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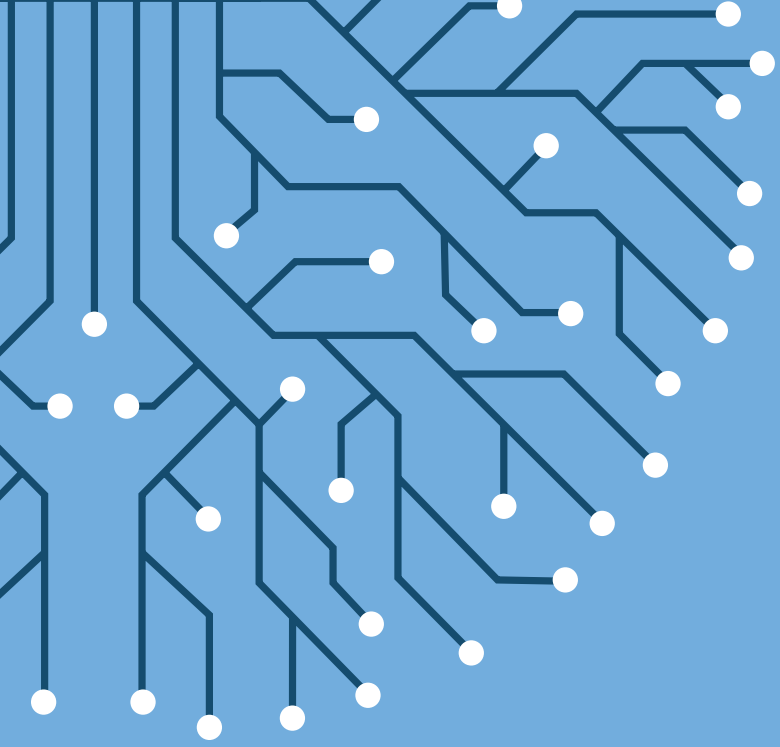
NORA Annual Report 2025

NORA – Norwegian Artificial Intelligence Research Consortium



Disclaimer
The numbers and figures featured in this report are based on data collected from Jan–Dec 2025.
The data is correct and complete to the best of our knowledge.

Excellence in AI research, education and innovation

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1

A Message from the CEO and Board Chair

Michael Solvang, CEO of NORA

This is my first contribution to the Annual Report as CEO, and it feels exciting. In this message, I will highlight some of the main AI developments for NORA and Norway in 2025.

Since Klas Pettersen stepped down as CEO in July 2025, I have had the pleasure of leading the NORA Secretariat. It has been inspiring to see how willingly people across NORA's partner institutions contribute their time, ideas, and efforts to NORA's shared mission – strengthening AI research education and innovation in AI. To me, this is the Norwegian model in action: Dugnad og samarbeid.

It has been another eventful year in AI, marked by agentive AI systems and a strong focus on AI in governance and security. The rapid development makes NORA's role of strengthening the voice of the AI research community, fostering collaboration nationally and internationally, and advancing AI research, education and innovation, increasingly important.

2025 has also been a milestone year for national AI policy. The Government's "AI billion" has now materialised into six national AI centres, announced in June by the Research Council of Norway (RCN). Importantly, the investment emphasises not only technology, but also the societal consequences of AI. Aligned with these priorities, NORA secured 15.5 MNOK in funding from RCN for a second national research school focusing on the social impacts of AI: NORA-HS. This complements NORA's existing technological research schools, and together they now cover all three tracks outlined in the government's AI investment.

Further strengthening NORA's focus on AI education and innovation, we organised the first-ever Norwegian AI Championship for university students, together with Danish collaborators. In 2026, this will become a Nordic competition, organised under the Nordic AI Partnership-umbrella.

Communicating research-based knowledge to the public, decision-makers and politicians remains a crucial part of academia's societal mission. This is particularly important in AI, where development is rapid, market adoption is quick, and the societal implications are extensive. To strengthen this dialogue, NORA hosted the first-ever AI tent at Arendalsuka, Kunstig Intelligens-teltet, where the NORA partners presented a wide range of AI topics. The initiative was a great success, and we will return in 2026.

NORA's CEO Michael Solvang at Arendalsuka 2025. Picture credit: Christoffer Hals

59

Research-based
AI Startups in Norway

5

CuttingEdgeAI seminars with
more than 600 attendees in total

Internationally, the geopolitical landscape is shifting quickly, and strong collaboration with trusted partners who share core values is more important than ever. In February, NORA established the Nordic AI Partnership with the Pioneer Centre for AI in Denmark, FCAI in Finland, CADIA in Iceland, and WASP in Sweden. The Nordic region shares a strong commitment to democracy, transparency and human rights, and these values should guide the development and use of AI. Together with our partners, we are working to strengthen a distinctly Nordic approach to AI.

NORA continues to serve as a meeting place and platform for our partners. In this Annual Report, you can read more about how the NORA Secretariat has worked to create value for the AI community in Norway.

To my NORA colleagues in the secretariat: I look forward to coming to work every day alongside such dedicated people. And to our partners: I look forward to an even stronger collaboration in 2026.

Michael Solvang, CEO NORA

> “Internationally, the geopolitical landscape is shifting quickly, and strong collaboration with trusted partners who share core values is more important than ever. ”
>
> Michael Solvang, CEO NORA

AI

NORA is Norway's leading research network in AI

17

NORA has a total of 17 partners

2600+

More than 2600 newsletter subscribers

Tom Ryen, NORA Board Chair

In NORA's annual report for 2024, I wrote that AI research is more than just a technology and that we have never seen such disruptive technology introduced at such a rapid pace. I still believe this – perhaps more than ever. In 2025, AI has continued to advance at an unprecedented pace, both in Norway and internationally. It is widely believed that AI is advancing in an exponential and accelerating rate. Tech giants, especially in the United States of America, spent hundreds of billions of dollars only in 2025 in data centres and infrastructure.

Norwegian universities and research institutions have strengthened their efforts in AI as well, and more is to come, not least because of six new Research Centres for Artificial Intelligence, which have received funding from Research Council of Norway in 2025. The centres will focus on the future of computing, with an emphasis on AI, digital security, and the societal consequences of digital technology development. In addition, AI plays a central role in many other research projects in different disciplines. As AI systems become more deeply embedded in our everyday life, the need for interdisciplinary research has become even more evident. To strengthen the young researchers' AI knowledge, NORA's two research schools will be an important part in providing support for this interdisciplinary research.

Alongside excellent research, strong networks are essential. NORA is the most important national arena for AI research collaboration in Norway, while also serving as a gateway to Nordic and European partnerships. Through NORA's partnerships and connections, Norwegian researchers are better positioned to engage with leading international AI environments and shape the global research agenda in AI.

Through investments and steps taken in 2025, I believe NORA and Norwegian AI is better positioned than ever to make sure that AI is developed and implemented for the better for the society. There will be challenges and hurdles on the way, but I believe that the Norwegian model – with high trust and social equality – will contribute to human-centric and trustworthy AI.

Tom Ryen, NORA Board Chair

> "Through investments and steps taken in 2025, I believe NORA and Norwegian AI is better positioned than ever to make sure that AI is developed and implemented for the better for the society."
>
> Tom Ryen, Board Chair of NORA

Location of NORA's

2

About NORA

NORA was established on November 21, 2018, by and for researcher and for researchers, with the mission to strengthen Norwegian AI research, education, and innovation, as well as related disciplines that advance AI applications. It has been operational since April 2019.

