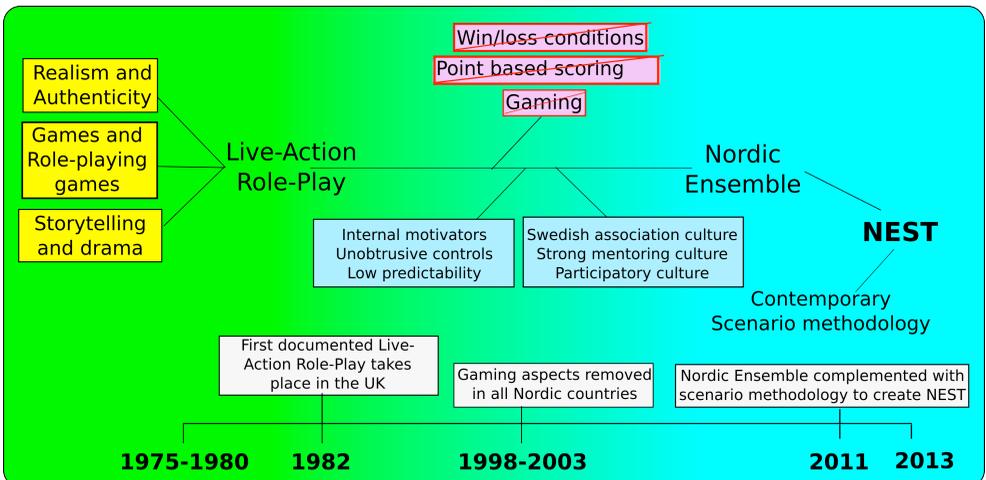


# The Story Behind NEST

NEST builds on contemporary scenario training theory and Nordic Ensemble - a tradition of live-action role-play that is well-suited for professional use in areas such as scenario training, professional development, service design and product development. The method is unique and is almost exclusively found in Sweden. It represents the cutting edge outcome of over 30 years of development, research and innovation.

Live-action role-play is available in many parts of the world, but has developed in a unique way in Sweden and the Nordic countries. At the end of the 1990s, a paradigm shift occurred that resulted in removal of all the gaming aspects (point-based scoring, win/loss conditions, etc.). Instead, internal motivators and unobtrusive controls were introduced, leading to role-plays that operated more like live-action simulations than games. The focus shifted from game-play to the creation of authentic experiences.



The foundation was now being laid for what was to become Nordic Ensemble. In Sweden, the traits of true-to-life realism and uncertainty were highly desirable. At the same time, it was necessary to maintain a high level of safety. If you wanted to keep your participants, you had no choice, but to solve this equation.

By now, there had emerged a mature generation of live-action role-players who began experimenting with new genres, concepts and working methods. They also brought with them experience and knowledge from their professional and academic life. For this mature group, live-action role-play became a platform for networking and professional development. These conditions were combined with the Swedish association tradition and a strong culture of mentorship to create something as unique as it was ingenious - Nordic Ensemble.

In 2011, a study was conducted at Edith Cowan University in Australia to determine whether aspects of educational live-action role-play could be used to improve security education and contemporary scenario training. It was observed that techniques and principles from Nordic Ensemble could be used to increase realism, authenticity and uncertainty without raising the risk profile of the exercise! It was also possible to introduce cultural elements, situational factors and human factors that had previously been very difficult to work with in training. However, there was a problem. Nordic Ensemble offered the missing pieces of the scenario training puzzle, but was not adequately developed to stand on its own. The solution was to complement the two methods with each other and create a new methodology with the best of both worlds - Nordic Ensemble Security Training (NEST).

Today NEST has been further developed to make it more widely applicable and is therefore referred to as Nordic Ensemble Scenario Training. It is a professionally developed form of educational live-action role-play (EDU-LARP) built on a foundation of more than 30 years of research and development.