

NORDPLUS PROGRAMME IN ESTONIA

EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION WITHIN
THE NORDIC AND BALTIC COUNTRIES

2008-2011



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A foreword from the Nordic Council of Ministers

The Nordic and Baltic countries are aiming at establishing a coherent area where knowledge and experience can move freely across national borders. The aim is to make our area as attractive as possible to the surrounding world.

Here, in the Baltic Sea region, we are privileged to have good schools, universities, science centres, and vocational education centres that all pave the way to innovative businesses, creative industry, sustainable economy and welfare for all people. And by 'we' I do not only mean the Nordic countries – Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Iceland – but also Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

At the same time, we share in the economic and political turbulence that is currently rocking Europe. It is obvious that working more closely and effectively together is the only solution to our shared troubles. And that is what we truly need: more cooperation – not less.

Education, research and lifelong learning are an important basis for growth and development. As a result of globalisation, education and research have to become more international and competition on talent and successful innovation must be intensified.

The Baltic Sea region needs a well-trained and flexible workforce. Our countries should pursue policies that encourage youngsters to complete post-school education, and which also provide opportunities for all to continue to learn and develop throughout life. Educational cooperation in this region will help achieve the goals of skills enhancement, quality assurance and equality.

The Nordic-Baltic educational programme, Nordplus, is an excellent joint tool for achieving these goals and solving with our common challenges. I'm very glad to acknowledge that Nordplus has been well-received.

Nordic-Baltic cooperation comes as naturally as it does because good, fruitful cooperation lies in shared values – freedom, democracy, concern for the environment and a desire for welfare for all. And over the years we have become partners; we have things to teach each other and things to learn from each other's experience.



Berth Sundström

Director of the Nordic Council of Ministers' Office in Estonia



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What is NORDPLUS?

NORDPLUS is a Nordic-Baltic educational cooperation programme.

NORDPLUS programme is open to the following countries:

- the Nordic countries [Finland](#), [Sweden](#), [Norway](#), [Denmark](#), [Iceland](#), incl. autonomous regions Greenland (Denmark), Faroe Islands (Denmark) and Åland Islands (Finland);
- the Baltic countries [Estonia](#), [Latvia](#), [Lithuania](#).

NORDPLUS was created to

- introduce Nordic languages and culture, and develop mutual Nordic-Baltic **linguistic and cultural understanding**;
- contribute to the **quality and innovation** of lifelong learning through mobility, projects and networks;
- support, develop and spread **innovative products and processes** in education through exchange of best practices and ideas;
- enhance and develop Nordic **educational cooperation** and contribute to the establishment of **a Nordic-Baltic educational area**.

NORDPLUS consists of three sectoral sub-programmes and one cross-sectoral programme:

- the general education programme [Nordplus Junior](#)
- [Nordplus Higher Education](#)
- [Nordplus Adult](#)
- [Nordplus Horizontal](#)

In addition, there is also the **Nordplus Language Programme** which had so far only been open to the Nordic countries but from 2012, is also open to the Baltics.

NORDPLUS supports

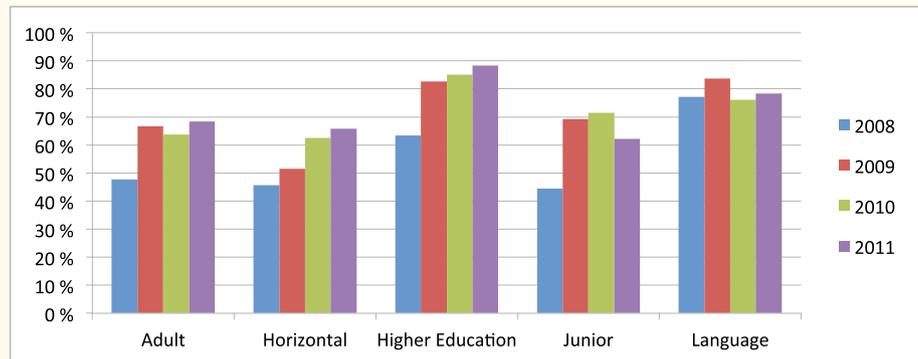
- [mobility](#) activities (min 2 partner institutions);
- [project](#) activities (min 3 partner institutions in 3 countries);
- [network](#) activities (min 3 partner institutions in 3 countries).

When talking about the results of the **NORDPLUS** Programme so far we can say that we have had a successful first joint programme period with the Baltic countries during 2008-2011. In these four years a great number of institutions have been applied for participation in the Nordplus Programme and most of them have also been granted.

The success of the programme can be seen in the comparison of the amounts of applicants and beneficiaries. There have been a total of 2613 project applications from all the Nordic and Baltic countries in the past four years, and of them 1783 have been approved and granted – that means that **68% of all the Nordplus project applications have received funding**. This is an excellent result, confirming the success of the Nordplus Programme.

Chart 1 shows the success rates for all the sub-programmes across all the participating countries for the years 2008-2011. The most successful has been the Nordplus Higher Education Programme. The steadiest growth in success has been for Nordplus Horizontal; the success of Nordplus Junior and Nordplus Adult has fluctuated over the years but the figures are still recurrently high.

