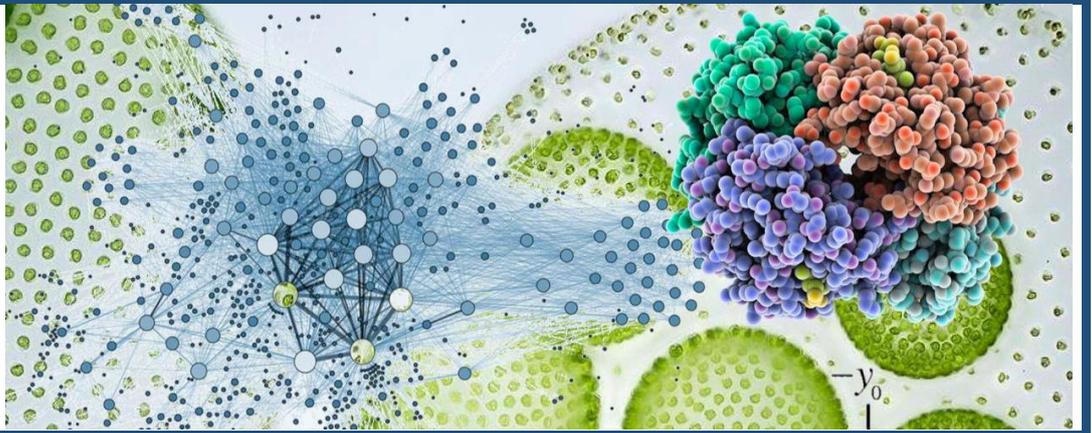


# NEWSLETTER

Department of  
Informatics



No. 21/2020  
11<sup>th</sup> December 2020



Editor-in-chief: Pinar Heggernes. Editor: Linda Vagtskjold. Contributions or comments to the newsletter are very welcome.

## Dear colleagues,

This year's ERC consolidating grants were announced a couple of days ago. Norway received eight grants this year, and [four of them were granted to our university](#)! Another of the grants [went to CMI](#), making Bergen the receiver of five out of eight ERC consolidator projects granted to Norway. At the end of such a strange year, it is wonderful to get a chance to learn more about some of the finest fundamental research being conducted in our city at a top international level. I am additionally proud that those of the top professors of our university who succeeded in this round are all women. Two of them are from our own Faculty of mathematics and natural sciences, at which only 16% of the professors are women.



Another celebration of the last few days was the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of our previous department head Petter Bjørstad. Petter has been a professor at our university for 35 years. He has been an internationally leading scientist, as well as a central scientific leader in the

Norwegian ICT research arena throughout his career. Petter's contributions have helped to shape the Norwegian informatics and mathematics research, and they have been in particular significant in the areas of computational science and high performance computing. Thanks to Petter, our university hosted several times some of the fastest supercomputers in the world. Petter has played a crucial role for the academic careers of many successful scientists and scientific leaders. I am looking very much forward to having a proper celebration of Petter and all his important contributions, both in and outside of academia, in a few months.

As we are getting close to the end of the year, if you are bothered by the darkness, think about this:

- The city is very nicely lit by Christmas decorations all around the place.
- The December weather has been very kind to us so far, with pretty mild temperatures and quite a bit of sunshine.
- In only 11 days, the days will start growing longer!

I hope everybody is taking the opportunity to get a little bit of daylight every day. If not, even a walk in the dark to watch the decorative lights can be quite uplifting. I am very pleased to learn that our December social groups have started their activities, from which you will see a few pictures in this newsletter. I hope you are all hanging in there (and taking your Tran!). In hope of lifting everybody's spirits a little bit, Linda and I have prepared a surprise for you: we will be handing out presents, cookies and gløgg, outside of the department building in the afternoon of December 16. All infection control measures will of course be carefully applied, and you can read all about the details in this newsletter.

This is the last newsletter of this year. I would like to take the opportunity to wish everybody a peaceful and cozy Advent, a merry Christmas to those who celebrate it, and a very very happy 2021 to all of us. May it be a year in which we can all be safe and healthy, meet our families, friends, colleagues and students, and celebrate the physical academic life with all the opportunities of scientific interaction we have missed since March.

