

# **Nordic Educational Research Association (NERA)/ Nordisk förening för pedagogiska forskning (NFPPF)**

Draft: February 13th.

## **The Board's report 2004**

The board has, as usual, been working with the main tasks NERA/NFPPF, the annual *congress*, the *journal Nordisk Pedagogik* and the *networks* within the overall aim of developing educational research in Nordic countries.

The Board as elected at the annual meeting in March 2004:

Denmark:	Ordinary:	Gorm Hansbøl Lejf Moos
	Deputy:	John Krejsler
Finland:	Ordinary:	Sven-Erik Hansén Tarja Palmu
	Deputy:	Göran Björk
Iceland:	Ordinary:	Rahnildur Bjarnadottir
	Deputy:	Gyda Johansdottir
Norway:	Ordinary:	Kirsten Hofgaard Lycke Hans Petter Ulleberg
	Deputy:	Harald Thuen
Sweden:	Ordinary:	Moira von Wright Elisabet Örn
	Deputy:	Solveig Hägglund
Cashier:		Tone Dyrdal Solbrekke
Auditors:	Ordinary:	Peder Haug (Norway) Astrid Birgitte Eggen (Norway)
	Deputy:	Kirsten Stien (Norway)

The following persons were elected to the nominating committee:

Denmark:	Niels Kryger Lotte Rahbek Schou
Finland:	Heljä Linnansaari Reijo Byman
Iceland:	Olafur Propé Allyson Macdonald
Norway:	Stein Laugerud Kirsten Stien
Sweden:	Ingrid Carlgren Elinor Edvardsson Stiwne

## **Members and administration**

On the December 31<sup>st</sup> 2003 the Association had 646 members. In the end of the year (December 31<sup>st</sup> 2004) the number of members was 622. The number seems to have stabilised on a level which is far above what it used to be during the last years. This trend has lasted during the last few years and rose particularly during the Copenhagen and Reykjavik congresses.

## **Nordisk Pedagogik/Nordic Educational Research**

Since 1986 Universitetsforlaget, Oslo, publishes the journal and since 1990 the Department of Education, University of Gothenburg, houses its editorial office. So far this model has been a well functioning way of organizing the journal.

The editorial board, the board of NERA, has met twice during the year, in connection with the congress in March and in August.

The number of subscribers has increased to 868 subscriptions during 2004 which is close to the number (883) of previous year. The economy of the year has been positive, meaning that there has been no losses. This is due to the stable number of subscribers.

Gorm Hansbøl, has been referee coordinator.

Four issues (326 pages) were published in 2004.

All together 62 manuscripts were sent to the journal for publication (69 pervious year, 47 the previous year and 33 in 2001), which is a considerably high level for the second year. However, the increase has caused problems with overload of work within the referee system.

## **The networks**

The major way of organizing congress programs and other activities within the association is by research networks. At the end of year 2004 there were 21 networks. The board has intensified the work with the networks during the last years. Gorm Hansbøl has been the responsible network coordinator. He has during the year met the all coordinators during the congress and asked them to control the NERA homepage about all information concerning the networks. Unfortunately all coordinators have not responded and the homepage information is not fully updated yet.

The policy document for networks has been renewed (Appendix).

Two networks, School Development and Youth Research are at the moment without coordinators.

The network coordinator has also provided the Oslo congress committee with information from networks about questions concerning the structuring of the congress in Iceland.

NERA has currently the following networks and coordinators:

Adult Education:	Eva Andersson, University of Gothenburg
Child Care Research:	Jan-Erik Johansson, Oslo University College
Arts Culture & Education	Anna-Lena Østern, Åbo Akademi University
Multi-Cultural Educational Research	Joron Pihl, Oslo University College
Research on Health Education	Ulf Olsson, Stockholm Institute of Education
Higher Education	Gunnar Handal, University of Oslo
Inclusive Education	Joel Kivirauma, University of Turku
IT & Education	Michael Dal, Iceland University of Education
Classroom Research & Ethnographic studies	Fritiof Sahlström, University of Uppsala
Gender & Education	Elisabet Öhrn, University of Gothenburg
Curriculum research	Tomas Englund, Örebro University
Research on Teacher Education	Göran Brante, Kristianstad University College
Philosophy of Education	Jan Bengtsson, University of Gothenburg
Educational Leadership	Leif Moos, Danish University of Education
School-Home-Cooperation	Birte Ravn, Danish University of Education
School Development	Margaretha Kristoffersson, Umeå University
Sociology of Education	vacant coordinator
Rural Education	Risto Rinne, University of Turku
Vårdpedagogik	Andrew Kristiansson, Högskolen I Tromsø
Vocational education and training	Ewa Pilhammar, University of Gothenburg
Youth research	Peter Koudahl, University of Roskilde
	vacant coordinator

(Comments from Gorm)

## **The Congress in Reykjavik**

Year 2004 the congress was for the first time organized on Iceland by Iceland University of Education in Reykjavik. The theme was *The Positioning of Education in Contemporary Knowledge*. The congress attracted so far the largest number of participants 700 (?) paying delegates. Consequently the number of papers was very high and reached xxx . The congress was successful in terms of arrangements and the program, and the key-note speakers were considered to be of high international quality. (Some specifications from Ragnhildur)

Experiences of the organizers have been that it does not seem realistic to try to publish all the papers, except the papers of the keynote speakers, on the internet. The problems are though on presenters' and keynote speakers', not on congress organizers' side. Another problem was related to the membership registration. Participants of the congress have paid the conference fee, but in too many cases not registered as members. Measures have therefore been taken in order to improve the membership registration in connection with the next congress.

