



Board meeting September 22 - 23 2026
UiT, The Arctic University of Norway

Meeting protocol

Participants - Board

Solveig Cornér (Finland), Riikka Sirkko (Finland), Dion Rüsselbæk (Denmark), Thomas Iskov (Denmark), Hege Knudsmoen (Norway), Gry Paulgaard (Norway), Michael Dal (Iceland), Anette Olin Almqvist (Sweden), Joacim Andersson (Sweden), Simon Bernotaite (treasurer)

Editor: Herner Sæverot (Norway) (from 15.30 =>)

Time: Tuesday – Wednesday 22-23.9.2026.

Place: UiT, Tromsø, Norway. Faculty of Education

1. Opening and welcome
2. Election of secretary
Solveig Cornér was elected.
3. Election of two controllers
Thomas Iskov and Michael Dal were elected.
4. Acceptance of agenda for the meeting
The agenda for the meeting was accepted.
5. Minutes from the Board meeting March 3rd, 2026. - [Appendix](#)
 - a. Develop text about sessions for conference website information [appendix](#)
In between board meetings (the last was held in March 2026) the text about the sessions/guidelines for proposals on the website has been reviewed by Annette, Hege and Michael. The changes were discussed and the Board agreed upon changes in the text. The text has now been published on the NERA webpage.
6. Network issues
 - a. Status
22 networks have submitted the annual activity report. Reports are missing from three networks.
 - b. Network reports and pre-conference reports 2026
 - i. [Appendix network reports](#)
 - ii. [Appendix pre-conferences](#)

As suggested by the board the network conveners have been using the NERA network report form provided on the resource page for networks ([Resources – NERA](#)) and generally it seems as if the template is useful. Naturally, the content of the network activities differs quite a bit. Some networks seem to be very active between NERA conferences and others seem to be less active.

However, the board also noted that some of the conveners seem to be confused on the difference between the annual network report and the report of how granted money has been used e.g. for pre-conferences. Some networks simply delivered the same report for the annual activities and the support given to the network e.g. pre-conferences. Furthermore, some networks did not provide any information on the economy of the pre-conference.

The report process was discussed, and it was decided that communication regarding the reports should be clarified. The form for [the annual network activity report](#) is already standardized and only needs small corrections.

It was decided that it is necessary to produce a new template for the pre-conference report and other activities supported by the board between NERA conferences including a space for reporting how the money granted for the pre-conference (or other activities) has been used. It was decided to draw up such a standardized form. Further, links should be included on the NERA website to both the annual report (the report of the network activities activities) and to the pre-conference report (or report of other activities supported by the board)

Joakim and Riikka agreed to review the template for the network activity report.

Simona agreed to develop a template for the pre-conference report or report for other activities supported by the board.

The deadline for 1) the annual activity report and 2) the report on activities supported by the board including pre-conferences is April 15th each year.

The deadline for sending in **the application for pre-conference and other activities supported** by the board is September 1st each year.

c. Applications for network support 2027 – [Appendix](#)

Status.

12 networks (network 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 12, 16, 20, 22, 25) applied for economical support to arrange pre-conferences at the NERA conference in Tromsø 2027. 10 of the application were accepted and a total of NKR 109 400 was granted as support for the networks.

The application from network network 6 was rejected as the network is not eligible to receive economical support due to the missing annual report.

The application from network 25 was rejected as the board due to missing reports and ongoing requests for expounding the use of granted money.

The decisions were made with reference to the NERA guidelines for network support.

d. Rejection rate – possible meeting with convenors before assessment begins

The Board discussed the process of the acceptance of abstracts and rejection rate and how this issue could be addressed together with the convenors. The deadline for abstract submission is November 3rd, 2026. A suggestion was made to invite the convenors to a digital discussion in the second week of November 2026 and to follow it up with an additional digital meeting in January 2027.

e. Two new network applications

i. [Appendix](#)

ii. [Appendix](#)

The board received two applications for establishing new networks (a) *Play in Education* and (b) *Creativity and High able students, and talent development*. The Board decided to accept the new network applications and, hence, welcome the new networks into the NERA association.

f. Other network issues

Since the networks in NERA are increasing, the Board discussed a future possibility of merging networks focusing on similar themes. This will be discussed with the convenors at the convenor meeting held during the NERA conference 2027.

7. Economy

a. Half year balance 2026 [Appendix](#)

Simona presented the balance and the accounts for 2026 (half year balance).

b. Half year account 2026 [Appendix](#)

The half-year balance was approved by the Board. No big changes were made in the budget.

11. NERA Conferences

- a. Sweden 2028
Mälardalens university 03/2028 (Annette)
- b. Finland 2029 (Riikka)
University of Oulu 03/2028
- c. Iceland 2030 (Michael)
Ongoing negotiations
- d. Denmark 2031 (Thomas and Dion)
Preliminary ongoing planning process

12. NERA portfolio

a. Changes in the board for the upcoming year

Gry will step down after the conference in Tromsø 2027, so the election committee need to find a new Board member representing Norway. Michael is considering stepping down in 2028.

b. Suggestions on two-year circulation for presidents (and what about other assignments?)

A model of 2+2+2-year rotation for the vice president and the president is suggested. Two years as vice president, two years as the president and then two years as a "post" or senior president supporting the new president. However, this is already included in the Bylaws by saying that "the president can be elected for three years consecutively".