Take care! 😊

Pinar



## The Dean's Blog – Helge K. Dahle

The Dean's blog aims to inform us of ongoing work and processes at the Faculty of [Mathematics and Natural Sciences](#).

His latest postings: [Prestisjefylte prosjekt til fakultetet](#) - [Å forstå klima til nytte for samfunnet](#)  
- [Det blir jobba godt i mørketida](#) - [Godt HMS-arbeid starter på toppen](#)



## Welcome new colleagues!



### Pål Grønås Drange

Pål is our new Associate Professor in the Algorithms group from 1<sup>st</sup> December.

His research interests are graph (and especially complex network) algorithms, network science and game theory with a focus on the algorithms, machine learning and optimization algorithms, algorithms' role in today's society, pedagogy of computer science, and more.

Pål is Norwegian, from Bergen even 😊 He did his PhD in Parameterized Graph Modification Algorithms with Fedor at our Department in 2015. Since then he has been working for Equinor both as Senior Analyst System Dev and as Leading advisor.



### Rodica G. Mihai

Rodica is our new Adjunct Associate Professor (20%) from 1<sup>st</sup> December. She will be affiliated with the Machine Learning group and from time to time be using an office space in the 6<sup>th</sup> floor. Her [main position](#) is with NORCE Energy, where she works as Senior Researcher in the Drilling and Well Modelling research group.

Rodica will be supervising master students, give some lectures, contribute in further developing of our study programs and courses, especially by establishing innovation projects involving machine learning. With Rodica, we are also aiming to strengthen the department's cooperation with NORCE and industry.

Rodica is Romanian. She did her PhD in Algorithmic Graph Theory with us in 2010.



### Tanmay Inamdar

Tanmay has newly arrived from India to start in his new two years position as Researcher in Saket's ERC LOPRE project. He will be affiliated in the Algorithms group and CEDAS.

He will conduct research within the algorithmic foundations of data science, as well as interacting with other CEDAS scientists.

Tanmay is Indian. He finished his PhD 'Covering and Clustering Problems with Outliers' at the University of Iowa in August 2020. He was also employed as Graduate Teaching/Research assistant at various points while doing the PhD in Iowa.



### Ricardo Ferreira Guimarães

Ricardo started this week in his new position as Postdoctoral Research Fellow in algorithms for learning ontologies.

The position is financed by Saket's ERC LOPRE project. He will be working with the intersection of the machine learning research group and the algorithms research group and will also be associated with CEDAS. Ana Ozaki will be his main mentor.

Ricardo is Brazilian. He did his PhD in Computer Science at the University of São Paulo in 2020.



### **Kenneth Langedal**

Kenneth started last week in his PhD position in parallel computing/machine learning. The position is connected to Simula Oslo's project "*Enabling Graph Neural Networks at Exascale*" financed by the RCN. He will be affiliated to the Algorithms group and Fredrik Manne will be his main supervisor.

The goal of the project is to create a scalable framework for graph neural networks, targeting high performance computing systems with heterogenous architectures. In addition to designing specific operators on graphs, this also involves handling issues common to high performance computing such as load balancing and communication reduction. The system will be tested on a number of state-of-the-art parallel platforms using applications from areas such as combinatorial optimization and social media networks.

Kenneth is from Norway. He finished his Master's in programming in the joint Master's program with us and HVL in 2020.



### **Madhumita Kundu**

Madhumita is our new PhD in Algorithmic foundations of big data. Pekka will serve as her main supervisor.

The working environment for her position will be the in the intersection of the machine learning group and the algorithms group, and also associated with CEDAS. The project involves combining statistical and machine learning techniques with algorithmic and complexity tools to make big data projects easier to execute. The project also implies a research collaboration with the Technical University of Denmark.

Madhumita is Indian. She did her Master's in Computer Science at the Indian Statistical Institute in 2020.

## **Congratulations colleagues!**



### **Inge Jonassen**

Congratulations Inge, for being appointed by the government as the new scientific delegate representing Norway in the [EMBL Council](#) for the period 2021-2024!



