

Strategic plan for the TISIP Foundation 2023-2028

Adopted by the board: 15.09.2023

§3 THE FOUNDATION'S PURPOSE

TISIP's purpose is to carry out research, education and dissemination with a main focus on information technology, ICT. TISIP will contribute to ensuring that demands from research, reporting, training, and dissemination to the private and public sector are met by inputs from TISIP itself, and from Norwegian and international educational institutions that wish to participate in such collaboration.

The foundation must function in relation to the employees and students in TISIP, and the R&D institutions with which TISIP collaborates.

- a) The foundation shall make resources available for professional development and competence building for employees and students in TISIP, and R&D institutions with which TISIP collaborates.
- b) The foundation will work to improve the work and recruitment opportunities for TISIP, and R&D institutions with which TISIP collaborates.
- c) The foundation will contribute to effective contact between TISIP and the information technology professional community within teaching and R&D in Norway and abroad.
- d) The foundation shall have online studies and distance learning as its main purpose.
- e) The foundation shall not have profit as its purpose.

VISION

- The foundation will carry out independent research and development (R&D) within ICT and e-learning
- The foundation must distribute up to 1% of the foundation's equity to measures that strengthen its own R&D
- The TISIP foundation, through the TISIP vocational school, will provide education in Applied Information Technology with courses from individual subjects and short vocational school studies (NKR 5.1) via higher vocational education (NKR 5.2) to bachelor's (NKR 6).
- The educational programs within Applied Information Technology must be among the most recognized in Norway.

Strategic objectives



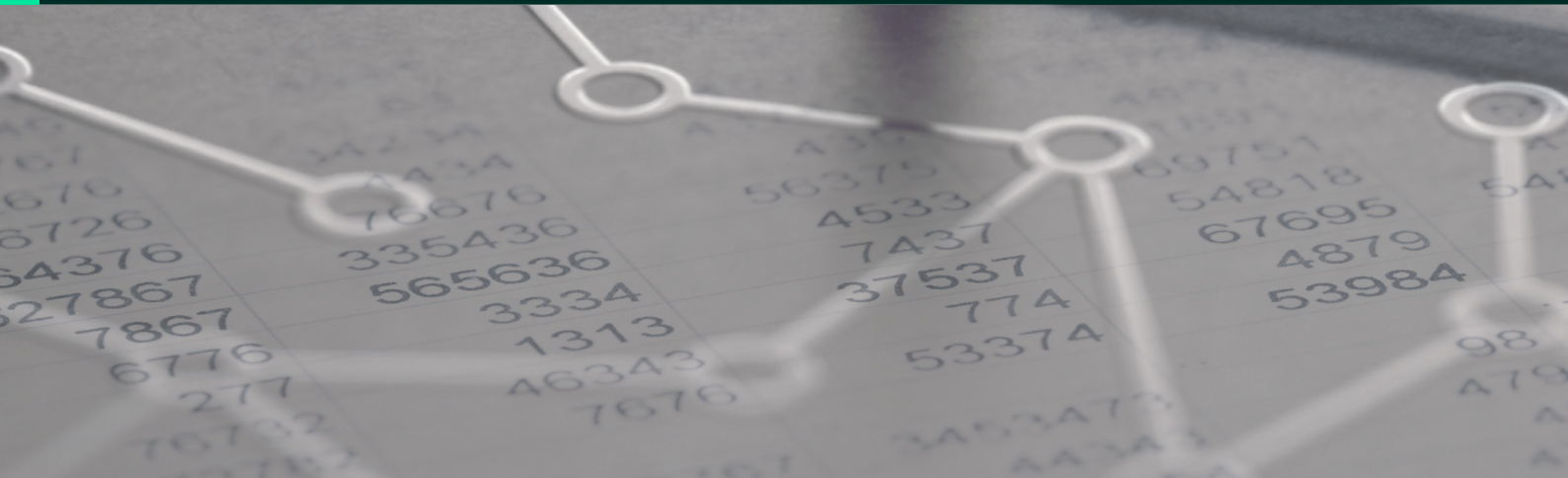
- The foundation is approved by the Research Council of Norway as an independent R&D institution. TISIP must document its own research so that this status is maintained.
- The foundation must have at least one self-financed, national or European R&D project in operation at all times. The projects must be documented through R&D reports or research publications with TISIP or the TISIP vocational school as the R&D institution.
- The foundation will run the TISIP vocational school.
- The vocational school currently has 4 courses accredited by NOKUT. The vocational school must ensure that these accreditations are maintained and that the vocational school achieves subject area approval in Applied Information Technology by 2025.
- The foundation will produce its own digital learning resources (be publishers) that cover the needs in the most central subjects that the TISIP vocational school offers. Alternatively, TISIP can, in collaboration with Gyldendal academic, or other publishers, write its own textbooks in Norwegian.
- The foundation must have a return on capital and an operating result which together give an average annual net increase in equity (after dividends and inflation) of 5%.
- The foundation aims to double its equity measured in today's NOK value by 2050.

