



Annual Report 2015

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 are 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 managed at RSUC in Norway, and Anne-Mette Stabel is its research director. RSUC carries the legal, organisational and economic responsibilities for NORENSE.

In the Annual Report for 2015, 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 2015.

7th of March 2015

Anne-Mette Stabel

Research Director

Dagny Ringheim

Rudolf Steiner University College

Norway

Caroline Bratt

Waldorf University College

Sweden

Marja-Leena Ilmonen

Snellman College

Finland

NORENSE 2015 An overview

2015 has been an active year for NORENSE. Five new research projects were funded and two master scholarships given. Three earlier NORENSE projects resulted in altogether three academic articles and one book publication and in 2015. There have been two meetings in the NORENSE Council, and one NORENSE Seminar was arranged. The NORENSE web site is renewed, and new aims and criteria for funding were established.

Members of the NORENSE Council in 2015

Research Director: Anne-Mette Stabel, RSUC

Representatives from the three Nordic Steiner Waldorf higher educational institutions:

RSUC: Bente Edlund and Arve Mathisen

WUC: Caroline Bratt and Leif Tjärnstig

Snellman College: Marja-Leena Ilmonen and Eeva Raunela

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

In 2016, Eeva Raunela will represent the Finish federation and Markku Niniivirta will take her place representing Snellman College.

NORENSE Council meetings in 2015

The NORENSE Council meetings in 2015 were held at WUC in Stockholm 11th of March and at Snellman College in Helsinki 20-21st of November. At the Council meeting in March, all applications for funding and master scholarships were evaluated and decisions made. It was further decided that master scholarships will be paid for one year at the time, and that the number of such scholarships will be limited to maximum three for 2016.

The 15th of March WUC arranged an open NORENSE seminar with lectures/presentations from two supported projects:

Fabio Bento: Complexity and change in Waldorf schools: A narrative study into perceptions of decision-making processes.

Arve Mathisen: Education in Time: A Nordic research project studying time, timing and temporality in education.

The meeting at Snellman in November dealt primarily with the NORENSE aims and criteria for funding, and possible recommendations for future research projects. The council decided to recommend applications for research within the field of Waldorf educational didactics, both related to particular subjects and on a general level. Action research projects will likewise be prioritised.

Short reports from already funded projects were given. In addition, three research projects were presented and discussed, two of them partly funded by NORENSE:

Marja-Leena Ilmonen: Extending Personal Relation to the Nature: Visual Art Teacher Students Experiences and Reflections about Qualitative Nature Observation, and Framtidens Människa: Gyllenberg and Snellman College Symposium 2015.

Eeva Raunela: The Erasmus project: “Acknowledging Creative Thinking Skills”, and The Finnish Curriculum (National and Waldorf) project, where Eeva partly builds her contributions on her NORENSE supported PhD project.

Arve Mathisen, Caroline Bratt and Markku Niniivirta: Education in Time.

Research project obligations fulfilled in 2015

During 2015, three NORENSE funded projects were completed or resulted in academic publications:

Bente Edlund received NOK 40.000 NOK in 2010 and NOK 66.000 in 2011 to a book project on early childhood education. The book was published at the end of 2015:

Edlund, Bente & Skeie, Ingvild Thurmann-Nielsen (Red.). (2015). *Steinerpedagogikk i førskolealderen: En artikkelsamling*. Oslo: Rudolf Steinerhøyskolen. [Link to the book](#).

Fabio Bento received NOK 100.000 in 2014 for the project “Complexity and change in Waldorf schools: A narrative study into perceptions of decision-making processes” which resulted in this publication:

Bento, Fabio. (2015). Complexity and change in Waldorf schools: A narrative study into perceptions of decision-making processes. *Research on Steiner Education (RoSE)*, 6(2), 78-94. [Link to article](#).

Arve Mathisen received NOK 116.000 NOK in 2014 for the project “Education in Time” which resulted in these publications:

Mathisen, Arve. (2015). Rhythms in Education and the art of life: Lefebvre, Whitehead and Steiner on the art of bringing rhythmical transformations into teaching and learning – Part I. *Research on Steiner Education (RoSE)*, 6(2), 52-67. [Link to article](#).

