Constitutive Meeting: Nordic Network for Research Cooperation on Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (NordURM)

15th of December 2011 at Chess (Centre for Health Equity Studies) Stockholm

Joint Nordic Networks Meeting
- Nordic Network for Research Cooperation on Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (NordURM)
- Nordic Network for Research on Refugee Children (NordRC)

Aim of the meeting
- Constitution of the Nordic Network for Research Cooperation on Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (NordURM)
- Continuance of the Nordic Network for Research on Refugee Children (NordRC)
- Collaboration between NordURM and NordRC

Participants
Norway: Lutine de Wal Pastoor and Ketil Eide
Sweden: Anders Hjern, Eva Nyberg and Live Stretmo
Denmark: Edith Montgomery and Signe Smith Nielsen
Finland: Raija-Leena Punamäki and Heli Sjöblom-Immala (representing Elli Heikkilä)
Belgium: Ilse Derluyn

Welcome
by the chairs of the meeting Anders Hjern (NordRC) and Lutine de Wal Pastoor (NordURM)

General information about the two networks
- The Nordic Network for Research on Refugee Children (NordRC) by Anders Hjern
- The Nordic Network for Research Cooperation on Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (NordURM ) by Lutine de Wal Pastoor
Lutine could gladly affirm that the gathering was a memorable one as it was the constitutive meeting of NordURM, the Nordic Network for Research Cooperation on Unaccompanied Refugee Minors. NordURM has been granted funding (880,000 NOK) by NordForsk for a three-year period (Autumn 2011 - Spring 2014). NordForsk is an organization under the Nordic Council of Ministers that provides funding for Nordic research cooperation as well as advice and input on Nordic research policy.

Unaccompanied refugee minors (URM) are a global challenge as well as a Nordic and national challenge. There is a genuine need for concentration of resources concerning research and research training on a Nordic level.

**NordURM’s main objectives during the NordForsk funding period will be:**

- To encourage and consolidate Nordic collaboration regarding research and research training in relation to unaccompanied refugee minors (URM)
- To enhance the understanding of URM’s diverse and complex needs as well as gain a better insight into the various national responses to the refugee minors’ need for support
- To develop themes for joint research projects concerning URM (including submitting joint applications for funding), to initiate new research projects as well as joint publications on URM issues


In 2012, another website will be launched by the project manager of NordURM, i.e., the Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies.

The network consists of approximately 30 senior researchers and 20 junior researchers /PhD students. The majority of the participants of the NordURM network are from the Nordic countries. However, NordForsk allows a certain percentage of non-Nordic participants. The countries participating in NordURM are: Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, and Belgium.

During the three years of funding, NordURM will organize six network meetings and three workshops for PhD-students/young researchers (these workshops will be in connection with a network meeting).
Constitution of the NordURM Network

Project leader
Lutine de Wal Pastoor, Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies (NKVTS)

Project management
NKVTS is the institution responsible for the NordURM project’s implementation, the administration of the allocated NordForsk funds as well as for establishing and maintaining a website for the NordURM network (in process) with information about network activities, meetings, projects, publications, etc. The NordURM website will be linked to the website of the Nordic Network for Research on Refugee Children as well as to the NordForsk website.

Funding
Some important criteria for the NordForsk funding of NordURM:

- Supporting participation in the NordURM meetings (travel costs and accommodation)
- No support for participation in external conferences
- No salaries and no overhead
- No honorarium to network partners
- NordForsk’s role as funder of the network has to be mentioned in all publications and profiling activities - incl. using the NordForsk logo:

![NordForsk Logo](https://example.com/nordforsk_logo)

The Steering Committee
The network will have a steering committee, i.e. an advisory committee made up of national representatives of each participating country. The steering committee will provide guidance on key issues such as NordURM policy and objectives, resource allocation and decisions involving major expenditures.

The NordURM Steering Committee will consist of the following national representatives

Norway: Lutine de Wal Pastoor (Ketil Eide, deputy)
Sweden: Eva Nyberg (Live Stretmo, deputy)
Denmark: Edith Montgomery (Signe Smith Nielsen, deputy)
Finland: Elli Heikkilä
Belgium: Ilse Derluyn

Participation in the NordURM network
The aim is to keep the network as open as possible to everybody interested in research on unaccompanied refugee minors. Although the network is meant to be a Nordic network, a certain number of non-Nordic researchers may be included. According to NordForsk no more than 25% of the funding may be used on non-Nordic/international partners.
Some criteria for participation in the NordURM network:

- Involved in ongoing research on unaccompanied refugee minors
- Having other important competence regarding URM research
- Affiliation to a Nordic University, University College, Research Institute or a Research and Development Unit (FoU)
- Non-Nordic experts in the field of URM research

However, participation in the network does not imply funding all members’ participation in every network meeting or workshop since the NordURM budget only allows funding a specific number of participants per meeting. Funding preference will be given to members/participants who make a significant contribution to a particular meeting/workshop or to the network in general (such as presenters, lecturers, discussants, members steering committee).