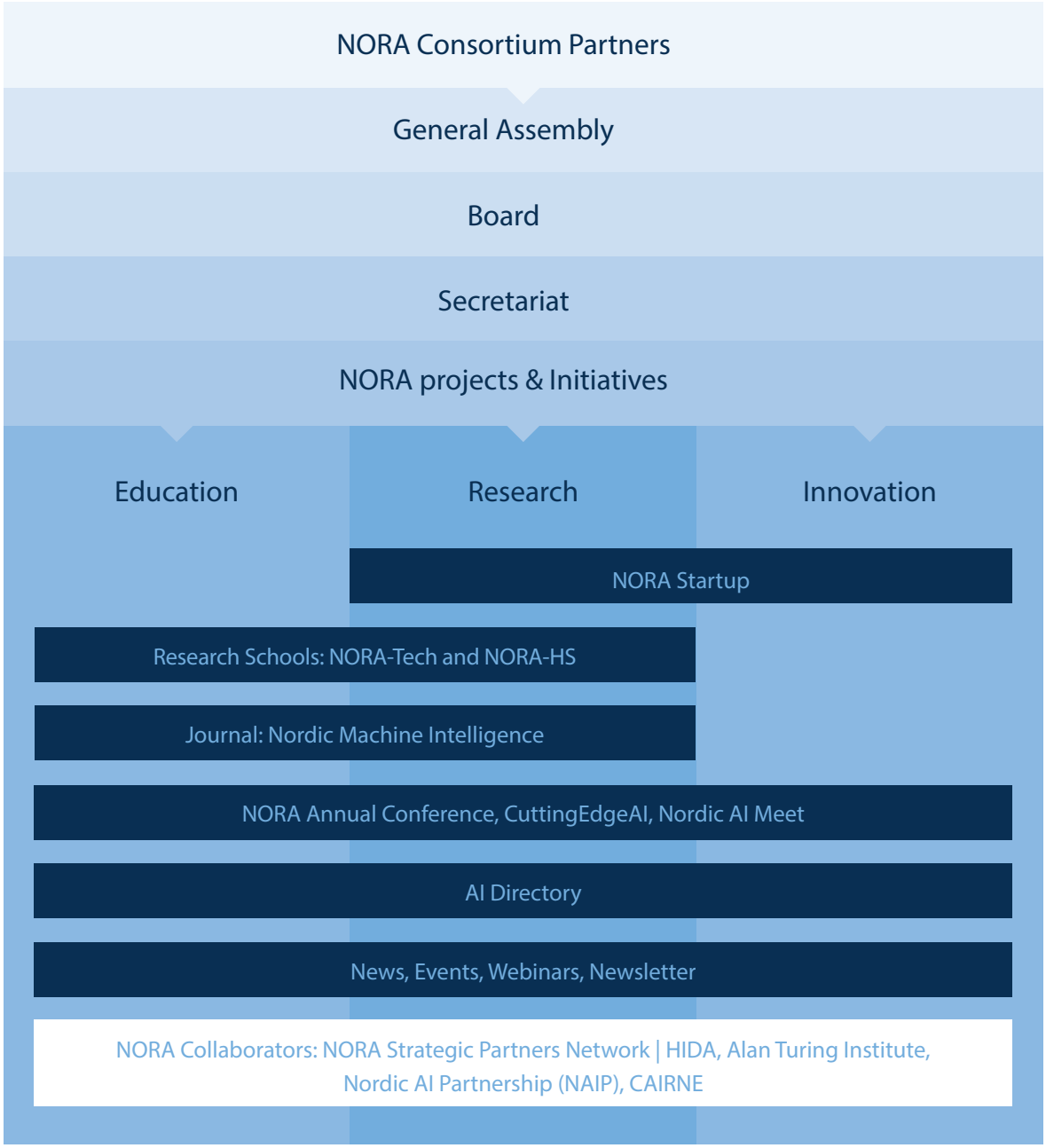
By 2025, we have established structures for scientific and educational outreach, two national AI research schools (NORA-Tech and NORA-HS), a scientific journal, and several conferences and events related to AI research and policy in Norway and in the Nordics. We also work to strengthen the innovative power of our partners through the NORA Startup-innovation network.

NORA has a strong focus on Nordic and European collaboration via Horizon Europe, and contributes to strengthen Norwegian AI research internationally through a formalized Nordic AI Partnership, membership in CAIRNE (the Confederation of Laboratories for AI Research in Europe), and exchange programs with European partners offered by our research schools.

1. BI Norwegian Business School
2. Kristiania University College
3. NORCE Norwegian Research Centre AS
4. Norwegian Computing Center
5. Norwegian University of Life Sciences
6. OsloMet – Oslo Metropolitan University
7. Simula Research Laboratory AS
8. SINTEF
9. UiT, The Arctic University of Norway
10. University of Agder
11. University of Bergen
12. University of Inland Norway
13. University of Oslo
14. University of South-Eastern Norway
15. University of Stavanger
16. Western Norway University of Applied Sciences
17. Østfold University College

Organisational Structure

The figure below provides an overview of NORA's organisational structure, as well as projects and initiatives executed by the NORA Secretariat. Several of the initiatives have their own governance structures through boards and committees. NORA Consortium Partners refers to the universities, university colleges, and research institutes who are members of NORA, while the NORA Strategic Partners Network consists of both public and private organisations.



Former CEO Klas Pettersen handing over the baton to new CEO Michael Solvang

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NORA's Justine Dickhoff at the PRESIMAL Autumn School

People at NORA

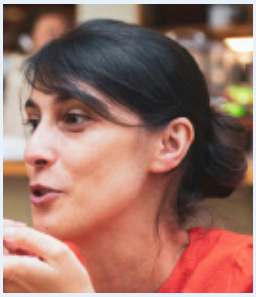
The NORA Consortium Board represents the NORA Consortium Partners and is NORA's governing body. NORA had its first Annual General Assembly Meeting in April 2022. As of December 2025, the NORA Consortium Board consists of seven board members and two deputy members. The NORA Secretariat is responsible for NORA's day-to-day operations and is located at the University of Oslo.

NORA Consortium Board of Directors

Tom Ryen
Board Chair
University of Stavanger

Line Eikvil
Deputy Board Member
Norwegian Computer Center

Morten Goodwin
Board Member
University of Agder



Marija Slavkovik
Board Member
University of Bergen

Ingrid Kristine Glad
Board Member
University of Oslo

Trond Runar Hage,
Board Member
SINTEF

Stefano Nichele
Board Member
Østfold University College

Laurence Habib
Deputy Board Member
OsloMet - Oslo Metropolitan University

Solve Sæbø
Deputy Board Member
Norwegian University of Life Sciences

NORA Consortium Secretariat

Klas Pettersen
Chief Executive Officer
(until 31 July 2025)

Michael Solvang
Chief Operating Officer
(until 31 July 2025)

Anam Javaid
Head of Administration
& Communication

Snezhina Duevska
Innovation, Startups and
International Relations

Justine Dickhoff
Research & Education

Margrete Alva
Communications and
Events

Kushtrim Visoka
Infrastructure and
Innovation

Geir Halnes
Research and Publication

Agnieszka Seremak,
Startups and Research

Andrea Gasparini
AI Policy and Ethics
(20 %, until October 2025)

STRATEGY
2023–2026

3

Strategy Overview

In 2025, NORA prioritised and structured its work guided by the NORA Strategy 2023-2026 (summarised on the following pages). The strategy outlines eight strategic goals that form the cornerstones of maintaining and achieving NORA's vision, mission and ambition.

2025 was a big year both for NORA and for AI in Norway. As part of the government's investment in AI ("the AI billion"), it was decided to establish six national research centres on AI. The funds were allocated to the centres in June 2025. The centres will conduct research on how AI affects society, develop technology, and strengthen innovation and value creation in industry and the public sector.

Key strategic priorities include strengthening NORA's position as a national access point for research, education and innovation in the field of AI, machine learning and robotics, whilst establishing a more prominent national role through large-scale AI initiatives of national importance. In 2025, NORA enhanced Norwegian participation in international cooperation through collaborations with the Alan Turing Institute (UK) and HIDA (Germany). The establishment of the Nordic AI Partnership was also a core priority in 2025, as it is the first initiative of its kind in the Nordic region, focusing on research excellence within foundational AI research for the benefit of Nordic society and industry. The MoU was signed in February in Stockholm, with NORA (Norway), The Pioneer Centre for AI (Denmark), FCAI (Finland), CADIA (Iceland) and WASP (Sweden) as partners.

Throughout the year, NORA demonstrated its commitment to fostering collaboration across disciplines. Recognising that AI advancement requires extensive interdisciplinary cooperation and substantial computing resources, NORA served as a crucial connector between AI stakeholders in Norway and essential resources. Furthermore, NORA actively contributed to strengthening Norway's research policy and AI strategy, advising policymakers on optimal organisational structures and requirements for achieving international recognition of Norwegian AI research, education, and innovation.

As part of an effort to foster talent and increase interest in AI among students, NORA also organised the first Norwegian AI Championship, which gathered over 160 bachelor- and master students from all over the country. You'll find more information later in this report.

Looking ahead to 2026, NORA will continue to expand its national leadership in AI. Given its representation of 17 universities, university colleges and research institutes across Norway, the NORA consortium is strategically positioned to undertake significant projects of national importance. These initiatives will embody the core values of openness and trust, providing a distinct alternative to the approaches taken by major commercial entities in the field.

Former CEO of NORA, Klas Pettersen, hands over NORA's strategy to Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre.

