

Issue 6.1

Nordic Educational Research Association (NERA)/ Nordisk förening för pedagogisk forskning (NFPF)

The Board's Report 2012

1. General remarks

The Board has been working on NERA/NFPF's main tasks: The annual congress, the journal and the networks within the overall aim of developing educational research in the Nordic countries. Further NERA/NFPF participates in the European Educational Research Association (EERA) in order to make Nordic interest heard. The Board wants to express its cordial appreciation to the cashier and the auditors for an excellent job for the good of NFPF/NERA.

The Board as elected at the General Assembly in Copenhagen:

Denmark:	Ordinary:	Niels Kryger John B. Krejsler
	Deputy:	Karen Ida Dannesboe
Finland:	Ordinary:	Marjatta Lairio Anna Slotte-Lüttge
	Deputy:	Sirpa Lappalainen
Iceland:	Ordinary:	Gestur Gudmundsson
	Deputy:	Turidur Johannsdottir
Norway:	Ordinary:	Berit Karseth, President Hans Petter Ulleberg
	Deputy:	Harald Thuen
Sweden:	Ordinary:	Robert Thornberg Carl Anders Säfström
	Deputy:	Linda Rönnberg

Auditors:

Ordinary:	Daniel Petterson (Sweden) Gunnar Engvik (Norway)
Deputy:	Ulla Lindgren (Sweden)

The election committee

Denmark:	Kasper Kofod Søren Langager
Finland:	Fritjof Sahlström Joel Kivirauma
Iceland:	Kristin Johnsdottir
Norway:	Gerd Stølen, Convener Mary Brekke
Sweden:	Ylva Odenbring

Members and administration

At the end of 2012 there were 598 members. In 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008 the numbers were respectively 481, 555, 623 and 749. The decrease from 2010 to 2011 can be explained by the relative small numbers of participants at the congress in Jyväskylä.

The Congress in Copenhagen

The annual congress of NFPP/NERA was hosted by Department of Education (DPU), Aarhus University. The theme was *Everyday life, education and their transformations in a Nordic and globalized context*

The congress attracted 600 participants as compared to 348 participants in 2011 and 553 participants in 2010. 3 pre-conferences were held, organized by networks 14 (Multi Cultural Educational Research) 16 (Philosophy of Education) and 21 (Politics of Education and Education Policy Studies). The congress was evaluated as successful in all terms, and the Board wants to thank the planning committee for their great work.

The work of the Board according to the Board's Plan for 2012

Meetings.

Three Board meetings were held: March 7, and March 10 in Copenhagen and August 31-September 1 in Reykjavik.

Recruitments of members

As expected the number of members increased after the congress of 2012 in Copenhagen. The congress is the main vehicle for recruitment. The situation was discussed at the Board meeting in Reykjavik and according to the member list dated 14/6 2012:

Denmark: 81 members: 59 individuals, 18 students, 2 institutions, 2 board members

Finland: 42 members: 32 individuals, 8 students, 2 Board members

Island: 17 members: 11 individuals, 5 students, 1 Board member

Norway: 184 members: 158 individuals, 18 students, 5 institutions, 2 Board members.1 treasurer

Sweden: 224 members: 170 individuals, 43 students, 8 institutions, 2 board members , 1 editor

Other countries: 18 members: 11 individuals, 7 students.

While there are members who continues to pay the membership fee although they do not participate at the congresses, there are others, especially PhD students, who seem to only pay when they are participating. This seems evident when looking into the numbers: By the end of 2012 there are 108 PhD students who are on the member list which means less than 20% of the members. The Board will continue to discuss the profile of our members.

Networks

By the end of 2012 there were 23 active networks operating within NFPP/NERA. The Board has earlier decided that all networks should provide a network report as stated in the policy paper. 13 networks enabled to do so.

See also the report from the Network Coordinator.

Web site

The Board is satisfied by the web side of NERA and there has been few problems reported. On the other hand we have received few requests for support from the network conveners. The Board would like to thank Shane Colvin and Sverre Tveit for their work.

Congress economy

NFPF/NERA started this year (as also stated in the report from the Board to the General Assembly in March last year) deeply concerned with the negative trend in numbers of members and conference participants. The budget decided upon by the GA reflects this critical development with very little room for activities. It also reflects a decision made to reduce the costs to services and salary to the editor.

It is therefore very gratifying due to the very successful congress in Copenhagen we are able to present a balance sheet with a large surplus for the GA. In addition to the number of participants, the Congress did not have to pay for all the expenses which were set up in the original budget for the congress. The University of Århus and DPU therefore, decided to be very generous in their financial transactions to NERA. Due to this the Board decided on its meeting in Reykjavik August 31, to set aside NOK 50.000,- for supporting networks' symposia that will take place the day before the next year Congress at Reykjavik or activities afterwards. Three networks applied for pre-congress symposia. The Board decided to support all of them (Network 3 (early childhood research), Network 14 (Multicultural Educational research) and Network 16 (The Nordic Society for Philosophy of Education)), and 10 000 NOK was decided transferred to the Ahlström account.

Furthermore, the Board also decided to adjust the budget in accordance with 2010 level on service to editor, referee coordinator, accountants and treasurer in 2010. We also suggest to increase the budget with regard to EERA meetings to 20 000 NOK in order to be able to participate in the Board meetings.

Nordic Studies in Education

The Editorial Board gives a report of its own. Here we shall only give a great thanks to the Editor in Chief, Biörn Hasselgreen and the Review Coordinator, Klaus Kasper Kofod, for their great work and success in producing a very good journal. After 30 years as a member of the editorial board and more than 20 years in the chef editor position Biörn Hasselgren has decided to resign. Biörn's contribution has been remarkable and we are incredible grateful for his work and effort. Fritjof Sahlström from the University of Helsinki has been appointed by the Board as the chief editor for volume 2013 (issue 2-4)-2014.

International Activities

John Krejsler represented NFPF/NERA at the EERA board meeting in January while Berit Karseth participated in the September meeting.

Although NFPF/NERA was not able to give financial support to a NFPF/NERA symposium at AERA, the Board invited the networks coordinators to send in an application in order to use the slot NFPF/NERA has in the program. Only one network responded network 21 Politics of Education & Education Policy Studies. The proposal was accepted and they will present the symposium *Early Childhood Education and Care: Nordic Traditions and Transitions in a Globalised World* at the AERA congress in April 2013.

Future Congresses

Lillehammer University College has accepted to arrange the congress of 2014. The dates are March 5-7.

Concluding remarks

2012 started as a challenging year for the Board. However, by the end of the year the trend seems much more positive. We also know that there are going to be many participants at the congress in Reykjavik. To monitor the development of the membership is still a task highly prioritized for the Board.