

May 2026

Dear all at DTU

Spring is here, and the world is buzzing with life - as is DTU, where we're all busy and getting on with our many and diverse tasks and exciting development projects. In this info letter, you can read about the Work Environment Award 2026, the Sunflower initiative, the DTU Relay Race for employees and students, and more.

DTU Work Environment Secretariat

DTU part of the Sunflower initiative

- by Mie Harthing Egefelt, AKM, and Katrine Brandt Ibsen, Corporate HR

As an international elite university, DTU must continuously strengthen its research and innovation power, so we need to attract and retain talented students and employees. As part of our ongoing efforts to create equal opportunities for all, as well as safe and inclusive study, work, and academic environments, DTU has joined the Sunflower initiative.

The international Sunflower initiative is about making non-visible disabilities visible through discreet products such as the green sunflower lanyard. A non-visible disability is not obvious, but may mean that you need a little extra time, patience and understanding as you go about your daily life - or perhaps just from time to time.



As a member of the Sunflower initiative, DTU can actively support students, employees, and visitors with non-visible disabilities. Our membership gives us access to materials that can be used to promote awareness and understanding among both students and employees of non-visible disabilities. More will be communicated on how to access the materials over the next few months. Until then, you can read more at: hdsunflower.com/dk/

The sunflower lanyard will be made available on DTU's campuses before the summer holidays.

DTU Relay Race 2026

- by Leif Leon Warner, CAS AB

Over the years, the DTU Relay Race has developed into a festive tradition eagerly anticipated and enjoyed by many employees and students - for its health benefits and as a social event.

The relay race will be held on Thursday, 7 May, starting at 4 p.m., and will take place on DTU's 5-kilometre running trail on Lyngby campus starting at Demant Salen.

A total of 1800 employees and students have signed up for the relay race this year as part of either a running or walking team. Come and cheer on your colleagues/ fellow students and enjoy a few pleasant hours in each other's company, exercising and socializing.



Work Environment Award 2026

- by Simone Clauwaert, CAS AB

The annual DTU Work Environment Award is presented to one or more individuals who have put extraordinary efforts into improving the work environment at DTU. At DTU's Commemoration Day 2026, President Anders Bjarklev presented this year's Work Environment Award to Per Munch Jakobsen from DTU Wind.

For many years, Per has made an extraordinary and important strategic effort at DTU Wind and contributed to improving the work environment and safety culture across Risø, Lyngby, and Ballerup - in close collaboration with DTU Engineering Technology. His efforts have had a lasting impact on the work environment culture across DTU, and on the development of modern and safe research facilities.

With his strong technical expertise, organizational understanding, and constructive collaboration with both colleagues and students, Per is a well-liked sparring partner at all levels of the organization.

For more than a decade, Per has been one of the driving forces behind developing safety in some of DTU's most advanced and technically complex laboratories. Through daily dialogues with colleagues, and through the development of practice-oriented and effective procedures, Per has helped create a solid foundation for a physically/psychologically safe and secure work environment for the daily operations, research, and teaching activities.

In addition, Per has developed an instructional design and educational framework for a mandatory introduction to lab safety for students before they enter the laboratories. This has resulted in a standardized training programme, strengthened safety skills among students, and fostered a culture in which safety is integrated into the work of engineers from day one.

Per Munch Jakobsen is thus presented with this year's Work Environment Award in recognition of his longstanding commitment and outstanding efforts to enhance the work environment across DTU for both employees and students.



Dialogue - continued work at DTU

- by Line Stavnsbo, Corporate HR

Experience gained with DTU's dialogue concepts shows broad support for dialogue as an approach in our work with well-being and the work environment. Against this background, the steering committee has recommended that DTU continue to work with dialogue as a common approach because dialogue sharpens actions, fosters collaboration, and enables timely responses to challenges.

Dialogue is therefore not a separate HR initiative, but an integral part of our leadership and work environment. Well-being dialogues must be linked more clearly to existing work environment processes, including our workplace assessments and the annual discussion of work environment issues, and made simpler and more recognizable in practice.

Call for action by the work environment organization

Put dialogue about well-being on the agenda of the local collaboration committee. Clearly define roles and responsibilities. Use dialogue actively - even when it is difficult. Dialogue does not happen by itself.

The work environment organization plays a key role when it comes to translating joint decisions into practice at DTU.



Walk & Talk routes at DTU

- by Ann-Rose Bøttcher, CAS AB

Remember - it's possible to hold meetings as walk & talk. Seize the chance to incorporate some fresh air and physical activity into your working life. See routes on [DTU Inside](#).

