November an application from RSUC was decided upon.

Important issues discussed at both meetings were the legal status of NORENSE and the future financing of NORENSE.

It was necessary to re-organise the legal structure of NORENSE. A lawyer recommended turning NORENSE into an ideal association. New statutes were presented and were finally decided upon in April 2018. Members will be:

- two representatives from each of the participating institutions,
  - in addition, the principal of RSUC,
  - one representative from each of the Steiner Waldorf federations in Norway, Sweden and Finland,
  - and three external members from other academic institutions, ideally one from each of the three countries. Each of the participating institutions appoint one of the external members.
- Each participating institution, each participating federation and each external member has one vote. The representatives appoint the NORENSE Council leadership among themselves. The representatives' board of office is four years.

Two open conferences were held in connection with the council meetings:

The 7<sup>th</sup> of April Snellman College arranged an open NORENSE conference titled A pedagogy - worth of Research. Lectures/presentations from teachers at RSUC and external lecturers:

**Arve Mathisen:** Importance of research Waldorf education

**Pauline von Bonsdorff:** Aesthetics in childhood: art and play in an existential perspective.

**Jan-Erik Mansikka:** What should be studied in Waldorf-education?

The conference at RSUC on 27<sup>th</sup> of November dealt with issue of the future of Nordic Waldorf Steiner Educational research. Invited were researchers within our network and potential phd-students. The seminar started with presentations and there was there after an open discussion.

Presentations:

**Eli Tronsmo:** From waldorf teacher to researcher

**Henrik Holm:** Developing research competence

**Caroline Bratt:** Research and the Nordic higher Waldorf Steiner educational institutions

## Funded research projects

In this part projects funded in 2017, projects fulfilled in 2017 and projects in progress are listed.

### New research projects funded by NORENSE in 2017

NORENSE received thirteen applications in April and one in November. Seven applications were granted in April and one in November. The total sum was NOK 223 000 NOK + 100 000 NOK.

#### Funded research projects

**Bengt Ahlin**, Sweden, received NOK 25000 + 12000 NOK for writing an article based on his master thesis.

**Frode Barkved**, Norway, received NOK 25000 + 12000 NOK for writing an article based on his master thesis.

**Maria Birnbaum**, Sweden, received NOK 25000 + 12000 NOK for writing an article based on his master thesis.

**Marius Wahl Gran**, Norway, received NOK 25000 + 12000 NOK for writing an article based on his master thesis.

**Frode Thorjussen**, Norway, received NOK 25000 NOK for preparing a phd-application.

**Ruhi Tyson**, Sweden, received NOK 25000 NOK for writing an article.

**Hanne Weisser**, Norway, received NOK 25000 NOK for writing an article.

**RSUC**, Norway, received 100 000NOK for a project aiming at preparing and establishing a second study option in the master programme. This study option will be termed Nature, Ecology and Sustainability and comes in addition to the one in educational research.

#### Master scholarships

We decided not to offer scholarships to RSUC master students.

### Research project obligations fully or partly fulfilled in 2017

During 2017, the following projects funded by NORENSE resulted in publications:

**Mathisen, Arve and Birkeland, Ingrid.** (2017). Læreren som rytmekunstner - Om variasjon og gode overganger i undervisningen. *Steinerskolen* (4).

**Niinivirta, Markku.** (2017). Fronesis opettajankoulutuksen taustafilosofiassa: Snellman-korkeakoulusta valmistuneiden steinerkoulun luokanopettajien kertomuksia tiestään opettajuuteen (The concept of phronesis as a background philosophy of teacher education: Narratives by Snellman College's Waldorf Steiner class teacher student alumni with

reference to their individual paths toward the profession). (PhD). Tampere: Tampere University Press.

For projects fully fulfilled before and after 2017, see the web page.

## NORENSE funding from 2010 – 2017

### Projects in progress

**Eeva Raunela** was in 2012 granted the sum of 31.200 EURO for her PhD project about teaching English in Waldorf Steiner Upper Secondary School in Finland. Her PhD has been given to the evaluation committee and she is awaiting a date for the defence of her dissertation.

**Leif Tjærnstig** was in 2013 granted the sum of 150.000 NOK to his PhD project. Report: <http://www.norence.net/projects.php>. The project continues in 2015. The dissertation is planned for 2018.

**Marie Kolmos** was in 2013 granted the sum of 250.000 DK to her PhD about *Mindfulness in the Waldorf Steiner Schools*. The project continues in 2016.

**RSUC**, Norway, received NOK 200.000 for a project aiming at developing and reorganizing the teacher education in 2016. The project continued in 2017 and is now in an ending phase in which a collaboration and joint degree with the University College of Oslo will be formalised in 2018.

