



## **Would you like to take part in Norway's largest research project on folk high schools?**

### **Purpose of the project**

We are now launching the research project **ENGAGE** (Engagement, Growth and General Education in Norwegian folk high schools), which will explore civic engagement and participation among young people in Norway, and the impact of spending a year at a folk high school.

You are being invited to participate in a digital survey sent to all applicants to Norwegian folk high schools in 2025, as well as to former students from the past three years.

Additionally, in the project, we will collect registry data for the entire group, regardless of whether the individual responds to the survey or not. Individual interviews will also be conducted with a smaller selection of approximately 20 students. By combining these data sources, we aim to learn more about the significance of folk high school for the individual, the workforce, and society.

For more detailed information about the project and its three work packages (survey, interview study, and register study), see the project website:  
<https://www.norceresearch.no/prosjekter/engage>

### **Why are you being asked to participate?**

All applicants to Norwegian folk high schools (FHS) in 2025, along with former students who attended FHS in 2022, 2023, or 2024, will receive an invitation to take part in the survey.

### **Who is responsible for the research project?**

The research institute **NORCE** is responsible for the processing of personal data in the project. The project is being carried out in collaboration with researchers from **OsloMet** and the **University of South-Eastern Norway (USN)**.

**Participation is voluntary**

Participation in the project is voluntary. There will be no negative consequences if you choose not to participate, or if you later decide to have your data deleted.

**What does participation involve?**

If you are a current student at a folk high school (FHS), you will receive two surveys during your time at the FHS (one at the beginning and one at the end of the year). Arrangements will be made for you to complete the survey during school hours. In addition, you will receive a new survey two years after you have completed your folk high school year.

*If you are a former student or an applicant who did not start at a FHS, you will receive one survey in the fall of 2025.*

The survey takes approximately 30 minutes to complete, although this may vary from person to person.

One part of the project involves linking survey responses with register data on education, work, trade union membership, electoral participation, receipt of benefits, and background variables related to demographics, family, care and support services. Statistics Norway (SSB) will handle this linkage for us and provide data in anonymized form—without names or national ID numbers. Register data will be collected from all applicants to all Norwegian folk high schools in 2025, as well as from former students from the past three years, regardless of whether they respond to the survey. Registry data will be collected in 2028/29, and contingent on renewed research funding, it will be collected twice (every four years) until 2037. This data collection is regulated by the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Article 6(1)(e), cf. Article 6(3)(b), cf. Article 9(2)(j), and the Norwegian Personal Data Act §§ 8 and 9. It allows for data to be processed without consent when in the public interest and for scientific research purposes. *You can opt out of this by contacting us directly (see "Your rights" below).*

**A brief note on privacy**

We will only use your information for the purposes described in this document. Your personal data will be handled confidentially and in accordance with data protection legislation.

You can find more detailed information about privacy on the next page.

**Best regards,**

**Vigdis Sveinsdottir**

(Researcher/Project Leader)

## More details about data privacy – how we store and use your information

We will only use the information about you for the purposes described in this document. We treat the information confidentially and in accordance with data protection regulations. **NORCE** is the data controller for the information collected. Only personnel connected to the project will have access to the data. This includes researchers at NORCE (5 researchers) and OsloMet (1 researcher).

The folk high schools and the Folk High School Council are collaborating with NORCE to provide personal data and information necessary to carry out the research project.

Data from the questionnaires will be stored in accordance with the laws and regulations that apply to NORCE as a research institution. This means the data will be stored on secure servers with two-factor authentication and access control at all times. Only researchers affiliated with the project will have access to the datasets. It will not be possible to identify you in the results, as all analyses will be performed at the group level. The results will be published in academic and popular science journals.

### What gives us the right to process your personal data?

We process information about you for research in the public interest. Your consent to participate in the survey/interview is obtained to ensure your involvement in the decision-making process.

On behalf of NORCE Norwegian Research Centre AS, the data protection services at **Sikt – Norwegian Agency for Shared Services in Education and Research** have assessed that the processing of personal data in this project complies with data protection regulations.

### What happens to your personal data when the research project ends?

The project is planned to end on **31 December 2037**. Directly identifying personal information will be deleted from the questionnaire data file on an ongoing basis and stored separately from your survey responses. By **31 October 2029**, this personal data will be deleted from NORCE's systems. As part of the register linkage, the personal data will then only be stored by Statistics Norway (SSB) until the end of the project in 2037.

### Your rights

As long as you can be identified in the data, you have the right to request access to the information we process about you and to ask that the data be corrected or deleted. If you contact us to exercise your rights, you will hear from us within one month. We will provide an explanation if we are unable to identify you or if your rights cannot be exercised. You also have the right to lodge a complaint with the **Norwegian Data Protection Authority** regarding how we process your data.

If you have questions or wish to exercise your rights, please contact:

**Vigdis Sveinsdottir** – Phone: +47 56 10 72 87 – Email: [visv@norce-research.no](mailto:visv@norce-research.no)

**Data Protection Officer at NORCE** – Email: [personvernombud@norce-research.no](mailto:personvernombud@norce-research.no)

If you have questions related to Sikt's assessment of the project, you may contact them by email at [personverntjenester@sikt.no](mailto:personverntjenester@sikt.no) , or by phone: **+47 73 98 40 40**.

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**By clicking through to the questionnaire, you consent that you have read the text above and wish to participate in the study.**