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Welcome to the eleventh issue of Research Update, the newsletter of the Research Programme for Health and Environmental Education. In this issue we feature selected research and publication activities of the Programme members for the period June – December 2011.

This period has been characterised with transition (again), due to the largest of its time, and much contested, academic restructuring of Aarhus University. It is difficult to say whether there is a prospect for finalising this process and focusing the creative energy on our primary tasks – research and teaching. Nonetheless, some decisions concerning the overall Department structure have been made. In that respect, after five years of existence, this is probably the last issue of Research Update as we know it. The landscape of the Department of Education (DPU) is changing and will soon acquire a new map.

According to the preliminary information from the department leader Hanne Løngreen published in the last Department newsletter, new constellations of Research Programmes are on the way. The Research Programme for Health and Environmental Education will most probably merge together with the Research Programme for Youth Research and with the research units for Guidance and Vocational Education. The preliminary name of such a new constellation is Participation, Youth, Health and Sustainability. Nothing is definitive yet, as in the words of Hanne Løngreen, “no one research Programme is established until each and every Research Programme is established”.

In our Research Programme, we have decided to approach these difficult processes in a positive manner and view them as possibilities; possibilities for new collaboration, for capitalising on new creative synergies and for building an even more inspiring research environment. At the same time, we are, of course, determined to continue with the work that has shaped our Research programme's identity over the last two decades and maintain the collaboration with all external partners, nationally and internationally. The most recent acknowledgement of the excellent research we do is the approval of a 4 million DKK grant within the AU Ideas call for pilot centres focused on innovative interdisciplinary research.

Change always brings uncertainty and a sense of loss; but it also brings new possibilities. The end of 2011 is coloured by both, with emphasis on the possibilities, for we feel robust in our identity as a Research Programme so far and we are open for new alliances in the time to come.

Happy holidays
Venka Simovska, Programme Director
Competence Development Programme: Participation and Action
Competence related to Physical Activity
The professional development programme which is related to the project Go-active, aiming to promote physical activity of children in Vesterbro (part of Copenhagen), with special focus on marginalised and inactive children, has been successfully finalised. A book produced by the participants of the course has been published, with the title *Involvement of children – why and how? Stories from the Go-Active project* (see next section). The book was produced in collaboration with UC Southern Denmark (Knowledge Centre for Health Promotion) and the Go-Active project. 
Jeanette M. Jensen

MultiTrust – Multicriteria Assessment and Communication of Effects of Organic Food Systems
Since the introduction of this project in the last number of *Research Update*, our research team has been working on a review of research on how humans cope with the complexity of sustainability and risk issues. The review has been conducted in order to guide the coming work of the project in which communication and learning tools related to organic food systems will be developed. A report has recently been delivered (see publications section). 
Jeppe Læssøe

Children’s Space and Physical Activity in Vesterbro, Copenhagen
The evaluation of the project *Go-active* which aims to promote physical activity of children in Vesterbro (part of Copenhagen), with special focus on marginalised and inactive children is approaching its final phase. The mid-term evaluation report was published and the last data generation will be finalised during December. The evaluation focuses on the processes of the participation of children in the project, the outcomes of this participation, and the related potentials and barriers. Data is generated through observations of the project activities, interviews with the participating children, project staff and parents. The findings will be analysed and published early next year. 
Christina Albeck

Participation of Students in School Health Promotion: Systematic Review
The project, which was conducted together with researchers from Ludwig Boltzmann Institute, Health Promotion Research, Vienna, Austria, has been finalised. The findings were presented at the European Conference of Educational Research in Berlin, in September 2011. The full the report has been published (see publication section) and two articles are on the way. The main aim of this review is to systematically summarize the existing evidence of the impact of student participation in designing, planning and/or
implementing school health promoting measures, as well as on the effectiveness of these measures. Another aim of the review is to summarize and analyse possible beneficial or hindering factors for student participation in designing, planning and/or implementing school health promotion.

Venka Simovska

**Breakfast, Fruit and Fresh Water, offered in schools in the Municipality of Aarhus**

For the last two years the Research Programme has been involved in qualitative evaluation of a pilot intervention project in which two schools in Aarhus have provided breakfast, fruit and fresh water, for the pupils. The evaluation aimed to explore the processes of the implementation of this intervention in the participating schools. Furthermore, this evaluation aimed to assess the facilitating and hindering factors related to linking the intervention with the schools’ health-related pedagogical work. The mid-term evaluation showed that the intervention was successfully implemented in both schools. However it also pointed to the fact that it takes a specific, conscious and purposefully directed effort to re-shift the intervention from being solely a provision of breakfast for the pupils to becoming a pedagogical approach with wider effects on the health-related learning and action competence of pupils. The final evaluation report will be published at the beginning of next year.

Jeanette Magne Jensen

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**Recent selected publications**

Breiting, S. (2011). *Outdoor school and students’ action competence – What can students learn as part of Education for Sustainable Development?* [Udeskole og elevers handlekompetence - Hvad kan elever lære i naturen som led i uddannelse for bæredygtig udvikling?].
http://www.udeskole.dk/site/teorilaering/788/


Conference presentations

Kari K. B. Dahl

Monica Carlsson


Lone L. Nordin

Venka Simovska


Jeanette Magne Jensen
Keynote presentation: *Health education in mathematics? Key issues in integrating health in mathematics curriculum in primary schools in Denmark*. Conference organized by the Danish Association of Mathematic Teachers ‘Healthy Mathematics’, Odense, Denmark, September, 2011.

Jonas G. Lysgaard
Workshop: *Can Environmental Education Research be whatever you want it to be?* with Alan Reid at the 11th Invitational seminar on Research development in Environmental and Health Education, Monash University, Australia, 13 - 16 July 2011.