## Economy and Budget

NORENSE is made possible due to donations from the Waldorf Steiner school and kindergarten federations in the Nordic countries and donations from the Ahtola foundation in Finland. In addition to the donations from the federations and Ahtola, which have been used to support research projects, none of the participants in the NORENCE Council receives any payments for the work done. RSUC, WUC and Snellman cover travel expenses for their representatives.

RSUC, as the hosting institution for NORENSE, is reimbursed for the NORENSE Research Director and administration services. The Ahtola contribution was, like in earlier years, transferred to the research journal Research on Steiner Education (RoSE).

The Norwegian federation decided that from 2017 350 000 NOK of the Norwegian contribution to Norence in the future shall go to RSUC to support a phd-student. Norence must transfer the sum yearly. The 2016 contribution from Steinerskoleforbundet for 2016 was received in 2017 and is therefore included in 2017.

The Finance Manager at RSUC, Steinar Døhlen, manages the economy for NORENSE.

## Accounts 2014-2017

		2017 budget	2017	2016 whole year	2015 whole year	2014 whole year
Contributions		1 305 000,00	1 322 954,43	223 886,00	783 150,50	839 804,38
Bank interest		-	165,98	206,45	4 300,71	6 889,93
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>1 305 000,00</b>	<b>1 323 120,41</b>	<b>224 092,45</b>	<b>787 451,21</b>	<b>846 694,31</b>
Scholarships, new		550 000,00	100 000,00	210 900,00	432 943,45	282 739,26
Scholarships, committed		267 000,00	242 818,95	188 600,00	-	
Fixed contribution SH			350 000,00			
Network seminar, net		-	-	21 465,00	-	
RoSE		45 000,00	50 000,00	-	43 893,83	-
Travel / Meeting Costs		25 000,00	3 600,00	19 741,38	30 425,57	17 604,00
Fees, Web Costs		-	43 750,00	-	11 848,01	49 452,33
RSUC Admin Costs		75 000,00	75 000,00	75 000,00	-	157 890,39
Research Director		70 000,00	70 000,00	70 000,00	-	140 000,00
Bank charges		1 000,00	688,00	447,00	715,00	646,52
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>1 033 000,00</b>	<b>935 856,95</b>	<b>586 153,38</b>	<b>519 825,86</b>	<b>648 332,50</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>		<b>272 000,00</b>	<b>387 263,46</b>	<b>-362 060,93</b>	<b>267 625,35</b>	<b>198 361,81</b>
Bank 1	01.01		395 181,05			
Bank 2	01.01		160 900,42			
<b>Total bank</b>	<b>01.01</b>		<b>556 081,47</b>			
Bank 1	31.12		744 436,60			
Bank2	31.12		198 908,33			
<b>Total bank</b>	<b>31.12</b>		<b>943 344,93</b>			
Change bank			387 263,46			

## Legal status of NORENSE

### Short historical background

In March 2008 representatives from RSUC, WLH and Snellman college signed a letter of intent. The three institutions recognized a need to develop a Nordic research culture connected to Waldorf education and that this aim should be worked upon within a Nordic collaboration and network. Such a collaboration also aimed at through such work support sustainable institutions within waldorf education. The institutions considered it vital that the pre-schools and schools were included in the work via the federations.

In February 2009, the first NORENSE network-meeting took place in Stockholm. In 2010 the NORENSE council was formally established and with that more formalized statutes and criteria for the work were decided upon. We had a construction in which RSUC hosted NORENSE within its organisation. It was also in 2010 that we could grant the first scholarships.

The council consisted, from the beginning, of representatives from the three institutions and federations. After a few years we decided to invite external academic delegates in the council.

### New legal body and statutes

In 2016 it became clear that NORENSE must find a new legal organisation and status. New statutes were written, and they became finally decided upon in April 2018. Although this was done in 2018 we have included the new statutes in this report. NORENSE is from now an ideal association. RSUC is currently the business executive, which means that the administration is handled by RSUC and financed by NORENSE. The members appoint one or two leaders amongst them. Since March 2017 Arve Mathisen and Caroline Bratt have shared leadership.

