

Biannual Report Autumn 2022



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What is TODOS?

Doctoral Students and Postdocs at UiT The Arctic University of Norway (TODOS) is an interest organization for PhD candidates & postdocs at UiT. We focus on three important aspects of being a successful PhD candidate & postdoc: good academic work environment, healthy social life, and representation of our interests in various university boards and committees. Every semester we organise multiple academic events and social gatherings, spanning the Narvik, Harstad, Tromsø and Alta campuses. Through this, we hope to contribute to improving your PhD & postdoc experience.

The Autumn 2022 TODOS board & elections

The TODOS board for the autumn of 2022 has been as follows:

<i>Board Chair</i>	Koen van Greevenbroek
<i>Vice Chair</i>	Ida Madeleine
<i>Treasurer</i>	Lennart Maximilian van Ligtenberg
<i>Chair of Academic Affairs</i>	Miriam Karlsen
<i>Chair of Social Affairs</i>	Larry Ibrahim Mohammed
<i>Chair of Communications</i>	Waranya Wataniyakun

The following positions are open for the December 2022 elections:

- **Board Chair**
- **Treasurer**
- **Chair of Academic Affairs**

In addition to these positions, we are electing three campus representatives:

- **Campus representative for Alta**
- **Campus representative for Harstad**
- **Campus representative for Narvik**

Note from the Board Chair

Dear PhD candidates and postdocs at UiT,

We are almost at the end of 2022, and I'm happy to present to you our biannual report. It's a good time to look back and reflect on how TODOS has been doing, as well as look forward to our ambitions for 2023.

We have a year full of action behind us, and for TODOS (as for many others), much of 2022 has been characterised by getting back to more in-person events after two years of pandemic. Seeing as every TODOS board position is elected on yearly basis, we haven't had much continuity through the pandemic. Increasing our event output has therefore been both exciting but also challenging. The addition of our hard-won budget increase coupled with increased focus on all UiT campuses means that we've easily kept ourselves busy. I think the board has been doing a great job throughout.

Looking forward to 2023, we are hoping to carve out better routines for event planning which will make our operations easier to manage and get into. Another focus will be to entrench our relations with the campuses at Alta, Narvik and Harstad. However, the specifics are as always up to the new board and our members.

I would like to thank the whole TODOS board for their excellent work the past semester; we have formed a great team and I have enjoyed working with you all. Thanks in particular to Lennart and Miriam, who are at the end of their board term, for their valuable work over the past year.

To everyone, I would like to already wish you happy holidays, and I'm looking forward to seeing you at our general assembly and Christmas gala. The elections will be exciting, and I wish the new board for the Spring of 2023 all the best.

Regards,

Koen

Events, Travel & Communication

TODOS organised a number of academic and social events in the autumn of 2022, here ordered chronologically.

BBQ

We organised a BBQ in Tromsø at the start of the semester, using the outdoor grills to the north of the BFE building. There was a good attendance and many mouths to fill, and Larry (Chair of Social Events) held a team quiz.

Writing retreat to Malangen

Keeping up the tradition from last semester, we again organised a weekend writing retreat to Malangen resort in November. These retreats provide a great opportunity to get writing and other work done in a calm and focussed environment. At the same time, it's a unique opportunity to get to know fellow PhD candidates and postdocs from all disciplines. This time we had 22 participants.



SiN Annual General Meeting

Two TODOS board members travelled to the annual general meeting of SiN (Stipendiat i Norge, our umbrella organisation) on 26 November in Kristiansand. The most important business was agreeing on a budget and electing an entirely new board for 2023. SiN represents more than 90% of PhD candidates in Norway through the local member organisations and does advocacy work representing our interests in various arenas. They reply to formal calls for feedback from the government and write position statements on topics such as internationalisation and quality in PhD education. During the trip to Kristiansand we also met and got to exchange views and experiences with PhD candidates from most other universities in Norway.

Academic Newsletter

We have begun working on developing two newsletters. The first is a regular TODOS newsletter containing information about TODOS events and happenings in addition to invitations to events relevant to PhDs and postdocs. The second is a bi-annual academic newsletter for PhD candidates and postdocs at UiT, which contains information about important deadlines as well as academic offers for the new semester. These are mainly located at UiT, but relevant offers from other institutions or organisations may be included.

Christmas Gala

For the first time since the pandemic, we finally have the possibility to throw a proper Christmas party! The food is free at this dinner event right after our general assembly, and we will even have live musical entertainment. The event is filling up to the maximum capacity of 70 participants. Parallel events are being funded and organised in Alta, Harstad & Narvik.

Advocacy and outreach

As always, apart from organising events we also keep busy with more “invisible” work. What follows is a summary of our advocacy and outreach work over the past semester:

- We have actively represented the interest of our member base in the university committee on research strategy (forskningsstrategisk utvalg).
- We have given a lecture on PhD supervision in Results supervision course.
- We have presented TODOS at the bi-annual welcoming meeting for newly employed foreigners.
- We are representing PhD candidates on the newly created steering board for the High North Academy.
- We have responded to a request for feedback on proposed changes to the organisation of Results course on pedagogics for PhD candidates, recommending that the course should give ECTS but also have the option to count towards duty work.
- We are sending a representative to the kick-off meeting of EUGLOH 2.0 (European university collaboration that now includes UiT) in January in München.

Spending autumn 2022

Our spending for the autumn of 2022 has been on track, with most of the spending concentrated around two main events: the writing retreat and the Christmas gala. The following gives an overview:

BBQ	2 000
Writing retreat	78 380
Christmas gala	50 580
Christmas events at Harstad, Narvik	9 960
Total	140 920

Provisional budget 2023

TODOS receives kr 450 000 per year from UiT, with about half going to board member compensation. Currently we also have assets from previous years of around kr 266 000 (a significant reason being reduced expenses during the pandemic), giving us a healthy margin for unexpected expenses. However, we intend to keep spending around kr 450 000 and not use up our reserves without good reason. The following is an outline of our provisional budget for 2023, by main expense categories. For more details, see the separate budget attached to the AGM invitation.

Operating costs (incl. board compensation)	166 000
Bi-annual meetings (summer, Christmas)	50 000
Academic events	100 000
Social events	50 000
Inclusion of other campuses	90 000
Total	456 000

The Way Forward

First of all, we wish everyone some well-deserved time off over the holidays. In January 2023 the new board of TODOS will convene together with the old board members for a hand-over meeting and have a chance to lay out a vision and roadmap for 2023. Some of the potential goals could be improved routines for event planning, stronger relations with UiT campuses other than Tromsø and an increased focus on academically oriented events. Whatever comes out of this, you can expect to see staples such as BBQs and writing retreats (both in Tromsø and other campuses) coming back in some form or shape.