The NERA association is still quite unknown in Iceland, which is reflected in the very low number of members. On the other hand the NERA congress was a break through on Iceland and will hopefully contribute to an increase of members in the future.

The experiences of the first NERA-congress on Iceland are encouraging and will mean that NERA-congresses from now can be arranged in all Nordic countries.

NERA/NFPF has received 77.135 NOK according to the contract with the organizers.

## **The work of the board according to the plan for 2004**

*The board and its officers:* The election of the board meant following changes. President Staffan Larsson wanted to resign and was succeeded by Sven-Erik Hansén as new president. Gorm Hansbøl was elected as vice-president, and Tarja Palmu succeeding Elisabet Öhrn as secretary. Moira von Wright was elected as a new member of the board and the rest of the board was re-elected. The board expressed during the closing session of the Reykjavik congress its appreciation to Staffan Larsson and Elisabet Öhrn for an excellent job for the good of the association.

Three board meetings were held, one March 10<sup>th</sup> and one constituting meeting after the annual meeting March 12<sup>th</sup>. Both meetings were held in connection with the Reykjavik congress. The board also met in August 21-22, 2004 in Oslo. Between the meetings the board has communicated through e-mails.

## **The board has according to the plan paid special attention to following issues:**

*Increasing the number of members:* In order to increase the number of members and to facilitate registration various measures have been discussed with the publisher and the following issues have been taken:

1. The registration of new members has been done as part of the congress registration and the invoice has been handled by congress organizer. The list of new members has been collected by the congress organizer and sent to the publisher.
2. Already registered members have paid their membership fees directly to the publisher (in November).
3. On the bill to all members (sent in November) a text informed about the deadline of payment and possibilities to get reduction on the congress fee.
4. Like earlier the publisher has done a booklet which has been distributed during the Fall 2004.
5. A list of participants containing addresses will be sent by the organizer to the publisher after the congress.

*Ahlström Award:* No Ahlström Award was, according to the statutes, declared during the 2004. Pertti Kansanen and Karen Borgnakke have been appointed to the Ahlström Award jury. The winner of the award will be announced during the Oslo-congress 2005.

*Nordisk pedagogik:* A jubilee issue of Nordisk Pedagogik has been planned during the year and will be published as the first issue 2005. Previous editors, specially invited senior researchers – honorary editors, and board members have been asked to suggest articles (September 2004) and to send suggestions to general editor Biörn Hasselgren. The articles should mirror discussions that have been going on last 25 years, or they can be classics/excellent articles which are considered most meaningful to be published.

*Further elaboration of the relations between the networks and the congresses organizing committees:* The ongoing discussion between the board and the organizing congress committee has contributed to clarifications. The most important issue is the fact that the registration of new members has been done as part of the congress registration and the invoice will be handled by congress organizer.

The relationship between the networks and the congresses organizing committees has however to be further elaborated concerning the web-site, particularly the question of what kind of information should be included and under whose responsibility.

*Policy on keynotes, symposia, paper sessions, roundtables, poster sessions and work shops:* An appointed group within the board has worked out a plan suggesting more clarification about the meaning of various forms of congress activities. The board has approved the plan (March 9<sup>th</sup>?) (Appendix). The policy document will be distributed to congress organizers and put on the web site.

*Strategy for engaging young researchers as active members of NERA:* A strategy has been discussed about how to strengthen young researchers' involvement in the association. One issue has dealt with involving one doctoral student in the board, which requires a change of the bylaws and substantial economical consequences. Another issue has focused on arranging special activities for doctoral students. There will be planned for a pre conference during the 2006 congress as a step in the efforts to take a more active role in engaging young researchers in the association. One of the board members Hans-Petter Ulleberg has been appointed to develop the contacts to young researchers. No more far reaching decisions have, however, so far been done and the discussion within the board will continue.

*Implementing the new web-site:* The efforts of renewing the web-site have continued during the year. Biörn Hasselgren has been responsible for the web-site and Janus Moos engaged to update and administer the web-site. The work is in progress but there is still much to be done. (Appendix)

*Establishing a European database on research dissemination in association with EERA:* Leif Moos has been our representative in EERA and has followed the discussion and reported to the board. The planned European database is in progress but not in use yet. EERA has been involved in establishing the PERINE, Pedagogical and Educational Research Information Network for Europe ([www.dipf.de/perine/](http://www.dipf.de/perine/)). EERA is at present involved in collaborations with major publishers to establish a European educational research quotations system (CRISS) that is intended to be of more use to European researchers in reduction than the US-bases quotation systems are at present.

*Future congresses:* A contract has been signed with Örebro University to arrange the congress 2006.

University of Turku has accepted to arrange the congress 2007 and the contract has been signed.

*Concluding remarks:* The year 2004 has generally been a relatively stable and normal year. The economy is in good shape, the congresses have expanded and the interest in publishing in Nordisk Pedagogik has essentially increased. On the other hand the

board faces new challenges related to the future of the association in relation to new conditions, especially concerning publication, and new tasks, like the continuous administration of the web-site, requiring economical resources. A future group within the board has been established, and the discussion about future issues has thus started.

In addition to the reported activities the board has, as usual, spent time on preparing for the annual meeting.

For the board

Sven-Erik Hansén

President of NERA/NFPF