

Photo: Utøya



Report of Results 2021

22 July and Democratic Citizenship

Background

Since the beginning of 2016, The European Wergeland Centre (EWC) has cooperated with Utøya and the 22 July Centre on establishing the national learning program "22 July and Democratic Citizenship". The program focuses on the commemoration and learning sites in the Government Quarter in Oslo and on the island of Utøya – the two locations of the terror attack that took place in Norway 22 July 2011.

The program aims to educate students from all over Norway about the events of 22 July. The end goal is to enable young people to stand up against anti-democratic forces and violent extremism.

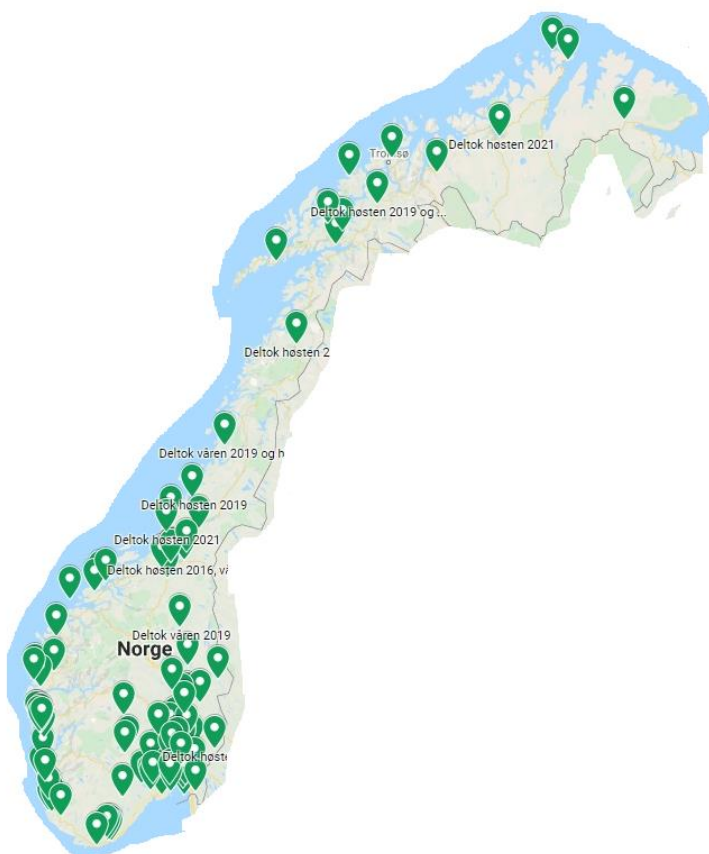
By strengthening students as active citizens in democratic societies, capable both of learning and of inspiring others, the program contributes to the Norwegian schools' objective of educating democratic citizens for the future.

Since 2018, this initiative has been financed by the Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development and by the Ministry of Education. In 2021, the Ministry of Education supported the project with 5 million Norwegian kroner (NOK) through the state budget.



I have gained committed students who are ready to continue this work in our school. I've found hope for a better future through observing these fantastic and thoughtful young people.

Teacher, participant 2021



Schools that have participated in three-day trainings at Utøya 2018 - 2021

Number of activities:

- 15 three-day trainings for students and teachers, followed by student-led activities at school
- 2 teacher trainings
- 1 teacher student training
- 1 conference



Number of people reached directly:

- 323 students from 70 schools participated in three-day trainings
- 135 teachers trained through three-day trainings and teacher trainings
- 33 teacher students trained



Number of people reached indirectly:

- 4000 students, teachers, school leaders and parents participated in student-led activities in schools
- 7000 students and young people have been on day visits and overnight stays at Utøya



RESULTS



Students report increased knowledge, efficacy and democratic commitment

"After the training at Utøya, I started to think more about the importance of getting involved and voicing one's opinion. This has made me increasingly more comfortable to speak up. It has also motivated me to engage in, for example, the student council."

Student (15), Nordre Follo

"The activities carried out on the island gave me a new perspective on how to prevent conflicts, both large and small. I found it important to see things from both sides."

Student (15), Drammen

"Being at Utøya with so many other engaged young people made me want to fight for the cause I care about."

Student (15), Oslo

Students from all over Norway gain competence to participate in the development of Norwegian democracy by taking part in the democracy and human rights trainings at the commemoration and learning sites at Utøya and at the 22 July Centre in Oslo. Following the trainings, they plan and facilitate student-led learning activities with their peers at their schools and in local communities.