The NordForsk funding presumes that hosting the network meetings (and workshops) will rotate between the countries involved, i.e., between the different national researchers and research groups participating in the network. The steering committee will support the organizing institutions in the planning of the network meetings, e.g. suggesting themes/topics of the meetings as well as proposing researchers/experts to be invited from inside or outside the network.

**Research training**

In the Nordic countries research on unaccompanied refugee minors is a rather new field of research. Currently most of the URM-research consists of small-size projects, often carried out by individual researchers and PhD students (or Master students). However, in recent years a few larger research projects have been initiated. The major part of the Nordic research on unaccompanied minors takes place in Norway and Sweden. So far, no research training goes on in the Nordic countries - neither regarding research on refugee children in general nor research on unaccompanied refugee children in particular.

One of NordURM’s aims is to promote URM research training in the Nordic countries by means of organizing “PhD workshops”, in order to give PhD students (and other young researchers) the opportunity to discuss their own research with peers as well as senior researchers involved in URM research.

**Meeting schedule**

Since the constituent meeting of NordURM was held 15th December 2011, it was not feasible to organize a network meeting/PhD workshop in 2011. In order to catch up on this, there will be three network meetings in 2012.

The first network meeting (incl. a PhD workshop) will be in Oslo: 29 February – 1 March (PhD workshop) and 1-2 March (network meeting). Then, 7-8 June, there will be a network meeting in Ghent and by the end of the year (probably in December) there will be a combined PhD workshop/network meeting in Gothenburg.
2012 - Spring: Oslo, Norway: PhD Workshop and Network Meeting
Summer: Ghent, Belgium: Network Meeting
Fall: Gothenburg, Sweden: PhD Workshop and Network Meeting

2013 - Spring: Turku, Finland: Network Meeting
Fall: Copenhagen, Denmark: PhD Workshop and Network Meeting

2014 - Spring: Oslo, Norway: Final Network Meeting

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The PhD workshop and network meeting in Oslo will be hosted by the Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies (NKVTS)

29 February – 1 March / 1 March – 2 March 2012

- 29 February – 1 March 2012 (from lunch to lunch): Workshop for PhD students/young researchers
- 1 March – 2 March 2012 (from lunch to lunch): Network Meeting

Theme of the PhD Workshop in Oslo:

*Ethical and methodological challenges in research with unaccompanied refugee minors / refugee children.*

Six students will be able to present their own work, while a number of senior researchers will be discussants, in the following discussions both senior and junior researchers participate. Interested PhD and Master students should send in an abstract (1-2 pages) and indicate the ethical and/or methodological challenge they would like to present and get feedback on by the other workshop participants.

The Network Meeting in Oslo will have the following two themes:

The first day there will be presentations focusing on ethical and methodological issues, the second day current Norwegian URM-research will be presented, based on a soon to be published Norwegian anthology on unaccompanied refugee minors in Norway.

- Thursday 1 March (after lunch):
  *Ethical and methodological issues and approaches in research with vulnerable children.*
- Friday 2 March (until lunch):
  Launching the new anthology on psychosocial work with unaccompanied refugee minors: *Barn på flukt. Psykososialt arbeid med enslige mindreårige flyktninger* (Editor Ketil Eide). Presentations by the contributors to the anthology. Both the editor and several of the authors are members of the NordURM network.
List of participants of the Nordic Networks Meeting 15th December 2011
(name, affiliation, and e-mail address) in alphabetical order:

- Anders Hjern, MD Paediatrician, Professor, CHESS (Centre for Health Equity Studies), Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm University
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- Edith Montgomery, PhD, Specialist in Child Psychology, Research Director, Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims, Copenhagen
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- Eva Nyberg, PhD, Project Leader of URM-project Stockholm Region, Research and Development (FoU Södertorn)
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- Heli Sjöblom-Immala, Phil.Lic., Researcher, Institute of Migration, Finland (representing Elli Heikkilä)
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- Ilse Derluyn, PhD, Senior Researcher, Dept. of Orthopedagogics, University of Ghent
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- Ketil Eide, PhD Sociology, Associate Professor, Telemark University College and p.t. Senior Researcher, Centre for Child and Adolescent Mental Health (R-BUP)
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- Live Stretmo, PhD student, Dept. of Sociology, University of Gothenburg and Project Leader URM-project Gothenburg Region, Research and Development (FoU Väst)
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- Lutine de Wal Pastoor, PhD Educational Anthropology, Senior Researcher, Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies (NKVTS), Oslo
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- Raija-Leena Punamäki, PhD, Professor, Dept. of Psychology, Tampere University.
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- Signe Smith Nielsen, PhD Public Health, Post Doc, Danish Research Centre for Migration, Ethnicity and Health (MESU), University of Copenhagen
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Not present due to other commitments:

- Henry Ascher, MD Pediatrician, Associate Professor, Nordic School of Public Health (NHV), Gothenburg
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- Elli Heikkilä, PhD, Research Director, Institute of Migration, Finland and Associate Professor, University of Turku
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