Chart 1: Success rates across Nordplus sub-programmes in 2008-2011



Nordplus in Estonia 2008-2011 – an overview of results

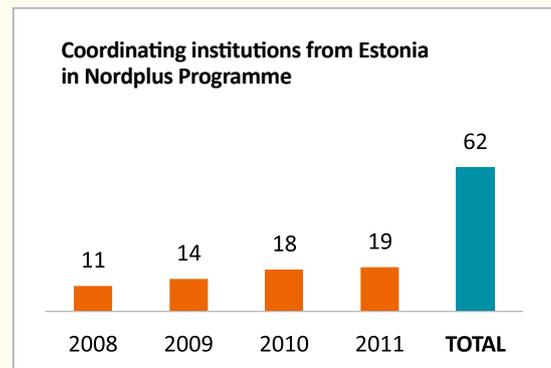
Nordplus Programme was opened to Estonia and other Baltic countries in 2008; before that educational cooperation in Nordplus was only between the Nordic countries. Baltic countries immediately started to take active part in the programme. In four years, the Baltic countries have managed to achieve a good position next to the Nordic countries and a remarkable amount of institutions have been included in the programme.

The biggest challenge for Estonia during the first programme period was introducing the programme and bringing it to the institutions and people involved in education. On the basis of the results from these four years, it can be said that the word “Nordplus” has become known in the educational circuits in Estonia. Interest towards Nordplus information seminars has been large every year and the desire to participate in the programme has been remarkable. The interest has not decreased, which shows that after the initial period of getting to know the programme, it has proved itself by know and is valued and important among people involved in Estonian education.

Compared to other Baltic countries, Estonia has been the most active participant when looking at the number of participating institutions and this in spite of its smaller number of inhabitants. This can allow us to draw the conclusion that because of its location, the cooperation with the Nordic countries is important for Estonian schools and has been there even before the programme. Many institutions have had prior good contacts with partner institutions in Nordic countries and it is now easy to continue the cooperation in Nordplus Programme.

Estonian institutions have coordinated a total of **62 Nordplus projects** during the years 2008-2011. The total number of Nordplus projects coordinated by all countries participating in the programme has been 1783 for all four years. Therefore, **Estonia has lead 3.5% of all projects in the programme during this period.** Totalling the number of all Estonian institutions that have participated in Nordplus Programme as a coordinator or partner, we get **470 Estonian institutions.** Such a large number of Estonian institutions is a remarkable result and allows us to even claim that Nordplus programme has had an effect on Estonian education (see Chart 2).

Chart 2



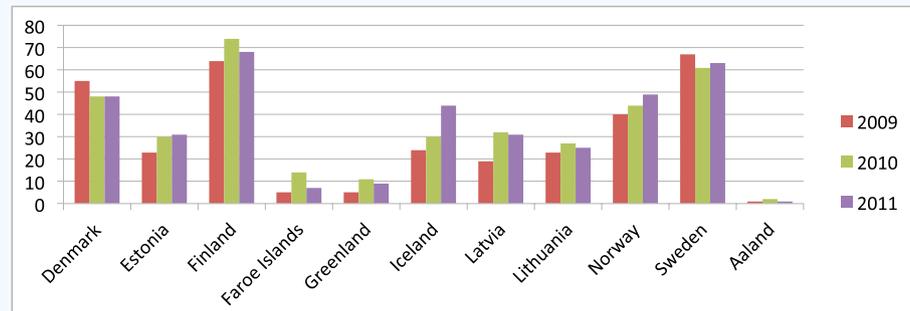
Nordplus Junior

Nordplus Junior funds the mobility of students and teachers including also other staff in the fields of general and vocational education, and the participation of institutions in projects and networks. Nordplus Junior has become very popular and increasingly more institutions in the Nordic and the Baltic countries are applying for financing for international cooperation.

The most popular subjects for cooperation in the 2008-2011 programme period were in both Estonia and other participating countries the quality of education, climate and vocational education. Other subjects chosen have also been health, a multicultural classroom, entrepreneurship, preventing dropping out of school, etc.

Estonian institutions have been active participants in the Nordplus Programme - every year approximately 20 Estonian schools have participated in projects as either coordinators or partners, which makes the total of **96 projects with Estonian participation** for four years. It is good to see that compared to other Nordic-Baltic countries, Estonia sticks out with the rather large number of participating institutions. Even though we are a small country and only started participating in the Nordplus Programme in 2008, according to the participant ratio we are already with the same calibre as the Nordic countries, whose experience is long-term. The participation of Estonian institutions compared to other countries is illustrated by Chart 3.

Chart 3: Number of participating institutions in Nordplus Junior – Estonia compared to other countries



The most popular Nordplus Junior project type in Estonia have been **mobility projects** –

exchanges of groups of pupils and teachers, mobility of pupils and teachers and preparatory visits for future projects. There have been far less development projects and thematic network projects.