Also, the rotation of the national representation of the presidency was discussed. The suggestion for national representation of the post as the NERA president was the following: Sweden (=>2028), Norway (2028-2030), Denmark (2030-2032), Finland (2032-2034). A discussion was also about the role of the president and the role of the international representation. It was decided that Dion will take over the role as the international representant when Michael steps down and Dion will also become the vice president after Anette steps down.

- c. Discussion about what will be paid for board members when travelling on NERA money

The suggestion was that all travel costs (flights, taxi), hotels and food (on the way and from the activity) during the journey are included (including one unit of drink). Food is included during activity, if not included by the organisation (e.g. a conference lunch and dinner). Drinks are included (max two units) for Board meeting dinners, if not included by the organisation. The Board accepted the suggestion.

- d. Looking over NERA documents with the help of a university lawyer

A suggestion was made to ask an independent layer to investigate the NERA policy documents. Hege will continue to get in touch with a layer.

- e. Comparing aims in board report with policy documents – discussion
 - i. Aims: The Board will continue to work on NERA/NFPF'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. The Board will also continue to develop the association as to become the first choice for educational researchers and scholars in the Nordic countries.

13. NERA 2027: meeting the conference organization at Tromsø University.

- a. The conference organisation present conference and issues to board
Members of the Tromsø conference organization presented themselves and Silje Sivertsvik presented conference plans and information to the Board about the NERA conference 2027.
- b. Overview and status
The conference organization has all major processes in place, and everything is running smoothly.
- c. Expressions of interest
No expressions of interest.

14. Website issues (Anette)

- a. New e-mail address: board@nfpf.net, do we want more? Who will they be forwarded to?
The new email address board@nfpf.net is directed to the NERA president. The Board decided to create an email-address also for the network coordinators in the Board; Riikka and Joakim and possibly also to the treasurer (Simona).
- b. Teams for documents has been established. Started to upload documents. How does it work for everyone?
The Teams channel created by Anette is working well. More documents will shortly be uploaded.

15 Nordic Studies in Education, Editorial Board Meeting (Herner)

- a. Issues and plans for 2027

No 3 include five manuscripts from all Nordic countries. No 4 will include seven manuscripts, the process still in progress. The theme of the Special Issue 2027 is *Disciplinary literacy in linguistically diverse classrooms*.

b. The 7th Annual Nordic Educational Conversation

Date: 30.10.2026. Topic: *Student Transitions in Nordic Higher Education: Diversity, Participation and Social Sustainability*. Presenters: Åsa Mickwitz, Bo Klint Poulsen, and Marina Prilutskaya.

c. Book series of Bloomsbury

The first book is in process; Birgit Schaffar: *Economic adaptation or ecological liberation? Bildung as a recycling process*.

Three new books are in the pipeline.

i. Submission proposals review process

Editorial workflow: Herner + One Board Member per Book

Herner and the Board accept the proposals. Herner reach out to the Board members and request support with the reviewprocess. Herner and Thomas will work together on the upcoming proposal.

ii. Marketing and Outreach Strategy for the Series.

NERA is aiming for publishing two books per year. The marketing will be done through the NERA Newsletter.

iii. How do we want our books to be – commercial/scientific

The series profile should be academic.

d. Other issues: Journal Level 2. Discussion.

Annette and Herner will discuss the possible advancement of the NSE journal into level 2 with the publisher, Cappelen Damm, in January-February 2027.

14. International collaborations

a. EERA (Michael) - [appendix](#)

Michael gave the Board members an overall update on the EERA matters.

a. SWERA as member of EERA or not?

NERA is open for a discussion with SWERA to get acquainted with them. It was decided that the NERA Board invites the President of SWERA to attend the NERA Board meeting at Mälardalen university in September 2027.

b. AERA (Anette)

Unfortunately, there were no proposals for the AERA conference 2027.

c. SERA, BERA & ESAI

a. New invitation to SERA meeting for president and one more person (who?), finances?

Report from the meeting with SERA in May and June was given by Annette. ESAI was keen to collaborate with NERA.

Bridges should be built for a larger public, if we deepen our collaboration for example by online seminars, network collaboration, journal collaboration. The discussion was focused on how we as regions in the edge of Europe can enhance collaboration and make different collaborative activities useful for the NERA members and, in addition, visible on a structural level.

A decision was made that representatives from the NERA Board, Annette (and possible Dion), attend the SERA/BERA/ESAI meeting in Edinburgh 18-19 of November 2026. The Board also decided that members of the Board for SERA and ESAI should be invited to the NERA congress 2027.

d. Overall discussion about international collaborations – with which organisations and for what reasons do we want to develop more collaborations?

This matter was decided to continue in March 2027.

e. Other issues?

None.

15. Extra issues

No extra issues were discussed. A request was made for a broader discussion about questions of quality and strategic directions in the next Board meeting.

16. Next meeting.

Next Board meeting will be in Tromsø, Norway on Tuesday 9th of March 2027.

17. Closing of the meeting.

The chair of the Board, Annette Olin Almqvist, closed the meeting at 10.00.

Secretary



Solveig Cornér

Auditor



Thomas Iskov

Auditor



Michael Dal