Maria Ranta,
University of Agder

Erasmus coordinator's
meeting in Konstanz,
3 May 2018

The public sector operates in **rapidly changing conditions**

Use of **new digital technologies** highlight the need to rethink management of government processes and activities

Public sector professionals deal with **multidimensional, interconnected problems** in a society characterised by **pluralistic views and expectations**

Digitalisation has also spurred **new types of partnerships** and collective learning in shared spaces

Background

A growing need for experts able to **keep in pace with social and technological changes**

Public sector professionals need **holistic knowledge** on governance and on facilitating learning, creativity as well as societal and digital innovations

Public sector professionals must possess the necessary skills to address problems that go beyond existing societal structures and knowledge base

They also need to be **able to work across sectors and disciplines**

The Nordic countries are well-known for their technological advancement and knowledge-intensiveness of their societies, but also for their strong and equitable models of social welfare and well-functioning legal and administrative systems.

Traditionally, teaching of civil servants in the Nordics has been of high quality.

However, the pedagogy applied has been rather traditional and the **collaboration between public administration and other disciplinary domains** has not been institutionalized to face the challenges posed by digitalization, robotization and the globalization of society.

NORDIG is about responding to the needs of **knowledge societies in the digital era**

The context – why the Nordics?

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There are several e-governance programmes offered - examples:

- Erasmus Mundus Masters Program in Public Policy (Mundus MAPP) also responds to the educational needs created by the changing global environment and public policy challenges: offers multiple specialization tracks within the same discipline

- The Master in Digital Communication Leadership (DC Lead) approaches digital communication from an interdisciplinary and international point of view, bringing together advanced academic discussions with practical knowledge and skills: has digital communication as a starting point

- The Master of Science in Public Sector Innovation and eGovernance (PIONEER) also looks at governance and services

NORDIG uses **co-creation labs as a pedagogical tool** to provide **new type of interdisciplinary learning environment**: a place to train skills in **interdisciplinary collaboration** when solving complex, real-life problems

NORDIG observes **digitalization as a contextual factor**; it does not address digitalization as such

What's unique about NORDIG?

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Challenge the traditional contents and sector-oriented learning approaches that are typically applied in the field of public administration and public policy

Bring a multidisciplinary approach to the teaching of public administration and governance by combining the **holistic and critical approach typical in social sciences with problem-based, solution-driven approach of engineering education and business administration;** to train the students to work together with experts from different disciplinary, professional and cultural backgrounds

Offer a unique learning environment enabling students to create smart solutions and obtain sustainable learning outcomes

Objectives

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Curricular aspects

E-health

Immigration

Demography

Resilience of cities

Natural disasters

- The first year of studies focuses on creating domain-specific competencies derived from the Nordic tradition in public administration and management
    - specificity of the public domain as an operating environment;
    - structures and operating principles of knowledge-intensive innovation systems;
    - management of public processes, organizations and service systems;
    - complexities associated with the policy process; and
    - public leadership.

- The third semester is dedicated to critical issues related to learning, creativity and communication, which are practiced hands-on in the interdisciplinary context of KTH's Open Lab
    - The students utilize the theoretical knowledge and available technological solutions to solve a multiplicity of societal problems associated with public governance and service provision

- Throughout the programme, NORDIG addresses methodological aspects, such as supporting the development of academic writing skills and data-gathering, providing a basis for thesis writing

Fact sheet

A two-year **master programme** with two degree-awarding partners

Funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers (Nordic Master programme 2017-2020),
but also uses several sources to support the students' mobility (Nordplus and Erasmus+)

Run by **three full partners**: University of Tampere, FIN, University of Agder, NOR and Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, SWE – collaboration with University of Konstanz, GER, on the delivery of methods' teaching

Students move every six months.

Leads to the following qualifications: Master in Innovative Governance and Public Management (UIA) &
Master of Administrative Sciences (UTA)

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Through the mobility, the students...

- learn **differences in the societies and the service systems**. Students will recognize the importance of the given context.

- learn to benchmark and **apply their knowledge in different contexts**.

- adopt an **international way of developing services and seeking knowledge**.

- advance **their interdisciplinary, international and cross-cultural skills** while working with the stakeholders from different countries and cultures.

- develop a **genuine understanding of the Nordic dimension of welfare societies**.
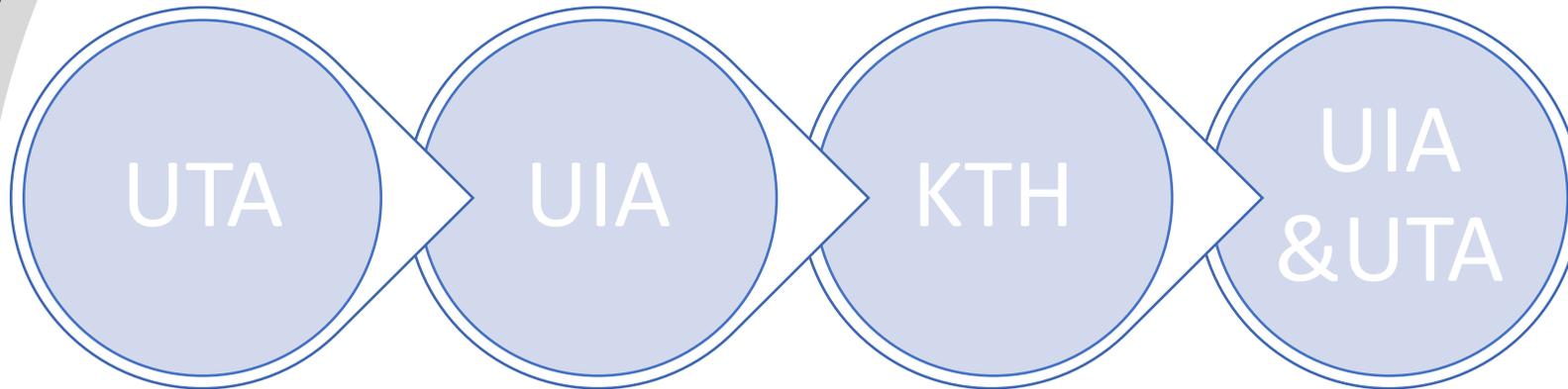
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Questions?

www.nordig.eu

https://www.uia.no/en/kk/profile/mariakr

http://www.uta.fi/jkk/yhteystiedot/hallintotiede/pekkola.html