



The interest organization for
PhDs, post-docs and temporary
scientific employees at NTNU

Newsletter
January-August 2024

President's Note

As the semester ends, I am delighted to see the strong turnout at DION events. Scientific temporary employees' support has been invaluable, and I thank each of you for your enthusiasm.

This spring semester, we in DION have been tackling important issues like language requirements and the need for an independent ombudsman.

DION remains dedicated to advocating for temporary employees and will continue to bring forward more events and initiatives. Together, we'll ensure our voices are heard.



Fei Song

Meet the Board



Fei Song
President



Anastasia Skarpeti
Board Member



Davit Gigilashvili
Board Member



Behnam Rosti
Vice President



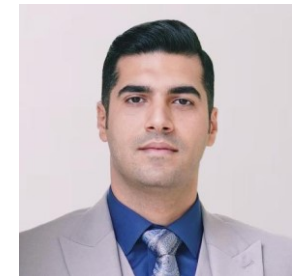
Anna Szlavi
Board Member



Peter Rohrer
Board Member



Gabriel Szalkowski
Board Member



Alireza Norouziasas
Board Member



Survey on Norwegian Language Courses

Objective: understand the situation regarding the existing Norwegian language course offers in all three NTNU cities

- 12.5% (Gjøvik), 23.8% (Ålesund), and 4.6% (Trondheim) of all eligible respondents completed the survey.
- Main takeaways:
 - The majority plans to stay in Norway and is motivated to learn the language;
 - The lack of time and high workload are the primary obstacles to taking the language courses;
 - The courses are not equally accessible in all three cities;
 - The courses are primarily designed for students – should be tailored more to the needs of the temporary scientific employees.
- Full report can be found at: <https://org.ntnu.no/dion/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/DION-Language-Survey-Report.pdf>



DION

Committee Work

DION's role in University Committees

- DION holds a permanent seat on NTNU's Research Committee and NTNU's innovation committee with monthly meetings
 - **ALL** PhDs and Postdocs are represented by DION
- Tasked with finding PhDs/Postdocs to serve as representatives in various other forums at NTNU, please contact post@dion.ntnu.no if you would like to be updated as these opportunities arise
- Curious to learn more, or have specific feedback to give?
 - Attend [DION's Virtual Town Hall](#) at 13:30 on August 20

What has been happening in NTNU's Research Committee (Forskingsutvalget)?

- Advisory committee for NTNU's research strategy ([link](#))
 - Led by Pro-Rector for Research (currently Toril Hernes)
- Introduction of new [Strategic Research Areas at NTNU](#) (TSOs)
- Coordination for new [SFI](#) and [AI center](#) applications
- Feedback on new financing model ([o-sak 10/24, in Norwegian](#))
- Feedback on Parliamentary report on the research system ([in Norwegian](#))
- Feedback on [NTNU's position](#) for the 10th EU Framework Program
- Workshop on a [holistic research system](#) and discussion of sensitive research
- Discussion and feedback on several ongoing improvements for PhDs
 - Updated supervisor training process
 - Improvements to the quality assurance system for PhD education
 - Dokport – a digital solution for PhD administrative routines
 - Continued discussions on implementation of a PhD ombudsperson
 - And more (plagiarism checks, career guidance, double counting study points)

What has been happening in NTNU's Innovation Committee (Innovasjonsutvalget)

- Advisory committee for NTNU's innovation strategy ([link](#), in Norwegian)
 - Led by Pro-Rector for Innovation (currently Toril Hernes)
- Feedback on innovation report to NTNU's board
- Feedback on Parliamentary report on the research system ([in Norwegian](#))
- Review of new guidelines for IPR ([link](#), in Norwegian with translation coming) Updates on Student Innovation (updates on innovation in PhDs coming this fall)
- Review of NTNU's collaboration agreements ([Innsida](#), in Norwegian)
- Briefings on various innovation activities and pilot projects