Students who have participated in the trainings report increased knowledge about the terrorist attacks 22 July, greater understanding of democracy, strengthened commitment to prevent hate speech, openness to other people's perspectives, as well as increased political efficacy.



The trainings on Utøya have a holistic approach, and the students learn through different methods. Many report that cooperating, listening to others, and expressing their own opinions are some of the important things they learned.

PHoto: CF Salicath

RESULTS



Students spread knowledge about 22 July 2011 and promote a democratic culture in schools and local communities

“Through the Democracy Workshop and the activities on Utøya, I have gained a new perspective on how and why Anders Behring Breivik carried out the terrorist attack. Listening to the stories of two people who were on Utøya during his attack made a strong impression on me. I learned how they felt when Breivik came to the island, and how they felt afterwards. I have more knowledge about what happened on Utøya and the surrounding area, and I can pass it on to others.”

- Student (14), Volda

“When we carried out our activities, everyone was surprisingly respectful and engaged. It strengthened the sense of openness in the class. Some were open to discussing various assertions and opinions with me afterwards as well. There was a change in how people behaved towards each other during discussions.”

- Student (15), Trondheim

This is how the results are collected

At the end of the school year, students who participate in three-day trainings on Utøya submit a “change story” in which they describe all the changes they have experienced. It is up to the students to decide which changes are most significant to them.*

In 2021, we received 75 change stories from 82 students (some co-authored their stories). In addition, during several school visits we observed student-led activities and interviewed the participants.

Quantitative data is collected through teacher questionnaires about the student-led activities at the school.

* Based on the method called «most significant change» - a participatory approach for monitoring and evaluation. It is particularly suitable for projects where it is difficult to define specific indicators for change. It is widely used in activities involving children and young people.



Students at the Knapstad school in Hobøl, Viken. Using participatory methodology, they discuss how to respond to hate speech with their class.

Photo: Lina Hindrum



RESULTS



Teachers and teacher students report increased competence and inspiration to teach about 22 July 2011 and democratic citizenship

“It has been difficult to combine bereavement with the role of a teacher, but the training helped me to find balance between the two roles. I participated together with others affected by 22 July, which created room to share feelings and thoughts in a safe environment. We engaged in several good reflections, helping me acquire a different perspective on how I can approach 22 July in the classroom.

The training had a nice mix of practical activities, group work, and reflection assignments. I got many tips on how we can work with 22 July as a theme, based on different angles and approaches. I found a lot of inspiration about ways of teaching 22 July at our school, and I am so happy that I got to participate in the training.”

- Participant in teacher training for those affected

“I feel I have become a little wiser and more thoughtful on the topic of democracy. I have received several concrete tips on how to talk about controversial topics and have been impressed by the students’ ability to reflect on these topics.”

- Participant in a three-day training for students and teachers

Teachers participate in our trainings seek competence to teach about 22 July, and inspiration on how to work with the interdisciplinary subject of democratic citizenship.

In evaluation forms and surveys, teachers report that the opportunity to reflect and share experiences with other teachers, as well as access to specific teaching tools and new knowledge, has made them feel both safer and more motivated to take up teaching in their own classrooms.

As in previous years, schools that have already participated in these activities have expressed a wish to participate again. They seek to incorporate the experience in the school’s long-term work and to spread the competence to more people at the school.



Photo: EWC



Photo: EWC

RESULTS



New learning resources on 22 July and democratic citizenship

Printed learning resources

- A new manual with a selection of exercises from the learning program on Utøya has been developed, printed and shared with teachers and students who want to address issues related to 22 July, democracy and citizenship at their school.
- A booklet for trainers about dealing with sexuality and gender diversity were developed, in order to better equipped for overnight stays with young people at Utøya.
- Recommendations were developed by teachers affected by 22 July for school leaders and other teachers on how to meet colleagues directly affected by the terrorist attacks. These recommendations are shared at www.22juli-ressurser.no and with other teachers during the teacher trainings

Physical learning resources in the learning center at Utøya

- Marking ten years since the terrorist attacks 22 July, physical learning resources were developed for the learning center at Utøya – Hegnhuset – through the participation of a youth group. The resources are designed for students, young people and others who participate in learning activities at Utøya.