### **Fredrik Manne**

Congratulations Fredrik for being elected as the new leader of Nasjonalt Fagorgan/Fagråd for IKT! (National Council for ICT of Universities Norway)

The national councils within each subject have been established by UHR-MNT to solve long-term tasks within specific subject areas. The purpose of these professional bodies is to take care of the institutions' needs for professional and administrative development, experience sharing, coordination and national coordination within limited subject areas.

[Learn more here.](#)

## Welcome to Pinar & Linda's Santa Station on 16th December!

It is our great pleasure to invite you all to campus for an outdoor event in the afternoon of **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December!** We would like you to share a nice moment with us and other colleagues, to give each other Season's Greetings.

We will prepare a Santa Station just outside of the department building, where we will stay for two hours wearing our biggest smiles and Santa hats. We will be serving gløgg & ginger bread cookies, and each of you will receive a couple of gifts.

To be on the safe side and not risk too many people present at the same time, the invitation is divided into two separate time slots, depending on where your office is:

- **15:00 - 16:00: 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> floors.**
- **16:00 - 17:00: 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floors.**

We are looking very much forward to seeing you all on the 16<sup>th</sup>!  
Please come!



## Welcome to UiB's Christmas broadcast – invitation from our Rector!

2020 has affected us all, and students and staff at the University of Bergen is no exception. Even though we have experienced excellent effort, impressive willingness to adapt and brilliant teamwork we know that the past year has been challenging for everyone.

As a big thank you to all and to secure some Christmas spirit, we invite you to participate in [our digital Christmas event](#) December 17 at 13.00.

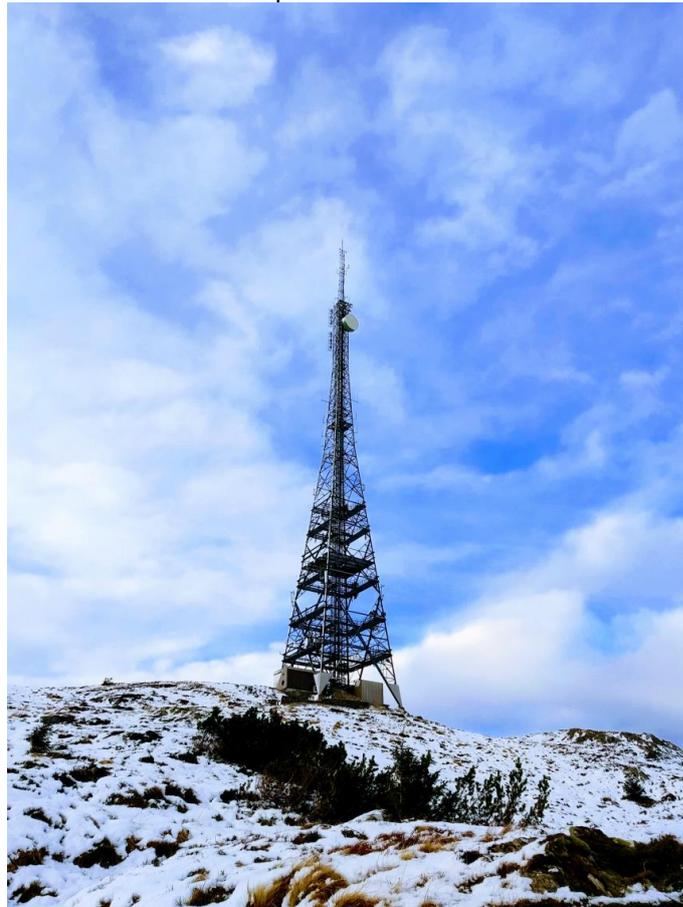
We can promise you an exclusive concert from one of our well known, international artists from Bergen, a premiere on a Christmas music video with students from The Grieg Academy, stand-up comedy from Christoffer Scheldrup and 5080 Nyhetskanalen, award ceremony, prizes, good conversations and some real Christmas spirit.

Welcome to you all!



