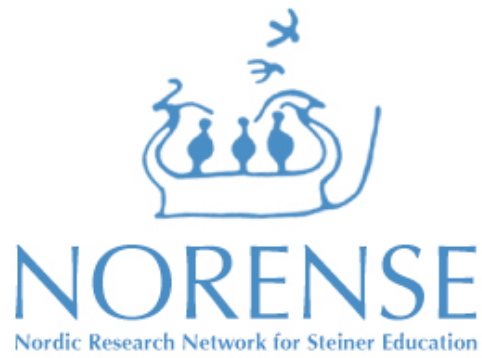




Annual Report 2023

NORENSE Council

Rudolf Steiner University College, Oslo

Waldorf University College, Stockholm

Snellman College, Helsinki

Contents

Foreword	3
NORENSE 2023 An overview.....	5
Members of the NORENSE Council in 2023	5
NORENSE Council meetings in 2023	6
15 th of April 2023.....	6
11 th – 12 th of October 2023	6
Funded research projects	7
Research projects funded by NORENSE in 2023	7
Research project obligations fully or partly fulfilled in 2023	8
Research project obligations fully or partly fulfilled in 2022	8
NORENSE funding from 2010 – 2021	8
Economy and Budget	9
Accounts 2014–2023.....	10
Legal status of NORENSE	11
Short historical background	11
New legal body and statutes.....	11
NORENSE web pages	14
Research on Steiner Education (RoSE).....	14
Further information	15

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 2023.

20th of June 2024

Marius Wahl Gran

Rudolf Steiner University College
Steinerhøyskolen
Norway

Caroline Bratt

Waldorf University College
Waldorflärarhögskolan
Sweden

Eeva Raunela

Snellman College
Snellman-korkeakoulu
Finland

NORENSE 2023 An overview

Since 2018 NORENSE is an ideal association with its legal base in Norway.

There has been a need to consolidate the group and make some kind of restart after the covid pandemic.

We are happy to say that during 2023 the work within NORENSE has been much consolidated. We have had fruitful seminars and meetings. We see that NORENSE contributes to fulfil needs of our institutions and of Waldorf pedagogy. lifting and making NORENSE more visible within our respective institutions.

Members of the NORENSE Council in 2023

Leadership: Caroline Bratt (WLH) and Frode Barkved (from October 2023, RSUC)

Representatives from the three Nordic Steiner Waldorf higher educational institutions:

RSUC: Terje Sparby
Frode Barkved (from autumn 2023)
WLH: Caroline Bratt
Leif Tjærnstig
SC: Eeva Raunela
Kirsi Kokko

Representatives from the federations:

Astrid Sundt (spring), vacancy (autumn), Norway
Cia Edsberger, Sweden
Johanna Leppänen (spring), Pasi Salmela (autumn), Finland

External academic representatives:

Dag Øystein Nome, University of Agder, Norway
Vacancy, Sweden
Jan Erik Mansikka, University of Helsinki, Finland

Principal of RSUC:

Marius Wahl Gran

NORENSE Council meetings in 2023

The NORENSE Council meeting in 15th – 16th of May 2023 was held in Helsinki, Finland and the second meeting was held in Oslo, 11th – 12th of October.

15th of April 2023

The annual meeting took place.

A second meeting in connection with the annual meeting dealt with the applications. We received five applications which were evaluated. Three applications were fully granted and two were rejected.

11th – 12th of October 2023

The first day we had an open seminar:

The first part: Frode Barkved presented an article he had written on the theme of Anthroposophy and conspiracy theories. Thereafter professor Jan-Erik Ebbbestad responded to the first presentation. Thereafter a conversation took place.

The second part: Colleagues from RSUC presented three projects, whereof two are funded partly by NORENSE.

Anne-Mette Stabel and Ingvild Skeie presented the research project about 5- and 6 year old children. The project is funded with contributions from NORENSE.

Markus Lindholm presented a book about phenomenological natural science teaching. The project is funded with contributions from NORENSE.

