

PEDA-FORUM – THE FINNISH NETWORK OF EXPERTISE IN UNIVERSITY PEDAGOGY AND ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT

THE BASICS OF THE NETWORK

- **Founded** in 1994
- **Organisational form:** network, all universities are members and have contact persons. No individual members
- **Financed:**
 - no membership fees
 - universities are paying for the national online journal (1000 – 3000 € / university depending on the size of the university)

Main activities:

Annual conference. The theme of this year’s annual two-day conference (+ one day for network meetings) in August is “*The cycle of learning – campus and cloud*”. The theme of the conference was decided before Corona became an issue. Due to the virus the conference is now organized totally online. There are every year 400-600 participants in the conference: university teachers, educational developers and researchers. Details: <https://www oulu.fi/pedaforum2020-en/>



Journal. The journal of Peda-forum network is “Journal of University Pedagogy” (mostly in Finnish, also articles in Swedish and English). Journal publishes peer-reviewed articles as well as accounts and reports of university pedagogical experiments and development projects. Details: <https://lehti.yliopistopedagogiikka.fi/journal-of-university-pedagogy/>
SIGs: There is one SIG focusing on digitalization.

Major challenges

The overall structure of the network is very vulnerable. Many of the former university level contact persons are now in new positions. The generation shift hasn’t been unproblematic. The key activities (annual conference, journal) are going strong, but the day-by-day work is now very loose and almost nonexistent. It has eg. been difficult to find a new host for the webpages of the network and temporarily they don’t exist at all. Due to many national digitalization and educational development projects the possibilities and willingness to be involved in more general activities like Peda-forum is quite low and the role of network is maybe unclear for new actors. The vice-rectors are coordinating national projects and as a part of this coordination they have also the role of Peda-forum in their agenda.