## December Social groups – short report!

Four “December social groups” are now organized and active, doing collegial social activities together in December. Here are some nice pictures from one of the groups that had a hike from Svartediket up to Fløyen last week. They were pleasantly surprised to observe how the snow has transformed the familiar landscape:



<- Olaf

Nikolay

Kirill

## Survey to assess research framework at UiB

You have received an invitation to participate in a survey to assess the adequacy and quality of the framework provided by UiB for research. Your Department Head thinks it is very important that you all fill out this survey. Especially for professors and associate professors, we see that work load is quite heavy on the teaching and administrative side, which gives less time than desired for research. This is your opportunity to let the UiB leadership know about such issues and what you are struggling with when it comes to finding time for research and other research support! Here is [more information](#) about the project that the survey is connected to.

## Presentations from our HSE-seminar

Yesterday, our annual department HSE-seminar were conducted. About 35 people attended and learned some useful (and somewhat also scary) things about how to stay safe on travel abroad. Jill, Sidsel and Mari have sent us their presentations, and we encourage especially those who did not attend the seminar to use some minutes to read.

# HSE seminar 2020

"Stay safe during your stay abroad!"



Jill Anette Opsahl  
HR-adviser international mobility  
[Her presentation](#)



Mari Mathiesen Follo  
Occupational nurse  
[Her presentation](#)



Sidsel Storebø  
ICT Chief Engineer  
[Her presentation](#)

## PhD updates

### Are you a PhD candidate needing someone to talk to?

Dear PhD candidates, we hope you are all doing OK in these troubling times, and that you get to spend the holidays with your loved ones.

The years as a PhD candidate are exciting and professionally developing, but can also be a strenuous time with a lot of work pressure and setbacks. The uncertainty and delayed activity during the corona pandemic can lead to more challenges than you normally experience. In such a situation, many candidates will need someone to talk to. Please find more information here: [Norwegian version](#) - [English version](#)

## Research, Science and Seminars [ScienceNorway.no](https://www.sciencenorway.no) - [forskning.no](https://forskning.no)

### Popular science writing course on 14 January 2021



#### Skrivekurs for forskere ved MatNat

We would like to draw your attention to a **popular science writing course**.

The course will be in Norwegian and is organized by the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences' communication advisors.

This one-day course will be held on 14 January 2021 between 9 am and 3.30 pm and targets scientific staff members (PhD candidates, Postdocs, Associate Professors, Professors, *forskere* etc.) who want to learn more about how to best present their research in Norwegian media. You are required to submit a text before the course.

If you are interested in attending the course, please register via [this website](#). The registration deadline is 6 January 2021.

Welcome to Department seminar, December 17

[Please find the full announcement and participation link here](#)

# Lars Nyre: "Pushing students to make new media technology"

Webminar about innovation pedagogy in Media City Bergen

Lars Nyre introduces the pedagogical method "innovation pedagogy" and presents examples of prototypes and products.

Innovation pedagogy has been practiced at the Department of Information Science and Media Studies for over ten years. It tackles the fact that there is a permanent disruption in the technologies and practices of media and communication, and teaches students to be change-oriented, creative and robust, so that they can make the most of the changing circumstances of their future work life.

Innovation pedagogy trains students by pushing them to explore novel media technology with ambitious partners in the Norwegian media business. Recently, a news tip application for local newspapers was launched for iPhone and Android, and builds on an early prototype developed by a team of bachelor students in Media City Bergen. Read more about it here: <http://tipps.no>.

## About Lars Nyre

Lars Nyre is a professor of media design at the Department of Information Science and Media Studies, and is a member of the program committee for media and interaction design in Media City Bergen. Nyre heads a new project for student active learning funded by DIKU from 2021 and was awarded the "Teaching Environment Prize" at the University of Bergen in 2019. Nyre has worked with evaluation and prototyping of new media for journalism and has published several textbooks in Norwegian. He is the author of *Sound Media. From live journalism to recorded music* (Routledge, 2008).

