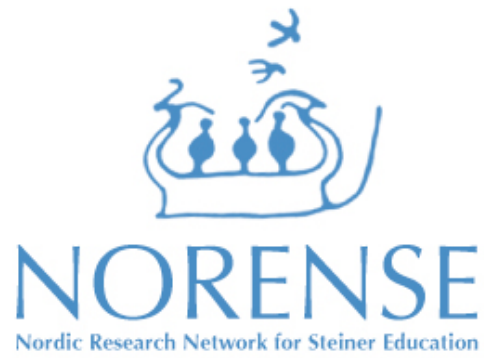




Annual Report 2022

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 (WLH) and Snellman College

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

An important legal change took place in 2018. NORENSE is since 2018 an ideal association. New statutes were decided upon in April 2018. The aims for the NORENSE are the same as before.

In the Annual Report for 2022, 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 2022.

15th of May 2023

Marius Wahl Gran

Rudolf Steiner University College
Steinerhøgskolen
Norway

Caroline Bratt

Waldorf University College
Waldorflärahögskolan
Sweden

Eeva Raunela

Snellman College
Snellman-korkeakoulu
Finland

NORENSE 2022 An overview

Since 2018 NORENSE is an ideal association with its legal base in Norway. We have consolidated the new legal frame and the slightly new group.

Due to the covid 19 situation we have unfortunately not been able to meet as usual during nearly three years. We have instead had digital meetings. Our meetings have been shorter and we have not had open seminars or social events as before. The continuity among the delegates was also slightly affected. This has had a negative impact on the work and we are happy that we in 2022 could for the first time after having zoom meetings meet in Stockholm in November 2022.

Members of the NORENSE Council in 2022

Leadership: Caroline Bratt (WLH)

Representatives from the three Nordic Steiner Waldorf higher educational institutions:

RSUC: Terje Sparby

One vacancy

WLH: Caroline Bratt

Leif Tjärnstig

SC: Eeva Raunela

Markku Niinivirta

Representatives from the federations:

Astrid Sundt, Norway

Cia Edsberger, Sweden

Johanna Leppänen, Finland

External academic representatives:

Dag Øystein Nome, University of Agder, Norway

Vacancy, Sweden

Jan Erik Mansikka, University of Helsinki, Finland

Principal of RSUC:

Dagny Ringheim (resigned in June 2022) and Marius Wahl Gran (from August 2022)

NORENSE Council meetings in 2022

The NORENSE Council meeting in April 2022 was held digitally on 21st of April and the second meeting was held in Stockholm, 14th – 15th of November.

21st of April 2022

The annual meeting took place.

A second meeting in connection with the annual meeting dealt with the applications. We received seven applications which were evaluated. Four applications were fully granted and three were rejected.

14th – 15th of November 2022

We had an open part in which three colleagues presented their work:

Critical aspects of waldorf pedagogy and education

Seminar with Ruhi Tyson. See attached powerpoint.

A short presentation of the Alumni study made by Dirk Randoll in 2020

Caroline Bratt: CB tried to summarize Randoll's alumni-study. See attached powerpoint.

Assessing students' learning and knowledge

Elina Dagaris presented her master thesis about class teachers experience of assessing of their students' knowledge and learning

Since this was the first meeting in person for a long time the overgrasping talks were given some time, eg statutes, criteria for funding, finances etc. We also had two new members from Norway. We followed up the applications we decided upon in April 2022.

The institutions presented their respective situations. We discussed possible initiatives; amongst these an alumni-study, since this is often asked for.

It was also noted that the webpage isn't currently working well enough. This will be discussed further in May in 2023.

Funded research projects

In this part projects funded in 2022, projects fulfilled in 2021 and projects in progress are listed.

