

## 2023/2024 Network report for Danish Network for Educational Development in Higher Education, DUN

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The latest network report was submitted in September 2023. Therefore, many of the areas that have received most attention in the board's work in the academic year 2023/2024 are similar to those which were also touched upon in the 2022/2023 report.

### **Diversity and inclusion in DUN's activities**

Predominantly, the activities in the network has been in Danish. As an increasing number of university teachers at Danish universities have another background than Danish and do not necessarily speak Danish, the network has considered ways of including the international staff more in the network activities. Some of the special-interest groups (SIGs) are run in English and others in Danish. For some years we have ensured that one or both keynotes at the annual conference are in English, and that some paper presentations and workshops are offered in English to allow for following an English-language path through the conference. However, there is a balance to strike to ensure that there is not a loss of domain, that is, that the language for discussion teaching and learning in higher education in Danish is not developed and eventually withers away. We therefore wish to balance maintaining Danish-language activities with English-language provision.

This year, we have begun visiting the different aspects of DUN's activities, mainly the website, to evaluate the inclusion of members who are proficient in Danish as well as those who are not. This work will continue, and it will be expanded to consider other aspects of inclusion as well.

### **Reflections on the main target group for DUN**

To some extent related to the previous point, we have in the board on different occasions touched on the question concerning who DUN is a network for: Is it mainly for AD/EDs and researchers engaged in research and development concerning teaching and learning in HE? Or is it just as much (or mainly) for university teachers with an interest in reflecting on and developing their teaching? So far, DUN has had both groups as its target group, but looking at the participants at the annual conference the AD/EDs are a majority.

We do not intend to make formal decisions on the matter, but in relation to some specific issues it has been considered as a part of the decision. An example was in relation to some of the recent initiatives related to dissemination activities (e.g., webinars).

When meeting the two other Scandinavian networks, we realized that other networks have different priorities.

### **Meeting with the Scandinavian networks**

On the initiative of the Norwegian network, a meeting between the Norwegian, the Swedish and the Danish networks was held in January. It was a highly productive and inspirational experience, and it

was decided to try to pursue the possibility of obtaining funding from the Nordic Council to continue the meetings and the contact.

### **Financial issues**

As mentioned in the 2023 report, the Danish network is facing a deficit in our budget, partly due to a deficit on the ICED conference we hosted in 2022. We have therefore had to reduce the support for different activities in the network, mainly related to the SIGs, but also on travel and some of the expenses related to the journal. Also, we have changed the principles for the budget for our annual conference. Previously, the conference was supposed to balance financially to make it cheap for the participants, but the 2024 conference by the end of May is planned to earn a surplus to improve the network finances.

The result of the 2023 budget year has been better than feared, mainly due to a record-high number of conference attendees in May 2023 and very good work by the secretariat in reducing costs related to the conference. The number of participants this year is promising as well. Still, the board has decided to continue the cautious budgeting.

### **Hot topics**

- Like last year, a reform of Danish Master's programmes is causing some disturbance and challenges. The reform means that in addition to the current 3+2 structure with the Master's level being a two-years programme, a substantial part of the Master's students should instead be studying a one-year Master's programme. It is still not clear in details what the reform will look like in detail, but a committee including the vice-chancellors from all universities will present a suggestion in the autumn.
- A suggestion for discussion in the ICED context could be the balance between activities target developers and activities targeted teachers.

*Lars Ulriksen*

*Chairperson of DUN, May 10, 2024*