The analysis of the types of institutions shows that among participants **secondary education schools** and **gymnasiums** have been the most numerous; they are followed by basic and vocational schools. Kindergartens, hobby schools and other institutions have participated less in the programme, however, their participation will probably increase with the growth of the programme's reputation.

Estonian institutions that have participated in Nordplus Junior projects as partners have traditionally been numerous. However, there are also those who have plenty of experience and willingness to initiate and lead projects. In the years 2008-2011, there were 23 schools in Estonia, who took on the responsibility of coordinating a project. It is good to see that the number of schools like this has increased from year to year. There are schools in Estonia that have initiated more than one project, therefore there have been a total of 28 Nordic-Baltic cooperation projects lead by Estonian schools in the four years (see Chart 4).

Chart 4

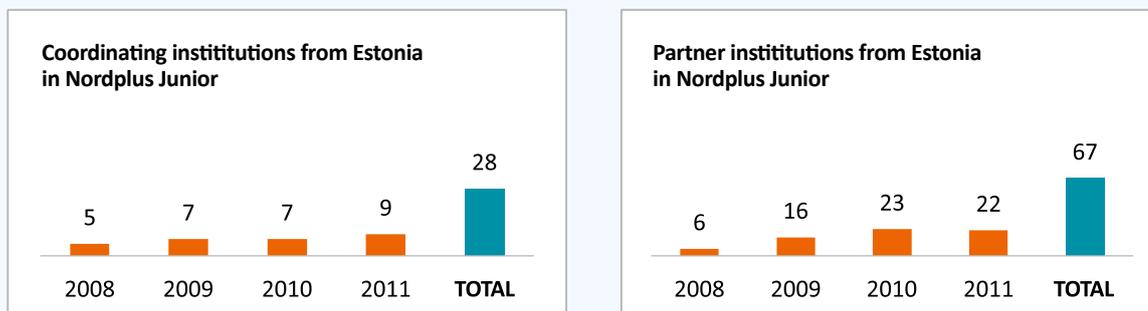


Table 1 provides an overview of the fields and themes of projects lead by Estonian schools participating in Nordplus Junior Programme during the four years.

Table 1: Nordplus Junior projects coordinated by Estonia during 2008-2011

Year	Project coordinator	Project area	Project theme
2008	Tallinn Gustav Adolf Gümnaasium	natural science	Strive for quality and perfection in Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry
	Märjamaa Gümnaasium	comparison of education systems	The similarities and differences of Swedish and Estonian educational systems
	Kiltsi Põhikool	art	Art is a bridge between cultures
	Paide Gümnaasium	new teaching methods	Learning by sharing-media, education, communication, culture (MECC)
	Paide Gümnaasium		Humleback-Paide

Year	Project coordinator	Project area	Project theme
2009	Uhtna Põhikool	climate	Bridges of friendship
	Sõmeru Põhikool	quality of education	Professional development workshops for teachers-sharing good practice
	Tallinna Gustav Adolphi Gümnaasium	quality of education	Strive for quality and perfection in Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry
	Uhtna Põhikool	climate	Bridges of friendship
	Väike-Maarja Gümnaasium	quality of education	From ancestral to today
	Kohtla-Järve Vene Gümnaasium	multicultural classroom	Exchange Vene-Fagelvik
	Tartu Kunstikool	vocational education	SAMPO-Estonian, Finnish and Icelandic partnership project on national epics in art and culture

Year	Project coordinator	Project area	Project theme
2010	Viimsi Keskkool	quality of education, multicultural classroom, vocational education	Education at the crossroads
	Tallinna Gustav Adolphi Gümnaasium	quality of education, multicultural classroom, vocational education	Strive for quality and perfection in Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry
	Väike-Maarja Õppekeskus	vocational education	International mechanics
	Kolga Keskkool	climate	How successful are our governments in decreasing Co ²
	Karjamaa Gümnaasium	vocational education	MESTEX
	Tartu Kutsehariduskeskus	vocational education	Comparison of Finnish and Estonian business and food culture
	Ida-Virumaa Kutseõppekeskus	vocational education, climate	Young people of the Baltic States for clean environment

Year	Project coordinator	Project area	Project theme
2011	Pärnu Vabakool		Summer creativity camp
	Kohtla-Järve Järve Vene Gümnaasium	quality of education, multiculturalism	Multicultural class
	Lihula Muusika- ja Kunstikool	quality of education, climate, healthcare	The beauty of Nordic art involves, inspires and unites
	Muhu Põhikool	environment, climate	Exchanging GLOBE project experiences
	Tartu Kutsehariduskeskus	vocational education	Good experience of learning and teaching restaurant field in Finland
	Tallinna Sikupilli Keskkool	entrepreneurship, creativity, innovation	Creativity and recycling - let's make it together
	Tallinna 21. Kool	entrepreneurship, quality of education	Crossing Nordic borders in entrepreneurship education
	Tallinna Gustav Adolphi Gümnaasium	quality of education	Strive for quality and perfection in Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry
	Viljandi Kaare Kool	vocational education; special needs children	

An international project is definitely an added value to fulfilling the curricula at school. Meetings with colleagues from different countries, visiting schools and getting to know different education systems are important to both teachers and pupils. Project work enables pupils to use in practice what they have learned in class. Common goals, obligations and responsibilities connected with project work connect all parties involved, which in turn helps improve the whole learning process.

