

DUN – Danish Network for Educational Development in Higher Education

May 27, 2014

Presentation

The Danish Network for Educational Development in Higher Education (DUN) is a national association including all Danish universities aiming at developing quality in university education and research-based teaching. DUN seeks to further this through establishing networks and activities for its members. The target group of the Network includes staff involved in developing 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 20 years. DUN has developed from a network to an association, which is now on its way to organize itself with specialized groups of interest. Next year the budget is expected to be around 100.000 euro. DUN is financed by dues from the 8 universities - and more than 1.300 individuals representing all Danish Universities and a number of other institutions of higher education. This year DUN has established a secretariat which enables DUN to become more professional and develop new initiatives.

Last year the board decided to give DUN a more clear profile, and has put a lot of effort in discussing and formulate purpose, goals and vision. The process is still ongoing but so far it has materialized in the following: The intent to become a more political and strategic council dedicated to improve (or even reform) the existing system of incentives and credits for higher education teachers.

DUN has been mentioned many times in the Danish Media this year. Chairman of the Board Hanne Leth Andersen (who is now also rector at Roskilde University) has been giving numerous interviews to newspapers, radio and on television.

A secretariat has been established to support DUNs many tasks, making it a more professional organisation. It is now easy to get in contact with DUN, the homepage is being updated continuously, and it is now possible to expand by arranging more network meetings, seminars, conferences and establish more special interest groups. The secretariat also supports the editorial board of *The Journal of Danish Higher Education*. Altogether this gives the board members more time to focus on the further development of DUN.

In 2014 DUN has established a contact to the organization of the Danish Universities (Danske Universiteter), in order to get a better visibility and create a relation between the development of university pedagogy, competence development and the overall strategies of the universities.

Activities

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

- **Annual conference**

Once a year, DUN hosts a national 2-day 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's conference took place on May the 5th-6th 2014. The main theme this year was the challenges of the mass university. More than 150 participated in the conference, mostly from Denmark but also a few from the Nordic countries making it one of the biggest conferences in the history of DUN.

- **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 started eight years ago and already has a total of sixteen issues. 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. Since November 2011 it has been published on-line as an Open Journal System (OJS): <http://ojs.statsbiblioteket.dk/index.php/dut/index>. The papers in the journal were viewed/ downloaded more than 20.000 times last year.

- **Mailing list and newsletters**

DUN administers a mailing list for members of DUN, which is currently the most important information source for members of DUN. Also DUN organizes newsletters every third week.

- **Special Interest Groups**

DUN supports special interest groups by offering financial support, advertisement, and coordination on DUN's website. At the moment the groups are:

1. Network for the development of PhD supervision
2. Network for Language Didactics
3. The research group on Educational Research
4. UNIEN – University Network for Innovation and Entrepreneurial Pedagogy
5. Educational developers responsible for the mandatory teacher training program for assistant professors

- **Nordic-Baltic collaboration**

DUN hosted a three day Nordic-Baltic Seminar for Educational Developers in June 2010. This was the first seminar of its kind and was accomplished successfully in close collaboration with colleagues from SwedNet (Sweden), UHPed (Norway) and PEDAF-Forum (Finland). Several members of DUN participated in the second Nordic-Baltic Seminar in January 2013 in Tallinn, Estonia and the third Seminar in December 2013 in Lund, Sweden. Next seminar will be hosted by the Finnish network and takes place in Helsinki in December 2014.

- **Resource persons**

DUN has created a list of resource persons 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**

Last year a new Danish book was published on university teaching, edited by Lotte Rienecker, Peter Stray Jørgensen, Jens Dolin, and Gitte Holten Ingerslev. The authors represent a broad range of Danish educational developers and many board members from DUN: <http://unipaed.samfundslitteratur.dk/>. A follow-up volume is in the pipeline, focussing on practical aspects of teaching & learning i Higher Education.