

Annual Report 2023



Email: todos@uit.no
Web: todos.uit.no
Facebook: www.facebook.com/TodosUiT

Foto: David Jensen

Contents

1. What is TODOS?
2. The TODOS board & Elections
3. Note from the Board Chair
4. Events
5. Internal Work
6. Budget Update
7. Way Forward

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 2023 TODOS board & elections

The TODOS board for the spring of 2023 has been as follows:

<i>Board Chair</i>	Minh-Nhat Pham [Viktor]
<i>Vice Chair</i>	Ida Madeleine
<i>Treasurer</i>	Lennart Maximilian van Ligtenberg
<i>Chair of Academic Affairs</i>	Claire Degail
<i>Chair of Social Affairs</i>	Larry Ibrahim Mohammed
<i>Chair of Communications</i>	Waranya Wataniyakun

The TODOS board for the autumn of 2023 has been as follows:

<i>Board Chair</i>	Minh-Nhat Pham [Viktor]
<i>Vice Chair</i>	Waranya Wataniyakun
<i>Treasurer</i>	Lennart Maximilian van Ligtenberg
<i>Chair of Academic Affairs</i>	Claire Degail
<i>Chair of Social Affairs</i>	Shemin Sagaria
<i>Chair of Communications</i>	Tiziana Durazzano

The following positions are open for the December 2023 elections:

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

In addition to these positions, the next Board will elect two campus representatives:

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

New Alta campus representative:

- **Alessia Marzano**

Note from the Board Chair

Dear PhD candidates and postdocs at UiT,

We are almost at the end of 2023, 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 2024.

We have a year full of action behind us, and for TODOS (as for many others), and we have been trying to increase our activities throughout the year. 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 2024, we are hoping to carve out better routines for event planning which will make our operations easier to manage and get into. We have set the good routines of having each semester one Information session and one Writing retreat event, together with numerous social activities, such as sledding, bowling, mini golf, board games, and so on. We hope that next year we can organize more activities for our members, including, but not limited to, sauna and jacuzzi, cabin trip, or mental health sessions.

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 Waranya, 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 2024 all the best.

Regards,

Minh-Nhat Pham [Viktor]

Events, Travel & Communication

TODOS organised a number of academic and social events in 2023, such as.

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 with great pictures under the glazing sun. Many thanks to our close friends – Ping (Waranya), Tiziana, Claire, Lennart, and many others that help us with the BBQ events.



Writing retreat to Malangen

Keeping up the tradition from every year, we again organised two writing retreat (one each semester) to Malangen resort in June and



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 20 participants in the

spring and 12 in the autumn. I want to appreciate the supports of Ping, Claire, and Shemin in organizing these events for TODOS this year.

SiN Annual General Meeting

Many important issues have been discussed throughout the year, especially those related to PhDs and Postdocs mental health issue, annum reduction, etc. They reply to formal calls for feedback from the government and write position statements on the discussed topics. Greatly, one TODOS board member, Claire Degail, are now elected as the vice-president for SiN, and the government has just passed the regulation for contract extension based on sick-leave for temporary employees.

Newsletter – Communication channels

We have begun working on developing many newsletters this year. Many of them containing information about TODOS events in addition to invitations to events and survey relevant to PhDs and postdocs from UiT. We also updated our website with on-going events and created a whatsapp group for faster information exchange (without having to scroll through the whole emails). I would like to thank our Chair of Communication – Tiziana for these upgrades.

Christmas Gala

For the first time since the pandemic, we finally have the possibility to throw a proper Christmas party, a real fancy one at Maskinverkstedet on the 7th December! The food is expected to be much more than expected. The event is filling up to the maximum capacity of only 36 participants, and it took 3 weeks to fill out the room. Parallel events are being funded and organised in Harstad. We would like to thank Shemin for organising not only this memorable Christmas dinner but also other social events in this autumn semester.



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 represented the interest of our member base in the university committee on research strategy (forskningsstrategisk utvalg).
- 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.

Spending autumn 2023

Our spending in 2023 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:

Income (Inntekter)	Cost 2023
Budget	-
	450,000.00
Overføring fra konto 2022	-
	74,915.00
Sum	-
	524,915.00
Operating Costs (Driftskostnader)	
Board Members Compensation (Styrekompensasjon)	
--> Board Member Compensation from june 2022 to june 2023	75,000.00
--> Board Member Compensation from jan 2023 to jan 2024	75,000.00
SiN membership (Kontingent SiN)	6,000.00
Meeting costs (Møtekostnader) + team building	5,000.00
General Meeting	500.00
TOTAL Operating Costs	161,500.00
Bi-Annual Meetings	
Summer Election BBQ	2,800.00
Winter Election and Christmas Dinner Tromsø	24,540.00
TOTAL Bi-annual Meetings	27,340.00
Academic Events	
Writing Retreat Malangen Mai 2023 nr.1	71,810.00
Writing Retreat Malangen November 2023 nr.2	52,900.00
TOTAL Academic Events	124,710.00
Social Events	
BBQ february 2023	1,574.80

Labor Union Fair April 2023	3,872.00
Minigolf oct 2023	1,000.00
Gamenights (4x)	2,400.00
Cinema 2023	1,237.50
BBQ August 2023	1,800.00
TOTAL Social Events	11,884.30
Inclusion of other Campuses	
TODOS representative	30,000.00
winter writing retreat harstad	21,789.00
TOTAL Inclusion Events	51,789.00
TOTAL unspent	-
TOTAL spent	377,223.30

Provisional budget 2024

TODOS receives kr 450 000 per year from UiT, with a little less then 1/2 going to board member compensation. Currently we also have assets from previous years of around kr 75 000 (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 2024 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 2024. 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.