



Annual Report 2014

NORENSE Council

Rudolf Steiner University College, Oslo

Waldorf University College, Stockholm

Snellman College, Helsinki

Foreword

Nordic Research Network for Steiner Education (NORENSE) was established in 2008, and since 2010, the NORENSE Council has organized its activities. Members of the Council are representatives from the three Steiner Education institutions from Sweden, Finland and Norway; Waldorflärrarhögskolan (WLH), Snellman College and Rudolf Steiner University College (RSCU), representatives from the parent, kindergarten and Waldorf/Steiner school-federations in the three countries and three appointed representatives from academic institutions. The regulatory framework places the NORENSE Council within RSCU as a legal body. The NORENSE Council is led by a research director who is a member of staff at RSUC and budget and accounts are managed by the Finance Manager at RSUC.

In the Annual Report 2014, there is a presentation of activities in NORENSE Council and NORENSE Network in 2014, an overview of research projects funded, economy and a summary of some issues that were debated and brought to conclusions. There is also a presentation of all the projects funded by NORENSE, from 2010 until today, both completed projects and those that are still in progress.

NORENSE Council wishes to thank all financial contributors for the grants made to NORENSE in 2014. These grants enable the work in NORENSE.

12th of March 2015

Anne-Mette Stabel

Research Director

Gerd Eva Valøen

Rudolf Steiner Univ. College

Norway

Caroline Bratt

Waldorf University College

Sweden

Marja-Leena Ilmonen

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NORENSE 2014 An overview

2014 has been an active year for NORENSE and the NORENSE funded projects. Four new research projects were approved in 2014, and three NORENSE projects, funded earlier, were completed in 2014.

There have been three meetings in the NORENSE Council and one in the NORENSE Network. In addition to these meetings and seminars, members of the NORENSE Council have given several open lectures at Steiner Waldorf schools and at meetings in the federations about the need for research on Steiner Waldorf education and the work done by NORENSE.

NORENSE Council 2014

The three meetings in the NORENSE Council in 2014 were held in the three participating countries, at WLH in Stockholm 10th of February, at Snellman College in Helsinki 17th of March and in Oslo at Rudolf Steiner University College the 21st and the 22nd of November. The NORENSE Council 2014 consists of four members from each of the three countries. An employee at RSUC holds the position as Research Director. That means a total of 13 members. In addition, there are two further representatives from RSUC, the hosting institution for NORENSE; Principal Gerd Eva Valøen and Administrative leader Dagny Ringheim; these two representatives have positions as non-voting members on the Council.

Members of the NORENSE Council in 2014:

Research Director: Anne-Mette Stabel, RSUC

WLH: Caroline Bratt and Leif Tjärnstig

The Swedish Federation: Britta Drakenberg

External academic representative from Sweden: Eva Siljehag, University of Stockholm

Snellman College: Marja-Leena Ilmonen and Eeva Raunela

The Finnish Federation: Pia Pale

External academic representative from Finland: Jan Erik Mansikka, University of Helsinki

RSUC: Bente Edlund and Arve Mathisen

The Norwegian Federations: Jens Uwe Korten

External academic representative from Norway: Aksel Hugo, Norwegian University of Life Sciences

Nonvoting members of the NORENSE Council from RSUC, the hosting institution of the NORENSE Council: Gerd Eva Valøen and Dagny Ringheim

During 2014, there have been some changes in the Council:

Research Director

Anne-Mette Stabel took over the position as Research Director from January 2014 after Bente Edlund who held the position from 2012 until the end of 2013.

External academic representatives in NORENSE

Associate professor Eva Siljehag from The University of Stockholm was in 2014 appointed as the external academic representative from Sweden. She was welcomed to her first meeting in the NORENSE Council in March 2014.

Before the November meeting, the external academic representative from Norway, Associate professor Aksel Hugo Norwegian University of Life Sciences, withdrew from his position in NORENSE Council. University lecturer Dag Øystein Nome from the University of Agder, was appointed as external academic representative from Norway. He will be a member of the NORENSE Council from the beginning of 2015

[Research projects fulfilled in 2014](#)

During 2014, three NORENSE funded projects were completed:

Margunn Bjørnholt was funded by NORENSE in 2011, and she published the article “Room for thinking - The spatial dimension of Waldorf Education” in RoSE during 2014.

Ruhi Tyson was funded by NORENSE in 2012, he handed in his Licentiate thesis to Stockholm University during 2014 (the thesis will be defended spring 2015). Tyson also got the article “Aesthetic Bildung in vocational education: The biographical case of bookbinding master Wolfgang B. and his apprenticeship” published in Vocations and learning, 2014, 7.

