

## DUN – Danish Network for Educational Development in Higher Education

### Introduction

DUN (Danish Network for Educational Development in Higher Education) is a national association whose purpose is to develop the quality of university education and university teaching. DUN seeks to further this through establishing networks and activities for its members. The target group of the association includes everybody involved in university education and teachers/lecturers in higher education. For further information see the website (in Danish): <http://www.dun-net.dk/about-dun>

### Status

DUN has existed for 19 years. During the years DUN has developed from being an informal grass-roots movement to being a formal association with rules of procedures, regulations, a quarter million budget – financed by dues from the 8 universities - and more than 1.000 individual representing all Danish Universities and a number of other institutions of higher education. Last year we experienced a high council member turnover. Consequently, we decided to use this change deliberately by creating a new council profile: A more political and strategic council dedicated to improve (or even reform) the existing system of incentives and credits for higher education teachers.

### Core activities

The core activities of DUN are hosting an annual conference, financing an online journal, and organizing various activities such as newsletters and special interest groups.

### Annual conference

Once a year, DUN hosts a national conference on university education. The conference features international and national keynote speakers. In addition, it includes parallel sessions based on research papers and best-practice workshops presented by national educational university teachers and academic developers. This year conference took place on May the 22<sup>th</sup> -23<sup>th</sup> 2013. The main theme this year was *Educational Development*: <http://dun-net.dk/konferencer/dun-konference-2013/>. Our main international speakers were Mona Fjellström and Kristina Edström from Sweden. More than 100 participants from Denmark and the Nordic countries participated in the conference.

### Journal of Danish Higher Education

Besides hosting an annual conference, the association issues a journal on learning, teaching, and academic development in higher education called "*The Journal of Danish Higher Education*". The journal was "born" seven years ago and all ready has a total of fourteen volumes. It encompasses peer-reviewed research based articles and papers based on university teachers' experiences and reflections on educational practice. The journal is published twice a year. Until recently the journal was published in hardcopy format, but since November 2011 it has been published on-line as an Open Journal System (OJS):

<http://ojs.statsbiblioteket.dk/index.php/dut/index>. It is no longer available in a printed version. Publishing the journal in hardcopy format formed a fairly large budget heading, and the on-line solution has released significant resources for initiating other activities. Consequently, DUN considers arranging a series of events on a smaller scale. These events could be seminars taking up specific topics or discipline specific themes that are relevant to the association members.

### *Various activities*

DUN is involved in various activities:

✓ ***Mail-list and newsletters***

DUN administers a mail-list for members of DUN, which is - at present - the most important information source for members of DUN. Also DUN organizes monthly newsletters.

✓ ***Special Interest Groups***

DUN supports special interest groups by offering financial support, advertisement, and coordination on DUN's website. At the moment two groups are established and several applications are under review.

One of the special interest groups consists of educational developers responsible for the mandatory teacher training program for assistant professors at their university

✓ ***Nordic-Baltic collaboration***

DUN hosted a three day Nordic-Baltic Seminar for Educational Developers on June the 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> 2011. This was the first seminar of its kind and was accomplished successfully in close collaboration with colleagues from SwedNet (Sweden), UHPed (Norway) and PEDAForum (Finland). Next seminar will be hosted by the Estonian network.

✓ ***Resource persons***

DUN has created a list of resource persons which is available at our web site. The list presents Danish educational developers, their core competences and special interests. The purpose is to give an outline of the resource persons and make their competences visible and easy to access.

✓ ***New national book on university teaching***

This spring a new Danish book is published on university teaching. The authors represent a broad range of Danish educational developers and many board members from DUN: <http://unipaed.samfundslitteratur.dk/>