

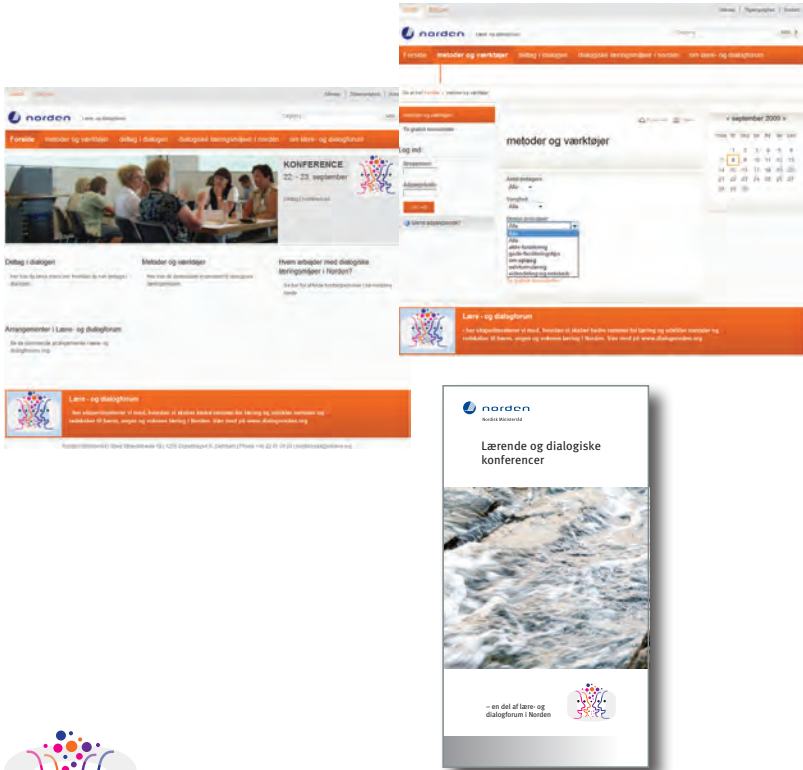
Learning and Dialogue Forum in the Nordic Countries

Find us at www.dialognorden.org. Here you can:

- get information on Learning and Dialogue Forum events
- take part in debates arising from our events
- watch video extracts with participants in debate
- download concrete process templates and tools, which underpin and support formal and informal learning environments
- obtain inspiration from international research and development projects
- find links to knowledge and skill environments in the Nordic countries

Our ambition is that www.dialognorden.org can act as a bridge builder between research and practice and constitute a platform for the exchange of knowledge and experience.

The Learning and Dialogue Forum will, on an ongoing basis, issue booklets aimed at encouraging the establishment of dialogue-based learning environments in the Nordic countries. You can download the booklets at www.dialognorden.org



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Research based knowledge on learning shows the need for the establishment of new learning environments

Learning formally takes place in our training/educational institutions. Here “learning is on the agenda”. However, the learning process continues informally both in our workplaces and during our leisure time - when we are busily engaged with other things.

The Learning and Dialogue Forum focus on developing processes and tools, which can support both formal and informal learning in our societies.

Cutting edge research on how individuals learn shows clearly that it takes place both intellectually and emotionally, and through the context in which the activity takes place. When designing the learning environment, we must keep in mind the cognitive, emotional and social dimensions of learning.

We must also plan the learning environment in accordance with the principle of individual learning as an active process; a process that is not just based on the input and acquisition of knowledge but also (to just as great an extent) on reflection, comprehension and the active creation.

We can learn alone and learn together. And entire organisations can learn as well. The Learning and Dialogue Forum wants to contribute to create an increasing and beneficial interplay between the various forms of learning.

The Nordic Region has the prerequisites for creating learning through dialogue

In a dialogue-based approach, the hope - and belief - is that we can become wiser and find the good solutions simply by listening to each other.

Dialogue emerges from a genuine wish to understand others and thereby obtain much larger windows of opportunity - the common third. We gain new input and impulses, our opinions and assumptions are seen in a new perspective.