Due to COVID-19 and infection control advice, in 2020 less of the subsidy was used than planned. In 2021, these accumulated funds were used for the development and accessibility of learning resources, among other things.

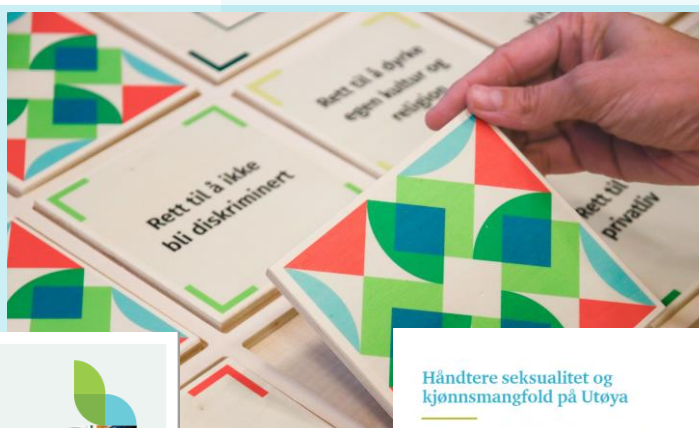
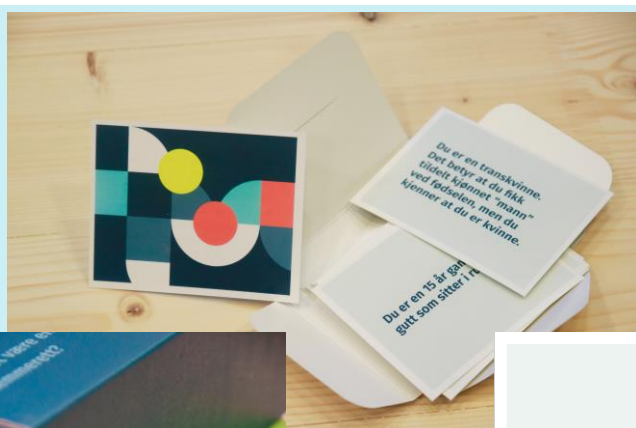
Learning resources were developed by EWC, based on and inspired by the Council of Europe's learning material for democracy and human rights. They were enriched by the experience and expertise from collaboration with Utøya, the 22 July Center, the Rafto Foundation, and other partners.

The resources were developed for use by teachers in the learning program, as well as students and teachers who want to share what they have learned with others.

Online learning resources

- In 2021, EWC and Utøya launched a new website: www.demokrativerksted.no. In addition to information about the learning program, the website offers resources from activities at Utøya that teachers and others can download for free.

Foto: 07 Media



RESULTS



Master's theses about the learning program

In 2020, EWC entered into an agreement with the Department of Teacher Education at the University of Oslo, and the learning program became the starting point for four master's theses in the 2020/2021 school year. The findings from these theses were shared at a seminar at Utøya in June.

The students researched, among other things, how teachers apply what they have learned in their own teaching, what students choose to emphasize in student-led activities, and how working as teachers in the learning program has affected the understanding of democracy for teacher students.

Partner in research project

EWC has partnered with OsloMet for the research project Democracy, Equality, Learning and Mobilization for Future Citizens (DEMOCIT).

EWC contributes its experience and expertise, especially from the learning program. At the same time, research findings and results have given EWC insight into how the learning program can strengthen young people's political beliefs – for instance, the belief that they have what it takes to participate in democracy, and the belief that it is possible to create change within a democratic system.

Both of these collaborations are important contributions to further development of the learning program.

It is important to us that our approach is research-based. Through collaboration with master's students in teacher education, we facilitate learning at several levels. Students get a unique context for the topics they work with, teacher students learn about how 22 July and democratic citizenship is taught in schools, and we learn from their research. Their findings are valuable to the program's further development.

Ingrid Aspelund, Head of Youth Section, The European Wergeland Centre



From the seminar with master's students at Utøya
Photo: EWC

ACTIVITIES

Three-day trainings for students and teachers

Three to five students and one teacher from 5-8 different secondary schools in Norway spend three days together at Utøya. They get new tools to work with democracy and citizenship, enabling them to pass it on to others at their school through student-led activities. The students who participate in the learning program are taken seriously as committed citizens who can inspire others to contribute positively in everyday life, at the school, and in local communities. The teachers are there to them, while also gaining competence in teaching controversial topics and facilitating inclusive discussions and exchange of opinions in the classroom.