Nordplus Junior project example:

LEARNING BY SHARING – MEDIA, EDUCATION, COMMUNICATION, CULTURE (MECC)

The project that took place during 2008-2010 was a cooperation project between pupils and teachers from schools of five countries. The aim was to learn from each other's experiences: how to compare and evaluate the quality of education, develop green thinking and form a healthy lifestyle, create a non-violent school environment, council pupils for a smooth transition from basic to secondary school and from secondary school to work life and further studies.

There were many partner meetings during the project, the first of them in April 2009 in Reykjavik and the second in the autumn of 2009 in the Baltic countries. Participants visited schools and youth centres, took part in school work and youth activities. Paide Gymnasium introduced the work of the school's student council, the newspaper LITTERA, which received the recognition of other schools and a wish to publish a newspaper in their schools as well. Events about healthy eating and balance took place in Lithuania. Everyone agreed that green thinking is acceptable among young people. The programme prepared by the Latvian school Saldus gave an opportunity to participate in lessons, to get to know the history of the city and school. The local candy factory took all participants to make and taste candies. The last meeting took place in Hamina school in September 2010 and offered the chance to take part in Finnish education, school life and culture with the added bonus of beautiful untouched nature and conservation.

During the project participants experienced that each school is unique, with different traditions and customs, as well as different tastes. However, it is important to make new acquaintances, get to know each other's way of thinking, values and attitudes. At the end of the project, further cooperation was discussed: Hamina School is interested in project work and student council work, Ventos Secondary School was inspired by Ármúla Gymnasium's experience and wants to improve the teaching of special needs students. Saldus School plans to offer its pupils the opportunity to practice English and get to know schools in other countries. Ármúla Gymnasium wants to gain experiences on how to better use e-school opportunities in learning and teaching, and they also planned to cooperate with Paide Gymnasium to put together a new e-curriculum.

The following schools took part in the project: Paide Gymnasium from Estonia, Mazeikiai Ventos Secondary School from Lithuania, Saldus Pilsetas Gymnasium from Latvia, Haminan Lukio from Finland and Ármúla Fjolbrautaskolinn from Iceland.

Aino Kreitsmann
Paide Gymnasium
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*In candy factory in Latvia.
Making candies can be fun!*

Nordplus Higher Education

Nordplus Higher Education supports the cooperation between the Nordic and Baltic higher education institutions in the development of curricula and creation of networks; the mobility of students and teachers is also very popular.

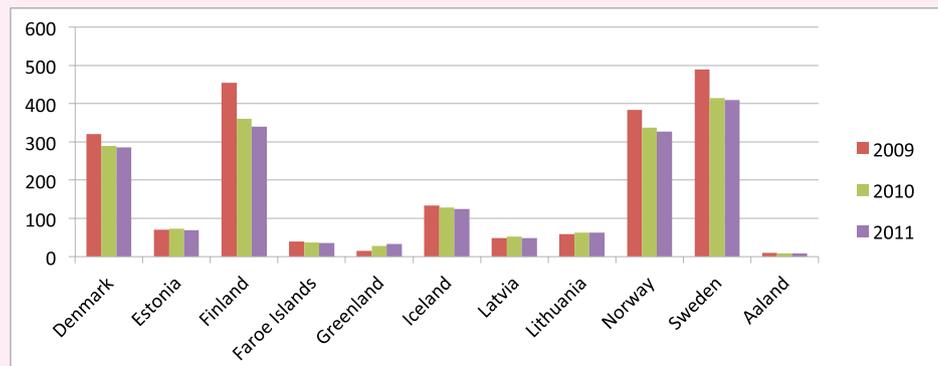
The priorities of the Higher Education Programme have throughout the years been the development of joint curricula, quality assurance in higher education and the expansion and renewal of existing collaboration networks.

The most popular specialties that the Nordic and Baltic countries cooperate on are Medicine, Teacher Training and Art-Design. This overall picture differs slightly from the themes of these project that Estonian schools lead, where most of the projects on Social Sciences and following to that are, like in other Nordic-Baltic countries, Teacher Training and Art- Design.

Estonian higher education institutions like those in other Baltic countries **are most active in network projects**. 77 out of 189 network projects have had a higher education institution from the Baltics participating in the project.

Next to Nordic countries and other Baltic countries, Estonia is proportionally well-represented in the programme. Even though Estonia joined the programme in 2008, we have established ourselves well and are equally involved in the programme with the Nordic old-timers. While during the first programme year, slightly over 40 institutions from Estonia took part in Nordplus Higher Education, and then now approximately 70 institutions participate in the programme annually. This is a welcome increase and the total number of **266 Estonian institutions** in four years is remarkable (see Chart 5).