## FOREDRAG

🕒 17.12.2020 - 14.15–15.00

📍 Zoom

📅 [Legg til i din egen kalender](#)



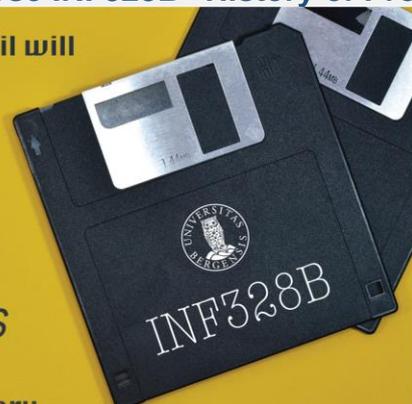
Lars Nyre is a professor of media design at the Department of Information Science and Media Studies, and is a member of the program committee for media and interaction design in Media City Bergen. Foto/ill.: UiB

Welcome to seminar course INF328B "History of Programming Languages" next semester

In Spring, Anya and Mikhail will give a seminar course on

## HISTORY of PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

based on papers from a very special same-name conference "HOPL" held once every 15 years. Everyone is welcome to participate!



## Publishing Open Access

The University of Bergen Library has prepared very good websites on the current status of local, national and international open access (OA) policies as well as their services related to OA publishing. Please have a look at their websites and make yourself familiar with the different policies as well as the existing publishing deals with several of the academic publishers. Furthermore, UiB has a publication fund for OA that can cover the article processing charges (APC) when publishing in eligible open access journals.

Before you (your group) pay(s) any fees for making an article openly available, please consult the webpages to see if you are entitled to a discount, may get the fees refunded through the publication fund, or maybe don't even have to pay anything based on an existing agreement with the publisher!

If you have questions, please contact the department's research coordinator [Stefanie Meyer](#).



[Publication fund for Open Access at UiB](#)



[Open access publishing deals](#)



[Open Access - what, why and how](#)

### NEWS:

[Kvotene for åpen publisering hos storforlag er brukt opp](#)

[UiB's policy for Open Science](#)

## Please register your publications in the CRISTin database by 31st January!



**CRISTIN**

Current Research Information System in Norway

institutions within the three sectors in a common system.

CRISTin (Current research information system in Norway) is a research information system for hospitals, research institutes, and universities and university colleges. One of the primary purposes of the system is to collect all the registrations and reporting of research activities of

As every year, we ask you to log into CRISTin and check if your publications for the current year (2020) are complete and correctly registered. Please correct potential errors and inconsistencies and add missing publications. In addition, UiB requires a full-text version of all research articles to be uploaded in the database. The deadline for completing those tasks is 31 January 2021.

More detailed information on how to register publications in CRISTin, as well as guidelines on how to upload the full text, can be found here:

<https://www.uib.no/en/ub/79539/cristin>

<https://www.cristin.no/english/researcher-pages/register-publications-nvi.html>

Please note, that the budget of our department is partly dependent on the publications that our scientific staff are authors and coauthors of. The research groups will be rewarded according to their registered publication points.



## Webinar about Plan S requirements

On 20 November, the Research Council of Norway held an informative [webinar about the coming Plan S requirements](#). We recommend that you watch the webinar, especially the first part where you get some tips for whom this is relevant, what the three ways to Plan S compliant OA publishing are, and which steps you as researcher can follow to make sure that your publications follow [Plan S requirements](#). Very briefly: Researchers that are awarded projects by the Research Council of Norway from 2021 on have to make sure that their published articles are openly available following Plan S requirements. The **three main ways to OA** are: publishing in OA journals, publishing in venues under a transformative arrangement, or making a version (either the AAM or final version) of the article available by depositing it in an open archive. For any chosen route to compliance, the publication must be **openly available immediately** with a Creative Commons Attribution license (**CC BY**). Coalition S has recently launched a [journal checker tool](#), where you can check whether your chosen journal/venue is Plan S compliant and which routes are available.

