



Preface for the 12th Nordic Conference on Construction Economics and Organisation

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Preface for the 12th Nordic Conference on Construction Economics and Organisation

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1. Personal reflections from the editors

Arranging this conference has been an interesting journey. Two years ago, NTNU was given the opportunity to arrange and host the 12th Nordic Conference on Construction Economics and organisation on behalf of the CREON network. Having the opportunity to work with the science committee, the local organising committee, and all other contributors, including authors, co-authors, and reviewers, has been a real pleasure. We would like to thank everyone for the great efforts they have put into making this event successful.

We look forward to future cooperation in the CREON network, contributing to new knowledge on construction economics and organisation in the Nordic region and worldwide. With the development of the construction industry, with more complex projects and increasing focus on sustainability and digitalization, this knowledge is important to solve future challenges in the construction industry.

2. About the 12th Nordic Conference on Construction Economics and Organisation

The conference was arranged in Trondheim, Norway, on the 29-31 May 2024. The aim of the conference was to bring active researchers within the topics of construction economics and organisation together to share knowledge and discuss important developments in the industry.

The main topic for the conference was chosen to be “Performance under complex conditions”. This choice of topic was motivated by developments in the construction industry to bring sustainability and increased value creation into projects. This will require performance on a higher level in a time when the situation in society seems to offer more challenges, complexity, and uncertainty than ever. This development challenges decision makers, professional planners and designers, contractors, and suppliers – and even researchers to engage in new practices and develop their professional knowledge on construction economics and organisation.

A number of themes and issues was considered in the planning of the conference:

- Performance on all levels; individual, team, project – and even on a societal level through engaging people in a fabulous event.
- Campus development. The conference was held in the midst of a huge upgrade program for developing NTNU campus in Trondheim. This program has met all the challenges we could think of - and a few more. In a wide sense, the term ‘campus’ does not need to indicate university or even educational functions. Even single building projects are

embedded in a neighbourhood, transport system, energy system etc. Even more so is the urban city development.

- Infrastructure projects are becoming more and more complex – not necessarily due to the increasing size in monetary terms, but both technically through integration of systems, organisationally through involvement of more stakeholders, and with moving goals that are constantly renegotiated.

During the days in Trondheim, 75 people from 11 countries gathered to discuss these and other interesting topics. Activities during the week included a PhD workshop, a key-note speech from Professor Rolf André Bohne from NTNU on the topic “Sustainability in Construction”, and presentations of scientific papers. In addition, we visited Granåsen, the coming venue of the 2025 Ski World Championship, where the project director presented the project and hosted a tour of the ski-jump hill and other parts of the venue.

3. Conference theme and topics in the call for abstracts

3.1 Conference theme

Performance under complex conditions

3.2 Sub-teams and topics of the conference

Under the main topic, the local organising committee and the science committee did not set any regulation on the topics, but gave some examples of ideas through the above mentioned types of complex projects such as the World Ski Championship in Trondheim 2025, and the NTNU campus development and infrastructure project. All incoming papers were subsequently sorted in the following topics after acceptance: Sustainability in construction, Digitalization in construction, Project Management, Project Delivery Models, Lean and Performance Measurement and Facility Management.

4. Event organisation

4.1 Local Organising committee

- Conference chair, Associate Professor Olav Torp, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, NTNU, Norway
- Co-chair, Associate Professor Nora Johanne Klungseth, Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, NTNU, Norway
- Professor Ola Lædre, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, NTNU, Norway
- Professor Ole Jonny Klakegg, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, NTNU, Norway
- Professor Nils Olsson, Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, NTNU, Norway

4.2 Science committee

- Associate Professor Emlyn Witt, Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia
- Associate Professor Radhinah Aulin, Lund University, Sweden
- Associate Professor Dimosthenis Kifokeris, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden

- Postdoc Nicolaj Fredriksen, Aalborg University, Denmark
- University Instructor Taija Puolitaival, Tampere University, Finland
- Professor Göran Lindahl, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden
- Senior researcher Kim Haugbølle, Danish Building Research Institute, Aalborg University, Denmark
- Senior researcher Stefan Christoffer Gottlieb, Danish Building Research Institute, Aalborg University, Denmark

5. Overview of the conference program

5.1 Wednesday May 29th – Phd workshop

- 1300 Phd workshop on the topic “How to publish your research”
- 1830 Welcome reception at Two Towers Café followed by Organ Recital in Nodaros Cathedral

5.2 Thursday May 30th Scientific day 1

- 0900 Opening of the conference – Welcome
- 0920 Keynote speaker
- 1020 Scientific presentations, 3 parallels
- 1130 Lunch and Networking
- 1230 Scientific presentations, 3 parallels
- 1350 Visit to the New Granåsen Ski Arena – venue for World Ski Championship 2025
- 1900 Conference Dinner

5.3 Friday May 31st Scientific day 2

- 0900 Scientific presentations, 3 parallels
- 1030 Scientific presentations, 3 parallels
- 1200 Lunch and Networking
- 1300 Scientific presentations, 3 parallels
- 1430 Closing the conference and end of conference program
- 1500 CREON General Assembly