NORA's mission

- Advance national and international cooperation in AI
- Advance collaboration between academia and other sectors
- Promote ethical AI
- Serve as a national access point for AI

NORA's vision

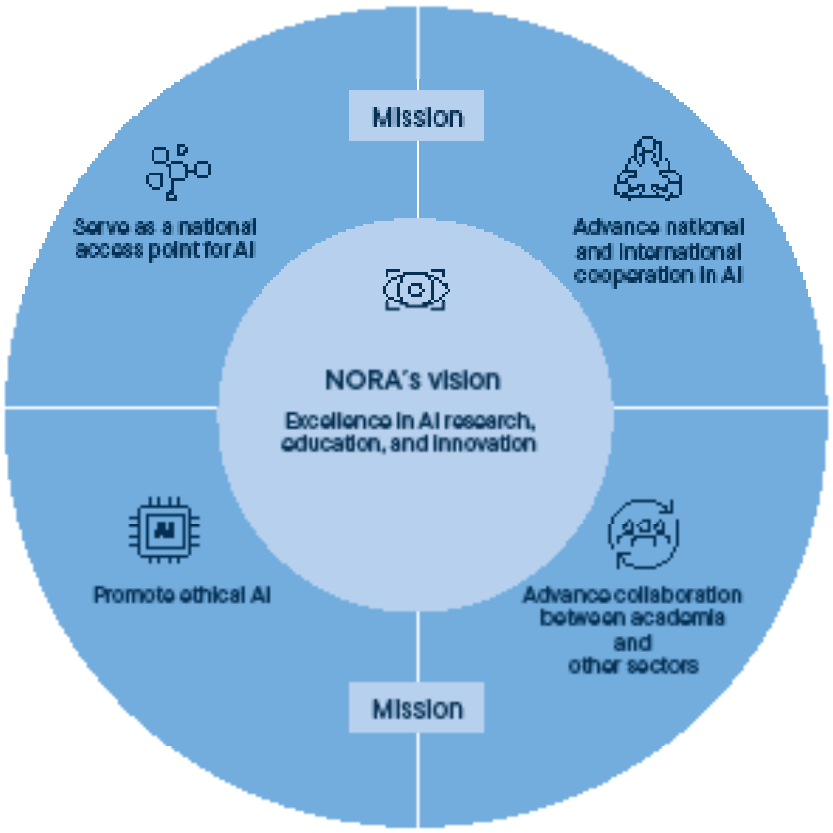
Excellence in AI research, education, and innovation

NORA's ambition

International recognition of Norwegian AI research, education, and innovation

NORA's ambition

International recognition of Norwegian AI research, education, and innovation



Group photo from NORA Annual Conference 2025 in Halden

4

Research

Research is a core element of NORA's strategy for 2023-2026. NORA has established itself as an internationally recognised network for research and education. With its democratic values and high level of trust, Norway has great potential for excelling in AI research. To harness this potential, NORA is actively creating platforms for both fundamental and applied research, embracing the field's complexity and cross-disciplinary character.

The NORA Annual Conference and the Nordic AI Meet (NAIM) represent two significant pillars of this endeavour. The NORA Annual Conference is a yearly event that brings together the Norwegian research community within the field of AI. The conference provides a forum where consortium partners, strategic partners, thought leaders in AI, and other participants can share research, ideas, theories, models, and new perspectives, whilst interacting with peers in the field.

The Nordic AI Meet, initiated by NORA, is an annual conference that convenes early-career researchers from across the Nordic region to present research and build networks. The event has evolved into a truly collaborative Nordic initiative, hosted by the Pioneer Centre for AI in Copenhagen (2023), the Finnish Center for AI (FCAI) in Helsinki (2024), and the University of Linköping (2025) in collaboration with the Wallenberg AI, Autonomous Systems and Software Program (WASP). The Nordic Machine Intelligence journal supports the conference by publishing selected submissions.

Beyond conferences, NORA organises various research seminars, webinars, activities and events where researchers from NORA's consortium partners present and showcase their research to policy makers and the broader AI community in Norway. In 2025, the highlight was the AI-tent hosted by NORA at Arendalsuka, where all the NORA partners presented their research and research strategies, along with selected guest speakers such as the Norwegian Research Council.

NORA also supports the research community by endorsing research proposals and has in 2025 given two letters of support and one letter of intent in this context. In 2025, NORA also organised a joint workshop with the Alan Turing Institute, during which the Research Council of Norway presented relevant EU calls.

A significant research initiative established in 2025 by NORA is NORA-HS, a Norwegian graduate school dedicated to researching AI's impact on humanities and society.

The Journal: Nordic Machine Intelligence

Nordic Machine Intelligence (NMI) is a diamond open access level 1 journal, operating as a non-commercial, open-access, peer-reviewed publication with no publication fees.

Whilst NMI's primary objective is to disseminate high-quality research, welcoming contributions from researchers worldwide, it also serves as a central forum for Nordic research communities, emphasizing themes of relevance to AI within the Nordic context. Beyond research articles, NMI therefore aims to feature a diverse selection of discussion and opinion pieces addressing Nordic opportunities and challenges within AI research.

In 2025, NMI published four issues: (i) NMI Open Issue 2025, (ii) an issue featuring Proceedings of the Nordic AI Meet 2024, (iii) an editorial issue summarizing NORA's annual conference 2025, and (iv) an issue summarizing NORA's CuttingEdgeAI seminar series for 2025.

Professor Michael Riegler (SimulaMet) has been the Editor-in-Chief since 2024, while Geir Halnes (NORA) is the responsible journal manager. Since 2024, some changes have been made to the editorial board and with the new addition of Björn Þór Jónsson (Reykjavik University) and Mårten Wadenbäck from Linköping University, NMI has become truly Nordic in the sense that the journal now has editors from all the Nordic countries.

Michael Riegler - Editor in Chief NMI

> "Beyond research articles, NMI aims to feature a diverse selection of discussion and opinion pieces addressing Nordic opportunities and challenges within AI research."
>
> Michael Riegler, NMI's Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Lilja Øvrelid speaking at the NORA Annual Conference 2025

Research Conferences

The NORA Annual Conference 2025

The NORA Annual Conference is NORA's flagship event. It serves as a platform for gathering the Norwegian research community within the field of AI, and all researchers affiliated with NORA consortium partners or NORA strategic partners are welcome to participate in the conference, along with representatives from industry and the public sector.

In 2025, the NORA Annual Conference was held in Halden with a lineup of excellent keynote speakers and contributing speakers. Sigrun Aasland, Norway's Minister of Research and Higher Education, opened the conference.

The two-day event brought together leading voices in AI research, policy, and innovation, offering a vibrant platform for knowledge exchange, networking, and collaboration, and the conference featured keynote presentations, contributed talks, panel discussions, poster sessions, and startup- and industry presentations.

The first keynote was by Dr. Giada Pistilli, Principal Ethicist at Hugging Face. Her talk emphasized the importance of ethics in AI and stressed that it isn't just a checkbox. The second keynote was by Prof. Robert Jenssen - Director of Visual Intelligence, UiT, who presented core principles for multimodal learning (MML). Prof. Irina Engeness, from the Dept. of Languages, Literature and Culture, HiØ, gave a keynote where she explored and examined the benefits and dilemmas of AI in education. Prof. Samuel Kaski, Leader of FCAI and ELLIS Institute Finland, gave

Minister for Research and Higher Education, Sigrun Aasland, opening the NORA Annual Conference 2025.

Each year, the conference awards the best poster presentation by early career stage researchers.

Best poster presentation NORA Annual Conference 2025

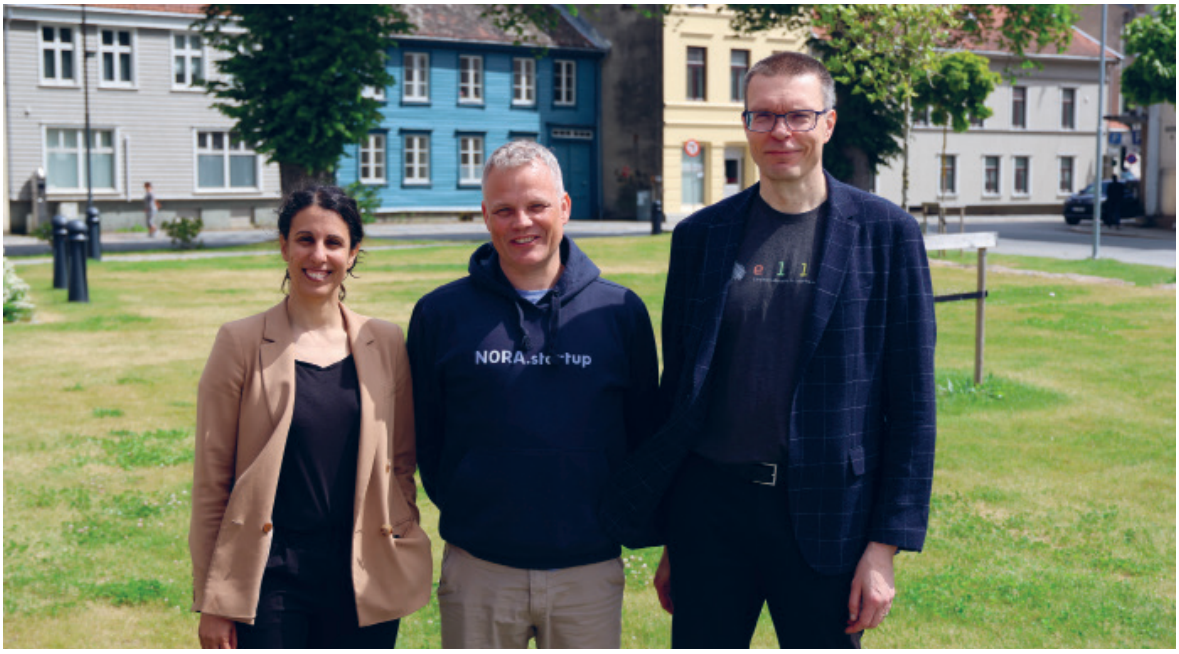
Ibrahim Rıza Hallac, Abdelaziz Qassi, and Hasan Ogul for their work on "Detecting AI Influence in Student Writing: Toward Reliable and Interpretable Classifiers."

a keynote about fundamentals of applied AI.