Much of what passes for communication is based on influencing others from already given positions. In a dialogue-based approach, the goal is to find new understandings by actively relating to the perspectives held by others.

The dialogue-based exchange of perspectives is an effective approach both as a method to encourage participation as well as to create innovation. At the same time, this ethos has huge learning potential.

The Nordic democratic tradition provides a particularly firm basis for the establishment of developmental and learning processes using a dialogue-based approach. We at the Learning and Dialogue Forum aspire to reinforce this unique learning environment via the help of knowledge resources and tools designed for dialogue processes.

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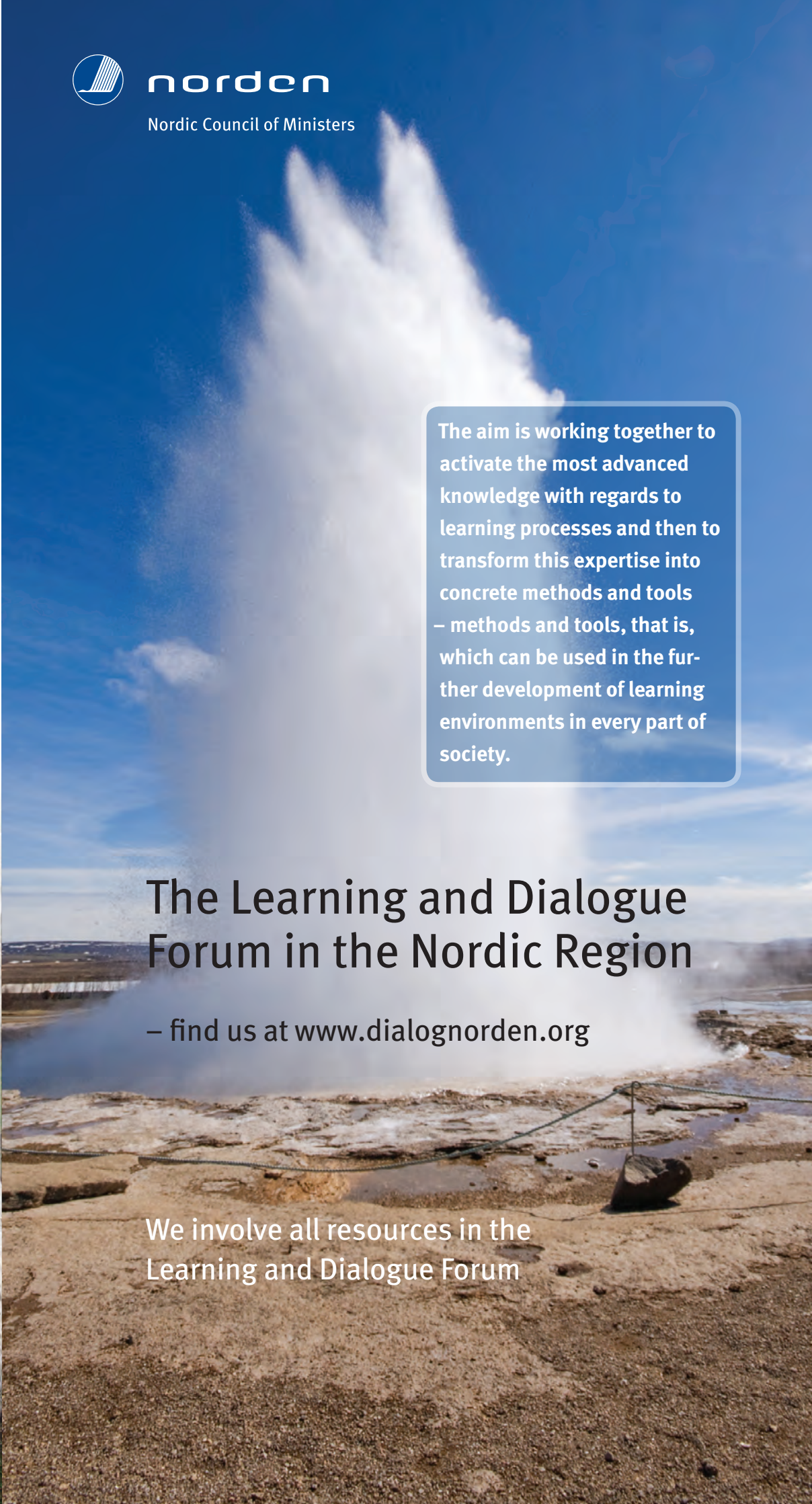


