

# NERA/NFPF Board Report for 2020

## 1. General remarks

The board has been working on the 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. 2020 has been particularly marked by the restraints required by the Covid-19 situation. We were lucky to be able to carry through the NERA 2020 conference in Turku. However, the Board meeting in August had to be conducted online. And the main challenge and working task throughout the year has to keep a close collaboration with the NERA 2021 convening team from the University of Southern Denmark concerning NERA 2021. The Board is still working hard to monitor, maintain and act upon a still very challenging and uncertain economic situation, which is in 2021 mostly dependent upon whether it will be possible to conduct NERA 2021 as an on-site event. The Board wants to express its cordial appreciation to the cashier and the auditors for an excellent job for the good of NERA/NFPF.

## 2. The Board as elected at the general Assembly in Turku 2020

**Norway:** Gry Paulgaard, Ketil Knutsen  
Deputy member: Hans Erik Bugge

**Denmark:** John Benedicto Krejsler, Christian Ydesen  
Deputy member: Karen Ida Dannesboe

**Finland:** Monica Londen; Piia av Ursin  
Deputy member: Taina Saarinen

**Iceland:** Michael Dal  
Deputy member: Vilborg Jóhannsdóttir

**Sweden** Eva Hultin, Anette Olin  
Deputy member: Linda Rönnberg

**Auditors:** Daniel Petterson, Carl F. Dons

### Election committee:

Norway Emilia Andersson-Bakken; Deputy member: Britt Oda Fosse  
Denmark Kirsten Elisa Petersen (chair); Deputy member: Lotte Hedegaard Sørensen  
Finland Janne Varjo; Deputy member: Petteri Hansen  
Iceland Gestur Guðmundsson; Deputy Member: Vilborg Jóhannsdóttir  
Sweden Michael Håkansson; Deputy member: Björn Haglund

### **3. Members and administration**

At the time of the NERA2020 conference NERA had 2020 (2019) NERA had 198 (383) members, including 126 (294) private, 11 (11) board members/treasurer/editor, 61 (80) students, 0 (0) departments.

### **4. The Congress in Turku**

The congress in Turku had 698 people attending (Uppsala 728; Oslo 2018 610; Copenhagen 2017 699). The congress was held at the University of Turku, and the theme was “Rethinking the Futures of Education in the Nordic Countries”.

The Organizing committee in Turku has sent the board an evaluation report and an economic report. The board has discussed and taken care of the main issues raised in the participant evaluation report. The Board also includes these issues in discussions with the local organizing committee from the University of Southern Denmark.

The board has also paid attention to the main issues and problems raised at that network meeting in 2020. The board strives to continue complying with the wishes from the networks.

### **5. The work of the Board according to the Board plan for 2020**

The Board has continued to work on NERA’s main tasks: The annual congress, the journal and the networks, within the overall aim of developing the quality of educational research in the Nordic countries.

- Demanding issues have arisen from the Covid-19 situation during 2020. We were lucky to be able to carry through the NERA 2020 conference in Turku. However, the Board meeting in August had to be conducted online.
- The main challenge and most extensive working task throughout the year has been, nonetheless, for the President and Vice-President in collaboration with the Board to keep a close collaboration with the NERA 2021 convening team from the University of Southern Denmark in order to monitor, negotiate and agree upon conditions for carrying through NERA 2021.
- In addition, NERA conducted for the first time its Annual Educational Conversation, which is aimed at becoming a regular tradition of the association.
- NERA’s journal Nordic Studies in Education has now successfully come through its first year as an Open Access journal.
- The Board is still working hard to monitor, maintain and act upon a still very challenging and uncertain economic situation, which is in 2021 mostly dependent upon whether it will be possible to conduct NERA 2021 as an on-site event. Otherwise the economic framework confirmed by the 2019 and 2020 GA meetings point to an economically stable and sustainable future of NERA.
- NERA has granted no economic support to networks in 2020 and will not do

- so in 2021 due to the extraordinarily challenging economic situation
- The NERA Board has chosen a group to represent NERA at the AERA2021 Annual Meeting (American Educational Research Association), which is scheduled to be an on-line meeting. NERA network 19, Teachers' Work and Teacher Education, will represent NERA with the symposium: "Innovations in Nordic Teacher Education: Examples of integrating Digital Technologies for innovations". Symposium-provider: Professor Göran Fransson, University of Gävle, Sweden.
  - NERA is engaging in and formalizing collaboration with the Scottish Educational Research Association (SERA)

### **6. Next congresses: NERA 2021 & NERA 2022**

Next NERA congress will be held at the University of Southern Denmark, November 3–5, 2021. The theme is "Hope and Education". The keynote speakers will be Professor Matthew Clarke, York St. John University, Professor Dennis Beach, University of Gothenburg, Professor Emerita Katrin Hjort, University of Southern Denmark and Professor Line Lerche Mørck, Aarhus University.

NERA 2022 will be held at the University of Iceland in Reykjavik in June 1-3 2022. Correspondingly, the March 2022 Board and General Assembly meetings will also be postponed to take place at this conference in order to allow a physical membership presence.