Beyond the keynotes, the conference featured a whole array of prominent speakers. These were Lilja Øvrelid (Leader of the Language Technology Group at UiO), Svein Arne Brygfjeld (Head of the AI Lab, National Library of Norway), Hans Eide (Special Adviser for User Services, Sigma2), Michael Riegler (Head of AI at Simula), Anita Schjøll Abildgaard (CEO Iris.ai), Assoc. Prof. Erlend Aune (CTO HANCE) and Prof. Anna Smajdor (Practical Philosophy Group, UiO). Finally, Prof. Amy Loutfi (Program Director of WASP) gave a keynote on Embodied AI: Learning Through Curiosity and Play

The conference also served as a social hub for the Norwegian AI community. A dinner event at Fredriksten Hotel on the evening of June 2 featured the NORA Awards, live music, and ample opportunities for informal networking. The event underscored NORA's commitment to fostering a collaborative and inclusive AI ecosystem.

The NORA Annual Awards aim to acknowledge and celebrate excellent contributions to AI in Norway. The nominations for the 2025 awards were collected from the Norwegian AI community and were reviewed by the Programme Committee of the NORA Conference 2025 and the NORA Board. Professor Stefano Nichele, Director of Østfold AI Hub, presided over the awards presentation, recognising outstanding contributions to AI research and development in Norway. Notable honours included the Lifetime Achievement Award presented to Michael Riegler, Early Career Investigator Award presented to Mikkel Lepperød, the Community Building and Education Award presented to Inga Strümke and several other distinguished recognitions across various categories.



Keynote speakers Samuel Kaski and Amy Loutfi together with former CEO of NORA, Klas Pettersen

NORA Annual Awards 2025

Lifetime Achievement award

Michael Riegler,
Head of AI at Simula

Early Career Investigator Award

Mikkel Lepperød,
Researcher at Simula

Diversity in AI Award

Lars Ailo Bongo, Professor
at the UiT - Universty of Tromsø

Publication of the Decade Award 2014-2024

Umuroglu et al. (2017);
Finn: A framework for fast, scalable binarized neural network inference

NORA Startup Award

Mynder

Winners of NORA Annual Award,
Lifetime Achievement: Michael Riegler

Winners of NORA Annual Award,
Best Startup: Mynder

Group photo from the Nordic AI Meet 2025 in Norrköping.

Nordic AI Meet (NAIM)

Nordic AI Meet (NAIM) started as a NORA initiative in 2021 and has become the annual meeting point for young AI researchers in the Nordics and the main conference for the Nordic AI Partnership. The hosting of the conference alternates between the Nordic countries, and NAIM2025 was hosted by the University of Linköping (at the Norrköping campus) in Sweden, on 26-27 November. The 2025 meeting had 100 registered attendees.

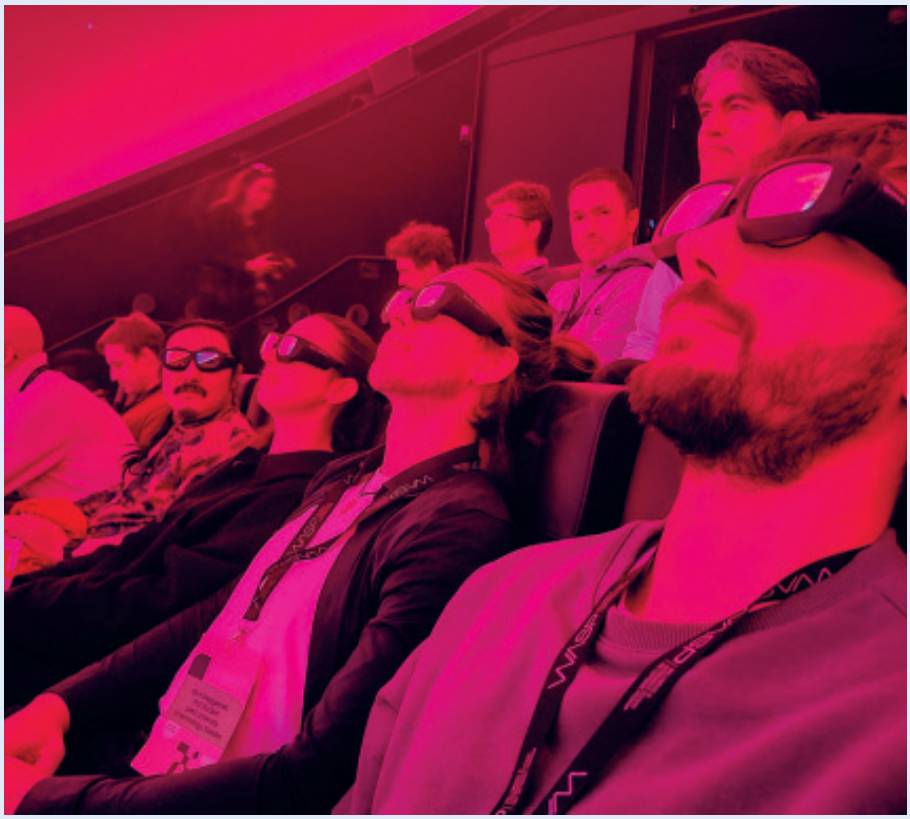
NAIM2025 had an exciting scientific program, including 5 keynotes, 32 session talks (running in two parallel sessions) and a poster session with 44 posters. In addition, the attendees got to experience a tour at Visualization Center C, a reception dinner, and the award ceremony for two NORA-organised competitions: WindAI and the Norwegian AI Championship.

NAIM2025 demonstrated strong engagement from both established AI leaders and emerging talent, with particular emphasis on supporting early-career researchers and students. Four keynote presentations were given by Klas Pettersen (SimulaMet), Michael Felsberg (University of Linköping), Theodora Kontogianni (Technical University of Denmark) and Kristinn R. Thórisson (Reykjavik University), while Emil Karlsson (Saab AB) gave an industry talk.

Norway was well represented at the conference, which (apart from the keynote by Klas Pettersen) included scientific presentations by Magnus Stivi (University of Southeastern-Norway), Francesco Ballerin (University of Bergen), Morteza Esmaeili (University of Stavanger), Natalia Murashova (Østfold University College), Arina Surko (Østfold University College) and Julia Kropiunig (University of Oslo).

Poster session during the Nordic AI Meet 2025.

Dome experience at the Visualization Centre C during Nordic AI Meet 2025.



Synthetic data course at NORA Research School

5

Education

NORA-Tech: NORA's First Norwegian AI Research School

NORA-Tech is NORA's platform for technical PhD education in AI, established in 2021. It serves PhD candidates with a technological background in areas such as AI, machine learning, and robotics. In 2025, the school was formally given the name NORA-Tech to distinguish it from the new research school, NORA-HS.

The overall objective of NORA-Tech is to raise the quality of Norwegian PhD education in AI to a leading European level, while ensuring strong relevance to industry and the wider labour market. The school focuses on developing the technical expertise of its members through a range of academic and professional activities.

To support this goal, NORA-Tech offers several dedicated initiatives in 2025: Winter School in collaboration with NLDL, Summer School held alongside the NORA Annual Conference, the PRESIMAL Autumn School with Mohn Medical Center, and the Innovation and Industry Day organised with NORA Startup, hosted by UiB AI. Throughout the year, students also benefitted from webinars, a dataset competition on prediction of wind-power, and international exchange opportunities. The school additionally supported student participation at the Nordic AI Meet in Norrköping by providing travel stipends.

To welcome new members, five onboarding sessions were organised, and six research school newsletters were distributed to keep the community updated on activities and opportunities in 2025. Some activities are coordinated by the NORA Secretariat, while others were student-led (see Student Council section).

NORA-Tech is funded by the Research Council of Norway and runs from 2021 to 2029. By the end of 2025, the school had 250 active members and around 150 alumni.

Student Council Dinner.

Student-led Technical Session by Sushant Gautam during the CuttingEdgeAI event on benchmarking.

NORA-Tech Student Council

The Student Council works to strengthen collaboration among AI PhD students in Norway and to create an environment where researchers support one another. It also assists the NORA Secretariat by providing input and helping with selected activities. In 2025, the NORA-Tech Student Council had ten members, led first by Franziska Schoeb (UiO) and later by Naser Kazemi Eilaki (HVL).

The Council held seven meetings during the year, including one in-person meeting in Bergen. It organised three student-led webinars, two technical sessions, launched a LinkedIn communication channel, and introduced the new Research Stays Within Norway programme, which supports short research visits to NORA partner institutions.

