

HEI-SAMI

Sami Language in Higher Education in Suburban Areas

Lene Antonsen (UiT-Arctic University of Norway), Berit Merete Nystad Eskonsipo (UiT-Arctic University of Norway), Pigga Keskitalo (University of Lapland), Krister Stoor (Umeå University), Inker-Anni Linkola-Aikio (University of Lapland), Christina Storm Mienna (Umeå University), Maiju Sajets (University of Lapland) & Ilona Kivinen (University of Helsinki)

HEI-SAMI GOALS

- Our project's primary objective is to establish **a robust network and facilitate collaboration** among institutions dedicated to teaching the endangered North Sámi language in suburban settings.
- Through **institutional visits, workshops, and practical collaboration**, we aim to identify and address key challenges in Sámi language education, ultimately leading to sustainable partnerships.
- Furthermore, our goal extends to developing innovative, joint learning materials and methods for both educators and students, thereby creating a space to utilize scarce resources effectively.
- Exchange of experiences.

OUR RESULTS SO FAR



VR-game: Implementing VR-game as an arena for practicing oral language skills.



Students make podcasts as learning material.

Textbook meant for university students



Apply for funding for common pilot



STUDENT NUMBERS, STUDIES, AND SCOPE IN UNIVERSITIES - WHAT KINDS OF SITUATIONS AND CHALLENGES EXIST

■ UiT The Arctic University of Norway: UiT North Sami programs

- Sami language and literature programs at mother tongue level, also as a part of teacher education: Year unit and BA: 8–10 students every second year. MA: appr. 2 students finish every year.
- Sami with didactics as a subject in teacher education, for students with prior knowledge of Saami: 30 or 60 ECS. 2-4 new students every year.
- From beginner level: year unit 60 ECS + possible extension 30 ECS. Appr. 40 students every second year.
- Collaboration: Sami language centers' students can complete 10–20 ECS per semester. 2024: altogether 990 ECS.



■ University of Lapland: Sami language studies

- North Sami minor studies 25 ECTS.
 - Open for anyone with competency in the Sami language.
 - Based on the demands of working life and the primary goal is to develop Sami speaking professionals.
 - The studies are delivered through distance education.
 - The number of students approximately 8 per year.



Additionally, teacher students can attend courses in Sami culture studies, Sami pedagogy, and Sami language and literacy.

■ University of Helsinki: Sami studies

- Sami research studies includes basic studies and a Bachelor's program (120 ECTS)
 - approximately one student enrolls per year
- Minor studies open to all students (60 ECTS) (few students participate per year).
- Studies are popular; around 30 students typically

participate in the basic studies. The program collaborates with Finno-Ugric Language Studies and Indigenous Research, with a strong focus on language history.



■ Umeå University

- Umeå University offers studies in North, Lule, and South Sámi, focusing on strong oral and written skills and deep language structure understanding.
- Sámi language programs are available at Year Unit, BA, MA, and Ph.D. levels, with 5–10 students enrolling annually.
- Sámi cultural studies are offered at the BA, MA, and Ph.D. levels.
- Várdduo – Centre for Sámi Research conducts and collaborates on Sámi and Indigenous research, including projects related to Sámi languages.



Sami studies



Várdduo

HEI-SAMI -projet Faculty of Education University of Lapland:

www.ulapland.fi/EN/Webpages/HEI-SAMI

