

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of NERA Network Conveners

Wednesday 5th of March 2025, 12.15 – 13.35,
Room F3017, Helsinki University.

1. Election of the chairperson for the meeting.

Gry Paulgaard was unanimously elected after extending a welcome to the attendees.

2. Election of the secretary for the meeting.

Thomas Iskov was unanimously elected

3. Election of two members to verify the minutes.

Åsa Mickwitz and Monica Londen was unanimously elected

4. Approval of the meeting agenda.

The agenda was approved without comments.

5. Approval of the minutes for 2024.

The minutes were approved without comments.

6. Brief presentation of conveners.

The conveners from the following network presented themselves:

Number: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25,

7. Status networks & network activities.

Gry Paulgaard highlighted the increasing number of pre-conferences and expressed the board's enthusiasm for this development. The conveners provided positive feedback on pre-conferences, reporting significant participation, with approximately 100 attendees. One network has also organized digital network meetings.

On behalf of the board, Michael encouraged further network activities, including pre-conferences, and reminded conveners that funding applications for such activities are available.

Regarding the organization of pre-conferences, an announcement will be sent in advance next year to ensure pre-conference registrations align with the abstract submission deadline. There was a proposal to allow pre-conference registration alongside abstract submission.

The organizing committee received positive feedback for its support in facilitating pre-conferences. For additional comments or questions, Gry Paulgaard encouraged attendees to contact her via email.

8. Discussion of topics raised at the digital convener meeting:

Some incoming abstracts may be relevant to more than one network.

To manage this, it was noted that networks have had significant workloads forwarding abstracts rather than rejecting them. Moving forward, authors must select two networks upon submission. If an abstract is not accepted by either of the chosen networks, it will be rejected.

A discussion took place on the definition of a paper being "relevant to a Nordic perspective." On behalf of the board, Michael stated that networks have autonomy in determining the criteria for acceptance and referred to the NERA policy paper for guidance.

The board encouraged networks to refine and briefly describe their thematic focus on both the NERA website and their own webpages.

Some networks have more than two conveners. It was concluded that networks must appoint a corresponding convener, ideally one residing in the conference host country.

Networks must submit information about who will be the corresponding convener responsible for the website

Up to three conveners per network eligible for a membership refund, provided they submit the necessary information to the NERA treasurer.

9. Information from the editor of Nordic Journal of Education, Herner Sæverot, regarding 1) the Journal and 2) a possible book series from Bloomsbury and 3) The Annual Nordic Educational Conversation.

The journal publishes four issues per year, including one special issue. The contract with Cappelen allows for 350 pages per year. It operates as an open-access journal.

Possible book series: An opportunity has arisen to publish 1-2 books per year with Bloomsbury at no cost, as part of an existing contract. These publications may be monographs or anthologies. Interested contributors are encouraged to contact Herner for further discussion.

The Nordic Annual Conversation: Now in its sixth year, this online dialogue provides a platform to present and discuss key topics. This initiative could potentially evolve into a special issue in the journal. The board aims to integrate this conversation into the networks, and Herner invited conveners to contact him to arrange a session in October.

10. Information from the NERA board.

Gry Paulgaard emphasized the following key points:

- Deadline for network reports: 15 April 2025.
- Support for network activities: Application deadline is 15 September. Decisions will be made by the NERA board and announced at the convener meeting and on the NERA website. Funding is only available to networks that have submitted a report.

Michael Dal presented submission statistics for the 2025 conference:

- 492 papers
- 33 posters
- 21 symposia

- 12 roundtables
- 7 workshops

These numbers have remained relatively stable over the years.

11. **Any other business:** Feedback to the organizers: It has been very well organized.



Monica Londen
Controller



Åsa Mickwitz
Controller

Link to the Policy Paper about networks and the main responsibilities for the network conveners at NERAs web site https://nfpf.net/about/policy-paper/#_Toc147613384