The NLDL Winter School 2025

Winter School

During the second week of January 2025, the 8th edition of the Northern Lights Deep Learning (NLDL) Conference took place in Tromsø, Norway, with the NLDL Winter School running in parallel. This year, it featured four tutorials, by Willem Waegeman (Ghent University), Sølve Eidnes (SINTEF Digital Oslo), Virginia Dignum and Leila Methnani (Umeå University) and Andrey Kutuzov, Egil Rønningstad, and David Samuel (University of Oslo). Students that completed all assessments of the tutorials were granted five ECTS.

NLDL 2025 showcased a wide variety of high-quality research contributions, and results were shared through both poster sessions and oral presentations spread across the conference days. With more than 250 participants representing 27 countries, the event offered our research school students an excellent opportunity to engage with researchers from around the world.

Summer School

In June 2025, NORA Summer School was held in Fredrikstad, in connection with our Annual Conference in Halden – both events were hosted by NORA partner Østfold University College. The summer school offered four PhD-level courses, held by Michael Kampffmeyer (UiT), Jessica Pedersen Belisle Hansen (HiØ), Irina Engeness (HiØ) and Mohammad Khalil (UiB).

Alongside the courses, NORA offered several opportunities for students to learn more about AI in industry and network through social activities. 68 participants from a broad range of Norwegian academic institutions attended the summer school, and overall, participant feedback was very was very positive.

Members of NORA Research School during the Summer School in Fredrikstad (above) and PRESIMAL Autumn School in Oscarsborg (below)

PRESIMAL Autumn School

The fourth PRESIMAL Autumn Research School took place at the historical Oscarsborg Hotel on 15-17 October 2025. Over 40 young researchers (MSc, PhDs, post-docs), medical doctors, and senior scientists met to discuss and learn about the latest developments in AI and medical imaging, with participants hailing from a diverse array of institutions.

Set against the backdrop of a site rich in history, the conference program encouraged active participation through hands-on workshops, data competitions, scientific talks, poster sessions, and a speed publication workshop. The stunning autumn scenery of Oscarsborg added to the atmosphere inspired students to merge historical insights with cutting-edge technology. A series of excellent presentations and poster showcased their commitment to advancing healthcare and medical physics through AI, promoting collaborative efforts across disciplines.

Group photo at NORA Research School during the Summer School in Fredrikstad

NORA-Tech Research School

Chair
Signe Riemer-Sørensen
SINTEF

Project Manager
Øystein Sørensen
University of Oslo (UiO)

NORA Secretariat
(Executive body)
Justine Dickhoff, NORA

PhD Student Council
Naser Kazemi Eilaki
Western Norway University
of Applied Science (HVL)

Leader: Education Council
Michael Kampffmeyer
UiT The Arctic University
of Norway

NORA-HS: NORA's Second Research School

In 2025, NORA was awarded funding for a second research school: NORA-HS (Norwegian Graduate School for How AI Impacts Humanities and Society). While NORA-Tech focuses on technological expertise, NORA-HS addresses the growing need for competence in how AI intersects with humanities, social sciences, law, and education.

The rapid integration of AI into society has created a clear demand for researchers who understand its societal, ethical, and human dimensions. NORA-HS aims to provide PhD candidates with the interdisciplinary tools needed to navigate these questions, ensuring that their research is grounded in democratic values, legal frameworks, and human welfare. NORA-HS will run from 2025 to 2032 and will further strengthen NORA's position as a national hub for AI research and education, covering both the technical and the societal sides of AI.

NORA-HS Research School

Chair
Liv Dingsør
Digital Norway

Project Manager
Taina Bucher
University of Oslo (UiO)

NORA Secretariat
(Executive body)
Justine Dickhoff, NORA

NORA-HS Research School Board

Chair
Liv Dingsør
Digital Norway

Lars Ailo Bongo
UiT, The Arctic University of Norway

Heidi Dahl
Posten

Signe Riemer Sørensen
SINTEF

Bernard Enjolras
Institute of Social Research

Edmund Henden
OsloMet

Hege Stenrud Høsøien
National Library of Norway

Ida Jahr
University of Inland Norway

Malcom Langford
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Christoph Lutz
BI Norwegian Business School

Michael Riegler
Simula

Barbara Wasson
University of Bergen

NORA-Tech Research School Board

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Naser Kazemi Eilaki
Western Norway University of Applied Sciences

Robert Jenssen
UiT, The Arctic University of Norway

Michael Kampffmeyer
UiT, The Arctic University of Norway

Mahdieh Khanmohammadi
University of Stavanger

Pekka Parviainen
University of Bergen

Robindra Prabhu
NAV

Nils-Olav Skeie
University of South-Eastern Norway

Andrew Boyce
University of Oslo

NORA Startup members

NORA Startup consists of 59 companies and 92 researchers.

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Innovation

One of the pillars of NORA's mission is to advance collaboration between academia, startups and the private and public sectors in Norway. To achieve this goal, NORA has developed and launched NORA Startup, a project aimed at supporting and strengthening innovation within the field of AI in Norway. NORA Startup co-organised several events during the past year, focusing on innovation and support of startup companies in the field of AI by being a point of connection for collaboration and research.

NORA has also played a key role in acquiring funding for and establishing new initiatives aimed at supporting both the public and private sectors, namely the European Digital Innovation Hub - Nemonoor, the Norwegian AI Cloud (NAIC), and ENACT (Ethical risks assessmeNt of Artificial intelligenCe in pracTice), projects that have continued throughout 2025.

During the past year, NORA created networking opportunities between academia and the private and public sectors through flagship events, including the NORA Annual Conference, Nordic AI Meet, the NLDL Industry Day, and NORA Startup events.

NORA Startup

NORA Startup is a national network for startups driven by research-based innovation in the fields of AI, ML, and robotics. The network was established in 2020 as a joint initiative with the Simula Garage. 2025 was dedicated to redefining NORA Startup's main priorities and objectives, focusing on three pillars: (i) Cultivating a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in fields of AI, ML, and robotics; (ii) Creating opportunities for collaboration between academia, startups, the industry and public sectors; and (iii) Engaging with the wider research-based innovation networks across the Nordics.

Significant emphasis was placed on supporting NORA's academic partners in cultivating a culture of innovation among PhD students, researchers, and members of faculty. To advance this aim, NORA Startup partnered with NORA Research School for its Industry & Innovation Day and actively helped startups across Norway connect with relevant technical talent. Furthermore, NORA Startup collaborated closely with startups and our Danish partners to create opportunities for bachelor- and master students to be hired by early-stage businesses, and to build and be part of innovative initiatives like the Norwegian AI Championship.

In 2025, NORA Startup hosted numerous initiatives to ensure collaboration between startup members, facilitate matchmaking between startups and students, and foster a culture of innovation across all levels of higher education. Events informing interested parties about funding opportunities and providing spaces for networking were part of these initiatives: (i) Industry and AI session during the NLDL conference, (ii) Meet the AI Industry networking event organized during the NLDL, (iii) Nordic – Turing Workshop in Oslo, (iv) Innovate Together: Academia Meets Industry event hosted in Bergen.

At the time of writing, the startup network consists of 59 startups and 92 researchers.

NORA Startup Steering Group

Birte Hansen
External Engagement Adviser at dScience and Leader of the Steering Group

Kristian Hesthaug
Head of Hardware & Deep Tech, Startuplab

Rebekka Olsson Omslandseter
Associate Professor at University of Agder

Vi Ngoc-Nha Tran
Associate Professor at UiT, The Arctic University of Norway

Freyja Jørgensen
Head of Incubator at The Simula Garage

Alvaro Fernandez-Quilez
Professor at University of Stavanger

Nils Jacob Berland
CEO of Haawk.ai

Synnøve Olset
CEO at Mynder

Åsmund Brekke
Co-founder at Catchwise

Michael Solvang
CEO of NORA.ai

Snezhina Duevska
Innovation and International Relations, NORA.ai

Agnieszka Seremak
Innovation and Research, NORA.ai

Academia–Industry Collaboration

NORA Strategic Partners

In 2022, NORA launched the strategic partners network with the aim of bringing key national public and private organisations in Norway closer to academia and supporting them in their integration of AI. The strategic partners network currently consists of: the Brønnøysund Register Centre (Norwegian government agency and registration authority), TINE (one of Norway's largest food companies), NAV (the Norwegian Labor and Welfare Administration), Ruter (public transport authority for Oslo and Akershus), Posten AS (Norwegian Postal Service), and Norsk Helsenett (Norwegian Health Network).

In 2025, the NORA Secretariat had several exchanges and dialogues with the strategic partners. These interactions allowed partners to explore concrete ways of working with academia, identify knowledge gaps that academic researchers can address, and highlight opportunities for student involvement and shared innovation projects. Strengthening these connections is key to ensuring that research insights translate into real societal value.