In 2021, several of the planned trainings in the spring were postponed until autumn due to COVID-19 and infection control advice. Due to the unpredictability related to this situation and a desire to minimize the risk of spreading the virus, schools from Eastern Norway were given priority, and at some of the trainings there were fewer schools participating, with more students from each school.

Teacher trainings and teacher student trainings

In 2021, we arranged three national teacher trainings. Topics included teaching about 22 July, democracy and citizenship, dealing with controversial issues in the classroom, and preventing hate speech. These trainings were:

- A teacher training for those directly affected by 22 July. It aimed to provide a safe space for the exchange of experiences, giving teachers concrete tools for educating about 22 July and democratic citizenship, as well as knowledge of Utøya as a place of learning.
- An interdisciplinary teacher training on 22 July in connection with UN Day 2021. The training focused on how teachers can use 22 July as an empirical example in interdisciplinary teaching to educate and shape tomorrow's global citizens.
- A training for future teachers with the aim of strengthening their competence and skills to teach about 22 July and democratic citizenship.

Training of trainers

Teacher students and youth workers have been trained to work as trainers for students and young people who participate in the learning program. For the teacher students, this provides a unique insight into the teaching profession, as well as experience working with democratic citizenship. They train students on day visits to Utøya.

Conference: Utøya - 10 years later

On 18-19 July, a conference was arranged at Utøya marking ten years since of terrorist attacks of 22 July. The event brought together decision-makers, researchers, teachers, young people, those affected by 22 July, as well as others connected to Utøya. It was an opportunity for reflection and discussion about the rebuilding of Utøya, and what it represents in Norwegian society today – a decade after 22 July 2011.



At three-day trainings, students engage in a creative workshop that gives them the opportunity to express their commitment through painting, among other things.

Photo: The Rafto Foundation

CONCLUSION AND LOOKING AHEAD



Foto: CF Salicath

“

Ten years after the terrorist attacks of July 22, we are constantly reminded that democracy is under pressure. In the long run, strengthening young people's democratic competences is the best defense against extremism and anti-democratic attitudes.

Inga Marie Nymo Riseth, Project manager,
The European Wergeland Centre

A decade after the terrorist attacks of 22 July, we are experiencing increased demand for our learning program, and schools that have participated previously want to participate again.

Through evaluations and collaboration with higher education institutions, we identified some areas we want to strengthen in the future.

Strengthen student-led activities after the three-day trainings

Findings from master's theses, change stories, evaluations and observations on school visits in 2021 show that students experience increased confidence as a result of the student-led activities. Through their activities, they also have a positive impact on their peers. At the same time, the findings show that the

students need support in facilitating the activities, and the teacher's role is crucial for the quality of the activities.

Therefore, in 2022, we will seek to enhance the program for teachers at the three-day trainings, aiming at strengthening the teachers' competence in facilitating student-led activities. Further development of the program for teachers can also meet the increased demand from teachers for trainings on how to teach about the terrorist attacks of 22 July and democratic citizenship. We also want to strengthen the follow-up of schools after the trainings.

PARTNERS



Main partners

UTØYA

22. juli-senteret

EWC was established by Norway and the Council of Europe in 2008. The centre is based in Oslo, and has a mandate to bridge policy, research and practice in education for democratic citizenship, human rights and intercultural understanding. EWC currently runs training programs in 26 European countries and offers capacity building in formal and non-formal education.

EWC has collaborated with Utøya and the 22 July Centre since 2016 on the establishment of a comprehensive national learning program springing out from Utøya and the Government Quarter.

Other partners in 2021 were the Rafto Foundation, the National Support Group after 22 July, the UN Association of Norway, the Department of Teacher Education and School Research at the University of Oslo, and the research project DEMOCIT at OsloMet.



