

The Structure of the Danish NREN

The Danish Research Network, "Forskningsnettet", is a high-speed Internet supplier designed for Danish universities and research institutions. Presently Forskningsnettet has approximately 110 subscribers.

Universities, Research institutions, other public institutions and Danish companies with a considerable research element can be connected to Forskningsnettet.

The Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation sets out the political framework for Forskningsnettet.

The users of the research network, have the controlling influence in the organisation with representation in the Management Committee.

The Management Committee is the top management of Forskningsnettet, and the members are appointed from the user institutions by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation.

Daily administration is handled by the Network Secretariat.

The network is operated by the Network Operation Manager UNI•C and by local operation centers at four of the major Danish universities.

The Technical Reference group (TechRef) is a forum for exchange of experiences with the network and for discussions of the future development of the network. The participants are the local network managers from the connected institutions.

"Video erfa" is a user community exchanging experience with the use of video and video conferencing.



The chair of the Management Committee is responsible for the management of Forskningsnettet and the official spokesman for the network.

The Management Committee is responsible for:

- Formulating strategy and guidelines for the future development of Forskningsnettet.
- Discussion of all principal questions regarding Forskningsnettet.
- Approval of budget and accounting.
- Determination of the fee for user organisations.
- Control of the daily financial management undertaken by the Network Secretariat.

A representative from the Ministry for Science, Technology and Innovation is secretary for the Management Committee. The committee meets at least four times a year.

The Network Secretariat takes care of the daily management of Forskningsnettet. Together with the Network Operation Manager the Secretariat makes development plans, budget, and contracts for operations or deliveries and presents it to the Management Committee.

The Secretariat is located at the Danish Technical University.

The Technical Reference Group consists of network managers from the connected institutions. The group has about 30 members and meets twice a year.

The meetings are held in turn by the participating member institutions and are started with a presentation of the network conditions in the host organization. The rest of the meeting contains discussions of technical subjects of common interest, some times started with presentations by invited speakers.

The purpose of the Video-erfa group is to gather a group of people among the users of Forskningsnettet in a community to discuss and exchange experiences in the use of video and video conferencing. Erfa is an abbreviation of the Danish word for experience. The group also functions as an advisory committee for the management committee.

The community consists of persons with connections to Forskningsnettet and representatives from connected institutions. The chair is elected among the user representatives. The secretary is a person from Forskningsnettet.

The group engaged in subjects according to their own initiative. Forskningsnettet can ask the group for advice in concrete matters. The group can give recommendations to Forskningsnettet, for instance in the matter of purchase of new equipment, new arrangements or courses.

The meetings are held according to need, often by the use of video conferencing.

Funding Arrangements

The network is 100% user funded.