NORA also hosted an interactive workshop on the AI Act for the strategic partners. This workshop provided guidance on navigating upcoming regulatory requirements and helped organisations prepare for compliance. Understanding the implications of the AI Act is critical for ensuring that AI systems are developed and deployed in a trustworthy and legally robust manner, which is something many institutions are seeking clarity and support on.

The Innovate Together event presentation by NORA Research School.

Innovate Together: Academia Meets Industry

In its efforts to bring academia and industry closer together, NORA Research School and NORA Startup focus on developing doctoral candidates' ability to transform their research into practical applications and to explore industry careers. A key activity supporting this goal was the knowledge-sharing event Innovate Together: Academia Meets Industry, hosted by UiB AI at the UiB Learning Arena, Bergen, and designed to strengthen connections between academic research and industrial implementation.

The event was attended by more than 40 researchers and opened with an engaging communication workshop led by Ellen Hagen (Ferd), which helped PhD candidates sharpen the presentation skills vital for industry job interviews. The programme continued with two insightful talks from NORA Startup members Bergen Robotics (Nils Jacob Berland) and Fjordbyte (Christian Bru). Both CEOs shared their entrepreneurial journeys — from idea development and execution to commercialisation — and highlighted the challenges and rewards along the way. Chris Ronald Hermansen (TV2) then discussed how AI is used in commercial television, illustrating how a large organisation can benefit from implementing AI tools in daily operations. The day also included an interactive presentation and short workshop on the journey to entrepreneurship, led by Renate Skoge and Lars Grønnestad (VIS), which encouraged students to view their research outputs from a more commercial perspective.

The event concluded with a networking reception at the venue, laying the foundations for collaborative research and startup projects in 2026. This initiative aims to create meaningful partnerships between researchers and organisations across both private and public sectors, reinforcing NORA's commitment to driving innovation in the Norwegian AI ecosystem.

Nils Jacob Berland (Bergen Robotics) presenting at the Innovate Together event.

Entrepreneur workshop by Renate Skoge and Lars Grønnestad (VIS) during Innovate Together.

Industry Day NLDL

NORA co-hosted the Industry Day at the Northern Lights Deep Learning (NLDL) Conference on 9 January 2025, in collaboration with SFI Visual Intelligence at UiT, The Arctic University of Norway.

The afternoon session gathered experts to discuss why AI is important for industry, how AI can provide additional value to industry, the problems that AI potentially can solve, and how academia and industry should collaborate on facilitating safe and sustainable use of AI. Panelists Peter Munch Ellingsen (CTO at Avju Solutions), Beate Sildnes (Data Scientist at NAV), Sarina Thomas (Senior Data Scientist at GE Vingmed Ultrasound) and Akhil Gopinath (Mathworks) participated in the event, while and Martine Espeseth (Project Manager at Kongsberg Satellite Services) acted as the moderator.

In the evening, several industry partners gave short presentations, followed by an informal networking session that offered students and researchers a good opportunity to meet industry practitioners and startup founders.

Industry Panel Discussion.

Meet the AI Industry.

European Digital Innovation Hub

Norway is participating in the DIGITAL EUROPE initiative, and as part of this programme, the European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) serve as one-stop shops that support companies and public sector organisations in addressing digital challenges and enhancing competitiveness.

EDIH Nemonoor, Norway's national hub for AI, is designed to help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and public service organisations (PSOs) understand and harness AI to create value for Norwegian society. NORA plays a key role in this initiative by leading the work package on sustainable and trustworthy AI, as well as contributing to education and test-before-invest services.

Throughout 2024 and into 2025, a range of activities and support offerings were made available to help SMEs and PSOs explore and adopt AI. These included various learning opportunities and advisory services aimed at strengthening organisations' readiness to use AI in a responsible and effective manner.

By delivering practical services, encouraging collaboration, and using national funding effectively, EDIH Nemonoor successfully concluded its first project period, playing a vital role in preparing Norwegian enterprises and public organisations to navigate the AI-driven future.

Building on the results and experience from this completed phase, EDIH Nemonoor will enter a new three-year project period (Nemonoor 2) starting in January 2026, continuing its mission to support Norwegian SMEs and public sector organisations in the responsible and value-creating use of AI and digital technologies.

Norwegian AI Cloud

The Norwegian AI Cloud (NAIC) project, a three-year initiative supported by the Norwegian Research Council, continues to make steady progress in establishing a national infrastructure for AI in Norway. NAIC remains focused on fostering AI education, research, and innovation through access to High-Performance Computing (HPC) resources and inclusive training programmes.

In 2025, NAIC continued to broaden its impact by enhancing its services and engaging an even wider community of researchers, students, educators, entrepreneurs, and SMEs. During the year, the project launched its new Learning Hub, offering accessible resources and guidance to help users navigate national AI infrastructure. Several partners also carried out successful demonstrators and collaborative activities, showcasing practical applications of the platform and contributing to broader awareness and competence-building across the ecosystem.

The NAIC consortinum consists of NORA, UiO, NTNU, UiB, SIMULA, UiA, SINTEF, UiT, SIGMA2, and NORCE Research, and their close collaboration ensures the success of the initiative: Bringing together leading experts to establish an accessible, affordable, and user-friendly infrastructure for machine learning and deep learning in Norway.

By pooling expertise and resources, the Norwegian AI Cloud remains on track to deliver a transformative platform that will support AI advancements across academia, industry, and startups over the course of the project.

WIND AI

WindAI – Forecasting Wind-Power Production was an AI challenge launched in 2025 with the goal of advancing short-term forecasting of wind-power production in Norway. The initiative addressed a concrete operational need for the Norwegian transmission system operator Statnett, which depends on reliable forecasts to plan secure and efficient power system operations across bidding zones.

The competition challenged teams to develop models capable of predicting wind-power production two days ahead using open data, while remaining robust to changes in installed capacity and weather conditions. Participants were given access to relevant open data and worked in a setting designed to reflect real operational constraints.

WindAI emphasised both forecasting accuracy and explainability, robustness, and practical applicability. Model evaluation followed a production-like setup, with teams submitting daily forecasts over a two-week period and results ranked primarily by accuracy and usefulness for operational decision-making.

The results were announced at Nordic AI Meet in November 2025, where the winning team, EquiWindNerds, received a prize and the opportunity to present their solution to Statnett. Several other teams were recognised for innovative and high-quality approaches.

The head of the jury, Prof. Signe Riemer-Sørensen (SINTEF), described the challenge as follows:

"The competition had many purposes in addition to solving an industrial challenge: it has a large component of training students to work with data science in the energy sector. Several teams participated as student projects contributing with innovative ideas, and the challenge can freely be used in teaching."

"The competition had many purposes in addition to solving an industrial challenge: it has a large component of training students to work with data science in the energy sector. Several teams participated as student projects contributing with innovative ideas, and the challenge can freely be used in teaching."

Signe Riemer-Sørensen, Head of the jury

The Nordic AI Partnership being formalized through an MoU.

7

International Cooperation

International collaboration is essential to elevating Norwegian AI research and enhancing its international visibility. NORA supports this through formal agreements with the Alan Turing Institute in the UK and the Helmholtz Information & Data Science Academy (HIDA) in Germany, which provide Norwegian researchers with opportunities for research exchanges. New in 2025 is the Nordic AI Partnership, formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in Stockholm 26 February 2025 by the leaders of the national academic AI centers in Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Iceland and Norway

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Nordic AI Research, Education, and Innovation Partnership

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

The Nordic AI Research, Education, and Innovation Partnership (NAIP) is based on an MoU signed by Sweden's Wallenberg AI, Autonomous Systems and Software Program (WASP), the Finnish Center for Artificial Intelligence (FCAI), Denmark's Pioneer Centre for AI (P1), Iceland's Center for Analysis and Design of Intelligent Agents (CADIA), and Norway's NORA. Together, these institutions aim to consolidate existing efforts within individual Nordic countries, creating a stronger, unified voice for academic AI centres in the Nordic countries.

The MoU formalizes a Nordic AI Partnership and strengthens NORA initiatives such as the Nordic AI Meet and The Nordic Machine Intelligence journal as platforms for unified Nordic communication. The partners are currently working on a mission statement to help define the governance and structure of NAIP.

Norwegian AI Championship

In August 2025, NORA organised the inaugural Norwegian AI Championship in collaboration with Ambolt AI, drawing inspiration from the Danish AI Championship. The event aimed to strengthen student communities by solving real-world problems with AI. More than 160 bachelor and master students formed 85 teams and competed in a week-long hackathon to solve three independent challenges. The tasks were diverse and required collaborative approaches: (i) The Race Car — teams tested AI agents in a driving game to maximise distance travelled; (ii) Emergency Healthcare RAG – teams developed AI models to support emergency-room staff with rapid, precise medical assessments; and (iii) Tumor Segmentation — teams created models to detect and segment tumors in MIP-PET images. After seven days of intensive work and several shifts in the leaderboard, the winners were announced. The inaugural Norwegian AI Championship title went to Attention Heads, a team of five master students from NTNU. They received their prize during the Nordic AI Meet, which also gave them an opportunity to network with students from across the Nordics.

