

Working with the Wikimedia Chapters in Denmark, Norway and Sweden



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Wikipedians at Wikimania 2011 in Haifa, the yearly international Wikimedia Conference

” *Imagine a world in which every single person on the planet is given free access to the sum of all human knowledge. That's what we're doing.* ”

Jimmy Wales, founder of Wikipedia

Around the globe, Wikipedia and its sister projects are supported by individuals and organizations, who are working tirelessly to give more people access to free knowledge. Some people edit articles in Wikipedia, while others upload pictures to Wikimedia Commons. Others still organize in national Wikimedia associations ("chapters") to get things done on a larger scale. These Wikimedia chapters arrange conferences, attend conventions and start cooperations with government agencies, other non-government organizations, and cultural institutions.

Three of the more successful Wikimedia "chapters" are Wikimedia Sverige, Wikimedia Norge and Wikimedia Danmark. This brochure highlights some of their latest projects. Help us make free access to knowledge a reality for everyone everywhere!

Public Educator of the Year

Wikimedia Norway started 2012 with one of the most prestigious prizes of the Norwegian knowledge sector - The Public Educator Prize of 2011, awarded by the Norwegian Association of Vocational Education (Voksenopplæringsforbundet). The Prize has been awarded to outstanding educators among scientists, vocational trainers, and to Norwegian Broadcasting. The associations explained how they wanted to reward seven years of continuous knowledge sharing by Wikipedia in Norway. The Norwegian versions in three national languages have close to 250,000 registered users, and two out of three Norwegians visit Wikipedia monthly.



Wikimedia Norway chairman Jarle Vines accepting the Public Educator of the Year prize of 2011. Photo: Nina Aldin Thune.

Royal attendance at the Wikipedia Academy

Should museums spend public resources on editing Wikipedia? Are public photo collections ready for free and open licenses? Is Wikipedia a viable option for culture institutions to reach the broad, general public? Such issues were lively discussed and debated at the latest Wikipedia Academy in Oslo, last April. Professionals from museums, archives, universities, and culture institutions went straight to the core of the issues with an equal number of volunteers from Norway's Wikipedia community.

Contributors to this year's Wikipedia Academy numbered top curators and leaders of The Nordic Museum (Stockholm), The Arts Council Norway, The Norwegian Outdoor Museum (Oslo), and Oslo City Museum. The participants discussed the relevance of public editors, mass donations of photos, and open licencing regimes. A fresh co-operation between the Arts Council Norway and Wikimedia Norway was announced, resulting in more than thirty editing courses at

museums throughout the country.

Since the Wikipedia Academy in Oslo the year before, attendance more than doubled from 40 to more than 100. Professionals and volunteers gathered at a lively Hotel Scandinavia downtown, near the Royal Castle. The location was well chosen – as the academy was attended by a most prominent guest - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haakon of Norway. Along with Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales, Norway's Minister of Development Heikki Holmaas, and Telenor executive Kristin Skogen Lund, the Crown Prince got the opportunity to experience how Wikipedia changes the lives of millions in Asia these days, as the free and open knowledge base gets readily accessible on cell phones. As a round-up of the academy, the prominent guests got a thorough introduction to Wikipedia editing and patrolling, by students of Drømtorp High School. The guests were highly interested and revealed themselves as being already experienced Wikipedia



A hundred participants watch by as Arts Council Norway director Reidar Gjersvik presents its co-operation with Wikimedia Norway.

editors, one after another. Norwegian Wikipedia has royal as well as executive editors, along with thousands of volunteers.

The Wikipedia Academy tradition started in Germany more than five years ago, and it has been localized with profound success in Norway. The idea is to reach out to professional environments within the academic and cultural world outside – to discuss and debate the relevance and thrustworthiness of the Wikipedia as a communication channel for culture and science.



Kristin Gaukstad explaining why, and how, the Oslo City Museum is opening up its 100,000 photos under free licences.



Swedish participants - professional curator Kajsa Hartig of the Nordic Museum, and volunteer Lennart Gulbrandsson of Wikimedia Sverige.



Prominent guests at the presentation of free Wikipedia - Crown Prince Haakon and Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales.

Editing courses

The Wikipedia Academy represents but one of a great number of editing courses in Norway throughout the year. During 2012, close to a hundred such courses are held, one third of those at local museums and in co-operation with Arts Council Norway. Apart from that, the Norwegian Wikipedia community has trained editors representing NGOs, senior clubs, schools, universities, water research institutions, geology surveyors, IT companies, local history clubs, political parties, and municipalities.