# STATUTES FOR THE NORENSE Council

NORENSE Council – Nordic Research Network for Steiner Education

17<sup>th</sup> April 2018

## 1. *Vision and purpose*

NORENSE Council is an ideal association established by the three Steiner Waldorf higher educational institutions; Steinerhøgskolen (Rudolf Steiner University College, RSUC) in Norway, Waldorflärrarhögskolan (Waldorf University College in Sweden), and Snellman Korkeakoulu (Snellman-College) in Finland. NORENSE Council serves the development of a research culture in Steiner Waldorf education within the Nordic countries. The purpose is to develop and stimulate research, and to raise and distribute research funding. NORENSE Council aims at contributing to the development of the participating higher educational institutions by promoting relevant research, development projects, and academic collaboration. The general task of NORENSE Council is to serve this vision and purpose. This task includes:

- support research, research collaboration and research publications relevant to Steiner Waldorf education in the Nordic countries,
- raise funds for research and development work in Steiner Waldorf Education,
- allocate research funds and give financial support to research and development projects,
- report on supported research and development projects,
- contribute to developing connections between research and educational practice within Nordic Steiner Waldorf education,
- contribute to the academic development of and collaboration between the participating institutions,
- support PhD students connected to the participating institutions, and
- administer the NORENSE webpage.

## 2. *Legal framework*

NORENSE Council is managed by a business executive in accordance with the decision of the annual meeting. The business executive is currently Rudolf Steiner University College Norway.

To ensure independence, NORENSE Council shall lead separate accounts and keep their funds separate from the RSUC. All donations to NORENSE Council shall be placed on a separate account.

## 3. *Members and voting rights*

Members in the NORENSE Council are:

- two representatives from each of the participating institutions,
- in addition, the principal of RSUC,
- one representative from each of the Steiner Waldorf federations in Norway, Sweden and Finland,
- and three external members from other academic institutions, ideally one from each of the three countries. Each of the participating institutions appoint one of the external members,
- the three institutions and the three federations should appoint one deputy member each.

Each participating institution, each participating federation and each external member has one vote.

The representatives appoint the NORENSE Council leadership among themselves.

The representatives' board of office is four years.

**4. Annual meeting**

The first meeting of the calendar year constitutes the annual meeting. The annual meeting, is the highest authority of the NORENSE Council.

**5. Voting at the annual meeting**

Amendments to the statutes of NORENSE Council, requires a 2/3 majority. Decisions regarding funding and other reconciliations require simple majority.

**6. The annual meeting's tasks**

The annual meeting's tasks consist of deciding on budget and going through current accounts, deciding on funding and awarding scholarships in addition to other tasks mentioned in the meeting notice.

**7. Extraordinary Council meetings**

Extraordinary NORENSE Council meetings are held when a member demands it. Extraordinary NORENSE Council meetings is convened with at least 14 day's notice.

**8. Accountant**

The NORENSE Council shall have a certified public accountant selected by the annual meeting. To ensure independence, the accountant shall be replaced at least every eight years.

**9. Funding**

Funding shall be made as provided in *NORENSE Aims and criteria for funding*. Payments of NORENSE funding can only be made via an invoice from institutions or registered firms.

**10. Resolution**

Resolution of the NORENSE Council can only be processed at the annual meeting and require at least 2/3 majority. The decision must be repeated on an extraordinary Council meeting 3 months later.

In the event of a resolution, the funds of the Council shall be shared equally among the three founding institutions, Steinerhøyskolen (Rudolf Steiner University College, RSUC) in Norway, Waldorfläroarhögskolan (Waldorf University College in Sweden), and Snellman Korkeakoulu (Snellman-College) in Finland.

## NORENSE web pages updated

The NORENSE web pages were thoroughly updated in 2015 with new text on almost all its categories and was kept updated in 2017. The home page now reflects the present status of NORENSE and gives a good introduction to both applicants and visitors seeking information and recent publications. Here you can also find aims and criteria for funding. Arve Mathisen continues to take care of the NORENSE web site at no cost. Have a look at the updated NORENSE home page here: <http://www.norense.net/>.



## Research on Steiner Education (RoSE)

The journal Research on Steiner Education (RoSE) is an online, bilingual (English and German) peer-reviewed academic journal with the purpose of serving the theoretical and practical development of Steiner Waldorf education in ways that are relevant to the contemporary globalised world. RoSE wishes to establish links and dialogues between Waldorf Steiner Education and other alternative as well as mainstream educational discourses and practices. The journal publishes articles based on empirical as well as on theoretical or philosophical research. NORENSE supports RoSE financially and has also given scholarships for writing articles published in RoSE. RoSE web site: <http://www.rosejournal.com/index.php/rose>

### Further information

For further Information about NORENSE, the annual Reports 2010 – 2017, an overview over funded projects, events, publications, relevant links, etc., go to the NORENSE website: <http://www.norense.net/>

*This report was written by Caroline Bratt and Arve Mathisen.*