EurIPS Booth

Towards the end of 2025, NAIP made a strong public appearance by having a large exhibition booth at the EurIPS conference in Copenhagen. Sponsored by the main partners NORA, WASP, P1, FCAI, CADIA with additional contributions from UiT SFI Visual Intelligence, EU, and the European Digital Innovation Hub in Iceland, the booth functioned as a meeting point for Nordic partners participating at EurIPS but also attracted a steady flow of visitors interested in learning more about NAIP.

Four events took place in the booth: (i) What are Hilbert's 23 problems of AI (led by Michael Felsberg from WASP); (ii) Nordic AI Networking Event featuring a short presentation by Robert Jenssen from SFI Visual Intelligence and NORA; (iii) Gløgg and mingle with Climate AI Nordics which is a network of researchers from several of the partnership countries; including Norway, and (iv) PhD Power Hour, a scientific matchmaking event for PhD students.

Representatives from the Nordic AI Partnership in front of their shared exhibition booth at EurIPS in Copenhagen.

Exchanges at the Alan Turing Institute and Nordic-Turing AI workshop in Oslo

Alan Turing Institute

Workshop in Oslo

In 2025, NORA hosted the second Nordic-Turing AI Workshop in Oslo, continuing the fruitful collaboration with the Alan Turing Institute. The British Embassy in Norway hosted the workshop, which was a continuation of last year's UK-based Digital-Twin focused workshop. The two-day event brought together senior researchers and industry representatives from across the Nordic region and the United Kingdom to explore applications of AI in Arctic, maritime and security domains. Researchers and representatives from a variety of institutions, including the British Antarctic Survey, Aalborg University, DNV, SINTEF, Aker, Telenor, DigDir, Kartverket, Kongsberg, Norwegian Research Council, and a range of innovative startups, took part in the program, which included a session that highlighted practical opportunities for Horizon Europe research proposals and supported Norway's participation in international AI initiatives.

By bringing together representatives from all NAIP partners, the workshop also strengthened networks that will underpin future collaborative research, student supervision and funding applications.

Research Exchanges

In addition to the workshop that brought together the British and Norwegian AI research communities, NORA also collaborates with the Alan Turing Institute on student exchange initiatives.

This year, one of NORA's PhD students, Sushant Gautam from the Simula Metropolitan Center for Digital Engineering in Oslo, participated in the enrichment scheme under our agreement with the Alan Turing Institute. As part of this exchange, Sushant served as the student representative for his cohort. During his stay, he built numerous interdisciplinary connections across laboratories and universities at the Alan Turing Institute, fostering collaborations for ongoing and future research initiatives.

Data Study Group

NORA Research School members had the opportunity to take part in the Alan Turing Institute's Data Study Group this year, which are intensive 'collaborative hackathons' that pair industry, government and third sector organisations with talented multi-disciplinary researchers.

In 2025, participants worked on detection of oil leaks from shipwrecks in satellite synthetic aperture radar images, a challenge provided by Cefas - Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science. NORA Research School members Chau Thi Thuy Tran (Informatics & IFE Department, UiO), Preben Ness (Validation Intelligence for Autonomous Software Systems, Simula) and Ryan Anthony Marinelli (Informatics Department, UiO) joined researchers from the Alan Turing Institute to work on the problem.

Feedback from the participants highlighted that the program provided both meaningful and practical experience and turning ideas into solutions made the week particularly rewarding.

The Helmholtz Information & Data Science Academy

Research Exchange Program

NORA's collaboration with the Helmholtz Information & Data Science Academy (HIDA) continues to strengthen research ties between Norway and Germany, giving our community access to 18 research centres in the Helmholtz Association. Through this partnership, PhD candidates from the NORA's partner institutions can engage with new scientific environments, develop international networks, and gain experience across different research cultures.

In 2025, three members of NORA Research School were selected for 30,000 NOK of funding for a three-month research exchange with one of HIDA's research centres. Mahya Jahanshahikhabisi (UiB, Department of Clinical Medicine) is conducting her stay with Prof. Dr. Jürgen Dukart at the Research Centre Jülich (FZJ). Fernando Vallecillos Ruiz (Simula) received funding for an exchange at the CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security under the supervision of Professor Michael Pradel, and A M Esfar E Alam (UiO, Department of Informatics) is preparing for his upcoming research exchange, with the host institution still to be confirmed.

These exchanges both benefit the participating researchers and deepen NORA's institutional collaboration with the German AI research community.

US Department of Energy

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

The AI Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the US Department of Energy and Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research (KD) was signed on 8 March 2022, with NORA's CEO Klas Pettersen being instrumental in its establishment. The MoU aims to strengthen Norway-US cooperation on AI research, innovation, education and ethical issues, advancing scientific and technological activities across fields impacting science, energy, climate and health.

NORA's Snezhina Duevska (left) with the panelists at Women in AI 2025.

8

Responsible AI

Ethics, Diversity and Inclusion

Advocating responsible AI is central to NORA's work. We aim of ensuring that future generations have equal access and opportunities within this rapidly evolving field, and we have diversity and inclusion are core values in our projects. Events like Diversity in AI and Women in AI are part of this work. In general, NORA has also emphasised the importance of implementing ethical practices around AI internally and externally. Andrea Gasparini has worked part time in a role focused on AI policy and ethics, and has been a tremendous resource both for NORA Partners and for the NORA Secretariat in 2025. Gasparini is a Senior Academic Librarian at the University of Oslo Library Digital Services, as well as a Senior Lecturer on Digitalisation.

The ENACT Project

The Ethical risks assessmeNt of Artificial intelligenCe in pracTice (ENACT) project, funded by the Research Council of Norway, aims to develop methods to manage ethical AI in Norwegian public and private sectors. The project was launched in 2023 and has since then introduced the Ethical AI Literacy concept and adapted the CORAS methodology for AI-related ethical risks. It has hosted seminars, participated in public forums, and engaged with diverse stakeholders to discuss AI ethics, privacy, and energy concerns. In September 2025, ENACT organised a seminar on risks assessment in collaboration with NORA, sharing examples from practical experiences. Future efforts include pilot studies of the adapted CORAS methodology and continued advocacy for ethical AI risk assessment.

Women in AI

In March 2025, NORA hosted its third annual Women in AI event at Domus Bibliotheca (Oslo) in celebration of the International Women's Day. The event has become a cornerstone of our efforts to promote diversity in AI, bringing together researchers, entrepreneurs, and industry leaders to spotlight female role models and address the gender imbalance in the field.

The theme of the event was From Research to Innovation and the program featured three keynote speakers: Professor Ingrid Glad (UiO), Co-Director of Integreat; Dr. Mozhgan Tavakolifard, CEO and founder of AI Alchemy Hub and AIZEN; and Rebecca Hile, Senior Manager of Time Series and AI Ops at Equinor. The event concluded with a panel discussion that included Poushali Sengupta, PhD candidate in Explainable AI and Distributed Machine Learning at UiO.

With growing engagement each year, Women in AI continues to strengthen NORA's role as a convener and catalyst for change. By amplifying the voices of female leaders, we help shape an AI ecosystem in Norway that is more equitable, innovative, and prepared to address the societal challenges of the future.

Panel debate
in the AI tent at
Arendalsuka

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Communication and Dissemination

Communication at NORA takes place through events, social media posts, traditional media and presentations for companies and organisations. Highlights during the year are the CuttingEdgeAI seminars, where prominent researchers and professionals within AI present their work on a selected topic to a broad audience. These events have also received significant press coverage. NORA has also participated in Arendalsuka, and hosted the first-ever AI tent there: Kunstig Intelligens-teltet, where the NORA partners presented a wide range of AI topics. The initiative was a success, and will be repeated in 2026. NORA also reaches a significant audience through its social media channels, primarilly LinkedIn.

CuttingEdgeAI

2025 marked another important year for NORA's seminar series CuttingEdgeAI, which continues to make AI knowledge accessible to a broad audience while fostering dialogue across sectors. The series maintained its strong emphasis on knowledge-sharing, cross-disciplinary idea exchange and collaborative initiatives. This year also saw the expansion of the programme with events hosted in Bergen and Stavanger - strengthening regional engagement and creating new opportunities for collaboration across Norway. In addition to showcasing practical and emerging AI topics, the 2025 programme placed renewed focus on policy developments, societal implications and responsible innovation, offering attendees a balanced perspective that links technical insights with real-world considerations. The events were partly supported by Nemonoor and the Norwegian AI Cloud.

"Each year, CuttingEdgeAI grows into an even more meaningful arena for learning and exchange. It's inspiring to see researchers, practitioners and newcomers come together to explore how AI can create value in responsible and innovative ways."