Editing courses are easy to arrange. The most important is to keep theoretical introduction to a minimum, and step right to practical training and problem-solving in real situations. Wikipedia administrators and patrollers should be informed that training is going on, to avoid instant patrolling. Another good hint is to ask the participants to register with a user name containing an easily recognisable prefix, making patrollers aware that "here is a new editor trying it all out". Get together and round off the event with some social time over coffee or a dinner – inviting everyone to keep editing when class is out.



Editing course for beginners - Telenor executive Kristin Skogen Lund, Crown Prince Haakon, Jimmy Wales, and Minister of Development Heikki Holmaas, with high school students as editing teachers.

Museum partnership flagship projects

Nationalmuseet i København, Copenhagen

In 2011, Wikimedia Denmark initiated several discussions with the National Museum of Denmark, resulting in two days of photo-shooting in May and December. The year after, this culminated in the installation of a Wikipedian in Residence, the first in the country. Wikipedians in Residence are Wikipedia enthusiasts who obtain insider status and admittance to all parts of a museum, including backstage archives and artefact collections. The most common task is to shoot photographs of artefacts to Wikimedia Commons, but textual descriptions of the collections in article entries at the Wikipedia are also occurring. The National Museum project is paving ground for cooperation with several other cultural institutions.



Arrow heads made of flintstone



Tapuya woman. Painted by Albert Eckhout and signed in 1641



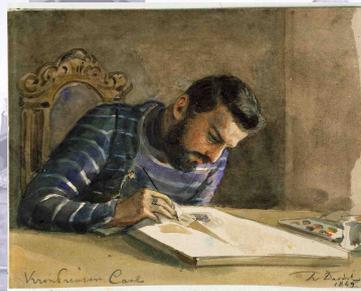
Kettle wagon from Skallerup at the National Museum of Denmark



The Last Supper, detail of altarpiece from the chapel in the manor of Orebygård, carved by Henrik Werner in 1638

Nordiska museet, Stockholm

In cooperation with Wikimedia Sweden, Nordiska museet has uploaded more than 1,000 pictures to Wikimedia Commons. Including in the donation are glass plates with photos by author and artist August Strindberg, from his séjour in Switzerland in the 1880's. The donation also includes drawings and paintings by Fritz von Dardel from the court life around Swedish and Norwegian king Karl XV (Karl IV in Norway) and also photos by Severin Nilsson, a Swedish pioneer in documentary photography. This was the second major photo donation by a Swedish institution, the first being a donation by Regionarkivet i Göteborg.



Crown prince Karl of Sweden and Norway 1849, from Nordiska museet, Fritz von Dardel



Formal wear from Värmland in Sweden, early 20th Century, from Nordiska museet, Emelie von Walterstorff (1871-1948)



Summer guests at the island of Ljusterö in Sweden 1910, from Nordiska Museet, unknown photographer



Author August Strindberg and his children in Gersau in Switzerland 1886, from Nordiska Museet

Norsk Folkemuseum, Oslo

The Norwegian Outdoor Museum is Norway's largest museum, both in exhibition area and measured in collected artifacts. Founded in 1894, it is the major museum of Norwegian folk culture, architecture and daily life. During spring 2011, Mr Jon Birger Østby - the previous GLAM authority director of Norway - contacted the board of Wikimedia Norway and initiated a tenure as Wikimedian in Residence at the museum. Immediately, he started a laborous description and photographing of cultural artifacts such as champagne glasses, beer drinking vessels, mangels, and much more.

Systematic documentation was started in concordance with museum executives, who soon expanded the project in several directions. Mrs Tove Wefald Larsen, archive director of the photographic collections, initiated a publication and licensing manual for museum executives eager to assist photo donations. The Norsk Folkemuseum full manual includes technical advice, legal regulations, licensing, and curatorial guidelines. Substantial parts of the museum photo treasures have been released to the global public through Wikimedia Commons. Many of them are unique, cultural and folkloristic treasures to be preserved for the future.



Beer drinking vessel (ølbolle), 18th century Telemark, Norway. Painted around 1713. Norsk folkemuseum.



Beer drinking vessel from Rindal, northwestern Norway, early 19th century. The vessel has clear Renaissance-inspired motives. From the Norsk Folkemuseum collection.



Champagne glass, from the collections of Norsk folkemuseum.



A mangel (mangle) from Hol in Hallingdal, central Norway, painted in 1861. From the Norsk Folkemuseum collections.

