



## **NFU General Assembly 2018**

Time: 8th of November 2018, 17:00 – 19:00

Venue: room AU 17, VID, Diakonveien 14 Oslo, Norway

### Item 1. Agenda

#### **1. Constitute meeting and approve agenda**

- Election of General Assembly Chair and two reporters
- Approval of agenda

#### **2. Board changes**

#### **3. NFU Annual Report 2018**

#### **4. Annual plan and budget for 2019**

#### **5. Debate: What is the future of NFU?**

#### **6. Incoming business**

## Item 2. NFU Annual report 2018

Covering the period November 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 – December 31<sup>st</sup> 2018

### 2.1. General

The current year covers the period November 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 – December 31<sup>st</sup> 2018. For practical reasons we have adopted flexible business years for reporting and accounts. The General Assembly (GA) is as a general rule conducted in connection with the Annual Conference. This year it was held at VID Specialized University, Oslo, November 8<sup>th</sup> 2018.

### 2.2. The NFU Board members 2017-2018

The NFU GA 2018 was held in Oslo at VID/NFU seminar 2018 (hosted by VID). Following the elections at this meeting, the composition of the NFU Board has this year been as follows:

#### Board members

Erlend Eidsvik, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, Bergen

Ingunn Bjørkhaug, Fafo, Oslo

Arve Hansen, SUM, UiO

Hanne Haaland, University of Agder, Kristiansand

Rachel Issa Djesa, SESAM, The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø

Teklehaymanot Weldemichel from Department of Geography, NTNU, Trondheim

Darley Kjosavik, Noragric, NMBU, Ås

Randi Solhjell, Norwegian Police University College, Oslo (Chair)

#### Coordinator

Andrea Fritsvold

#### Nomination Committee:

Petter Andersen, UiB

Morten Bøås, FAFO

Trond Vedeld, NIBR

#### EADI Representative

Darley Kjosavik, Noragric,

NMBU

#### Auditor

Hans-Jørgen Oppi-

Christiansen, UiT

Hanne Haaland from University of Agder and Arve Hansen, SUM, have communicated that they wish to resign from the board and Andrea Fritsvold has communicated that she wishes to resign as coordinator. Hanne Haaland has proposed Arnhild Leer-Helgesen from the University of Agder as her replacement. Arve Hansen has proposed Jason Miklian from SUM/PRIO as his replacement. Valerinne P. Hutagalung, master student at SUM, has been proposed as new coordinator.

The board would like to acknowledge the devoted work carried out by the former board members and coordinator who resigned, and thank them duly for their involvement in NFU.

### 2.3. Progress towards Annual Plan for 2018:

#### 2.3.1 NFU Board meetings

Most of the board's discussions and communication have taken place via email and Skype.

The NFU Board has conducted four official board meetings since the last GA (February 1s, May 4<sup>th</sup>, August 20<sup>th</sup>, December 17<sup>th</sup>). An average of six board members have participated in the meetings. Formal minutes have been written from all the formal meetings by the coordinator and chair. All formal meetings this year have been hosted on Skype.

The plan for 2018 was to arrange for 5 meetings. This was not met. In addition, the chair and two board members (Erlend Eidsvik and Darley Kjosavik) were active in discussing and writing the proposal to the Norwegian Research Council for the call for network funding under the NORGLOBAL program. This took extensive time and resources but was unfortunately not selected for financial support by the NFR.

### **2.3.2 Division of labour within the board 2018**

The NFU chair was project leader for writing the NORGLOBAL proposal and teamed with Erlend Eidsvik, who was the lead in budgeting and submitting the proposal through his institutional affiliation, and Darley Kjosavik as EADI and NMBU representative. In addition, all the Nordic research associations on development (FSDR and FAU) along with Swedish institutions (Nordic Africa Institute, Development Studies/Uppsala University and Global Studies/Gothenburg University), were part of the write-up of the application. We aim to recycle part of the application in future calls for network funding.

Despite no funding this year, the NFU conference 2018 was successfully held at VID Specialized University, November 8 in their locations (Diakonveien 14), in connection with the Justice Conference the following day. A highlight was that the Minister of International Development, Nicolai Astrup, attended. NFU wish to acknowledge and thank Hans Morten Haugen for the amount of effort and dedication he has put into this to making this conference happen, also despite funding!

Erlend Eidsvik participated in two Nordic meetings in Uppsala this year representing NFU. The outcome is a commitment to create a Nordic conference 2019 in Copenhagen, Denmark where funding has partly been granted. NFU are in dialogue with NORGLOBAL for further funding. A commitment for a joint Nordic conference in Finland 2021, Sweden 2023 and Norway 2025 are also in the discussion/planning.

Due to low membership base resulting in a low income for the NFU (and the budget going in minus), there was unfortunately not possible to hold the NFU Master Thesis Award 2018, or to fund traveling expenses to board members (only the coordinator) to attend the general assembly.

### **2.3.2 NFU Membership**

NFU had in November 2018 a total of 54 paying members. We continue to have a large email list (through MailChimp: x newsletters sent out in 2018) with 264 members. For the past 15 years, the number of paying members has fluctuated between 85 and 180. Since 2015, the board had a focus on recruitment of members, and visibility i.e. social media. This has continued. The NFU facebook-group has now 1.048 total page followers, and the NFU-twitter-account 97 followers. A newsletter was circulated to all research institutions and universities in order to get members to pay their membership fee.

