



28 May, 2014

Centre leader report for Management Board meeting 17 June 2014

Activity has again concentrated on getting the Centre established and known.

Since the last Centre management Board (26 March 2014).

Appointments

- **Project Manager**, Line Eielsen Malde began on 1 April. Line is making an excellent impact, as an ambassador for MatRIC, managing projects and negotiating arcane administrative procedures. Our goal over the last two months has been to get Line known throughout UiA, and known throughout the Norwegian university/university college mathematics community. I believe, we have been successful in achieving this.
- **PhD Fellowship**. The Management Board has been informed about the announcement for a MatRIC PhD Fellowship within the ADILA project. Three candidates were interviewed for the position, one of whom was recommended to the University Appointments Committee.
- **Post Doc**. Three candidates were found qualified for the MatRIC Post doc. position, one of the candidates was very well qualified. He has recently completed a PhD in Sweden related to teaching mathematics at university level. This one candidate has been invited for interview 12-13 June.
- **Two further PhD fellowships** in mathematics education have been made available. At least one of these will be within MatRIC, it could be both depending on the candidates and the interests they express. It is hoped that these will be announced in the next few days, we need to work hard to make these opportunities known and attract strong candidates from Norway, Scandinavia and internationally.

Dissemination

MatRIC has been presented at several events since the last management board:

- bioCEED launch (SFU) at University of Bergen 30 April.
- National seminar on mathematics teaching arranged by The Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions (UHR - NFmR, NRT) – Kristiansand, 14 May. This was an excellent opportunity to make MatRIC known to a key group of stakeholders.
- Holmboe Prize presentation (Frode Rønning) 19 May.
- UiA Department of Mathematical Sciences – 21 May.
- UiA Grimstad 27 May.
- NORMA (Nordic Conference of Mathematics Education Research) in Turku, Finland 3-6 June.
- Line Eielsen Malde will present MatRIC at the Faculty of Engineering and Science personal seminar for administrative staff in Lesbos.
- Writing course with tutors from “forskning.no”: Line Eielsen Malde and Simon Goodchild participated

- The second edition of the MatRIC Newsletter was published in print at the end of April, electronically mid-May. We aim to coordinate the publication forms better in the future.
- INFOMAT is a web-based newsletter, published each month by the Norsk Matematisk Forening. MatRIC has used this in April and May to announce events and opportunities within MatRIC.
- Web site development (UiA & MatRIC). MatRIC pages are now visible on the UiA web pages. The underlying principle for the UiA web-pages ... to be student oriented ... means that MatRIC continues to be invisible except to the determined internet explorer. Perhaps the university could use the SFU Logo more strategically ... to announce that we have this seal of excellence from NOKUT. The authoring tool used by the UiA web is rather rigid, but we can use it as a source of information. The development of an independent MatRIC web-site is progressing ... slowly, we hope we will meet commitments outlined in the original proposal to NOKUT.

Networking

Networking and community building are key activities of MatRIC's operation. Several meetings have been held and planned to explore and develop opportunities for collaboration.

- Line Eielsen Malde represented MatRIC at the Ministry of Education (KD) Seminar: (What are our needs for engineering competence in Norway, now and in the future?) Hvilket behov har vi for ingeniørfaglig kompetanse i Norge, nå og i fremtiden?
- bioCEED (SFU) at University of Bergen. Yuriy Rogovchenko and Simon Goodchild, visited 15, 16 May to explore collaboration between the MatRIC modeling work group and biology teachers at UiB.
- ProTed (SFU) at University of Oslo & University of Tromsø. We are in communication (exchanged several e-mails with enthusiastic response from ProTed colleagues) and hope to arrange a meeting in August to explore complementary activities within teacher education.
- A MatRIC delegation visited Gjøvik University College 22-23 May (Line Eielsen Malde, Per Henrik Hogstad, Morten Brekke). MatRIC and work groups were presented and invitations to engage in MatRIC events and activities extended.
- European Society of Engineering Education – Mathematics Working Group (SEFI-MWG) seminar, Dublin 23-25 June. Simon Goodchild will attend.

Activities

MatRIC is working on the following activities and events:

- Seminar 16 June Grimstad - Per Kristian Rekdal from Molde University College "*Enriching students' mathematics learning through youtube and facebook.*" This is something of a pilot event, we want to see whether there is the interest for MatRIC to support a seminar series on teaching mathematics at Grimstad. We will make transport available for colleagues from Kristiansand who want to attend. Contact with Per Kristian was made following comments from a colleague in the economics department at UiA – *Mathematics and Finance students go to the HiMolde web-site for the mathematics lecture videos.*
- August. We want to try to organize a MatRIC event at Grimstad for students. To tell about MatRIC and also about effective learning of mathematics at university.
- 11-12 September – Loughborough meeting. This is to develop contacts between mathematicians, mathematics education researchers and mathematics teachers with MatRIC, the Mathematics Education Centre at Loughborough and a few others from England and further afield. Colleagues at Loughborough are drafting the programme which will focus on many of the interests of MatRIC.

- 23-24 October – Video tutorial workshop at Bergen University College. Steve Hoy (background with the BBC and Open University) and Gunnar Horn are the principal guest presenters.
- 27-28 November – Conference (+ International Advisory Board meeting) in Trondheim – Main speaker is Professor Tom Lindstrøm from UiO. An invitation to open the conference has been sent to the Minister of Education and Research Torbjørn Røe Isaksen.
- Late spring 2015 – Modeling seminar/workshop in Kristiansand (+IAB meeting)
- Research grants were announced following the last Management Board. Proposals for research projects and grants up to 50000NOK were invited. The deadline for applications is 30 May.

Other

- We (Line E. Malde and Simon Goodchild, in collaboration with colleagues at Campus Grimstad) submitted a proposal to Norges Universitetet for funds to develop teaching and learning resources in preparation for a new approach (blended learning) to be adopted in the electronic and electrical engineering programme at Grimstad. We do not know the outcome of this at the time of writing.
- Simon Goodchild has been asked to be part of expert group on mathematics and science for the Ministry of Education and Research. KD Expert group STEM education (10 June & meetings through autumn 2014). «Formålet med ekspertgruppen er å få utarbeidet en samlet analyse av realfagene i det norske utdanningssystemet, med vekt på grunnopplæringen og barnehagen. Analysen skal gi økt forståelse for bakgrunnen til de utfordringene som realfagene står overfor, og kunnskap om virkemidler og tiltak som kan bidra til bedre kompetanse, økt motivasjon og økt rekruttering»
- MatRIC will be represented at a seminar in Oslo – research and development based education (FoU-basert utdanning) this is related to a work group set up by The Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions (UHR) – 20 June (Claire V. Berg, Simon Goodchild will attend)
- As part of another invitation MatRIC will be presented at UiT Norges arktiske universitet – Alta 24 September (Simon Goodchild)