Nationalmuseet, København, Denmark

Coordinates: 55°40'29 N 12°34'29 E

The main Danish museum of cultural history, founded 1849.

Wikipedian-in-residence / Wikipedia contact: Ole Palnatoke Andersen

Nordiska museet, Djurgården, Stockholm, Sweden

Coordinates: 59°19'45 N, 18°05'37 E

The Swedish central museum cultural history and ethnography, founded in 1873 by Artur Hazelius, who also founded the open-air museum Skansen.

Wikipedia partner: Kajsa Hartig

Norsk Folkemuseum, Bygdøy, Oslo, Norway

Coordinates: 59°54'25 N, 10°41'10 E

The main Norwegian museum of cultural history and ethnography, also an open-air museum, founded in 1894 by Hans Aall.

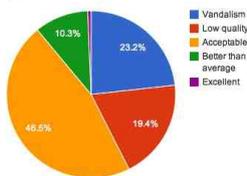
Wikipedian-in-residence: Jon Birger Østby

The Wikipedia phenomenon

Wikipedia is one of the ten most visited websites in the world. Celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2011, Wikipedia has become the de facto reference website for around half a billion readers around the world each month. And Wikipedia is still growing and continuously improves.

There are a few reasons behind the success: one is that Wikipedia has an open policy of letting anyone improve the articles. An international movement of volunteers have taken it upon themselves to make sure that Wikipedia is the best resource it can be, constantly increasing in size and quality.

Quality of 155 randomly selected new account creators' edits (only >9 edits accounts)

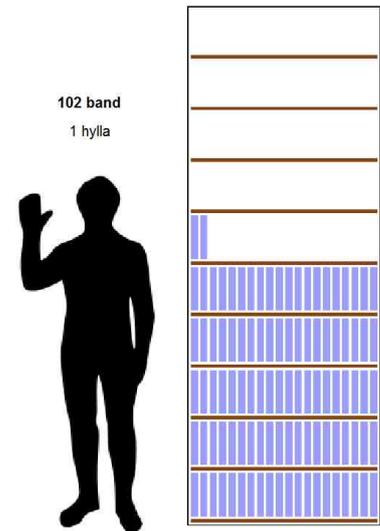


Distribution of quality in edits from new accounts

Another key reason behind Wikipedia's success is that Wikipedia is non-commercial. There is no big company behind Wikipedia earning money on each click. Instead there is the non-profit Wikimedia Foundation (situated in San Francisco, California) that leaves all major decisions to the volunteers. They don't even impose a traditional copyright on the texts and media, but lets anyone copy and distribute Wikipedia and its sister projects (e.g. Wikimedia Commons, Wikiquote, Wikisource and Wikibooks).

Wikipedia exist in more than 280 languages. Each Wikipedia is managed independently by the different language communities. The Scandinavian Wikipedias are supported by several hundreds very active editors and even more people who occasionally make contributions. Wikipedia in Swedish is the 12th biggest language version with close to 500,000 articles (September, 2012). Wikipedia in Bokmål has more than

350,000 articles, which makes Bokmål the biggest language version in relation to the number of speakers of the language. The Danish Wikipedia has 170,000 articles, which makes it the second largest encyclopedia in Danish ever.



The size of Swedish Wikipedia, if it had been printed bound as a "regular" encyclopedia

Millions of images and sounds are waiting to be reused

The Wikimedia Commons is a huge media file repository. It holds more than 12 million photographs, sounds, films, digrams, scans, etc. All files uploaded are required to be either under a free license or completely without copyright. This makes it legal for everyone to share, edit, and re-use these works for just about any given purpose without asking the author for permission first. Commercial use is explicitly allowed, too.

Wikimedia's projects (Wikipedia, Wikisource, Wikiquote, etc.) all use Commons media content by simply adding a link in an article, and it will retrieve the file for display. Users reading these articles will then be able click at these files to see photographs, play sounds or view the video clips in Commons. Thus, there is no need to upload the file locally to the project. Many articles have links back to categories on Commons where users may find even more files on the subject than those visible in the article.

Commons is, however, not just available for Wikimedia projects. Everyone may use photos or other files hosted on Commons. They can be freely re-used in books, newspapers, or on websites, provided the originator behind them is named, and the license quoted.

Thanks to a system of categories, Commons is built up quite logically allowing easy browsing for exactly what you need. Be it hotels on Lower East Side Manhattan, electric locomotives in India, actors from Egypt – or something completely else – Commons probably has it. Most categories are linked to two properties - the one often being geography (i.e., country). You can even find paintings and World War I photos. With the immense volume of files at Wikimedia Commons, numerous themes are covered – try do a search and browse through some categories.