Anne-Mette Stabel was funded by NORENSE in 2010 and 2011. She fulfilled her PhD project “Visions and Conditions - The history of The Norwegian Steiner School and its development from 1926 to 2004” in January 2014. She defended the thesis at The University of Oslo.

[New research projects funded by NORENSE in 2014](#)

1st of March 2014 was the deadline for applications to NORENSE. The Council received nine Applications this year, and they were treated at the Council meeting at Snellman College the 17th of March. The Council decided to give funding to the following four Applicants:

Sara Frödén was awarded 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.

Arve Mathisen/RSUC was awarded 116.000 NOK for the internordic Research Project *Skoletid*.

Bo Dahlin was awarded 10.000 NOK to participate at a Conference and for publishing his Conference paper as an article in the internet journal RoSE.

Fabio Bento was awarded 100.000 NOK for his Research Project *An exploratory study into perceptions of decision-making processes in Norwegian Waldorf Schools*.

Economy and Budget

The existence of NORENSE is made possible due to donations from the Waldorf- Steiner schools and kindergarten federations in the Nordic countries and donation from the Ahtola foundation. Besides the donations from the federations and foundations, which have been used to support research projects, RSUC, WUC/WLH and SC have carried the costs for all allocated staff time in planning, developing and documenting work with NORENSE/NC. Costs connected to staff time involved from the institutions and for travels, accommodation and meetings are not included in the summary below.

RSUC, as the hosting institution for NORENSE, is providing a 10 % position as Research Director and administration services. Those costs are refunded by NORENSE.

During the year most of the contributors from 2013, continued to donate money to NORENSE.

The areas of expenditure for NORENSE are the NORENSE grants, salaries, travel costs and the financial contribution to RoSE.

Finance Manager at RSUC, Rob Brown, manages the economy for NORENSE, Cecilia Gavrell has been the Website Editor this year and Anne-Mette Stabel held the position as Research Director.

At the Council's meeting in March 2014, Brown presented an economic overview showing that 371.00 NOK was available for grants in 2014. In addition, at the Council's meeting at RSUC in November 2014, Brown gave an overview of the accounts for 2014 after the grants for 2014 had been paid and an incomplete budget 2015, because at the time it was not yet clear how much the federations would donate in 2015. At the same meeting, Brown presented an overview showing from which sources the sponsor money for 2010 – 2014 had come and from where the supported research projects came.

The overview shows that from 2010 until 2014, the total income for NORENSE from all the supporters of NORENSE; The Federations in Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland, The Journal *Steinerskolen*, Ahtola Foundation and Pestalozzi Foundation, was 3 685 739 NOK.

The funding spent by NORENSE to research projects from 2010 – 2014 are in total 2 207 466 NOK.

The differences between the income and the money granted is 1 478 273. This is the running costs for NORENSE. The overview shows that 1 155 768.- NOK is granted to projects run by Norwegian researchers, 571 713.- NOK has been granted to Swedish researchers, 209 985.- NOK has been given to Finnish research projects and 270 000.- NOK has been granted to a Danish research project.

Summary of the economy in 2014

Narrative	2014	Notes 2014	2013	Notes 2013
Incomes				
Steinerskoleforbundet	468 133	232 783 from 2013	460 000	215 000 from 2012
Steinerbarnehageforbundet	0		65 000	
Waldorfskolefederationen	275 661	140 661 from 2013	00 000	
Steinerkasvatuksen	32 960		22 998	
Danish federation	21 863		39 887	19 887 from 2012
Ahtola foundation	41 188		15 233	
Bank interest/charges	6 243		3 821	
Expenditure				
Scholarships	282 739	See analysis below	360 539	See analysis below
Travel costs	17 604		36 814	
Web costs/RoSE	49 452		46 049	
RSUC-administration (10% of income from federations)	75 000		70 000	
RSUC-administration-balance	7 890	Balance from 2013	24 509	Balance from 2012
Research Director	70 000		60 000	
Research Director			60 000	2012 Paid 2013
Committed, but not yet received				
Steinerskoleforbundet	268 000		245 000	Received
Waldorfskolefederationen			140 661	Received Jan 2014
Committed, but not yet paid out				
Scholarships, admin costs	422 261		427 958	Admin kr7 890
Bank 1 January	452 155		503 128	
Available as at 31 December	641 256		409 858	

Scholarships paid out:	50 000	F Bento	75 000	L Tjårnstig 2013
	116 000	A Mathisen	82 853	E Raunella
	10 000	B Dahlin	45 414	M Niinivirta
	75 000	L Tjårnstig 2013	3 933	B Dahlin
	31 739	S Froden	65 066	L Tjårnstig 2012
			22 274	K Swartz
			66 000	B Edlund 2011

Scholarships committed but not yet paid out:	
28 000	BE (original sum 40 000) 2010
36 000	AS awarded 2010/2013
270 000	MK awarded 2013
50 000	FB (original sum 100 000) awarded 2013
38 260	SF awarded 2014

Fundraising and Communication of research within NORENSE

The question of fundraising is a very important issue for NORENSE, and is continuously discussed in the Council. Without money, there can be no NORENSE and no support on Waldorf Steiner research projects.