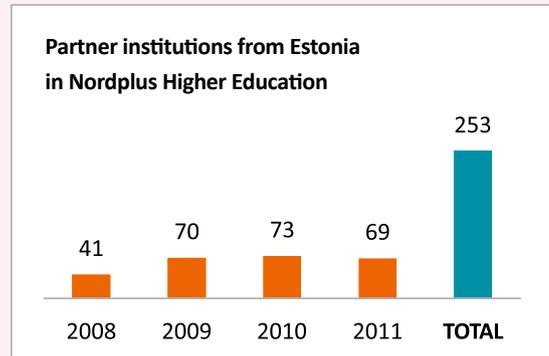
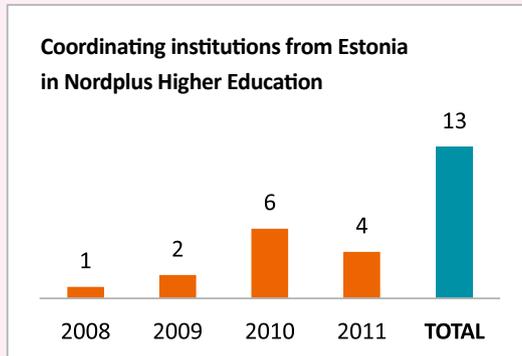
Chart 5: Number of institutions participating in Nordplus Higher Education – Estonia compared to other countries



Compared to other sub-programmes, Estonian institutions have participated in Nordplus Higher Education the most. In addition to de-

partments from Estonian higher education institutions participating in Nordplus projects as partners, there are 13 network projects in the four years in which Estonian higher education institutions have taken the leading role. Network projects have the largest number of participants out of all the project types in Nordplus Programme comprising many Nordic and Baltic higher education institutions in one network and therefore there is a good reason to still be pleased over a relatively low number of Estonian coordinated projects as well and we have plenty of reason to acknowledge these HEIs for taking on this great responsibility (see Chart 6).

Chart 6



Tartu University has been the most active, leading 7 Nordplus Higher Education projects and Tallinn University Haapsalu College has also been progressive with two projects.

The list of projects coordinated by Estonian HEIs gives a good overview of the possible themes and fields of higher education related cooperation and gives ideas to new people interested in participating in a Nordplus project. There have been just plenty enough projects coordinated by Estonia to provide the whole list hereon (see Table 2).

Table 2: Nordplus Higher Education projects coordinated by Estonia in the years 2008-2011

Year	Project coordinator	Project area	Projekti teema
2008	Tartu Ülikooli Euroopa Kolledž	social sciences	Understanding Societal Change: A Regional Consortium for the Advancement of Transition Studies

Year	Project coordinator	Project area	Projekti teema
2009	Tallinna Tehnikaülikool	education, teacher training	eHealth: Estonia, Finland and Sweden networking for shared knowledge and curricula
	Tartu Ülikooli Euroopa Kolledž	social sciences	Understanding Societal Change: Developing a regional Consortium for Advancement of Transition Studies

Year	Project coordinator	Project area	Project theme
2010	Tartu Ülikool	ICT	InterLinks10.Net: Nordplus Network of Journalism Schools
	Tallinna Tehnikaülikool	medicine	eHealth 2: Estonia, Finland and Sweden networking for shared knowledge and curricula
	Tallinna Ülikooli Haapsalu Kolledž	teaching and teacher training	Collaboration in Educational Technology CoTech
	Tallinna Ülikooli Haapsalu Kolledž	teaching and teacher training	Nordic concept for traffic safety education – NEST
	Eesti Muusika- ja Teatriakadeemia	art and design	Nomazz meets the Baltics/ - Nordplus/ joint study programme Nomazz
	Tartu Ülikooli Euroopa Kolledž	social sciences	Understanding Societal Change: Advancing the Regional Consortium for Advancement of Transition Studies

Year	Project coordinator	Project area	Project theme
2011	Eesti Kunstiakadeemia	art and design	KUNO
	Tartu Ülikool	social sciences	Nordic-Baltic Tourism Research Studies/ NORBATOUR
	Tartu Ülikool	language and linguistics	Folklore-Philology
	Tartu Ülikool	social sciences	Transition Studies Network

Nordplus Higher Education project example:

KUNO - AN ART UNIVERSITY WITHOUT WALLS

16 art universities from the Nordic and Baltic countries belong to the KUNO network. The main forms of cooperation are student and teacher mobility, intensive courses, seminars, workshops and a joint Master's curriculum Nordic Sound Art.

The network was established in 1993 by Nordic art universities with the wish to expand the possibilities for teaching and studying open arts. Baltic art universities joined the network ten years later as observers and became full members in 2005.

The cornerstone of the network is student mobility. An absolute hit in KUNO is short-term express-mobility. "New KUNO express-course!" is a sign which makes students act with the speed of lightning to get a spot in the course which their home universities either do not offer or just to get the international experience. It is rather common for this short-term contact with another university to grow into a new student project.

The main meeting place for teachers in KUNO network is a seminar that takes part in autumn and which has developed into a forum for art education and modern art.