Turkish howitzer and crew



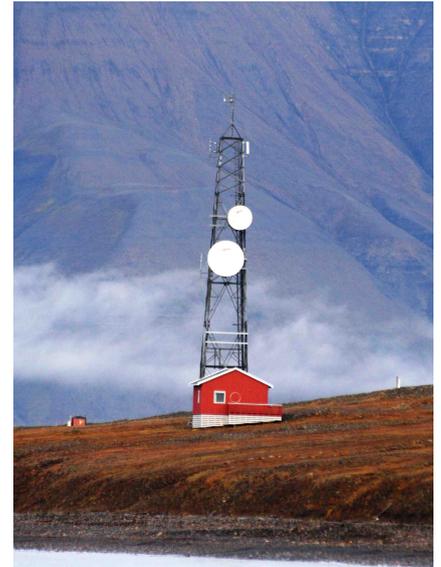
WAP5 class Indian electric locomotive

Donations

Since 2005 there have been donations of more than 600,000 files from museums, publishers, archives, libraries, political parties and even private companies. All kinds of donations are welcome as they all increase the likelihood to find just that illustration that fits perfectly in exactly that article. The biggest single donation is from the United States National Archives and Records Administration in Washington D.C. with 120,000 files. Other substantial donations of more than 50,000 photos, include the German Federal Archive, the Dutch Tropical Museum, Robert Levinski mineral collection, and the German Phototeque. Also worth mentioning is that the Wiki Loves Monuments 2011 competition brought close to 170,000 photos

The donations are very valuable due to their often high-quality and vital scientific character. Often, it would be difficult or even impossible for users today to create a free image of the donated subject – most of the Dutch Tropensmuseum's 50,000 files from the former Dutch colonies are historical, while many of AntWeb's 32,000 files are high-quality close-ups of ants, and Garros Galería's 31 photos all are of copyrighted art.

There are Nordic donations, as well. In co-operation with Wikimedia Sweden, contributions have been graciously donated by Regionsarkivet, Bonnier and Vänsterpartiet. Similarly, encouraged by Wikimedia Norway, donations have been done by Telenor Group, Oslo City Museum, and some political parties.



The northernmost mobile base station in the world, north of Longyearbyen, Svalbard - donated by Telenor



Close-up of the head on an *Acanthomyrmex concavus* - donated by AntWeb



Dilsa Demirbag-Sten, Swedish author - donated by Bonnier



Aerial photo of Cleveland, Ohio in December 1937 - donated by National Archives and Records Administration



Work from the exhibition *Ver es no ver* (Seeing is not seeing) - donated by Garros Galería



Hunters on the island of Timor, Indonesia, with their outfits during the first half of the 20th century - donated by Tropensmuseum

The biggest photo contest in the world

During September, 2011, the international photo competition Wiki Loves Monuments was held in Denmark, Norway and Sweden. The goal was to get the public to photograph culturally significant monuments and publish the photos under a free license, so that they would be available for anyone to use. The contest started out in the Netherlands, and in 2011 it became an international success. Around 170,000 photos were uploaded, out

of which more than 7,000 photos were uploaded from Scandinavia (753 from Denmark, 1,212 from Norway and 5,134 from Sweden). National juries nominated ten photos each for the international finale. Norwegian user Erlend Bjørvedt was awarded the fourth prize for his photo of the old coal berths at Svalbard. The Norwegian winner was able to bring home a Canon 60D as his first prize, awarded at the Wikipedia Academy in Oslo.



Nacka, Sweden: Carl Milles' sculpture God at the Celestial Arc, by User:Evunji, winner in the category Miscellaneous in the Swedish Competition



Anundshög in Sweden: Ship setting by User:Archid, winner in the category Ancient monuments in the Swedish Competition



Hotellneset coal harbour area at Longyearbyen on Svalbard by User:Bjoertvedt. This photo won fourth prize in the international competition, second in the Norwegian



Bornholm, Denmark: Årsdale Mill from 1877 at Svaneke, by User:Akoopal, winner of the Danish competition