Kushtrim Visoka, Senior Advisor, NORA

CuttingEdgeAI: AI anno 2030 - In Public Interest? (Bergen, 7 March 2025)

This CuttingEdgeAI event gathered prominent voices from Norwegian research, public administration, and innovation to explore how AI may evolve towards 2030 and how it can be developed in public interest. The first part of the programme examined the scientific frontier of AI, with reflections on Norway's national AI investment, forecasts for the next five years of technological progress, and discussions on the political responsibilities of AI research. Presentations also highlighted advances in mathematical neural networks and their relevance for societal challenges and innovation. The second part focused on Norway's unique strengths in AI, featuring insights from NAV on public-sector applications, perspectives on Norway's competitive advantages, and discussions on developing "small and kind" AI suited to Norwegian values. The session concluded with reflections on the regulation, research quality, and conditions needed for Norway to shape a responsible and forward-looking AI ecosystem.

Special Edition of CuttingEdgeAI with Terry Sejnowski, Ken Harris, and Mazviita Chirimuuta (Oslo, 18 June 2025)

This special CuttingEdgeAI event was organised alongside the regional Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) meeting in Oslo, bringing leading international researchers in neuroscience and AI to the University of Oslo. The highlight was Prof. Terry Sejnowski (Salk Institute), a pioneer of modern AI and recipient of the 2025 Brain Prize, who discussed the connection between brain science and AI.

The programme also featured Professor Prof. Ken Harris (University College London), who demonstrated how AI can accelerate the analysis of complex neural data, and a panel discussion with Senior lecturer Mazviita Chirimuuta (University of Edinburg) and Sejnowski on the role of simplification in computational neuroscience. The event provided a concise and engaging look at how advances in neuroscience and AI continue to strengthen and inspire one another.

Andrea Gasparini at CuttingeEdge event in Oslo.

From the CuttingEdgeAI event in Stavanger on AI in healthcare

CuttingEdgeAI: Benchmarking in AI (Oslo, 12 September 2025)

This event focused on the growing need for robust and meaningful evaluation of AI systems. Held at Domus Bibliotheca in Oslo, it brought together researchers and public-sector experts to discuss how benchmarking can better support safe, reliable, and trustworthy AI.

The programme covered a wide range of perspectives: from foundational principles of benchmarking and statistical approaches to uncertainty, to practical examples from Norwegian healthcare and new tools for evaluating large language models in Norwegian. Several talks highlighted the limitations of traditional benchmarks, especially when models encounter real-world variation, and stressed the importance of evaluation methods that reflect local language, context, and use cases.

The event concluded with a hands-on demonstration of how large language models can be used within benchmarking workflows. Overall, the discussions reinforced that benchmarking is not just a technical exercise but a critical part of responsible AI development, ensuring that systems perform safely and predictably when put into practice.

CuttingEdgeAI: AI in Healthcare (Stavanger, 15 October 2025)

This CuttingEdgeAI event was hosted by the Stavanger AI Lab with support from NORA, exploring how AI is being applied across the healthcare sector. Researchers and practitioners presented work ranging from causal AI and newborn care to mental health, brain tumour surgery, and stroke imaging. Additional talks showcased AI tools for detecting Parkinson's symptoms, supporting emergency call handling and identifying early signs of dementia through speech.

Across these varied perspectives, the event highlighted both the promise and the practical challenges of integrating AI into clinical practice. Speakers emphasized the need for safe, evidence-based solutions and careful evaluation to ensure that new technologies genuinely support healthcare professionals and improve patient outcomes.

CuttingEdgeAI: Agentic AI (Oslo, 3 November 2025)

This edition of our seminar series explored the rapidly developing field of agentic AI and how AI agents are beginning to support complex tasks across science, public administration, and industry. Held at Domus Bibliotheca, it brought together researchers and practitioners to discuss how agent-based systems can enhance decision-making and streamline specialised workflows.

The programme featured a wide range of perspectives, from integrating agents with scientific simulation tools and developing tailored knowledge agents for legal reasoning, to new approaches for public-sector planning and lessons from deploying agents in structured business processes. Several talks highlighted the practical challenges of real-world deployment, stressing the need for grounded, predictable and well-designed agent systems.

The event concluded with a technical deep dive into multi-agent LLM systems and structured contextual memory. Overall, the discussions showed how agentic AI is moving from concept to practical application, opening new possibilities for more efficient and transparent workflows.

Panel discussion at the Cutting AI event in Oslo on Agentic AI.

Arendalsuka 2025

In 2025, NORA took a more prominent role at Arendalsuka, and hosted the first-ever AI tent, Kunstig Intelligens-teltet, where the NORA partners presented a wide range of AI topics.

During the week, NORA hosted 25 different events, with more than 1,300 attendees in total. All NORA's partners were present, and NORA also welcomed contributions from the Research Council of Norway (RCN) and four Centres of Excellence (SFFs) and Centres for Research-based Innovation (SFIs); AI: Integreat – Norwegian Centre for Knowledge-driven Machine Learning, Visual Intelligence, Media Futures, and Digital Narrative. In addition, Nemonoor and SuperOffice Norge AS took the stage.

The initiative was a success, and NORA will be back at Arendalsuka in 2026.

"NORA was founded on the belief that we achieve more when we collaborate, and I can't think of a better way to demonstrate this than by gathering the NORA partners and key stakeholders under one AI roof. Based on the feedback and the number of attendees, the AI-tent was a huge success. AI will shape our future, and it's important that the NORA partners are visible in the public debate, highlighting both the challenges and opportunities ahead. It was a joy to be part of and a great opportunity for me to connect with so many of you", said Michael Solvang, then newly appointed CEO of NORA, at Arendalsuka 2025.

Crowded tent during Arendalsuka.

Stage action during Arendalsuka.

10 NORA in Numbers I

Connecting the AI Field

- **9 130** LinkedIn Followers
- **4** New PhD-Level Courses
- **2** Research Schools: Tech + HS
- **2** Events on Diversity in AI

Three Types of Main Events

CuttingEdgeAI Seminars	Seasonal Schools	Research Conferences
5	3	2

Two New Initiatives

AI Tent at Arendalsuka

1 tent
25 events
1 300 visitors

Norwegian AI Championship

85 teams
160 partecipants
1 winning team

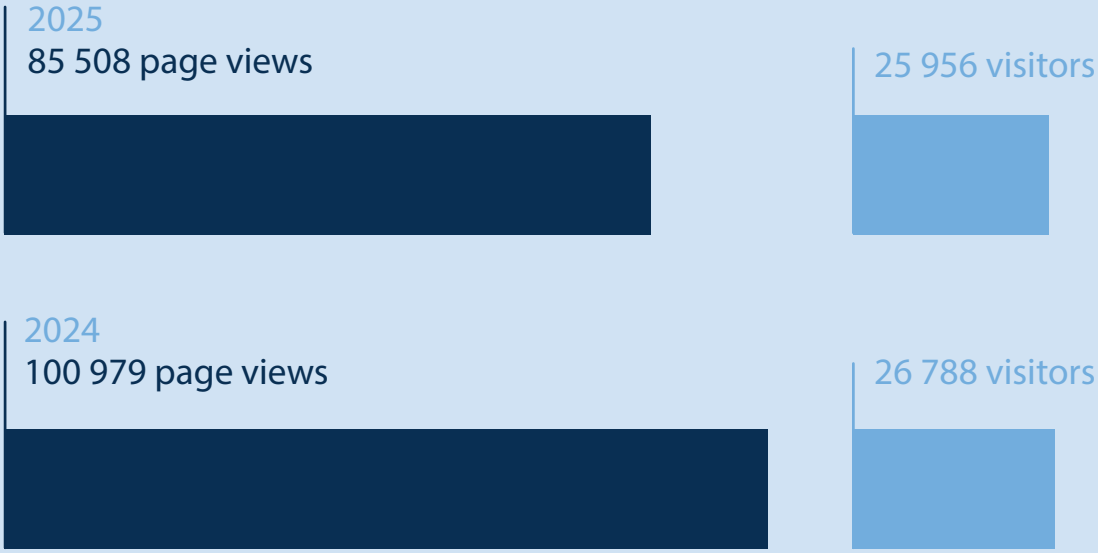
Community Statistics

59 Startup Members
17 NORA Partners
8 Staff in the Sectretariat
5 Nordic AI Partnership Countries
1 New Leader

NORA in Numbers II

Visitors and Views NORA.ai Website

555 448 PAGE VIEWS
2019–2025



Newsletter

2 644
Subscribers

16 745
Newsletter reads throughout the year

NORA.ai Top Ten Countries by Visitors 2025

50% NORWAY

50%WORLD

50% of NORA.ai´s visitors in 2025 were located in Norway, 13 367 people.

NORA.ai Top Ten Countries Abroad

- United States: 1 822 visitors
- Germany: 721 visitors
- India: 683 visitors
- United Kingdom: 673 visitors
- Sweden: 527 visitors
- Italy: 453 visitors
- Brazil: 388 visitors
- France: 350 visitors
- Jordan: 319 visitors
- Spain: 301 visitors

Excellence in AI research, education and innovation

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