Research projects funded by NORENSE in 2022

Markus Lindholm and Monica Kjaerstad received a grant of 227030 NOK. There is an urgent need for phenomenological featured science textbooks for teacher training courses, practicing teachers and related professions. The goal of the textbook project *Biofilia* is to deliver an ambitious science textbook, to meet the needs for phenomenological approaches on biology. A wide range of illustrations, to inspire and motivate teachers, are essential. The purpose of the grant is to support the illustrations.

Helene Selsfors: We agreed upon supporting her PhD-work with the applied sum of 40000 SEK. The title of the project is: Rhythmical education – Teacher led and pupil initiated processes in Waldorf- Steiner schools – What does it mean for a teacher

Ruhi Tyson: Important topic and well-structured plan for an article. We decided upon supporting it with the applied sum of 50000 SEK. In a recent article Frode Barkved (2018) discusses views of history and history teaching in Waldorf education concluding that there is a Eurocentric bias in the development didactics that characterize Waldorf pedagogy.

The purpose of this article-project is to pursue Barkveds line of inquiry further, exploring the subject of history in Waldorf pedagogy from a postcolonial perspective. It is not concerned with discussing how, or if, postcolonialism can or should be taught in schools but about what it means to apply a postcolonial perspective to the contents being taught and the development didactics characteristic of Waldorf pedagogy.

Anne-Mette Stabel: The sum granted is to begin with 160 000 NOK. The remaining 160 000 NOK will be paid on condition that a midreport shows that the project is progressing as planned. The aim of the project is to bring forward research-based knowledge about everyday practice in Waldorf Primary Education. What characterises the pedagogy of Waldorf Primary Education, and is it educationally desirable and sustainable considering current knowledge and research?

Research project obligations fully or partly fulfilled in 2022

Leif Tjärnstig received a grant of totally 25000 SEK for writing an article to be admitted to NoAD; Nordisk Tidskrift för Allmändidaktik. The article has been published by NoAD in September 2022. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.57126/noad.v8i1.10603>

Dag Nome received a grant of 50000 NOK in 2021 for an empirical project that can become a contribution to research on Waldorf pedagogy. Due to illness the work has been postponed.

Kirsi Neuvonen. Her PhD-project was supported with 50 000 NOK in 2021. She has followed her plan so far.

Helena Selsfors received a grant of 50000 SEK for her continuing PhD work at the University of Plymouth. She is following her planned progression and the work is getting closer to its end.

[Research project obligations fully or partly fulfilled in 2020](#)

For links go to our web page.

Markus Lindholm, his book *Nysgjerrighetens pedagogikk – Dybdelæring i informasjonssamfunnet* (about curiosity) was published in the spring of 2021.

Henrik Holm received a grant of 50 000 NOK for editing and writing in the special edition on Steiner education which was published in RoSE in 2021.

[NORENSE funding from 2010 – 2019](#)

For projects fully fulfilled before and after 2019, see the web page.

[Reflections due to the special circumstances related to the pandemic](#)

Due to the covid 19 situation we have unfortunately not been able to meet as usual for two years. We have had digital meetings. Our meetings have been shorter, we have not had open seminars or social events as before. The continuity among the delegates has also been slightly affected.

All this has led to a situation in which it has been difficult for the members of the council to get to know one another, it has difficult to take initiatives within NORENSE and to connect with colleagues outside the council.

We have noted a lower number of applications during the pandemic.

There has been a need to consolidate the group and make some kind of restart when the covid situation hopefully is more stable. It was very good meet irl and starting the work to

consolidate the group. It will also hopefully be possible to have a steadier group of delegates.

Since Henrik Holm, who has shared the leadership with Caroline Bratt resigned in the beginning of 2022, the council will also have to look upon the question of leadership. Due to many vacancies this will be done in 2023.

We still see that NORENSE contributes to fulfil needs of our institutions and of Waldorf pedagogy. But the council must now together see how we wish to work onwards. This also includes lifting and making NORENSE more visible within our respective institutions.

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 NORENSE Council receives any payments for the work done. RSUC, WLH and Snellman cover travel expenses for their representatives.