DION

Social Events

Trondheim – Selection of our events



Monthly Friday Hangout



Seaweed



Navigation Academic Life



Edible Plant



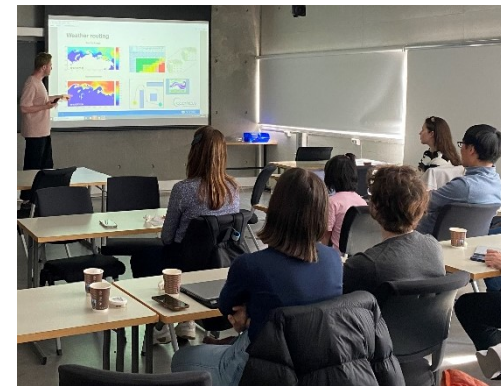
Sjøbadet Sauna



Pint of Science



Summer BBQ

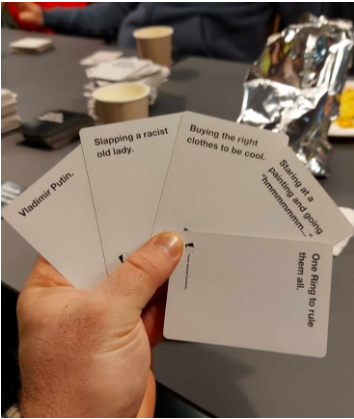


Mini conference



Ice-cream meetup

Gjøvik – Selection of our events



Cards Against Humanity



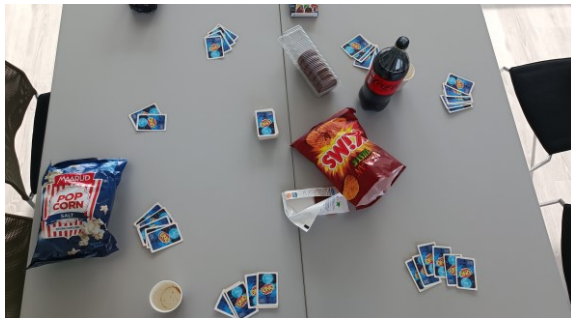
Vafler with DION



Ice Cream with DION



"Popcorn" Night



Board Games (UNO)



Cabin Trip + Hike



Excursion to Lillehammer



Mushroom Hunting

Ålesund – Selection of our events



Svai Sauna



Board Games evening



Going Abroad Experiences



Bybadet

Upcoming – Selection of events

When: 16:00, 27.09

Where: K102, Gjøvik

More info & registration:



Mirror Conference
(Gjøvik)

When: 15.08 – 12.09

Where: Lian, Bekken & Ferista

Tikkio ticket:



Mushroom forage
(Trondheim)

When: 17:30, 03.09

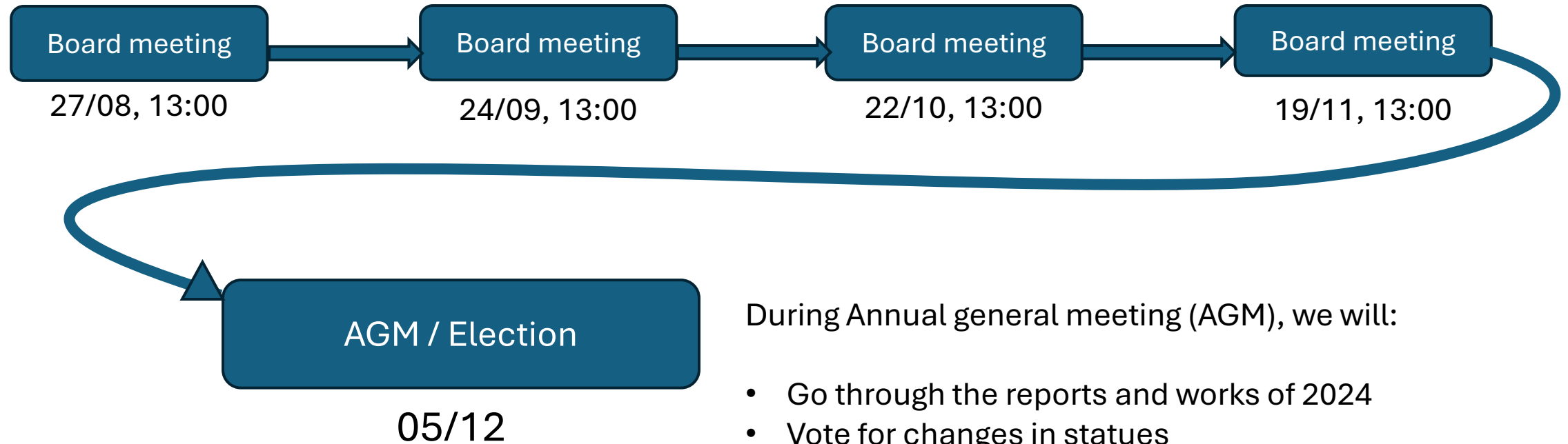
Where: Fjellgata 2, Ålesund
Downtown

More info & registration:



Waldehuset
(Ålesund)

Upcoming – Meeting and Election



During Annual general meeting (AGM), we will:

- Go through the reports and works of 2024
- Vote for changes in statutes
- Elect new board members for year 2025

The DION monthly meeting is open for all DION members. The meeting link is available upon request.



**Call for DION
Grant Applications**

DION Grant Application: Fall 2024

- All PhD candidates, postdocs, and other temporary scientific employees at any NTNU campus are eligible to apply for a grant (up to 2000 NOK) to cover expenses related to organizing activities that create opportunities for PhD students and postdocs to network, learn, and enrich their experience. Please note that master's degree students are NOT eligible. If there are applicants from Trondheim, Gjøvik, and Ålesund, DION will prioritize granting one to each of the three cities.
- **The total fund** pool for this grant call is **10,000 NOK**.
- DION will give preference to applications that are targeted at an open audience. Applications for the exclusive benefit of one department or faculty will still be accepted, but applications accessible to all DION members will be prioritized.
- The deadline for sending the application is **23:59 CET on September 06, 2024**. DION board members will evaluate applications. You can apply via this form, filling out all mandatory fields.
- Link: <https://nettskjema.no/a/435400>



The interest organization for
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scientific employees at NTNU

Reach out for more:

Email: post@dion.ntnu.no

Website: <https://org.ntnu.no/dion/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NTNU.DION>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ntnu.dion>

X: https://x.com/DION_NTNU