Nordic Council of Ministers' Secretariat - What is on the agenda?

Norden-EU meeting
November 23, 2023

Malene Vangdrup
Nordic Council of Ministers

- The Nordic Prime Ministers
- The Nordic Ministers for Co-operation (MR-SAM)
- 11 individual councils of ministers
- Nordic Council of Ministers for Education and Research (MR-U)
- Secretary general from 2023: Karen Ellemann

The Presidency rotates between the five Nordic countries and is held for a period of one year:
- 2023 – Iceland (swapped with Sweden)
- **2024 – Sweden (swapped with Iceland)**
- 2025 – Finland (swapped with Denmark)
- 2026 – Denmark (swapped with Finland)
- 2027 – Norway
Our vision 2030

A green Nordic region
Together, we will promote a green transition of our societies and work towards carbon neutrality and a sustainable circular and bio-based economy.

A competitive Nordic region
Together, we will promote green growth in the Nordic region based on knowledge, innovation, mobility and digital integration.

The Nordic region will become the most sustainable and integrated region in the world

A socially sustainable Nordic region
Together, we will promote an inclusive, equal and interconnected region with shared values and strengthened cultural exchange and welfare.
Nordic Council of Ministers for Education and Research - Co-operation Programme 2025-230

What is to be achieved?

The Vision

The three strategic priorities

Co-operation programme

Work plan

How is it to be achieved?

Action plan 2025-2030
Focus areas in new cooperation programme

Access to high-quality education regardless of background from an early age throughout adulthood
— Basic skills and digital competences
— Democratic and critical thinking and ability to navigate a new media and information reality
— Inclusion in education and labour markets

Education in the Nordic countries must reflect the competence needs of society and the labor market
— supply of and demand for skills with a view to green transition and welfare systems
— improvement of labour market position e.g. through validation systems
— integration in labour market through targeted language and qualification programs
— inclusive and gender-equal working life
Future of NVL - 2025-2030

- Network structure remains unchanged
- Expanded focus: Emphasizing lifelong learning heightening competence supply/skills mismatch, upskilling, and reskilling to and in working life

Timeline:
- Early summer 2024: the committee of senior officials (EK-U) approves the proposal for the new program document after consultations with the Nordic Council and the civil society network
- Late summer to early fall 2024: call for tender for the management body + appointment of national host organizations
- November 2024: Nordic Council of Ministers for Education and Research (MR-U) ratifies the new program The new program period is set to launch January 2025
Futureproofing VET in the Nordics

A funding of 1.5 million DKK has been allocated for an initiative on VET for the period 2023-2025 led by Tænketanken Mandag Morgen in collaboration with Nationalt Center for Erhvervspædagogik

The initiative's primary areas of focus include:

**Recruitment and retention in vocational education**
- Joint Nordic youth relays
- Focus on well-being, inclusion and diversity

**Competence supply for green transition**
- Identification of cases on competence supply within the green transition
- Study visits for decision-makers and practitioners to share experiences on effective measures
Futureproofing VET
In the Nordics

Empowering youth and accelerating the green transition

The world is changing faster than ever and in big ways that challenge the sustainability and cohesion of our societies. Issues like climate change, low levels of youth well-being and marginalization all call for societal transformation. An important part of this transformation concerns the education and training of young people and adults.

Vocational education and training (VET) play a key role in this transformation. Many of the skills needed to make the green transition a reality, are taught and learned through VET. Bettering our VET and secondary education in general can also help
Programme for the Swedish Presidency 2024

The Nordic region – safer, greener, freer

— An integrated Nordic Region with cross-border freedom of movement
— A green Nordic Region
— A competitive Nordic Region: focus on STEM
— A socially sustainable Nordic Region: focus on skills supply and lifelong learning, integration through validation and digital inclusion
Thank you for your attention!