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Welcome to the sixth issue of Research Update, the newsletter of the Research Programme for Environmental and Health Education. In this issue we feature highlights from research, development and publication activities of the members of the Programme in the period January – June 2009.

In the last issue I mentioned that the Research Programme started to work on the renewed profile and shared vision for its future development within the new University structure. This process continued during this period.

Perhaps the biggest news in this respect is that Bjarne Bruun Jensen, Programme Director of many years decided to leave the University and take up new challenges as vice president at Steno Centre for Health Promotion and Prevention. Bjarne has been one of the founders of the Programme, its driving force, and inspiration for many of its members, for more than two decades.

The Programme will definitely be different without Bjarne. However, we look at the change as an exciting opportunity to develop it further by introducing new directions, partnerships, visions and research challenges. As you can read in this issue, three new PhD students are starting in this period and two more are on the way. Education for sustainable development and climate change in relation to non-formal education practices, the role of universities in working with transnational ESD guidelines on local levels, health promotion of elderly people and related roles of social relations, are some of the newly initiated directions of research.

Starting at 1 of June the new Programme directors are Jeppe Læsøe and Venka Simovska. Already in June we have began to discuss plans concerning both continuity and changes of the Programme under the new, dual leadership.

However, this issue is devoted to Bjarne Bruun Jensen.

We use this opportunity to express the Research Programme members’ gratitude and appreciation to Bjarne -- for all the years of good work, great enthusiasm, and for benchmarking the quality of visionary research, leadership and partnerships within the Programme and at DPU. We hope that with Bjarne’s new position, the Research Programme is getting a new, valuable collaboration partner at Steno.

Venka Simovska, Editor

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**Events calendar**

| June 11 | Research Programme meeting. |
| 15 - 17 | PhD Work in Progress Seminar: Helle Schnor. |

In addition to participating in the scientific committee, the Research
Climate Change and Sustainable Development: The Response from Education

This project is established by the International Alliance of Leading Education Institute. It began in January 2009 with research teams at each of the ten partner universities producing reports analysing the state of affairs in their particular countries. These reports are based on a set of common set of research questions and a guideline in order to enable comparability. The work on the national reports was completed in June, after which work has begun on a cross-national analysis detailing global trends and regional differences within the field. This will provide a solid foundation of knowledge for considering the challenges which remain in achieving the goals for the Decade of ESD and beyond. The conclusions will enable us to propose a series of recommendations - these results and recommendations will be presented at the International Alliance of Leading Education Institutes annual conference in Seoul, 18 August 2009, and in conjunction with the Copenhagen Climate Summit.

An important step in the process so far was the participation of several partners in a project workshop, held in Copenhagen at the beginning of March. This workshop offered a great opportunity for partners to exchange experiences and ideas and discuss plans for the work which lies ahead. In addition, participants had the opportunity to attend the international climate conference Beyond Kyoto in Aarhus, Denmark, where, especially, theme 5 on citizens and society was related to the topic of this project. Also, as you can see in ‘Conference presentations’ section in this issue, at the World Environmental Education Congress in Montreal, Canada, 10-14 May 2009, a workshop was held on ESD - Global Citizenship and Socio-Cultural Differences.

Jeppe Læssøe

EVIUS (Evaluation of Free School Meals in Danish Primary School (Folkeskolen))

Do free school meals make a difference? As featured previously, the aim of this project is to research the impact of school meals on learning, the learning environment and wellbeing. The study is conducted as single-case studies in four schools that over a period of 10-12 weeks had a free lunch delivered to the school. The data generation methods include document analysis, observations, photos, and interviews with school inspectors, and pupils and...
teachers in grades 5-6 and 8-9. In the cross-case analysis the impact of the four different school meal concepts on learning, the learning environment and wellbeing is discussed in relation to the different schools health policies, curriculum and physical conditions. The preliminary findings indicate that in general both pupils and teachers are positive in relation to the idea of school meals, but they have not been involved substantially in the decision making processes. Furthermore, the school meals have not been linked to educational activities, although this was one of the requirements for joining the project. School inspectors were concerned about the added workload on the school administration system, and questioned the rationale of adding yet another task to the school that is not directly linked to the overall aim of developing pupils’ competences. Teachers were concerned about the food quality; they thought it does not meet nutritional recommendations. The preliminary conclusions and recommendations emphasize the need to link school meal offer with educational activities, and to involve pupils in the process. The final research report will be published by the end of the year.

_Jette Benn, Monica Carlsson and Lone Nordin._

Road Safety Cities in Europe
As featured previously in research Update, for the last two years the Research Programme has been involved in implementation and evaluation of the education research and development project Road Safety Cities in Europe – RoSaCe. The project is now finalised with an evaluation report published by PAU Education, Barcelona. The main findings demonstrate that the participatory approach to street safety education is effective in encouraging children to take action for change in relation to safety problems.

_Jeanette Magne Jensen and Niels Larsen_

**Recent selected publications**

**Books, chapters and articles**


*Studies in Philosophy and Education* 28: 15-26, Springer


**Conference presentations**

**Karsten Schnack**, 7-10 May 2009, 10th Seminar in Health and Environmental Education Research: “Making a Difference”, Montebello, Quebec, Canada. 
Presentation: *How can we design “useful” research and policy agendas?*


**Monica Carlsson**, 15-17 June 2009, Better Schools through Health: The Third European Conference on Health Promoting Schools, Vilnius, Lithuania. Presentation: *Standards of Evidence in Health Education Research*
New research projects and initiatives

Research and Development Partnership (national)
Building on the successful partnership over the previous years, the Programme has signed a two-year collaboration contract with the University College South. The contract involves research and project development collaboration as well as joint seminars and workshops. Contact person from the Programme: Venka Simovska