The network is coordinated by KUNO secretariat, which moves every 5 years to a new partner university. Estonian Academy of Arts received the task in 2011.

The successful implementation of collaboration projects proves the strength of the network. In the summer of 2011, Estonian Academy of Arts organised the intensive course "Modern art, technology and paranormal phenomena" in the Kosmonautika holiday resort in Häädemeeste. The synergy with the foreign students was so strong that the forming of an art group was considered.

The largest joint achievement was the Master's programme Nordic Sound Art (NSA) (www.nordicsoundart.com) which a second class of graduates are finishing this spring.

Over the years, a strong sense of solidarity has arisen in KUNO – a real "borderless art university". Nordplus Programme is a framework with many opportunities, flexibility and little bureaucracy allowing this network to work.



Students in Kosmonautika Holiday resort in Häädemeeste, Estonia in the framework of the project "Modern art, technology and paranormal phenomena"

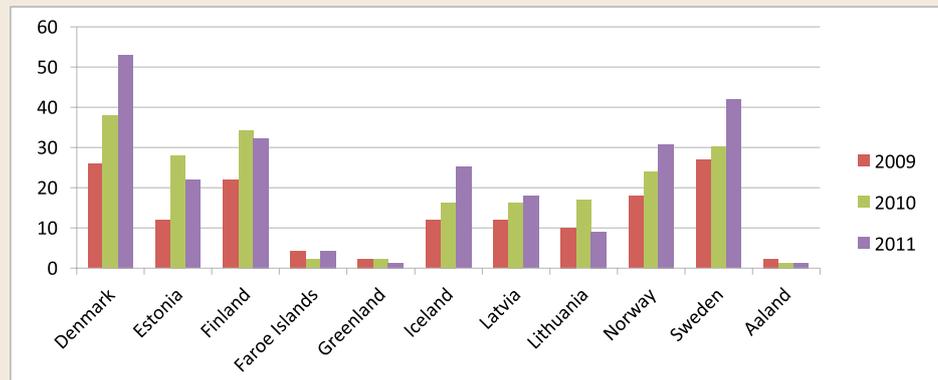
Maria Jürisson
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Nordplus Adult

Nordplus Adult supports the mobility of adult trainers and other staff in the field of adult education, and the participation of adult education institutions in projects and networks. More and more institutions in the Nordic and Baltic countries are applying for international cooperation. In Nordic countries adult education and lifelong learning are well-known and do not need special attention. However, in the Baltics, including Estonia, adult learning still needs reminding which has been one of the challenges for Nordplus Adult in Estonia.

Estonia joined Nordplus Adult successfully. Already in the first year participation in the programme was active and the number of Estonian applicants was surprisingly high. Even during the next years the percentage of Estonian institutions was large. In the four years, there have been a total of **57 Estonian adult education institutions** that have been granted in the programme. It is good to see that Estonia sticks out next to other countries with the rather large number of participating institutions. Even though we are a small country, we are more successful than other Baltic countries and comparable with the Nordic countries with our large number of beneficiaries. Chart 7 illustrates Estonian participation.

Chart 7: Number of institutions participating in Nordplus Adult – Estonia compared to other countries



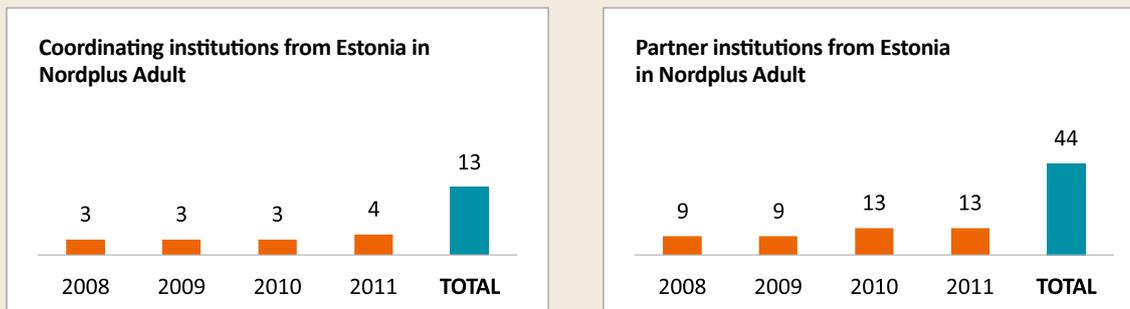
In the first years, **the most popular project type** among Estonian applicants **was mobility project**, but by now Estonia has successfully started with **development projects**

between institutions which have grown from year to year. The participation of Estonian institutions in research projects and networks has been small, but we hope that during the next programme period Estonian institutions will be willing to carry out these projects as well.

Compared to other Nordplus sub-programmes, institutions participating in Nordplus Adult are characterized by a rather different background and field of work. Many institutions are connected to education by having it more of an additional activity and see their participation in an educational cooperation project as a new exciting challenge. These institutions are for example museums, professional associations and enterprises. Project subjects are also from very different fields – from language learning to nature education, urban environment, eco building and occupational safety.