Mathisen, Arve. (2015). Rhythms as a pedagogy of becoming: Lefebvre, Whitehead and Steiner on the art of bringing rhythmical transformations into teaching and learning – part II. *Research on Steiner Education (RoSE)*, 6(2), 52-67. [Link to article](#).

“Education in Time” continues, and one or two more academic publications are expected in addition to popular articles in the Nordic Waldorf Education magazines.

New research projects funded by NORENSE in 2015

NORENSE received nine applications for funding research and five applications for master study scholarships in 2015. Five of the research applications were granted funding by NORENSE. Three master scholarships were given, but only two of the applicants started at the RSUC master programme.

Funded research projects

Bo Dahlin, Sweden, received NOK 10.000 for attending a research conference on the philosophy of education. The presented paper and its later publication should be awarded RSUC.

Torbjørn Eftestøl, Norway, received NOK 80.000 supporting his research project “Phenomenology of audial experience in music education”.

Markus Lindholm, Norway, received NOK 60.000 supporting his research project “Brain development, screen use and deep learning”. Marcus Lindholm has later informed NORENSE that he has postponed his research project. It was decided that if he postpones it more than a year, he must reapply for funding.

Ruhi Tyson, Sweden, received NOK 20.000 supporting his research project “Practice-oriented research into teacher education”.

Renate K. Østegaard, Norway, received NOK 100.000 supporting her research project “When 5-year olds are the oldest in kindergarten - The effect of lowered age of school entrance on the group dynamics during playtime in Waldorf Kindergartens in Norway”.

Master scholarships

Kristina Berg, Sweden, was awarded NOK 65400 over three years. NOK 21800 was be paid this year and further payments will be made the next two years.

Maria Linden, Sweden, was awarded NOK 65400 over three years. NOK 21800 was be paid this year and further payments will be made the next two years.

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

Contributions to NORENSE

		2015 whole year
Steinerskoleforbundet		518 000
Steinerbarnehageforbundet		66 600
Waldorfskolefederasjon		122 000
Steinerkasvatuksen		34 468
Rudolf Steinerskoler Danmark		
Ahtola (Rose)		42 083
TOTAL		783 151

Accounts 2014-2016

		2015 whole year	2014 whole year
Contributions		783 150.50	839 804.38
hereof Steinerskoleforbundet		518 000.00	468 133.00
Bank interest		4 300.71	6 889.93
Total Income		787 451.21	846 694.31
Scholarships, new		432 943.45	282 739.26
Scholarships, comitted			
Network seminar, net			
RoSE		43 893.83	-
Travel Costs		30 425.57	17 604.00
Web Costs		11 848.01	49 452.33
RSUC Admin Costs 2013-2015		-	157 890.39
Research Director 2014-2015		-	140 000.00
Bank charges		715.00	646.52
Total Expenditure		519 825.86	648 332.50
Net Profit		267 625.35	198 361.81
Bank 1	01.01	-0.04	
Bank 2	01.01	650 517.09	
Total bank	01.01	650 517.05	
Bank 1	31.12	793 614.43	
Bank2	31.12	124 527.97	
Total bank	31.12	918 142.40	
Change bank		267 625.35	

NORENSE funding from 2010 – 2014

Projects in progress

Astrid Sundt was in 2010 granted 36.000 NOK for a project about importance of how the time is used and organised in Kindergarten in early childhood. The project has been postponed.

Markku Niinivirta was in 2012 granted 6000 € to complete his PhD project with the title: *The Aristotelian Aspect of Phronesis and its Connection to the Teacher Education at Snellman*. The project continues in 2015.

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 Tjärnstig was in 2013 granted the sum of 150.000 NOK to his PhD project. Report: <http://www.noreNSE.net/projects.php>. The project continues in 2015.

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 2015.

Arve Mathisen was in 2014 granted the sum of 116.000 NOK for the project Education in Time. Two articles were published in 2015. Intermediate report at NORENSE Website: <http://www.noreNSE.net/projects.php>. The project continues in 2015.