RSUC, is reimbursed for administration services. The Finance Manager at RSUC, Steinar Døhlen, manages the economy for NORENSE.

We have not received contributions from the the Ahtola foundation and have therefore not transferred any contributions to the research journal Research on Steiner Education (RoSE). We will have to look over our possibility to do so next year.

The Norwegian federation decided that from 2017 a sum of 350 000 NOK of the Norwegian contribution (totally 590000 NOK in 2018) to NORENSE in the future is to be earmarked for development of academic competence at RSUC. The sum is to be transferred yearly by NORENSE.

We are very grateful for the donations from the federations.

(To be noted: In the attached budget for 2022 the contribution from the Swedish federation is not included. It was however paid later in 2023.)

Accounts 2014–2022

Accounts NORENSE

	2022 budget	2022 year to date	2021 whole year	2020 whole year	2019 whole year	2018 whole year	2017 whole year	2016 whole year	2015 whole year	2014 whole year
Contributions	-	657 129,00	875 868,20	1 392 663,50	492 353,00	745 766,02	1 322 954,43	223 886,00	783 150,50	839 804,38
Bank interest	-	244,32	103,35	157,33	69,13	147,63	165,98	206,45	4 300,71	6 889,93
Total Income	-	657 373,32	875 971,55	1 392 820,83	492 422,13	745 913,65	1 323 120,41	224 092,45	787 451,21	846 694,31
Scholarships, new		227 030,00	-	-	-	-	100 000,00	210 900,00	432 943,45	282 739,26
Scholarships, committed		-	85 000,00	11 900,00	355 565,81	203 140,00	242 818,95	188 600,00	-	-
Fixed contribution SH	350 000,00	350 000,00	350 000,00	350 000,00	350 000,00	350 000,00	350 000,00	-	-	-
Network seminar, net	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21 465,00	-	-
RoSE		-	-	-	-	-	50 000,00	-	43 893,83	-
Travel /Meeting Costs		-	-	-	12 782,69	8 429,92	3 600,00	19 741,38	30 425,57	17 604,00
Fees, Web Costs		-	9 673,13	96 731,25	9 609,38	61 156,25	43 750,00	-	11 848,01	49 452,33
RSUC Admin Costs	93 750,00	93 750,00	93 750,00	93 750,00	75 000,00	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	-	-	297,00	28,00	493,00	106,00	688,00	447,00	715,00	646,52
Total Expenditure	350 000,00	670 780,00	538 720,13	552 409,25	803 450,88	767 832,17	935 856,95	586 153,38	519 825,86	648 332,50
Net Profit	-350 000,00	-13 406,68	337 251,42	840 411,58	-311 028,75	-21 918,52	387 263,46	-362 060,93	267 625,35	198 361,81
Bank 1										
03.01.22				1 684 606,87						
Bank 2				103 453,79						
Total bank				1 788 060,66						
				IB						
Bank 1										
03.01.23				1 670 955,87						
Bank2				103 698,11						
Total bank				1 774 653,98						
				UB						
Change bank				-13 406,68						

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. November 2018 – February 2022 Henrik Holm and Caroline Bratt have shared leadership. Thereafter Caroline Bratt has been responsible for the leadership.

STATUTES FOR THE NORENSE Council

NORENSE Council – Nordic Research Network for Steiner Education

17th 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, Waldorflärarhögskolan (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, Waldorflärarhögskolan (Waldorf University College in Sweden), and Snellman Korkeakoulu (Snellman-College) in Finland.

NORENSE web pages

The NORENSE web pages were thoroughly updated in 2015 with new text on almost all its categories and was kept updated in 2017. Due to technical problems a new site and web address was created in March 2019. The home page 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://norense.com/index.php>

We are now again facing a possible problem with the web page and need to discuss how to manage it onwards.



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 has supported 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 – 2020, an overview over funded projects, events, publications, relevant links, etc., go to the NORENSE website:

<http://noreense.com/index.php>