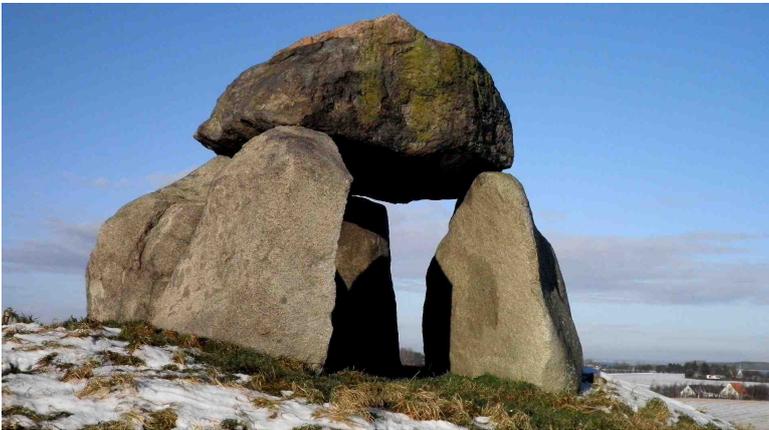
Frederiksberg, Denmark: Frederiksberg Palace, by User:Daniel Stello, third prize in the Danish competition



Åre, Sweden: Villa Jamtbol by User:Ulff, Winner of the Swedish competition



Svalbard, Norway: Cemetary for the 29 dead from the February 1920 mine blast in Mine No 1 at Longyearbyen, by User:Bjoertvedt, third prize in the Norwegian competition



Langeland, Denmark: Hagbølle dolmen and tumulus from the Stone Age, by User:Præceptor, second prize in the Danish competition



Bjgun, Norway: Vallersund mansion by User:Marius Meyer, winner of the Norwegian competition

Photo safaris

Other events for the promotion of new photos for the Wikimedia Commons media database were photo safaris arranged by Wikimedia Sweden. During 2011 photo safaris were arranged in the provinces of Dalarna in January 2011 (204 photos uploaded) and in Uppland in June (499 photos uploaded). The latter event included geotagging for Open Street Map Project and was sponsored by the Cloudberry Project (Föreningen för fri kultur och programvara, The Association for Free Culture and Free Software).

The Cloudberry Photo Safari

The Cloudberry Photo Safari set out in the coastal area of Roslagen to the north of Stockholm in a weekend in May, 2011. Eight volunteers participated.



Start of the photo safari in Roslagen



Open Street Map mapping during the photo safari



Wikipedian taking picture of rune stone



Wikipedian taking picture of herrings in a bucket

Nobel laureates interviews

Wikimedia Sweden got accreditation by the Royal Swedish Academy of Science to interview the Nobel laureates in Science and Economics. Brian Schmidt, Thomas J. Sargent and Dan Shechtman were interviewed in December 2011 and video films of the interviews were uploaded to Wikimedia Commons and duly incorporated in articles on the Nobel laureates in Swedish, German and English. The interview with Dan Shechtman has also been included in the Hebrew version of Wikipedia.



Axel Petterson is filming an interview with Saul Perlmutter, Nobel laureate in Physics 2011.

Internet in Sweden Project

Inspired by a successful project with the British Museum, Wikimedia Sverige joined forces with the Swedish Internet Foundation (.SE), who handles the Swedish internet top domain. The project goal was to increase the number and quality of the articles on the subject area of Internet in Sweden.

An editorial project was organized with a professional, hired project manager. Also, a number of automatic tools were created for updating tables of article quality status and page view statistics. Due to the project, there will be easy to set up similar processes for other subjects. Useful experience was gained on avoiding pitfalls and how to

select the most promising low hanging fruits to grasp. The project results was reported in satisfaction to .SE. A presentation of the project was also made at Wikimania 2011 in Haifa.

Promotion of the Saami version of Wikipedia

The Saami people is the smallest ethnic group in the Nordics, numbering some 50-100,000 people altogether. They are divided between six main dialects, speaking a finno-ugric language of local descent. Hence, their languages – first of all grouping into Northern Saami and Southern Saami – are among the most threatened languages in the Northern hemisphere. The Northern Saami (Sámeigiella) speakers have their own Wikipedia edition, counting close to 5,000 articles.

In 2009, Wikimedia Norway got state funds to support a writing campaign among the Northern Saami. The Norwegian Saami Parliament granted up to 350,000 NOK for the strengthening of Northern Saami Wikipedia. During the first half of 2011, the local Wikimedia chapter

started training Saami students from the local college in Kautokeino, both locally in Finnmark – and in Oslo. Eight female students, eager to start preserving their language through Wikipedia, got thorough training in the disposition, writing, and photo enrichment of articles. The training also included the use of sources, references, and rules of notability and privacy. Morten Haugen, municipal librarian and project manager, initiated the project by creating a comprehensive list of missing articles that was progressively filled.