Sara Frödén was in 2014 granted the sum of 70.000 NOK to write an article: *Food, rhythm and senses. The mealtime in Waldorf kindergarten as an enjoyable sense-experience*, based on her PhD thesis. The project continues in 2015.

New aims and criteria for funding

At the NORENSE meeting in November, the council members agreed on a set of new formulations for the NORENSE aims and criteria for funding. Arve Mathisen had provided a suggestion for the updated texts and facilitated the process until consensus was reached. These are the new formulations provided on the NORENSE web site:

NORENSE Aims

- Contribute to development of the research culture within Nordic Steiner Waldorf education
- Support research¹, research collaboration and research publications relevant to Steiner Waldorf education in the Nordic countries

¹ Research is here understood as projects being conducted or supervised by a person with a PhD or equivalent competence.

- Contribute to developing connections between research and educational practice within Nordic Steiner Waldorf education
- Contribute to development of the participating higher educational institutions (this can be through shared research programmes, collaboration in institutional development, furthering Steiner Waldorf adult education, contributing to research based lecturing, etc.)
- Support PhD students connected to the three participating higher educational institutions

Criteria for funding

To receive funding, projects should to be in agreement with the NORENSE aims. The NORENSE Council will further evaluate applications according to the following criteria:

Relevance

An important criterion for receiving funding is the relevance of the proposed research project to educational practice in today's Nordic Steiner Waldorf education. Recommended themes, if suggested on the NORENSE web page, will get priority. Priority will be further be given to projects that connect Steiner Waldorf education to research, practices and discourses on education in general.

Academic rigour

Research applications funded by NORENSE should display academic rigour. Priority is given to applications that prove to be conducted within a research context that secures this. The chosen theoretical and methodical approaches should be clearly described and related to the research question(s). Priority will be given to applications that display reflexivity, academic insight and a comprehension of the proposed research methods.

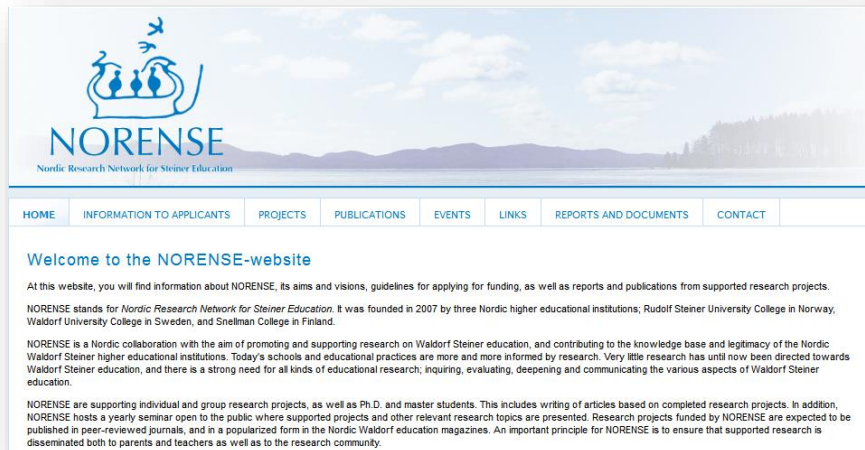
Research collaboration

Priority will be given to research projects that promote collaboration. This can be collaborative projects between researchers from the Nordic countries, collaboration between educators and researchers, or action research projects. Projects are further encouraged where researchers collaborate from different fields within the larger community of educational research. All forms of collaboration between the three participating higher educational institutions will receive high priority

NORENSE web pages updated

The NORENSE web pages have been thoroughly updated with new text on almost all its categories. The home page now reflects the status of NORENSE in 2015 and gives a good introduction to both applicants and visitors seeking information and recent publications. Arve Mathisen has taken over the administration 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.

RoSE web site: <http://www.rosejourn.com/index.php/rose>

Further information

For further Information about NORENSE, the annual Reports 2010 – 2014, an overview over funded projects, events, publications, relevant links, etc., go to the NORENSE website:

<http://www.norense.net/>

This report was written by Arve Mathisen.