The strategic plan describes the current state and the goals the foundation aims to achieve in the coming five-year period. Some activities will be reduced or discontinued, some will be continued at the current level, while others will be expanded. In addition to the overall plan, more specific plans must be made for the TISIP vocational school area. Here it will also be relevant to have further strategies and action plans in the field of Applied Information Technology (NOKUT requirement).

The plan also includes supervisory authority requirements that lay down guidelines for the foundation. The most important requirements are found in the Foundations Act, 1.1. 2005 and in the Vocational School Act, 1.7. 2018, the vocational school regulations, 11.7.2019 and the vocational school supervision regulations, 1.10.2020.

The foundation works on the basis that normal operations should at least cover the costs of the activities carried out. A prerequisite for being able to initiate activities beyond the current level is that the board allocates sufficient development resources, invests in infrastructure, etc. In this case, the board will be presented with an activity plan and timetable, as well as a budget. The board is also consulted on applications for support in accordance with the articles of association, or proposals for targeted investments.

The foundation must focus on sustainability and, as far as this is relevant, and relate to ESG (Environmental , Social , and Corporate governance) and reporting requirements.



Capital management

The foundation TISIP has a share capital of NOK 200,000. The minimum share capital requirement for a foundation is NOK 100,000. In addition, the foundation has other equity which as at 31.12.22 was NOK 40,534,562.

Section 18 of the Foundations Act Management of the foundation's capital states:

*The foundation's capital must be managed in a prudent manner, so that sufficient consideration is given at all times to security and the possibilities of achieving **a satisfactory return** in order to safeguard the foundation's purpose.*

The TISIP foundation is a non-profit foundation and does not have profit as its purpose. The foundation is required to provide a satisfactory return at the same time as proper capital management. The official target for price inflation in Norway is 2% pa. The return on capital must therefore be at least 2% to maintain the capital. A conservative return should therefore be **5% or more** of the equity to cover a distribution of 1% and a larger than expected price increase.

Apart from financial investments, the foundation's returns can also be derived from dividends or repayments from other targeted investments within the foundation's operations.

Distribution

According to the purpose clause §3:

- a) *The foundation shall make resources available for professional development and competence building for employees and students in TISIP and R&D institutions with which TISIP collaborates.*

The target group for distributions from TISIP are employees and students in TISIP and R&D institutions with which TISIP collaborates.

The scope of the distributions must be adapted to the foundation's finances, and the foundation has an ambition to be able to distribute up to 1% of the equity on average per annum.

Measures that can receive support include R&D equipment, professional travel, conference fees, smaller R&D projects, own shares in R&D projects.

Applications for allocation of funds must be sent on a separate form. The board approves the allocations and sets any requirements for performance reporting etc.

The purpose of the research in TISIP is to produce new knowledge in a socially useful perspective. The research must take place in an international environment with the main emphasis on the EU/EEA area. We link local issues to global research themes. TISIP will cover research needs both in business and for public users. Our strongest expertise is linked to digitization and organizational development through learning and interaction. We adapt advanced ICT solutions as tools for the development processes. TISIP was approved as an independent research foundation by the Research Council in August 2018.

Research area

TISIP researches topics within e-learning, ICT, interaction and entrepreneurship. TISIP has more than 30 years of experience in participating in international e-learning projects. TISIP has participated in the EU's framework program and recently in the Erasmus+ program. We are experts in application writing and our role has been both as project coordinator and partner.

The research is to be documented through various publications either under TISIP's auspices or in collaboration with co-authors from other institutions.

E-læring

- Concurrent e- learning design
- Organization of e-learning
- Business models
- Pedagogy and ICT-supported learning
- E-learning platforms
- Tools (publishing, video, streaming , collaboration tools, ...)