In addition to Estonian institutions that participate in Nordplus Adult as partners, 13 projects lead by Estonian institutions have been approved in 2008-2011. The number of coordinating institutions is rather small in Estonia but there is still a rising trend (see Chart 8).

Chart 8



The following is a summarized list of Nordplus Adult projects lead by Estonian institutions. The table gives a good overview of what kind of projects get funded and illustrates the Nordic-Baltic cooperation in the field of adult education (see Table 3)

Table 3: Nordplus Adult projects coordinated by Estonian institutions in the years 2008-2011

Year	Project coordinator	Project area	Project theme
2008	Alu Rahvaõpistu	studying in a folk high school	Through spirit towards quality
	Eesti Rahva Muuseum	studying in a museum, culture	Communicating cultural heritage – the exchange of experiences in the field of lifelong learning
	OÜ Miksike	language learning	LaWoMo – language for the workforce on the move

Year	Project coordinator	Project area	Project theme
2009	Eesti Vabaharidusliit	teaching special needs adults	Learning how to organise learning activities for adults with learning difficulties (or prejudice)
	Fenno-Ugria Asutus MTÜ	language learning, culture	Learning and teaching folk music and languages of Balto-Finnic people
	Estnorlink OÜ	language learning, culture, e-learning, developing leaning materials	E-nordisk

Year	Project coordinator	Project area	Project theme
2010	Fenno-Ugria MTÜ	language learning, culture, e-learning, developing leaning materials	Web Encyclopedia for teaching and learning Finno-Ugric cultural heritage and languages
	Pärnumaa Kutsehariduskeskus	nature education, photography	Formal meeting through camera

Year	Project coordinator	Project area	Project theme
2011	Järvamaa Kutsehariduskeskus	occupational safety, developing training programmes	Trained workers in road construction act more safely
	Eesti Maastikuarhitektide Liit	urban environment	Documentary film project “Mind the Gap. Baltic cities in 20 years from now”
	Avinurme Kultuuri ja Hariduse Selts “Nurmetuled”	nature conservation, art	Informal, non-formal adult learning. Environmentalists, nature protectors meeting and working together with artists)
	Säästvad Ehituslahendused OÜ	environment, eco building	Experiences of sustainable building

Nordplus Adult project example:

E-NORDISK – A NEW LANGUAGE LEARNING PROGRAMME FOR THE BALTICS

Project coordinator Inga Mölder from Estnorlink shares her experience in an interview:



This is how international cooperation looks like!

The idea of your project is developed from a well-sensed need. How did the idea to start a Nordplus project come to be? For us, the project “E-nordisk” came to be from the knowledge that in Estonia, many people living in rural areas do not have the chance to attend language courses in town several times a week. There is also a shortage of teachers. We took a step further with our project so that everyone would have the opportunity to gain knowledge of Norwegian and Danish languages. Also, many Estonians have ties with Norway and Denmark and E-nordisk can help them orientate better in these countries. All you need is learner motivation to study on your own!

During the two years, you worked together with many interesting institutions. How was working with the Nordic and Baltic partners for you? Baltic partners had had contact with Norway and Denmark before and know the countries well. While the Nordic partners did have a lot of international experience, they hadn’t perhaps worked that closely with Baltic countries. All the same, the cooperation was successful – we listened to each other and when the need arose, took a step back to consider another person’s suggestions. We did notice, however, that in the Baltics organisational issues were solved much faster; when communicating with Nordic countries, you always had to be ready for things taking longer.

In what way are you enriched and perhaps smarter after the two-year project experience? Coordinating and carrying out the project was a great experience for our small enterprise. Cooperation with Nordic-Baltic universities not only gave us an international experience, but also the knowledge that size does not determine the essence of opportunities. Even a small enterprise can make a large contribution if it is motivated enough.

And finally, how can people study Norwegian and Danish through your programme? There are other Norwegian and Danish language learning programmes that you can find on the Internet, but few of them are free and meant for the Baltic countries. E-nordisk is therefore one of the first free and, at the same time, a whole programmes for beginners. It can easily be found on the website www.enordisk.ee. All the learners needs to do for their results to be saved is sign up as a user. **We wish everyone a good start with it!**

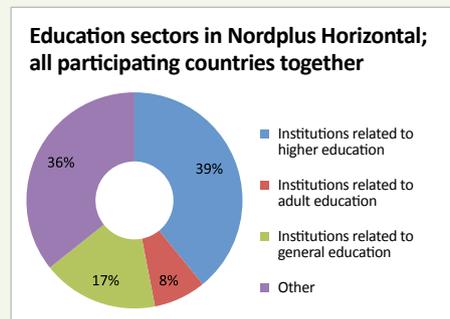
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Nordplus Horizontal

While sectoral sub-programmes had existed in Nordplus Programme prior to the Baltic countries joining it, then Nordplus Horizontal was created only in 2008 and was, at the time, new to all participating countries. Nordplus Horizontal does not have limits to the types of institutions that can apply or themes of the projects, it is just important that the co-operation involves at least two sectors of education. This cross-sectoral cooperation has brought together educational institutions dealing with similar subjects but who rarely come into contact with each other, such as in one teacher training project universities and primary schools worked together. The reason why Nordplus Horizontal is special is that it promotes cooperation between institutions that are of different type and represent different education sectors, and it is meant for **covering themes that are innovative, special, complex or have a wider soundboard**.