Paper Presentation: *The Environmental NGOs and the public as a learning entity – When will they ever learn?* Climate and Humans: Workshop on Humanistic Climate Research University, 1-2 December 2011.
Jeppe Læssøe


Invited talk: How to ensure everybody’s ownership. Participation in sustainable development in companies. Seminar at Steno Research Institute, Gentofte, Denmark, 30 September 2011.


Invited talk: Green schools? Sustainability and upper secondary schools. Seminar, Roskilde Gymnasium, Tisvilde, Denmark, 8 November 2011.


Søren Breiting


New research projects and initiatives

Schools for Health and Sustainability: Lost in translation or prepared for the 21 century?
The Research Programme won a 4 million grant from the Aarhus University Research Fond (AUFF) within the AU IDEAS call for visionary and innovative ideas. The project proposal outlined a pilot centre with an interdisciplinary focus on researching the implementation of the national curriculum guidelines for health education and education for sustainable development in Danish primary schools. The centre will examine the complex processes of “translation” that take place when political declarations, aims and targets in the area of health and sustainability are transformed into curriculum guidelines on a national level, which are then further transformed into curriculum priorities on municipal levels, and implemented on school and classroom levels.

Venka Simovska

Socially Disadvantaged Young People – better wellbeing through physical training and movement
The Research Programme has signed a contract to evaluate a three-year project (2012–2014) carried out by the Centre for socially disadvantaged young people in the municipality of Copenhagen. The project will use physical training as a means for the development of self-confidence, social connectedness and action competence of the participating young people. These youths live in one of nine institutions in the municipality that houses young people who for different reasons cannot live with their families. They are often excluded from traditional sports clubs and organizations. Thus, an additional aim of the project is to help them become members of these settings and so improve their socialization. The evaluation is situated within the paradigm of empowerment based health-promotion and will make use of both qualitative and quantitative methods. The project is funded by the National Board of Social Services.

Jeanette Magne Jensen

Health Education, Action Competence and Vulnerable Children in Kenya
An application to the pre-qualification phase has been submitted to the Consultative Research Committee for Development Research (FFU), DANIDA. The research application is formulated in partnership with the Research Programme for Health and Environmental Education, the University of Nairobi, Kenya and SEUCO University in Nairobi, Kenya.

Kari K. B. Dahl
Improved Maternal Health through Health Literacy in Kenya and Ghana

Another application to the pre-qualification phase has been submitted to the Consultative Research Committee for Development Research (FFU), DANIDA, in partnership with DBL-Centre for Health Research and Development, Copenhagen University, University of Nairobi, Kenya and University of Science & Technology, Kumasi, Ghana. The project involves research and development dimension, as well as research capacity building in the partner universities from the South.

Venka Simovska

Professional Development Courses for Teachers: Education for Sustainable Development

The Research Programme has received a grant by the Regional Centre for Expertise to develop new formats for courses and education for teachers, as well as others concerning Education for Sustainable Development, in cooperation with University College Lillebaelt and Aalborg University. Once designed, the courses are expected to be self-sustained.

Søren Breiting, Jonas Greve Lysgaard, Katrine Dahl Madsen

Sexuality Education consistent with the National Curriculum for Health Education (Faghæfte 21)

The Research Programme has been solicited by the Sex and Society organization, in support of its work with sexual education in primary schools in Denmark. The work of the programme will focus mainly on providing support concerning conceptual development of the intervention and evaluation of its effectiveness.

Venka Simovska

Leif Glud Holm, IT consultant, good colleague of all of us at DPU and our Research Programme in particular, has decided to retire. We wish Leif a happy retirement and we are immensely thankful for all the good years of collaboration.

Rose Adjei, PhD student from Ghana has finalised her second study visit to the Research Programme as part of her PhD study period. During the visit, she continued her work on the dissertation, had a Work in Progress seminar and received feedback to the data analysis. The study concerns health education and health communication of pregnant women in Ghana aimed at malaria prevention and health promotion. Supervisor from the Research Programme is Søren Breiting.
Lence Miloseva, professor at Goce Delcev University, Faculty of Educational Science, Republic of Macedonia, visited the Research Programme for a short study visit. During the visit, she held a few meetings with the Programme staff, shared experience and discussed the possibilities for joint research projects and other forms of academic cooperation.

Pär Nygreen, professor at University College Lillehammer, Norway, visited the Research Programme and held a seminar on professional action competences in relation to health promotion and social work.

Gert Biesta, professor at Stirling University, Scotland, visited the Research Programme and held two events: a) Open lecture: Good Education in an Age of Measurement: Moving beyond the global consensus; and b) Staff Seminar: Education between empowerment and emancipation: Exploring new directions for theory and practice.

Monica Carlsson is since august 2011 a visiting fellow at Thomas Coram Research Unit (TCRU) at Institute of Education, London University. The aim of the visit is to exchange ideas and reflections on research and educational programmes. TCRU and the Research Programme for Environmental and Health Education have a common research focus on children and young people’s health and wellbeing, and a common interest in developing MA in Health Promotion Programmes.

Jeanette Magne Jensen has been appointed as a member of the Background Expert Group in the National Board of Health (SST), working on strategies for health promotion in primary schools in Denmark.

Venka Simovska has been appointed as a member of the Scientific Advisory Board for Ludwig Boltzmann Institute, Health Promotion Research, Vienna, Austria.

Video-interview with Venka Simovska, about research on health education, and the newly established EERA network on this topic, was conducted in Berlin, September 2011, during the European Conference on Educational Research. The interview is published on the EERA website.

An interview with Jeppe Læssøe is presented as part of a video feature discussing why innovation and education for sustainable development are vital tools for the future. The video is made by Energy Realities made for the Economist Intelligence Unit. It is available on the website of Energy Realities.