Yifan Sun, Anne-Mette Stabel and Frode Barkved presented two chapters that they are writing in the coming book *The Reputation and Discussion of Waldorf Education in Academia and the Public - International cases* (Routledge).

The second day there was a council meeting:

The institutions presented their respective situations.

We followed up the applications we decided upon in May 2023.

We have the two last years discussed the possibility of doing a joint alumni study in NORENSE but not managed to take it further. Now Leif Tjærnstig, within WLH, has started to plan how such a study could be done. He presented the project. It would not only be possible, but also preferable if Norway and Finland join. It would be possible to make three

separate studies and if and when they are finished make a comparative report. There was a positive response to this and it was decided that Leif Tjærnstad together with colleagues from Norway and Finland will look more upon how to develop an alumni study.

It was also decided that Frode Barkved and Caroline Bratt would have shared leadership of NORENSE.

The seminar with Jan-Erik Ebbestad Hansen was much appreciated. We discussed the possibility to follow up it in Stockholm in 2024.

Funded research projects

In this part projects funded in 2023, projects fulfilled in 2023 and 2022 and projects in progress are listed.

Research projects funded by NORENSE in 2023

Sofi Gerber: The council granted 78140 SEK. The purpose of the project is to investigate how the school curricula can be developed on a school level in accordance with society's demands and the children's needs. The aim of the project is to develop a collegial method suitable for Swedish and Nordic circumstances. The research questions are based on Biesta's definition of the "three gifts". The questions address the vertical, horizontal and spiral aspects of the curriculum. The project is done in cooperation with three groups of teachers at three schools.

Terje Sparby: The council granted 260000 NOK. The title of the project is "All Education is Self-Education: Contemplative Waldorf Pedagogy". The project consists of three parts. NORENSE is supporting the first part. The other parts will be funded otherwise. The main aims are to present a literature review of existing work on contemplative practice in the context of Waldorf education, interview teachers about their experiences of using contemplative practices, interpreting the results. The aim is to publish six articles over a three-year period.

Anne-Mette Stabel: The council granted 340000 NOK. The sum is to be divided in two parts. The second part will be paid after a midreport. 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 2023

Markus Lindholm and Monica Kjaerstad received a grant of 227030 NOK in 2022 for a phenomenological featured science textbook for teacher training courses, practicing teachers and related professions. A wide range of illustrations, to inspire and motivate teachers, are essential. The purpose of the grant is to support the illustrations. The work is in progress.

Helene Selsfors: We have supported her PhD-work. 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. Helena Selsfors is following the time plan for her work.

Ruhi Tyson: The purpose of this article-project that we supported is to pursue Barkved's line of inquiry further, exploring the subject of history in Waldorf pedagogy from a postcolonial perspective. The article will be published in RoSE in 2024.

Anne-Mette Stabel: We have supported a big project about the 6-year-old child. 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? The project is slightly delayed due to illness but is making progress.

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.

NORENSE funding from 2010 – 2021

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

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 2023 the contribution from the Swedish federation is not included. It was however paid later in 2024.)

Accounts 2014–2023

Accounts NORENS

	2023 budget	2023 whole year	2022 whole year	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	650 000,00	939 939,60	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	-	1 516,69	244,32	103,35	157,33	69,13	147,63	165,98	206,45	4 300,71	6 889,93
Total Income	650 000,00	941 456,29	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	500 000,00	475 000,00	-	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	350 000,00	-	-	-
Network seminar, net	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21 465,00	-	-
RoSE	25 000,00	-	-	-	-	-	-	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	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		375,00	-	297,00	28,00	493,00	106,00	688,00	447,00	715,00	646,52
Total Expenditure	968 750,00	919 125,00	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	-318 750,00	22 331,29	-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		1 670 955,87									
Bank 2		103 698,11									
Total bank	IB	1 774 653,98									
Bank 1		1 691 770,47									
Bank2		105 214,80									
Total bank	UB	1 796 985,27									
Change bank		22 331,29									

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>



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 – 2023, an overview over funded projects, events, publications, relevant links, etc., go to the NORENSE website:

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