ICT

- Development of a support system for distance learning
- Method for operating computer systems, including security
- Use of AI – Chatbots etc. in various contexts

Interaction

- Interdisciplinary problem solving
- Software for interaction
- Agile interaction methodology (Concurrent design, etc.)
- Interaction related to e-learning, subject development, study development and tender processes

Entrepreneurship

- Online training in entrepreneurship across national borders
- Online/network-based training in entrepreneurship for various target groups (eg immigrants, instructors, etc.)
- Use of the Business Model Canvas for analysis and development of business models

Concurrent e-learning design (CCeD)

TISIP has a long tradition in the development of course programs, especially within digitization and ICT. Through years of research and development, TISIP has acquired much expertise and experience in the development and production of e-learning. This competence has been exploited when adapting the Concurrent Design method for e-learning, called CCeD , Concurrent e- learning design. The purpose of this strategy area is to assist various private and public providers in the development of new e-learning courses.

Strategies for R&D

Concurrent e-learning design is a method which, with the help of computer tools and structured activities, makes it possible for experts in the subject-matter, pedagogy, administration, technology, finance and market, to develop comprehensive training programs together. The method supports the development of both online training courses and more traditional campus-based programs. The CCeD method also ensures that stakeholders and users of the training are heard and involved in its development.

TISIP has been approved as a public online school by Kompetanse Norge (formerly Vox) from May 2013.

Collaboration partners

- NTNU
- SIKT
- Norwegian Health Network
- North University
- The University of Southeast Norway
- University of Rome, Italy
- International Hellenic university , Greece
- Mittuniversitetet , Sweden
- University of Greenwich, UK
- Social Project Institute , Lithuania
- Anne Fox Aps, Denmark

TISIP vocational school

TISIP vocational school is a private vocational school and part of TISIP's business. The vocational school must comply with the Vocational School Act, the Vocational School Regulations and the Vocational School Supervision Regulations. Although the vocational school is a part of TISIP's operations, §33 of the Vocational School Act mandates that the school's financial accounts must clearly distinguish between the accredited and non-accredited parts of the business.

The TISIP vocational school currently has 4 NOKUT accredited trainings in IT operation and IT sales, two at level 5.1 and two at level 5.2. The objective for the TISIP vocational school is to be able to establish new courses within the subject area of Applied Information Technology as defined in the Computing Curricula (CC2020) of ACM and IEEE as soon as possible. To achieve this, the TISIP vocational school has applied to NOKUT for subject area approval. The vocational school has its own strategic plan.

Target groups

The vocational school is aimed both at first-time students from upper secondary school and at adults who need additional knowledge or for whom we need to document existing knowledge. The candidates must have a practical and vocational education and be able to go straight into work after completing their studies. We work closely with several IT companies, staffing companies and larger user organizations to make the studies professionally relevant. There is currently a strong and increasing demand for ICT knowledge, both among businesses and in the public sector, but also among applicants.



Learning environment

TISIP has 30 years of experience with online studies. We have developed extensive teaching material and our teachers have authored 17 textbooks in Norwegian within ICT. We communicate with the students via learning platforms such as it's learning and Moodle. In addition, communication tools such as MS Teams and Discord, etc. are used. Personal and close follow-up of the students is important to create security and avoid dropouts. Students receive a study certificate and have access to the complaints board, student representative and services from the Student Union. Students can also become members of ONF - Organization for Norwegian Vocational College Students.

Financial context

TISIP vocational school is a private organization, but we seek public support from Trøndelag County Council to run the 2-year programs. The vocational school also applies for project funding from HK-dir and the county municipality. The courses are approved by Lånekassen so that the students receive loans for school fees and living expenses. The vocational school allocates funds for the further development of the courses and for the renewal of common infrastructure.

TISIP vocational school is a member of Abelia's forum for vocational schools. The forum for vocational schools works with the ministry, NOKUT and political authorities. The aim is to achieve public support and equal treatment of public and private providers. The forum for vocational schools also develops joint solutions for study contracts, study representatives and more.

Online individual subjects and courses

The TISIP vocational school sells online individual subjects (NOKUT accredited) as further and continuing education both to individuals and to companies. Packages of individual subjects can be put together at the request of organizations and companies that meet specific needs. The TISIP foundation can also offer practical courses in various IT topics, eg programming, Microsoft tools, AI etc.

Teaching aids

The TISIP foundation acts as a publisher and safeguards the publishing rights to teaching materials used by the TISIP vocational school or others. TISIP has its own ISBN number series. TISIP has entered into a cooperation agreement with Gyldendal Academic regarding the publication of textbooks in Norwegian. These textbooks are sold via booksellers and online stores. TISIP has developed templates for digital learning materials that are used by the TISIP vocational school. The vocational school pays a royalty for the use of the teaching aids. This model ensures that the rights to the teaching material remain with TISIP even if authors stop working for the vocational school. It also ensures that the costs of developing the teaching materials are spread over a longer period of time and are not allocated to the completion of a single subject.



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