As a result of the project the number of articles in Northern Saami and the quality of the articles has increased substantially, from around 3,000 to around 4,000 within 2011. By September, 2012, the number of articles had turned 5,600.



Some of the participants at a training course for the Saami Wikipedia edition. Oslo, May 2011

This booklet was compiled by the three Wikimedia Associations in Denmark, Norway and Sweden in September, 2012.

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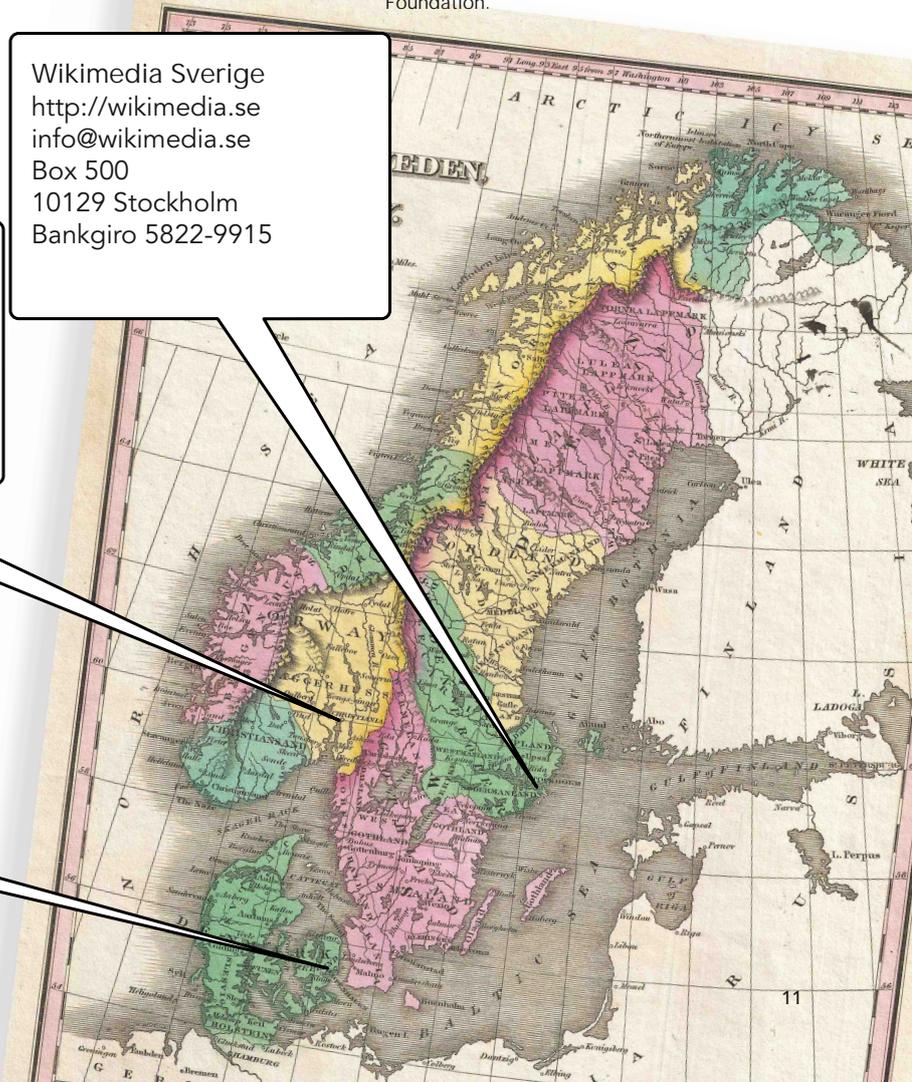
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What is happening in the Wikimedia movement in your country?

Wikipedia is the free encyclopedia in a number of languages, including Danish, Norwegian Bokmål, Norwegian Nynorsk, Northern Sami, and Swedish.

Wikimedia Commons is the free media database, which is used by Wikipedia and anyone who needs access to millions of images.

Wikimedia Foundation is the non-profit organization that manages the servers and software for Wikipedia, Wikimedia Commons and their sister projects, based on donations from mostly individuals.

Wikimedia Danmark, Wikimedia Norge and Wikimedia Sverige are national volunteer associations that are actively promoting free knowledge. Learn more about some of their activities in this yearbook.

You can support the Wikimedia movement through editing Wikipedia, through uploading images to Wikimedia Commons, by being a member of a national Wikimedia association, and by donating money!



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