## Upcoming funding opportunities

On a monthly basis, the department releases a comprehensive overview over [upcoming funding opportunities](#) on its website for [research support services](#). Please inform research coordinator [Stefanie Meyer](#) about all planned and ongoing funding applications! **This includes both applications you coordinate yourself, and those where you are included as a partner/collaborator!** At this point, we would like to highlight the following upcoming calls and funding/research-related events:



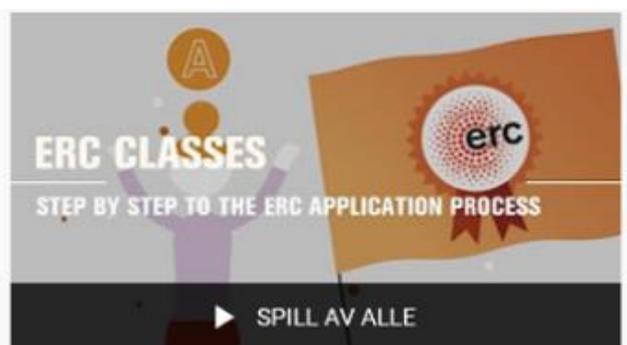
**IKTPLUSS.** There is an open call for Collaborative Projects on Digital Security and Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Autonomous Systems. "The objective of this call is to generate new knowledge to find solutions to digital security challenges, particularly in exposed sectors and for users of critical infrastructures in society. [...] The project must involve two or more Norwegian partners that are not research organisations. Partners that are not research organisations must together participate with a minimum of 10 per cent of the total project costs."  
**Application deadline: open-ended.**



**Researcher Projects 2021.** The Research Council has announced calls for Researcher projects, which "are to contribute to important new insights, scientific publication, researcher training and international research collaboration." Currently, the following calls are announced:

- Researcher Projects for Scientific Renewal,
- Researcher Projects for Young Talents,
- Three-year Researcher Projects with International Mobility,
- Large-scale Interdisciplinary Researcher Project.

**Application deadline: 10 February 2021.**



ERC CLASSES



**ERC.** The European Research Council has announced the tentative application deadlines for 2021 on their [website](#):

- Starting Grant, **9 March 2021**
- Consolidator Grant, **20 April 2021**
- Advanced Grant, **31 August 2021**
- No Synergy Grant call is planned for 2021 (foreseen again in 2022, possibly with an application deadline in late 2021).



**Trond Mohn Stiftelse (TMS) Starting Grants.** “The Trond Mohn Foundation Starting Grant programme aims to assist the University of Bergen (UoB) in recruiting young national or international candidates with outstanding academic merit and research potential. [...] TMS now calls for proposals for four-year grants beginning in 2022.” **Application deadline stage 1 (pre-qualification): 8 March 2021.**

As this type of grant requires considerable contributions from the faculty and department, **all applications must be approved by the head of department before starting the application process!**

### Kan kunstig intelligens påvirke likestillingen?

En ny kunnskapsoversikt har samlet norsk forskning på likestilling og kunstig intelligens. Den viser at vi ikke er forberedt på likestillingskonsekvensene av den nye teknologien.

Eivind August Westad Stuen  
frilanser@kilden.forskningsradet.no

29. oktober 2020



MER OM TEKNOLOGI  
MER OM LIKESTILLINGSPOLITIKK  
MER OM ARBEIDSLIV  
MER OM MEDIA

### Nytt kompetansesenter for tungregning

Har din arbeidsplass behov for å gjøre beregninger basert på store datamengder, men dere mangler både kompetanse og infrastruktur? Nå kan et nytt norsk kompetansesenter tilby hjelp.



### Northern Lights Deep Learning Workshop 2021.

“Deep learning is an emerging subfield in machine learning that has in recent years achieved state-of-the-art performance in image classification, object detection, segmentation, time series prediction and speech recognition to name a few. This workshop will gather researchers both on a national and international level to exchange ideas, encourage collaborations and present cutting-edge research.” **Virtual event: 18-20 January 2021.**

**CEDAS conference.** The Center for Data Science (CEDAS) will hold its first conference in June 2021. Save the date! **Event in Bergen: 1-2 June 2021.**

**NORA annual conference.** Early registration will open soon. Save the date! **Event: 3-4 June 2021.**

### Need help?

Please contact research coordinator Stefanie Meyer if you have questions with regard to your **planned and ongoing funding applications** as well as **all contractual work related to external funds!** All applications and agreements/ contracts need to be approved by the department leadership. In addition, you can have a look at our websites for research support services. There you will find a list of our services.