Research and Development Partnership (international)
A collaboration agreement has been signed between The Danish School of Education (DSE), Aarhus University and Lillehammer University College (LUC), Norway in general, and between the Research Programme for Environmental and Health Education at DSE and The Research Centre for Child and Youth Competence Development at LUC specifically. The purpose of this agreement is to promote the cooperation and the advancement of academic and educational exchanges between the two institutions. The Research Programme and Research Centre, respectively, are running research and Ph.D.-programs within their specific fields. Within fields that are mutually acceptable, the following forms of cooperation will be pursued:

- Mutual participation on Ph.D.-and master courses
- Staff exchange
- Joint research activities and publications
- Study visits
- Participation in seminars, congresses and meetings

Most of these forms for cooperation are already established. Staff and Ph.D.-students from the Research Programme for Environmental and Health Education and the Research Centre for Child and Youth Competence Development have already been engaged in a joint publication. Monica Carlson and Venka Simovska

Promotion of Mental Health among School Children in Denmark. Evidence-based Approaches
In 2009 The Danish National Board of Health (SST) focuses on the importance of mental health among school children. In this context they have engaged DPU to explore national and international approaches within this field and how can they be used to create a foundation of evidence for the future challenge of promoting mental health.
Furthermore, the project focuses on different forms of evidence that are relevant for the different groups of professionals working with promotion of mental health.
The final report will be presented at a conference in February 2010. Dan Grabowski, Karen Wistoft and Venka Simovska

Cancer rehabilitation – a pedagogical evaluation
The purpose of this initiative is to evaluate a cancer rehabilitation project in the Municipality of Norddjurs running over the last three years. The evaluation will be situated within a pedagogical and
educational perspective focusing on learning, and competence development of the target group. The evaluation is commissioned by the Municipality of Norddjurs. It includes focus group interviews with about 12 cancer patients and 6 professionals in the rehabilitation programme: nurses, physiotherapists and a priest. Karen Wistoft, Dorte Malig Rasmussen and Helle Nordentoft Jakobsen.

Literature Review outlining the evidence related to participatory strategies involving young people in health promotion activities
The Programme received funding from the National Board of Health (SST) to make a review of national and international literature concerning effectiveness and other issues relating to participatory strategies to health promotion involving young people. The aim of the review is to inform the National Health Board’s strategy concerning children and young people for 2010. Review team: Lone Nordin, Venka Simovska and Jeanette Magne Jensen.

New PhD grants

Jonas Greve Lysgaard: People’s enlightenment (Folkeoplysning) and Education for Sustainable Development in Denmark and South Korea
The project will analyse the different discourses relating to people’s enlightenment, as condensed in the Danish term folkeoplysning, within the area of non-formal Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in Denmark and South Korea. Through historical and political-theoretical analysis of the development of the discourses, the current state of non-formal ESD will be contextualised and will facilitate a comparative study of the two countries. The study will focus on the efforts to meet the climate challenges through non-formal education and how this process could benefit from a greater insight into cultural and political differences. The PhD grant is provided by DPU in relation to the International Alliance of Leading Educational Institutes Project. Supervisors: Jeppe Læssøe and Karsten Schnack.

Kamilla Pernille Johansen Nørtoft: Elderly people’s health – whose responsibility? An anthropological study of elderly people’s social networks’ impact on perceptions of health and health related actions
I will look at elderly people’s perceptions of health and illness, their motivation for change and their social networks and explore the meaning of these factors in relation to health promotion. Thus, my analytical perspectives are theories of the concept of health, action competence and theories of social relations. The research approach is anthropological; ethnographic fieldwork among elderly people and health care workers in Copenhagen constitutes a considerable part of my project. The main data generation methods will be participant observation, qualitative/narrative interviews and network models. The project is co-funded by the Danish School of Education, University of Aarhus and the Municipality of Copenhagen. Supervisors: Jeppe Læssøe and Kristian Larsen.
Katrine Dahl Madsen: University and school cooperation in relation to Education for Sustainable Development

Within global networks, universities seek to share and develop knowledge and experience of climate change and sustainable development from an educational perspective. A central question in this work is: what happens when international guidelines for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) are implemented from a supranational to a local level and what role could universities play in this process?

The aim of this PhD project is to explore how education for sustainable development is defined and approached within Regional Centres of Expertise focusing on the cooperation among researchers and local schools. Based on case studies of two Regional Centres of Expertise a main aim of the project is to present perspectives for development of education for sustainable development in Denmark. Supervisor: Jeppe Læssøe.

Other News

The Research Programme had three international visits in the last period:

- **Paul Adams**, Lecturer in Education and programme director, BA (Honours) Educational Studies at Hull University, UK.
- **Helen Simons**, Professor in Education and Evaluation at Southampton University, UK.
- **Terhi Saaranen**, Postdoctoral fellow at University of Kuopio, Finland

Kari Dahl will commence the fieldwork in Kenya in September 2009 for a period of 12 months. The fieldwork is part of the 2-year post.doc study: "Learning for a healthy life: health education, action competence and teacher training colleges in Kenya". The study will take place in 2 different provinces in Central and Western Kenya.

Anders Kruse Ljungdalh, will spend five months at London School of Economics, BIOS centre as a part of his PhD study. The study visit will focus on studies of bio-politics with Professor Nikolas Rose as supervisor.

Helle Schnor has been appointed to coordinate Module 1 at the MSU this autumn.

Venka Simovska has been appointed by the dean Lars Qvotrup as a DPU representative to the Coordination Committee for Research in Developing Countries at Aarhus University (KUUf), participating in the thematic group ‘Global Health’. The committee is a part of the initiative of the Danish Universities to develop a joint contribution to the Danish policy on developing countries, with a specific focus on research, education, and capacity building in developing countries constituting focus areas for DANIDA.