UiO : Universitetet i Oslo

OSLOMET

CONTACT

THE EUROPEAN
WERGELAND
CENTRE



Project manager
Inga Marie Nymo Riseth
i.riseth@theewc.org
+47 90178475



The European Wergeland Centre
Karl Johans gate 2
0154 Oslo



Website of the learning program
www.demokratiwerksted.no



The EWC website
www.theewc.org/



EWC facebook
facebook.com/theewc.org



Facebook of the learning
program
facebook.com/hegnhuset



linkedin.com/company/the-european-wergeland-centre/

youtube.com/channel/UCrbPBCsUBsP9UH3V0kEkYQ

SCHOOLS THAT PARTICIPATED IN THREE-DAY TRAININGS IN 2021

Schools

Eidskog ungdomsskole
Gran ungdomsskole
Åretta ungdomsskole
Skreia
Trysil ungdomsskole
Averøy ungdomsskole
Eide ungdomsskole
Dalsfjord skule
Hilstad barne- og ungdomsskole
Frydenberg skole
Fyrstikkallen skole
Haugerud skole
Linderud ungdomsskole
Vikeså skule
Bryne ungdomsskole
Bogafjell ungdomsskole
Høyland ungdomsskole
Tysværvåg ungdomsskole
Alta ungdomsskole
Stangnes ungdomsskole
Bardufoss ungdomsskole
Berg montessoriskole
Deanu sameskole
Kroken skole
Skaun ungdomsskole
Steinkjer ungdomsskole
Fagerhaug international school
Fagerhaug kristne skole
Stokkan ungdomsskole
Charlottenlund ungdomsskole
Hoeggen skole
Huseby ungdomsskole
Rosenborg skole
Tomasskolen
Trondheim international school
Åset skole
Tjøme ungdomsskole
Byskogen skole
Gjøklep ungdomsskole
Holtan skole
Siljan ungdomsskole
Atrå barne- og ungdomsskole

Municipality

Eidskog
Gran
Lillehammer
Toten
Trysil
Averøy
Hustadvika
Volda
Brønnøy
Oslo
Oslo
Oslo
Oslo
Bjerkreim
Bryne
Sandnes
Sandnes
Tysvær
Alta
Harstad
Målselv
Senja
Tana
Tromsø
Skaun
Steinkjer
Stjørdal
Stjørdal
Stjørdal
Trondheim
Trondheim
Trondheim
Trondheim
Trondheim
Trondheim
Åfjord
Færder
Færder
Holmestrand
Horten
Siljan
Tinn

County

Innlandet
Innlandet
Innlandet
Innlandet
Innlandet
Møre og Romsdal
Møre og Romsdal
Møre og Romsdal
Nordland
Oslo
Oslo
Oslo
Oslo
Rogaland
Rogaland
Rogaland
Rogaland
Rogaland
Troms og Finnmark
Troms og Finnmark
Troms og Finnmark
Troms og Finnmark
Troms og Finnmark
Troms og Finnmark
Trøndelag
Trøndelag
Trøndelag
Trøndelag
Trøndelag
Trøndelag
Trøndelag
Trøndelag
Trøndelag
Trøndelag
Trøndelag
Vestfold og Telemark
Vestfold og Telemark
Vestfold og Telemark
Vestfold og Telemark
Vestfold og Telemark
Vestfold og Telemark

SCHOOLS THAT PARTICIPATED IN THREE-DAY TRAININGS IN 2021

School	Municipality	County
Ravnanger ungdomsskole	Askøy	Vestland
Erdal ungdomsskole	Askøy	Vestland
Nattland oppveksttun	Bergen	Vestland
Olsvik skole	Bergen	Vestland
Ortun skole	Bergen	Vestland
Rådalslien skole	Bergen	Vestland
Kirkevoll ungdomsskole	Bergen	Vestland
Rå skole	Bergen	Vestland
Storetveit skole	Bergen	Vestland
Nysæter ungdomsskole	Stord	Vestland
Galterud ungdomsskole	Drammen	Viken
Drøbak montessori ungdomsskole	Drøbak	Viken
Steinerskolen i Fredrikstad	Fredrikstad	Viken
Hvaler ungdomsskole	Hvaler	Viken
Hov skole	Hønefoss	Viken
Askim ungdomsskole	Indre Østfold	Viken
Mysen ungdomsskole	Indre Østfold	Viken
Jevnaker ungdomsskole	Jevnaker	Viken
Knapstad skole	Knapstad	Viken
Kongsberg international school	Kongsberg	Viken
Bingsfoss ungdomsskole	Lillestrøm	Viken
Kjenn ungdomsskole	Lørenskog	Viken
Li ungdomsskole	Nittedal	Viken
Ingieråsen ungdomsskole	Nordre Follo	Viken
Haugsbygd	Ringerike	Viken
Rygge ungdomsskole	Rygge	Viken
Sokna ungdomsskole	Sokna	Viken
Grevlingen ungdomsskole	Vestby	Viken