

# The skills agenda – policy measures and initiatives of the Nordic Council of Ministers

**Nordic conference: Taking great strides towards sustainable competence**

**April 11-12, 2024, Skellefteå**

**Petar Cavala**

# Facts about the Nordic Region

- 27 million inhabitants
- One of the strongest economies in the world
- High level of education – lifelong learning
- Innovative power – creativity
- Nordic labour market model
- Welfare – fair distribution
- More than 200 years of peace between the countries



# 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.



# A green and competitive Nordic region



**FUTUREPROOFING**

**WET**

**IN THE NORDICS**



# FUTUREPROOFING VET IN THE NORDICS

Strengthening vocational education in the Nordic region through youth engagement, cases and analysis.


Collaborative initiative by Think Tank Mandag Morgen and National Center for Vocational Education with the Nordic Council of Ministers (2023-2025).

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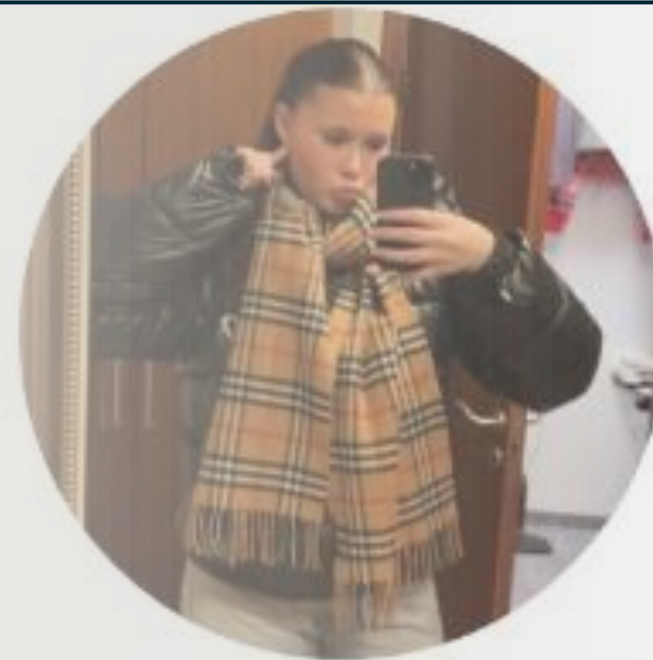
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# THE NORDIC YOUTH SOUNDING BOARD

10 members from Denmark, Finland, Faroe Islands, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

Members serve as experts, guiding our future work and ensuring that a youth perspective remains central to the project. They participate in Nordic Youth Relays and two meetings to review the policy brief.



Halló, nafnið mitt er Eva og ég er 17 ára gamall (fæddur 2006). Með tilliti til menntunar, er ég að læra rörmun að Tækniskólanum. Þetta vetur hef ég verið að æfa mig fyrir komandi motocross-tímabil sem ég mun keppa í íslensku meistaramótinu.

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# NORDIC YOUTH RELAYS

The Nordic Youth Relays are workshops held for and with Nordic vocational students in collaboration with five organizations, each with expertise in the vocational education sector.

- November 22nd (2023) with Samfes in Iceland
- April 4th with the Anti-Racism Center at Bjørnholt School in Oslo
- April 8th with NCE at NEXT in Copenhagen
- May 2nd with Omnia in Helsinki
- Sweden with Fryshuset TBA

The Nordic Youth Sounding Board will play a significant role in the relay.

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# CASE MAGAZINE WITH STAND OUT CASES FROM THE NORDIC COUNTRIES

- Provides increased participation opportunities through educational activities for green transition
- Shows new collaboration opportunities between different actors in relation to VET sectors
- Diversity in training and educational activities
- Diversity across sectors and industries
- Disseminate effective pedagogical and didactic methods for working with competency development for green transition
- Inspire across sectors and countries

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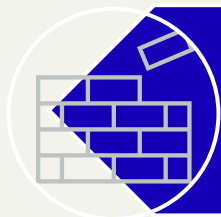
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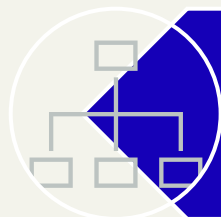
# CASE COLLECTION



Broad geographical distribution. Cases from all countries and Åland, the Faroe Islands and Greenland



Narrow industry spread.  
Overrepresentation of industrial and construction sectors



Large variation in the scope and size of projects and upskilling programs.  
Ranging from initiatives at the school level to comprehensive programs at the sector/industry level.

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# NEXT STEPS

# VISIT OUR WEBSITE

- Conducting the Nordic Youth Relays
- Drafting the Relay Brief
- Conducting the Youth Sounding Board meetings
- Conducting study trips




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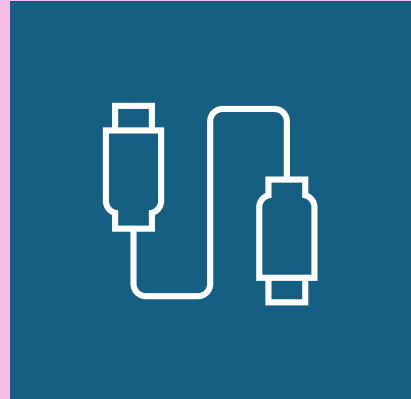
# New report: Lifelong learning for the future labor market

The purpose of the study has been to investigate:

- which skills are expected to be needed in the future labor market, given ongoing green and digital transitions
- how Nordic countries work with lifelong learning
- how lifelong learning can contribute to strengthening an inclusive future labor market



Changes are nothing new. However, they will probably happen faster and more intensively in the future.



In order for current structures that promote lifelong learning to have the conditions to meet future needs, greater flexibility is needed in combination with established structures



In order for lifelong learning to be strengthened, the stakeholders must have a common understanding of the distribution of responsibilities. At the moment, the systems are fragmented, which gives flexibility but also makes it difficult to get an overview



The focus needs to be more on lifelong learning being inclusive and reaching those who need it most



Cross-regional collaborations to secure skills supply and improve opportunities for lifelong learning are not a one-size-fits-all solution, but there can be advantages in strengthening them

# New cooperation programme 2025-2030

# Themes in new cooperation programmes

- Skills needed in the green and digital transformation – “competence supply”
- Promote lifelong learning and the possibility of adjustment
- Create better opportunity and incentive to choose a vocational career path

Thank you for your  
attention!