The NORENSE Council is also very concerned about how the sponsors are informed and thereby convinced that the money spent in NORENSE, is a good investment for the future of Steiner/Waldorf Education. It has been strongly stressed that information about the research projects is of great importance. Members of the Council and the funded researchers have in different ways communicated the need for research on Waldorf Steiner education and the results from the projects funded by NORENSE. Members of the NORENSE Council and those funded by NORENSE have therefore during 2014 been giving lectures about research in general and the specific NORENSE projects at NORENSE Network meetings, at Conferences and meetings in the federations, kindergarten, schools and in other fora. In addition to this NORENSE Network is an important arena for communication of research projects funded by NORENSE (see below).

Membership for Denmark

There has been a great interest in also having Denmark as a Member of NORENSE. The Rudolf Steiner Schools in Denmark have supported NORENSE in 2012, 2013 and in 2014 but have no place on the Council. Denmark was during 2014 offered a position in NORENSE Council, but so far, there has been no response to the request.

Impartiality in the process of decision-making

In the meeting in Oslo in November, the Council decided to establish a new practice concerning the question about impartiality in the process of decision-making regarding awards. The new procedure will be evaluated in November 2015. The new procedure is: The whole Council is taking part in the reviewing of the Applications, but when the decisions are made: *"Each country has three votes, one from the federation, one from the academics and one from Universities/colleges in the board"*.

NORENSE funding for Master students attending the RSCU Master programme

In the meeting in the NORENSE Council in November 2014, it was decided that NORENSE opens up for funding for Master Students attending the RSCU Master programme. The students may apply for funding to cover the tuition fees. A new letter and an application form was available on the NORENSE Website at the end of December 2014.

[NORENSE website](#)

Further development of the NORENSE website has been discussed at the Council meetings this year. The Website needs to be renewed, and the costs must be visible in the budget. Some changes have been made on the Website, the work started after the November meeting in the Council where new texts were discussed. By mid-December, the following new texts were put on the Website: Information and Guidelines to Applicants, NORENSE Aims and Visions and Forms for Applicants. In addition, renewing of the texts about research projects funded in the past was commenced. The upgrading of the website will continue in 2015 and the work has to be visible also in the new Budget for 2015.

[Frequency of meetings in the NORENSE Council](#)

The Council decided to limit the frequency of meetings to two times per year; one in spring and one in autumn. The spring meeting in NORENSE Council will be held in Stockholm the 15th and 16th of March 2015 in connection with the NORENSE Network meeting. The autumn meeting in the NORENSE Council will be held in Helsinki the 20th and 21st of November 2015 in connection with a Research Seminar.

NORENSE funding from 2010 – 2014:

Completed projects, projects in progress and projects not been realized

Completed projects

Anne-Mette Stabel PhD project: *Visions and Conditions - The history of The Norwegian Steiner School and its development from 1926 to 2004*, was supported in 2010 with the sum 224.000 NOK and 2011 with the sum 240.000 NOK. The thesis was submitted May 2013 and defended at The University of Oslo January 2014.

Margunn Bjørnholt was in 2011, funded with the sum of 105.000 NOK. She published an article in Dagsavisen in 2012 and an article in *Tidsskriftet Steinerskolen* in 2012. In 2014 her article “*Room for thinking: The spatial dimension of Waldorf Education*”, was published in RoSE. Link: <http://www.rosejournal.com/index.php/rose/article/view/190/201>

Hans Andersson was in 2011 funded with the sum 50.000 SEK for a project studying: *If there are differences in grading with regard to gender in Waldorf schools*. A report informs about the project: <http://www.norensenet.net/projects/Anderssons.pdf> and in *På Väg* nr. 3, 2014.

Trond Skafnesmo was in 2011 funded with the sum 156.000 NOK for a research project about *Evidence-based research*. He wrote a report about the project. Link: <http://www.norensenet.net/articles/EVIDENSBASERING-RAPPORT.pdf>

Seminar for PhD students. In 2011, NORENSE Council allocated 20.000 NOK for the seminar Nordic Research Strategies. The seminar was held in Stockholm 14 March 2012.

