

Dear Nordic friends

The Nordic twin city cooperation is now celebrating its 25th anniversary!



It has been 25 years since the first Nordic Network Days took place in Randers in 2001. The theme was "The Nordic Perspective on Children and Pedagogical Documentation".

The Network Days marked the first step in a Nordic educational development project. The participating cities are Akureyri, Lahti, Randers, Västerås, and Ålesund. The project aims to strengthen and improve education for children in Nordic preschools.

These networking days and those that followed laid the foundation for Nordic collaboration. Commitment, expertise, perseverance, and humor became key elements of this cooperation.

The Nordic town-twinning cooperation reflects our focus on important themes in children's education. At the same time, we have connected with research and current trends in Nordic education.

The Network Days are organized to promote interaction between research, knowledge, and educational practice. This includes presentations, shareshops, and study visits. We maintain this format so researchers, lecturers, and practitioners can meet in a professional setting.

During the organized networking days, new relationships among participants have been formed. This has been clear both during the events and through collaborations between preschools in our cities.

The collaboration has allowed Nordic educators to join exchange projects. They take turns doing internships at preschools in our cities.

The Nordic cities will face several economic challenges in the future. These could impact the framework for Nordic twin city cooperation, even though much of it is self-financed. It is crucial for political and administrative leaders to support and prioritize this cooperation for preschools.

We hope to strengthen the exchange of experiences in the future with support from Erasmus+ and Nordplus Junior. This will encourage more preschool teachers to participate in exchange projects between the preschools of our cities.

We also hope that educators, leaders, consultants, department heads, and politicians will support the Nordic twin city collaboration in the future. Their contributions can bring new ideas and inspiration, that can bring courage, faith, hope, and new perspectives to our work with children.

The Nordic steering group September 2026

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Themes at the Nordic Network Days for Preschool 2001–2026

2026 Västerås	More than words – language and communication as keys to social belonging and play.
2025 Ålesund	Strong foundation for the next generation – teachers and children.
2024 Lahti	The future of early childhood education and care in the changing world of society.
2023 Akureyri	Leikskóli fyrir alla.
2022 Randers	Forældreinddragelse i nordiske dagtilbud – Hvordan kan samarbejde med forældrene om 0-6 årige børns udvikling og læring medvirke til en god barndom?
2019 Västerås	Barnets bästa – Hur arbetar de nordiska förskolorna med huvudprinciperna i barnkonventionen?
2018 Ålesund	Styrken i den nordiske barnehagetradisjonen – Hva er det som gør den så unik?
2017 Lahti	Barnets mångsidiga kompetens i förskolan.
2016 Akureyri	Barnets sidste år i børnehaven – på vej i skolen.
2015 Västerås	Modern teknik i barns lek och lärande.
2014 Randers	Sundhed, bevægelse og udeliv, pædagogens rolle.
2013 Ålesund	Liv og læring i de tidligste år – med fokus på de yngste barna.
2012 Lahti	Världen förändras – hur går det för barnen i de nordiska förskolorna?
2011 Akureyri	Leg for livet.
2010 Västerås	Matematik har många språk, språk- och matematikutveckling i förskolan.
2009 Randers	Socialt udsatte børn i nordiske børnehaver.
2008 Ålesund	Barns medvirkning i førskolen.
2007 Akureyri	Kulturelle udtryksformer.
2006 Västerås	Olika – Lika – Jämlika – Med genusperspektiv i förskolan.
2005 Randers	Relations kompetence – fra fejlfinding til anerkendelse.
2004 Ålesund	Den reflekterende pedagog – en ressurs som ikke kan unnværes i framtida.
2003 Akureyri	Den moderne barndom som udfordring – Að mæta barni nútímans.
2002 Västerås	Kvalitets- och/eller serviceutveckling i dagens förskola?
2001 Randers	Det nordiske børneperspektiv och pædagogisk dokumentation.



Akureyri
Iceland



Lahti
Finland



Randers
Denmark



Västerås
Sweden



Ålesund
Norway