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Network of Nordic and Baltic Writing Centres

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NORDPLUS

History

- NORDPLUS is a Nordic and Baltic Educational Cooperation
 - 2013 first application
 - 2015 second application
- Main aim to strengthen writing centre cooperation in this region



A?



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Aim of the Network

- Is to increase the impact of writing centers on the quality of higher education at our institutes by actively seeking examples of best practice in **teaching and learning academic writing** in the Nordic and Baltic region
- Exchange practice
- Share experience
- Develop research
- Strengthen momentum
- Create a lobbying tool



Start: mapping centres

- September 2016
 - Monthly Skype meetings
 - Survey about our centres to find focal points in our discussions



Meetings

- 1st meeting November 2016 — Bergen
 - focal point: mapping and measuring impact
- 2nd meeting May 2016 — Gothenburg (Chalmers)



Result of discussion 1

- Diversity of our centres
- Commonality of mission and aim

- Diversity of our services
- Commonality of our problems dealing with writing

Models



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United States

- WC institutionalised

Nordic and Baltic / Europe

- Individualised
 - Study support centres / Student service (Sweden)
 - Language Centres (Finland and Estonia)
 - Library (Norway)



Should we move to a more institutionalised model?

- possible benefits (visibility, impact, continuity, evidence based, academisation of writing as a discipline ...)
- possible drawbacks (standardisation of teaching, less contact with disciplines, vulnerable ...)
- Who are our strategic partners?



Result of discussion 2

- What makes our WC successful? How do we promote ourselves? What convinces departments, faculties, etc., to make use of our services?
- Is it student numbers? Is it that we teach writing? Is it how we teach writing? Can we provide evidence that we have an impact on writing?



How?

- Focus on strengthening our centres by mapping our activities
 - Focus on the impact we have — what is impact and how can we measure impact?
 - Focus on our “market value”
 - Focus on our “business model”



Focal point for next meeting: sustainability

- Develop a business plan of our centres / a business model
- Develop templates we can use to promote our centre

- Think entrepreneurially
- Collect data that can be investigated systematically
- Do this for all the services we provide



Focal point for next meeting: sustainability

- Support people within the centre
 - develop our writing services
 - continue constructive discussion what helps and what does not (based on evidence)
 - tap into our individual resources



New application Nordplus 2017

- Possible aims
 - build relationships between writing and institutions
 - build relationships between writing institutions
 - promote intercultural awareness and understanding
 - improve sustainability and impact of writing
 - academise writing



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Interested?

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