Ruhi Tyson was in 2012 granted 30.000 SEK to cover travel costs and expenses for literature to his licentiate thesis at Stockholm University. The thesis was handed in during 2014, and he defended the thesis spring 2015. Tyson also got the article “*Aesthetic Bildung in vocational education: The biographical case of bookbinding master Wolfgang B. and his apprenticeship*” published in *Vocations and learning*, 2014, 7. Link:

<https://www.deepdyve.com/lp/springer-journals/aesthetic-bildung-in-vocational-education-the-biographical-case-of-Ap0dPCkkZh>

Bo Dahlin was in 2012 granted 14.800 SEK, in 2013 he was granted 1850 EURO, and in 2014 he received 10.000 NOK. Thanks to this funding Dahlin has been able to take part in Conferences and he has rewritten the papers and published several articles in RoSE. Links: <http://www.rosejournal.com/index.php/rose/search/authors/view?firstName=Bo&middleName=&lastName=Dahlin&affiliation=&country=>

Leif Tjärnstig was in 2012 funded with the sum 142.000 SEK for a project named: Learning study project focused on studying how reading and writing skills are developed in Waldorf

schools (grade four). Report at NORENSE Website:

http://www.noreense.net/articles/Fran_etterharming_till_kreativitet_rapport_och_resultat.pdf

Projects in progress:

Bente Edlund (editor) was in 2010 granted 40.000 NOK and 2011: 66.000 NOK to a project aiming to make a collection of articles about early childhood education. Many of the articles are fulfilled; the book will be published in 2015.

Astrid Sundt was in 2010 granted 36.000 NOK for a project about importance of how the time is used and organized 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.*

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. Link:

<http://www.noreense.net/projects/Tutkimussuunnitelma200109.pdf>

Leif Tjärnstig was in 2013 granted the sum of 150.000 NOK to his PhD project. Report:

<http://www.noreense.net/projects.php>

Karen Swartz was in 2013 granted the sum 25.000 SEK for studying the concept of Culture in the language teaching in Waldorf Upper School.

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

Arve Mathisen and RSUC were in 2014 granted the sum of 116.000 NOK for the internordic project *Schooltime*. Intermediate report at NORENSE Website:

<http://www.noreense.net/projects.php>

Fabio Bento was in 2014 granted the sum of 100.000 NOK for his Research Project *An exploratory study into perceptions of decision-making processes in Norwegian Waldorf Schools*. NORENSE website: <http://www.noreense.net/projects.php>

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 article will be published in 2015.

Projects withdrawn:

Renate K. Østergaard was in 2010, granted 40.000 NOK for a project about play in the preschool.

Dag Ø. Nome was in 2012, granted 20.000 NOK for studying effects of the new curriculum for Waldorf Schools.

NORENSE Network

There has been one meeting in NORENSE Network. On the 9th of February 2014, Waldorflärarhögskolan invited representatives from Waldorf Teacher Education institutions and representatives from the Waldorf schools- and kindergarten- federations in Finland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden. Two lectures were given. University lecturer Sara Frödén at Institutionen för humaniora, utbildnings- och samhällsvetenskap at Örebro University, gave a lecture about her doctoral thesis from 2012: *I föränderliga och slutna rosa rum – en etnografisk studie av kön och andlighet i en svensk waldorfförskola*. Leader of the Marjatta Seminar in Denmark Henrik Sørensen held the second lecture. He presented the study: *Inter-organizational learning between three special schools with different values*.

There were discussions in small groups and in plenum after each of the lectures.

An intended NORENSE Network meeting in Oslo at RSUC in November was postponed, but an open lecture was organized in relation to the NORENSE Councils meeting in November in Oslo. Margunn Bjørnholt gave a lecture about her NORENSE supported project *Room for thinking - The spatial dimension of Waldorf Education*. Students and teachers at RSUC and the Norwegian Steiner School Federation were invited in addition to members of the Council.

The NORENSE Network meetings are an important arena for communicating research on Steiner Waldorf education and related issues, and this work has to be strengthened in the future.

RoSE – Research on Steiner Education

The journal RoSE: Research on Steiner Education is an on-line, 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 our contemporary globalizing world. A donation from the Ahtola Foundation in Finland supported the dissemination of research funded by NORENSE, and the funding from Ahtola was, like in earlier years, transferred to RoSE, also in 2014.

RoSE wishes to establish links and dialogues between 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. Reviews of books, as well as of Doctoral and Master's Theses are also part of the journal. The journal welcomes both critical and appreciative approaches to Steiner education, as long as they adhere to general academic standards. Articles that engage in rigorous dialogue between Steiner philosophy/pedagogy and other, particularly contemporary, pedagogical, psychological or philosophical approaches are especially welcome. The journal publishes two issues per year.

Further information

For further Information about NORENSE, Annual Reports 2010 – 2013, Reports about NORENSE funded projects and RoSE, see the links:

NORENSE website: <http://www.noreense.net/>

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