

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

The Board's report 2005

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 2005:

Denmark:	Ordinary:	Gorm Hansbøl Lejf Moos
	Deputy:	John Krejsler
Finland:	Ordinary:	Sven-Erik Hansén Tarja Palmu
	Deputy:	Göran Björk
Iceland:	Ordinary:	Rahnhildur 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 Proppe
	Allyson Macdonald
Norway:	Stein Laugerud Kirsten Stien
Sweden:	Ingrid Carlgren Elinor Edvardsson Stiwne

Members and administration

On the December 31st 2004 the association had 622 members. In the end of the year (December 31st 2005) the number of members was (846=610 private members, 20 institution members, 203 student members 2 family members, and 11 board members). The number has drastically increased and is far above what it used to be a few years ago.

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 editor in chief has been Biörn Hasselgren and as the editorial board the board of NERA has functioned. The board has met twice during the year, in connection with the congress in March and in August.

The number of subscribers has increased and passes thousand (1.070) subscriptions during 2005 which is an essential increase compared to the number (868) of the previous year. The economy of the year has been positive, meaning no losses. This is due to the stably increasing number of subscribers.

Gorm Hansbøl, has functioned as referee coordinator.

Four issues (414 pages) were published in 2005.

All together 43 manuscripts were sent to the journal for publication (62 previous year, 47 the year before), which is a considerably decrease (31%) compared to the previous year.

During the year Nordisk Pedagogik was evaluated by NOP-HS (Nordic Board for Periodicals in the Humanities and Social Sciences) and received a very positive judgement about the quality. As a result the journal has got financial support from NOP-HS 8 039 EURO per year for three years (2006-2008).

The networks

The major way of organizing congress programs and other activities within the association is by research 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.

The policy document for networks has been renewed and will be presented for the Annual meeting.

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

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	Helene Illeris, Danish University of Education
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 college of Borås
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 vacant coordinator
Sociology of Education	Risto Rinne, University of Turku
Rural Education	Andrew Kristiansson, Högskolen I Tromsø
Health Care Pedagogics	Ewa Pilhammar, University of Gothenburg
Vocational education and training	Peter Koudahl, University of Roskilde
Youth research	vacant coordinator

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

Two networks, Research on Teacher Education (Göran Brante) Kristianstad University College and Classroom Research & Ethnographic studies (Fritiof Sahlström) University of Uppsala have applied for and received funding (30.000NOK) for network activities.

The Congress in Oslo

Year 2005 the congress was organized in Norway by the University of Oslo March 10-12. The theme was *A Nordic Dimension in Education and Research. Myth or reality?* The congress attracted a large number of paying delegates (675). The number of papers reached (480 but 54 withdrawn abstracts) compared to 576 the previous year.

The congress was evaluated excellent and very successful in terms of arrangements and the program, and the key-note speakers represented high international quality.

The membership registration was during the Oslo congress done as part of the congress registration and the invoice has been handled by the congress organizer and

sent to the publisher. The principles the board has formulated (listed on page 4) concerning the registration routines have shown to be appropriate and future congress organizers are recommended to follow them. The new routines explain part of the increase of the number of members in the association.

NERA/NFPF has received 78.950 NOK according to the contract with the congress organizers.

The work of the board according to the plan for 2005

The board and its officers: The board was re-elected and Sven-Erik Hansén re-elected as president of the NERA, Gorm Hansbøl as vice-president, Tarja Palmu as secretary, and Tone Dyrdal Solbrekke as treasurer.

Three board meetings were held: March 9, 12 and August 19-20. March meetings were held in connection with the Oslo congress and the August meeting on the 2006 congress venue Örebro. Between the meetings the board has communicated and made in capsulam decisions through e-mails.

The board has beside described activities paid special attention to following issues:

Increasing the number of members:

In order to keep and even more increase the number of members and to facilitate registration various measures have been discussed with the publisher and the following issues have been taken also 2005:

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 flyer which has been distributed during 2005.

New web-site:

The board has renewed and implemented the web-site during the year. The ambition has been to overcome the earlier technical and communicative problems. The web-site has been concentrated to one place and measures have been taken to facilitate particularly network convenors to master their own network pages and thus the communication within the networks. Janus Moos from Denmark has been engaged to update and administer the homepage.

Ahlström Award:

Pertti Kansanen and Karen Borgnakke have been appointed to the Ahlström Award jury. Yngve Nordkvelle from The University College of Lillehammer received the Ahlström Award 2005 during the Oslo-congress. The decision was based on the suggestion from the jury.

A new jury will be appointed 2006.

Nordisk pedagogik:

A jubilee issue of Nordisk Pedagogik was published as the first issue 2005. Previous editors, specially invited senior researchers – honorary editors, and board members have been asked to suggest articles. The articles partly mirror discussions that have been going on last 25 years, partly exemplify classics/excellent articles which have been considered most meaningful to re-publish.

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. One 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. Another effort to bring clarification is the ongoing development of the paper *Nordic Educational Research Association [NERA] policy on keynotes, symposia, paper sessions, roundtables, poster sessions and workshops*. A third way of improving the relationship is the exhaustive feed back and statistics produced by the local organizing committee of the Oslo congress.

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

Strategy for engaging young researchers as active members of NERA:

A strategy discussion has continued about how to strengthen young researchers' involvement (particularly doctoral students') 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. **The board noticed problems related to the election of a doctoral student, which country the student would represent. No decision has so far been made.** At the moment one of the present members is a doctoral student.

Another issue has focused on arranging special activities for doctoral students. One of the board members Hans Petter Ulleberg has been appointed to develop the contacts to PhD. students and network convenors. An informal getting together event for PhD. Students will be arranged in connection with the Örebro congress. Hans Petter Ulleberg is together with the board member Moira von Wright, who also represents the local organizing committee, hosting the event. The pre-conference activities arranged by two of the networks put also attention to doctoral students.

Establishing a European database on research dissemination in association with EERA:

Leif Moos has been NERA's 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/). EERA is at present also 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.

EERA has asked membership organization for financial contributions and the board has supported EERA with 5000NOK for the establishment of the European database on research dissemination.

Future congresses:

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

The congress 2008 will be held in Denmark and the contract has to be signed in 2006.

Affiliation of NERA to AERA:

A discussion initiated by AERA has started about a possible affiliation of NERA to AERA. The discussions in the board have dealt with what kind of demands and benefits would be. One idea has been to offer networks to arrange one symposium at AERA. The board has decided to bring the issue for consideration to the network convenors during the Örebro congress.

Concluding remarks:

The year 2005 has generally been a stable and successful year. The economy is in very good shape, the congresses have expanded and the interest in publishing in Nordisk Pedagogik has essentially increased. The jubilee year has had its visible expression in the special issue of Nordisk Pedagogik 1/2005 and in the logo on the front page of all 2005 issues "25 år med Nordisk pedagogisk forskning".

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 continues.

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