

## ISSUE 6.1

### **Nordic Educational Research Association (NERA)/ Nordisk förening för pedagogisk forskning (NFPF)**

## **The Board's Report 2011**

### **1. General remarks**

The Board has been working on 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. The Board wants to express its cordial appreciation to the cashier and the auditors for an excellent job for the good of NERA.

The Board as elected at the General Assembly in Malmö:

Denmark:	Ordinary:	Niels Kryger John Krejsler
	Deputy:	Karen Ida Dannesboe
Finland:	Ordinary:	Marjatta Lairio Göran Björk
	Deputy:	Sirpa Lappalainen
Iceland:	Ordinary:	Gyda Johannsdóttir
	Deputy:	Gestur Gudmundsson
Norway:	Ordinary:	Berit Karseth, President Hans Petter Ulleberg
	Deputy:	Harald Thuen
Sweden:	Ordinary:	Robert Thornberg Carl Anders Säfström
	Deputy:	Charlotte Silén

Treasurer: Tone Dyrdal Solbrekke

Auditors:

Ordinary:	Nina Volckmar (Norway) Daniel Petterson (Sweden)
Deputy:	Ulla Lindgren (Sweden)

The election committee

Denmark:	Kasper Kofod Søren Langager
Finland:	Anna Lüttge-Slotte Joel Kivirauma
Iceland:	Johanna Einarsdotir
Norway:	Tove Herborg Steen-Olsen, Convener Mary Brekke
Sweden:	Ylva Odenbring Johan Liljestränd

### **Members and administration**

At the end of 2011 there were 481 members. In 2010, 2009, 2008 the numbers were respectively 555, 623 and 749. The decrease from 2010 to 2011 can be explained by the relative small numbers of participants at the congress in Jyväskylä.

### **The Congress in Jyväskylä**

The annual congress of NERA was hosted by The Faculty of Education, University of Jyväskylä. The theme was *Human rights in the context of education and the educational sciences*.

The congress attracted 348 participants as compared to 553 participants in 2010 and 480 in 2009.

Four pre-conferences were held, organized by Network 4 (classroom research), 8 (gender and education), 16. (The Nordic Society for Philosophy of Education) and 19 (school-home cooperation).

The congress was evaluated as excellent and successful in all terms, and the Board wants to thank the planning committee for their great work. The number of participants was not as high as expected. The travelling and accommodation cost due to the placement of the congress was seen as the main explanation.

### **The work of the Board according to the Board's Plan for 2011**

#### *Meetings.*

Three Board meetings were held: March 9, and March 12 in Jyväskylä and August 18.-19. 2011 in Copenhagen in Helsinki

#### *Recruitments of members*

The Board discussed the situation at its meeting in Jyväskylä as well as in Copenhagen. There was an expectation that the number of members would increase as the congress in 2012 would be held in Copenhagen. The improvement of the webpage has been seen as an important vehicle for recruitment. The Board has tried to closely follow the pattern of renewal and not renewal of member in order to make a strategy for keeping members.

#### *Networks*

In 2011 there were 22 active networks operating within NERA. The Board has earlier decided that all networks should provide a network report as stated in the policy paper. 12 Networks enabled to do so.

See also the report from the Network Coordinator.

### *Web site*

The Board is satisfied by the web side of NERA and there has been few problems reported. The Board would like to thank Shane Colvin and Sverre Tveit for their work.

### *Congress economy*

The Board is concerned with the negative trend in numbers of members and conference participants. The level of activity for 2011 unfortunately reflects this trend.

### *Nordic Studies in Education*

The Editorial Board gives a report of its own. Here we shall only give a great thanks to the Editor in Chief, Biörn Hasselgreen and the Review Coordinator, Klaus Kasper Kofod, for their great work and success in producing a very good journal.

### *International Activities*

The president of NERA was able to participate at the WERA meeting arranged in New Orleans in April without any economic support from NERA. WERA was informed that we would withdraw from WERA when the agreement ends (spring 2012). John Krejsler represented NERA at the two EERA board meetings held in 2011.

There was no NERA symposium at the AERA meeting as there were no applications.

### **Future Congresses**

The Schools of Education, University of Iceland has accepted to arrange the congress of 2013.

### **Concluding remarks**

2011 has been a challenging year for the Board where the negative trend when it comes to membership. The preparation and marketing of the 2011 congress followed the same procedures as for earlier congresses and the Board agree that The Department of Education (DPU), Aarhus University, Copenhagen has done an excellent job in that concern.