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"Globalisation is here to stay," said Gard Titlestad, Head of Department of Education, Research and Labour Affairs at the Nordplus launch conference in Copenhagen 8-9 November 2007.

The theme of the two-day long conference was to present The Nordplus Framework Programme as a programme which supports, develops and spreads innovative products and processes in education through the exchange of experiences and best practice. The new programme is a result of collaboration between the five Nordic countries, and the three Baltic countries.

"Intensified Nordic and Nordic-Baltic cooperation will strengthen our home base," Titlestad pointed out.

Best practices

The best practice examples presented showed a wide range of possibilities that Nordplus offers to institutions already involved in the programme.

"The aim of the project is to develop knowledge of and reflection about culture in general, and children?s culture in the Nordic countries in particular," said Eva Maagerø, one of the coordinators in the children?s cultural expression project at Vestfold University College in Norway.

Online application and reporting system

To ensure transparency and dissemination of information a new website, nordplusonline.org, has been developed. Also, a new application- and reporting system (ARS) is developed for the new programme.

"ARS will go live the first week of 2008 and all application and reporting procedures will be done through the system," said Søren Langgaard of Peytz & Co., the company responsible for the development of the system.

A new era for Nordic-Baltic cooperation

Involving thousands of people from the Nordic and Baltic region is the aim of the Nordplus Framework Programme for 2008-2011, making it the largest education and research programme of the Nordic Council of Ministers.

"Happy new Nordplus to us all," concluded Thórir Ólafsson, Consultant at the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture in Iceland.

Conference participants in Copenhagen learn about the new Nordplus Framework Programme. [Photo: NCM]
Yes