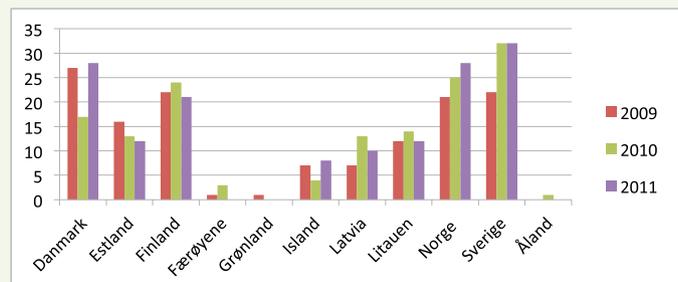
Analysing the four years of Nordplus Horizontal for all participating countries, it shows that higher education institutions have carried out the most projects. There is an equal amount of institutions that do not directly represent the field of education, but are interested in the results on a user level or in their wider influence. The involvement of these institutions is gratifying, because when institutions with different backgrounds take part in discussions on education it often provides a completely new angle. The percentage of institutions representing general and adult education is slightly smaller (see Chart 9).

Chart 9: Distribution of education sectors in Nordplus Horizontal in the years 2008-2011



Estonia has been well-represented in Nordplus Horizontal during these four years. Our institutions have been as active as those from other countries and with our **52 institutions** in four years we place well among participating countries. This means that despite our small size we compete successfully with larger Nordic countries and are ahead of the other Baltic countries (see Chart 10).

Chart 10: Number of institutions participating in Nordplus Horizontal – Estonia compared to other countries



There have not been many projects lead by Estonian institutions in Nordplus Horizontal – a total of **8 projects** during the four years. There have, however, been a remarkably larger amount of partner institutions from Estonia – a total of 44 in four years (see Chart 11).

Chart 11



The following table gives an overview of the topics of Nordplus projects lead by Estonian institutions. As the cross-sectoral cooperation programme becomes more well-known, there will doubtless be more institutions with exciting project ideas (see Table 4).

Table 4: Projects coordinated by Estonian institutions in Nordplus Horizontal 2008-2011

Year	Project coordinator	Project area	Project theme
2008	Eesti Koolijuhtide Ühendus	civic education	Elections
	Junior Achievement	entrepreneurship	Creativity and entrepreneurship education in schools - crossing borders in thinking and acting
2009	Junior Achievement	entrepreneurship	Creativity and entrepreneurship education in schools II
	TLÜ Haapsalu Kolledž	climate, natural phenomena	Supporting newly qualified teachers through collaborative mentoring (NQT-COME)
2010	Junior Achievement	entrepreneurship	Creativity and entrepreneurship education in schools : implementing relationship marketing in Nordic-Baltic network
	Energia Avastuskeskus	climate, natural phenomena	Discover natural phenomena!
2011	Eesti Üliõpilaskondade Liit	recognition of prior learning	Nordic experience in lifelong learning and recognition of prior learning
	Eesti Maastikuarhitektide Liit	learning methods	EFLA Regional Congress of Landscape Architecture 2011 - "Mind the Gap. Landscapes for a New Era"

Nordplus Horizontal project example:

DISCOVER NATURAL PHENOMENA!

The project “Discover Natural Phenomena!” deals with weather and climate related subjects and studies the effect of interactive methods on the learning process. Before the project there were no climate related interactive exhibitions in Estonia or Latvia and there was no scientific research being done on the effects of interactive or non-formal studying on children, therefore we are pioneers in this field at the moment.



Pain and joy at Energy Centre!

The exhibition and science theatre programme are focused on extreme natural phenomena, help understand what happens “outside” and raises the question of whether people influence the climate and if so, then how. There is a lot about weather that catches the eye and triggers the imagination – hurricanes, earthquakes, erupting volcanoes, devastating rains and floods are more powerful than humanity and leave a mark in every person’s life. These topics should be discussed in an early age and therefore the target group is mainly children.

The exhibition is open at Tallinn Technology and Science Centre Energy until February 2012 and after that it will be moved to Tehnoannas Pagarabi Centre in Riga. The Finnish project partner, Helsinki University, will carry out a research based on the examples given by children participated.

The project has a website <http://ebo.ee/nordplus/>, which is available in four languages and is a useful tool for teachers willing to introduce the topics of weather and climate.

In addition, the project promotes cooperation between partner institutions in neighbouring countries Estonia, Latvia and Finland. Working this closely together assures the sustainability of the project even after it ends in October 2012.

Project partners: Tallinn Technology and Science Centre Energy, Estonia; Riga Children’s Science Centre Tehnoannas Pangrabi, Latvia; Helsinki University, Finland.

Project coordinator:

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