The aim is working together to activate the most advanced knowledge with regards to learning processes and then to transform this expertise into concrete methods and tools – methods and tools, that is, which can be used in the further development of learning environments in every part of society.

The Learning and Dialogue Forum in the Nordic Region

– find us at www.dialognorden.org

We involve all resources in the Learning and Dialogue Forum



Dialogue-based learning environments in the Nordic Region

In the Nordic Region we wish to utilize the most up to date knowledge about learning so as to establish exciting and beneficial learning environments in practice.

Research has developed an extensive knowledge of how we learn best. But there can be a gap between the theoretical insights and the practical organisation. Our ambition in the Learning and Dialogue Forum is to reduce this gap.

There are many good arguments in favour of placing a focus on learning and dialogue and concentrating on the development of dialogue-based learning environments in the Nordic countries. The most significant of these are:

- that the demands of global competitiveness dictate a need for constant development of competencies
- that people today want to use their individuality
- that research based knowledge on learning shows the need for the establishment of new learning environments
- that we in the Nordic Region have the prerequisites for creating learning through dialogue



The Nordic Council of Ministers has launched the Learning and Dialogue Forum

The Learning and Dialogue Forum is an initiative that is part of the Nordic globalisation projects started in 2007-2008.

The aim is that we in the Nordic countries provide even more support to learning environments in every part of society. Learning and Dialogue Forum will participate in turning modern educational theories into working practices – for example, when educational theory and practise is being planned at our training/educational institutions; when workplaces are being designed with a focus on innovation, or when the emphasis is placed on optimising the benefits gained from meetings, courses and conferences.

In the Learning and Dialogue Forum we want to try a taste of our own medicine. We aim to put our expertise to good use so as to create dialogue-based learning environments when we organise our own conferences and large-scale meetings. And we will evaluate and debate, on an ongoing basis, our experiences in these areas at www.dialognorden.org. In this way we will also use action learning to experiment our way towards new knowledge.

Global competitiveness dictates a need for constant development of competencies

The Nordic countries are (just like the rest of western world) affected by the globalisation and its ever increasing demands for development of competencies and the utilisation of knowledge.

The democratic traditions and high levels of education in the Nordic Region create unique opportunities in this context. These must be utilised to strengthen innovation and our ability to compete, and also to bolster democracy and social cohesion in Nordic societies.

Our aim is to achieve continual development. We want to improve our ability to recognise the resourcefulness that is in everybody. We must develop educational theory and practice in our educational courses, and improve our levels of end user and employee driven innovation.

Learning is in fertile soil in the Nordic countries! We have special opportunities to cultivate learning from the ground upwards and to promote innovation and learning in an interactive way. In the Learning and Dialogue Forum we will support these opportunities with knowledge and recommendations for practice



People today want to use their individuality

The modern Nordic citizen wants to have influence. To be a player in the game with an autonomous position.

People focus on the meaningfulness everywhere they are involved. People see themselves, and each other, as separate and unique individuals and have high expectations with regards to self-fulfilment. In our planning strategies for our future learning environments, all those involved must be regarded as resourceful participants.

Research has shown that learning to a great extent takes place during interaction and participation in social communities. Our aim is to create learning environments in the Nordic countries where participants get the opportunity to develop their individuality and, in interaction with others, create new, shared perspectives.

The active incorporation of knowledge and experience from all participants is a basic principle in the Learning and Dialogue Forum. Thus, for all events that take place under the auspices of the Learning and Dialogue Forum, the approach will be to create highest level of participation for all persons involved. The provision of optimum space for shared and individual reflection will be a central aim.



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