



## Annual Report 2016

### 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 2016, 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 2016.

8<sup>th</sup> of April 2017

*Dagny Ringheim*

Rudolf Steiner University College

Norway

*Caroline Bratt*

Waldorf University College

Sweden

*Marja-Leena Ilmonen*

Snellman College

Finland

## NORENSE 2016 An overview

2016 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 2016

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

Eeva Raunela resigned during 2016 and will be replaced with Markku Niniivirta.

## NORENSE Council meetings in 2016

The NORENSE Council meetings in 2016 were held at RSUC in 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2016 and at WUC in Stockholm 18<sup>th</sup> of March and at Snellman College in Helsinki 20-21<sup>st</sup> of November. At the Council meeting in March, all applications for funding and master scholarships were evaluated and decisions made.

The 13<sup>th</sup> of March RSUC arranged an open NORENSE seminar titled Art in Education with lectures/presentations from teachers at RSUC and external lecturers:

**Øyvind Varkøy:** What is music good for?

**Mary Barrat Due:** Can your body sing? The Integrated Voice.

**Torbjørn Eftestøl:** Phenomenology of Audial Experience in Music Education

**Hanne Weisser:** Why do we teach music in Steiner Waldorf schools.

The meeting at WUC in November dealt with issues concerning the future work within NORENSE. We discussed the importance that NORENSE is visible within our institutions and gives priority to projects supporting the colleges and strengthening the connection to the federations.

There was an open conference 18<sup>th</sup> of November. The conference had especially invited members of the Swedish waldorf school federation. Presentations:

**Marius Wahl Gran:** The use of blackboard in waldorf schools

**Bengt Ahlin:** The meaning and relevance of colour as part of the educational surrounding

**Ruhi Tyson:** Presentation and discussion:

-Moral imagination in an educational context

-Aesthetic education as basis for moral imagination

-The potential of narratives for professional development in schools and teacher education

## Research project obligations fully or partly fulfilled in 2016

During 2016, the following projects funded by NORENSE resulted in academic publications:

**Kolmos, Marie.** (2016). Kontemplative aktiviteter i skolen i et livsverdensperspektiv - observationer mellem åbenhed og refleksion. *Psyke & Logos*, 37(1), 82-100. [Link to pdf.](#)

**Mathisen, Arve.** (2016). Ekte skole: Hva er engasjement og hvordan oppstår det? *Steinerskolen* (3). [Link to pdf.](#) Popular article in Norwegian based on interviews from 'Education in time'.

**Østergaard, Renate. K.** (2016). Før skolen begynner. Seks steinerpedagogers syn på pedagogisk arbeid med 5-åringer i steinerbarnehagen. *Tidsskriftet FoU i Praksis* 10(2), 5-22. [Link to article in Norwegian.](#)

**Stabel, Anne-Mette.** (2014). *Visjoner og vilkår: Om steinerskolens utvikling i Norge fra 1926-2004.* (PhD), Universitetet i Oslo, Oslo. [Link to summary in Norwegian](#)

**Stabel, Anne-Mette.** (2016). *Hva skal vi med skole? Steinerskolens historie i Norge 1926 - 2016.* Oslo: Pax. [Link to book](#)

**Tyson, Ruhi.** (2016). What would Humboldt say: A case of general bildung in vocational education? *International Journal for Research in Vocational Education and Training (IJRVET)*, 3(3), 230-249. [Link to pdf.](#)

**Tyson, Ruhi.** (2016). Yrkesutbildning eller yrkesbildning: vad lär vi oss egentligen? En introduktion till empirisk yrkesbildningsdidaktik. *Nordic Journal of Vocational Education and Training, NJVET*, 6(2), 1-16. [Link to article.](#)

## New research projects funded by NORENSE in 2016

NORENSE received six applications for funding research and five applications for master study scholarships in 2016. Three of the research applications were granted funding by NORENSE. One master scholarship was given. The total sum was NOK 516.000.

### Funded research projects

**Sara Frödén**, Sweden, received NOK 50.000 for writing a peer reviewed article based on material gathered when writing her Phd.

**Markku Niinivirta**, Finland, received NOK 245.000 supporting his PhD project *“The Aristotelian Aspect of Phronesis and its Connection to the Teacher Education at Snellman”*.

**RSUC**, Norway, received NOK 200.000 for a project aiming at developing and reorganizing the 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

Erika Kihlman, Finland, was awarded 3 x 21.000 NOK 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.

## Accounts 2014-2017

Accounts NORENSE					
		2017	2016 whole year	2015 whole year	2014 whole year
Contributions		540 928,00	223 886,00	783 150,50	839 804,38
Steinerskoleforbundet		540 928,00	-	518 000,00	468 133,00
Steinerbarnehageforbundet			71 000	66 600	
Waldorfskolefederatien			116 700	122 000	
Steinerkasvatuksen			36 186	34 468	
Rudolf Steinerskoler Danmark			-	-	
Ahtola (Rose)			-	42 083	
Bank interest		-	206,45	4 300,71	6 889,93
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>540 928,00</b>	<b>224 092,45</b>	<b>787 451,21</b>	<b>846 694,31</b>
Scholarships, new		-	210 900,00	432 943,45	282 739,26
Scholarships, committed		147 081,55	188 600,00	-	
Network seminar, net		-	21 465,00	-	
RoSE		-	-	43 893,83	-
Travel / Meeting Costs		-	19 741,38	30 425,57	17 604,00
Web Costs		-	-	11 848,01	49 452,33
RSUC Admin Costs		75 000,00	75 000,00	-	157 890,39
Research Director		70 000,00	70 000,00	-	140 000,00
Bank charges		261,00	447,00	715,00	646,52
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>292 342,55</b>	<b>586 153,38</b>	<b>519 825,86</b>	<b>648 332,50</b>

*The 2016 contribution from Steinerskoleforbundet for 2016 was received in 2017 and is therefore included in 2017. The accounts for 2017 is updated until 31<sup>st</sup> of March.*

## NORENSE funding from 2010 – 2016

### Projects in progress

**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 was funded again in 2016.

**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.norensenet/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 2016.

**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.norensenet/projects.php>. The project continues in 2016.

**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. She was granted a sum of NOK 50.000 for a second article in 2016. This article is soon to be published.

**RSUC**, Norway, received NOK 200.000 for a project aiming at developing and reorganizing the teacher education in 2016. The project continues.

## New aims and criteria for funding

At the NORENSE meeting in November 2015, 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 provided on the NORENSE web site:

### NORENSE Aims

- Contribute to development of the research culture within Nordic Steiner Waldorf education
- Support research<sup>1</sup>, research collaboration and research publications relevant to Steiner Waldorf education in the Nordic countries

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<sup>1</sup> 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 were thoroughly updated in 2015 with new text on almost all its categories and was kept updated in 2016. 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. 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.

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

## Further information

For further Information about NORENSE, the annual Reports 2010 – 2016, 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.*