

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**

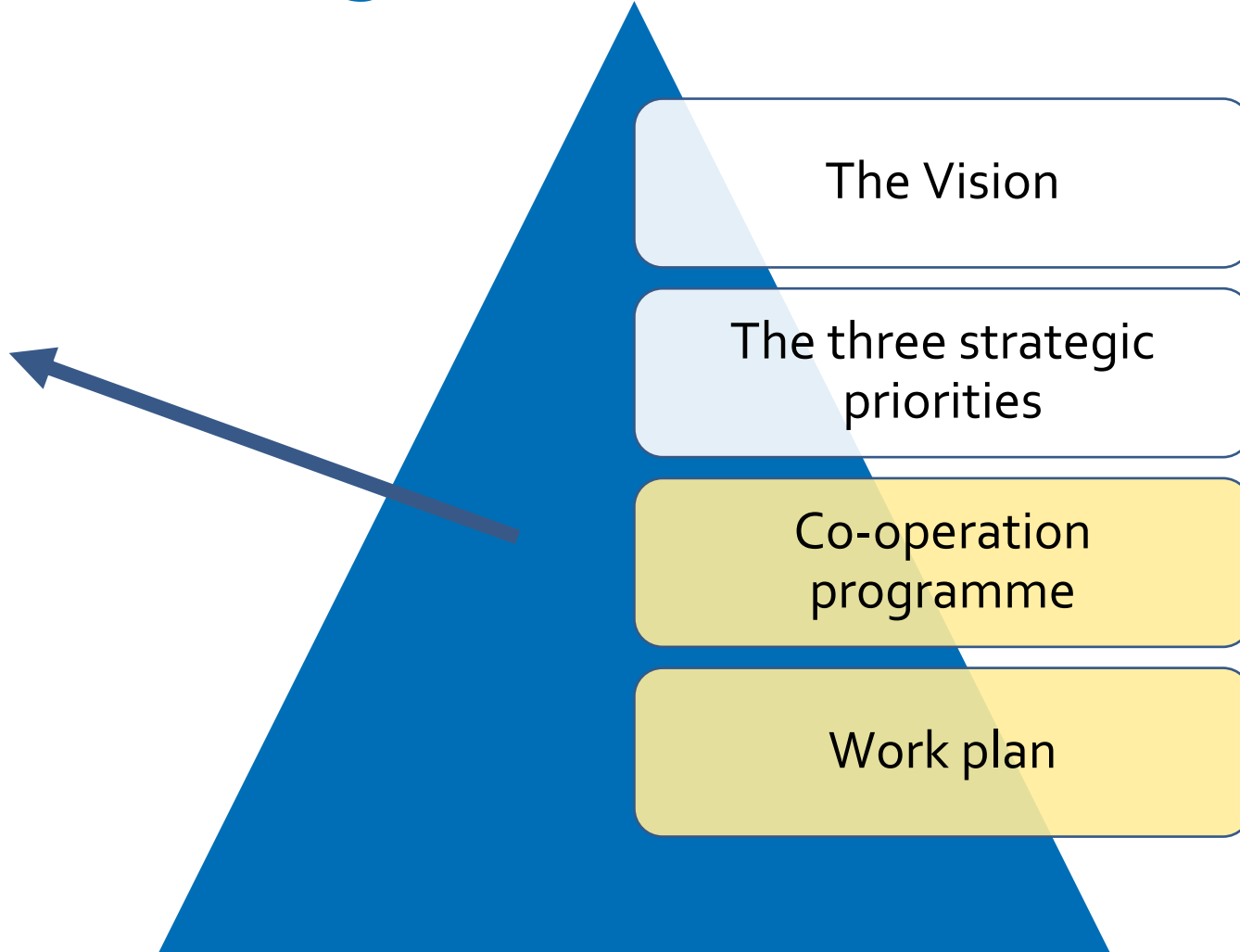
A **socially sustainable** Nordic region

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

Action plan
2025-2030



What is to be achieved?

How is it to be achieved?



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

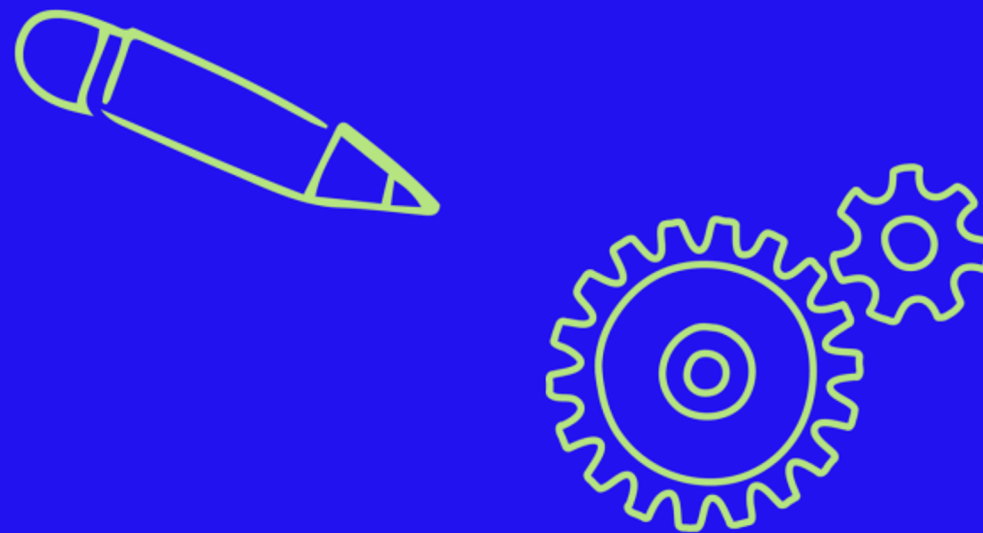
- Joint Nordic youth relays
- Focus on well-being, inclusion and diversity

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!**