## HR – HSE (Health, Safety and Environment) - Welfare

### BOTT stuff – important reminders

BOTT = Bergen, Oslo, Trondheim, Tromsø. Standardization of administrative systems and routines in our sector.

Effective from 1st January, the UiB will have 3 new admin systems for:

- HR-/salary, **SAP** (replacing the HR-portal PAGAweb)
- Economy **Unit4** (replacing Oracle and Basware) NB! Tableau report system stays unchanged
- Identity and access control **Rapid Identity** (replacing SEBRA)

For now, in this important preparing phase, we will kindly ask you to carefully notice and act on the following:

- No one will be able to access the HR-portal (PAGAweb) after 31.12.2020. Registered information in PAGAweb will be transferred to the new SAP-system, but not the documents such as salary slips or annual reports. If you need to archive or print documents from My folder, this must be done before the year ends.
- All **unused vacation days** must be registered or transferred to 2021 asap and at the latest 21.12.2020.
- **Travel claims** must be registered asap and at the latest 15.12.2020.
- **Refunds** must be registered asap and at the latest 15.12.2020
- Some other more detailed things are also on our preparation to-do-list, but those who are effected by these, will be contacted individually.

You are welcome to contact Lene, Tor or myself if anything is unclear or if you need our assistance in these matters.

\*\*\*\*\*

And here is the information sent to all by email this week from the Director of Finance at the UiB:

We will be switching to a new payroll- and personnel system at the University of Bergen from 1 January 2021. This will have an impact on case officers, managers and other staff. We would therefore ask that you read the following information and familiarise yourself with the impact this change will have on you.

#### As a member of staff, the changes will mean:

- The self-service portal will replace the HR portal for registration of working hours, holidays, absences and travel expense claim, etc. as of 01/01/2021.
- There will also be a mobile app offering many of the same features available via the web-based solution.

#### Please take note of the following deadlines before the New Year:

- Holidays and the transfer of holiday must be registered in the current system (the HR portal) by 22/12/2020.
- Working hours for 2020 must be registered in MinTid by 28/12/2020. (Linda: valid for Adm and Tech only)
- Payslips from 2020 and previous years will not be transferred to the new system. You must download your payslips by 31/12/2020 if you wish to keep them.
- Applications for leave in 2020 or in January 2021, must be registered and submitted to the payroll section by 22/12/2020.

#### Training for all staff:

- User guides and training videos will be [available via the employee pages](#)
- A webinar for all staff will be held on [5 January 2021](#) and [12 January 2021](#) (Norwegian)
- A webinar in English will be held on [14 January 2021](#)

The [employee pages](#) provides further details for staff, case officers and managers.

If you have questions or require user support, [please contact UiBHjelp \(Norwegian\)](#).

January will be a month of major change – especially for staff working in finance. Although we are added extra resources to follow up on user inquiries, case processing times may be longer than usual. We ask for your understanding and patience.

Kind regards,

Per Arne Foshaug, Director of Finance

### The IT Service Desk BRITA is moving

On Monday 30 November, BRITA will move together with the rest of the IT division and parts of the central administration to Kalfarveien 31 (K31).



**Dear students and staff at the University of Bergen**

I am like you, tired of the coronavirus pandemic. We are all tired of studying and working from our home office, with a physical distance from fellow students and colleagues. Although there was good news earlier this week about a vaccine against the coronavirus, it will take some time before everything is back to normal. We must thus prepare for a different everyday life also into the next year.

As rector at UiB I am concerned about the mental health of our students, and afraid that some students will drop out of their studies. We also receive reports from student organizations that many students are lonely.

We have taken the messages from our students seriously, and today we launched the portal "Vær god mot deg selv" (Be kind to yourself). On the website [vaergodmotdegself.no](http://vaergodmotdegself.no) (currently only in Norwegian), we have collected a number of knowledge-based tips from our own academic environments on how students can have a better everyday life, both those who are lonely, and those who in other ways feel that digital work and study affects their mental health.

We hope that our students will be motivated to continue their studies, and that they get a feeling that they are part of a community, even if it is not on campus.

Best regards  
Dag Rune Olsen  
Rector, University of Bergen