The main focus on attracting members to NFU has been to host a relevant and high quality conference that provides the main networking arena for Norwegian development researchers, along with subscription to Forum for Development Studies. Invoices have been sent via regular mail in addition to reminders via newsletter and email. During the VID/NFU seminar, the seminar fee for non-members were 600 NOK, while only 300 NOK for NFU-members.

Due to low membership number, NFU decided on the General Assembly to ask their institutions for a symbolic contribution of 8000 NOK to NFU. SUM, University of Agder and Western Norway University of Applied Sciences have all supported NFU with 8000 NOK each. In return, their support will also get recognition on the NFU webpages with a logo and reduced conference fee for affiliated members to the NFU supported conferences.

### **2.3.3. VID/NFU seminar and NFU Permanent Panels**

Four permanent panels were endorsed in the 2016 General Assembly, which last for three years. They are as follows:

- Asian Transformations: Theories, Challenges, Opportunities (Maren Aase, Arve Hansen, Jostein Jakobsen, Kenneth Bo Nielsen, Karina Standal, Harold Wilhite, SUM, UiO)
- Food in a changing world (Mariel Aguilar-Støen and Desmond McNeill: NMBU, Ola Westegen, Noragric, NMBU)
- Power, Resistance, and Development in the Global South (Alf Gunvald Nilsen, UiB; Hanne Haaland, Hege Wallevik, UiA)
- What Works in Development? (Dan Banik, SUM, UIO)

Two panels were present at VID/NFU seminar and arranged highly interesting panels (Asian Transformations and Food in a changing world). The board extends their appreciation of the work of the panels to promote NFU at the conference. The board has sent out a call for new panels for the period 2019-2021 with deadline 20 January 2019. If successful, the new panels will be active in arranging panels on selected topics for the upcoming conferences.

As in previous years, we have offered Forum for Development Studies to paying members, and have strived to keep the members updated through the website and regular email announcements. The Master's thesis award was not offered this year due to lack of funding. This is unfortunate and we wish to offer an award or similar recognition of outstanding young scholar contribution to the development field from Norway.

### **2.3.4 Strengthen and consolidate Nordic and international networking**

There is broad consensus that the Nordic conferences should be continued every second year. The last Nordic conference was successfully held in 2015 and hosted by School of Global Studies at the University of Gothenburg, from November 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>. Provided that sufficient support (financially and academically) can be secured, conferences will be organised in Denmark 2019, Finland 2021, Sweden 2023 and Norway 2025. The suggested overall thematic framework for the 1st conference in the 2nd cycle to take place in Copenhagen by the end of June (27-28 June, week 26) 2019 is 'Knowledge Production in North-South Collaboration: Challenges in an era of a new global divide.' The conference will include a combination of panels, round tables, plenary panels and a couple of keynote presentations. Danish Danida has agreed on funding part of the conference and the Norwegian, Swedish and

Finnish partners are approaching their national agencies, e.g. SIDA, the Norwegian Research Council, in order to secure more funding.

### **2.3.5 Communication and the visibility of the NFU and Development**

#### **Research**

NFU used its website, Facebook, Twitter and email newsletters for updates. The information work has been carried out by our previous and current coordinator. Our newsletters include updates on relevant institutions in Norway and Nordic countries concerning conferences, seminars, vacancies, NFU events, EADI events. 6 newsletters were sent out this year, on average 37,4% of the 264 subscribers opened the newsletters.

Regardless of the notice in NFU newsletters where members are encouraged to submit events, activities and vacancies to the coordinator, very few members do this. The content of the newsletters reflects mostly what the coordinator finds on websites, facebook (following the institutions), network newsletters as well as input from board members.

During the VID/NFU seminar, NFU was visible with opening remarks, workshops and social media. Arve Hansen was the lead NFU representative and held opening remark on behalf of NFU. NFU board members organised panel sessions during the conference. The coordinator was present during the conference and was also highly active disseminating news from the conference on diverse social media platforms.

### **2.3.6 Consolidate the functioning of the NFU Board**

The past seven years the Board has had a coordinator to assist with administrative tasks, such as updating the accounts, sending out payment reminders, writing minutes from board meetings, and composing and disseminating newsletters. This arrangement has worked well. Andrea Fritsvold at SUM, UiO, has been our coordinator for the past four years. Andrea has worked to establish an improved structure for the coordinator's work, in order to facilitate for the change of coordinator, she has been the contact point for the chair, the board members, the academic journal Forum for development, Routledge (Taylor and Francis), and members' inquiries. She has also paid bills, and continuously updated the membership list/sent out invoices to new members signing up, throughout the year. This work will be upheld by our new coordinator.

NFU has had a large board for the past few years. The size of the board means that the association interacts with many different environments – and always has a critical number of people participating in board meetings. As is also stated in our statutes, it is pertinent that we continue with a combination of people representing the different research environments and institutions in Norway, and as a part of this, the board is positive for a representative from the academic journal Forum for Development Studies to attend the board meetings.

### **2.3.7 Accounts 2018**

Membership income remains low. However, the institutional support by three institutes at the end of 2018 has enabled NFU to secure some critical funding for the next months.

	<b>Budget 2018</b>	<b>Account 2018</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Membership fees	54000	24500
Interest	50	8
Other (external and institutional funding)*	20000	16000
<i>Total income</i>	<u>74050</u>	<u>40508</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Board meetings**	5300	2500
Forum for Development Studies	24000	9665
NFU Web-site	400	400
EADI/Nordic cooperation	2500	2434
MA thesis award***	5000	0
Honorarium auditor	700	700
Coordinator****	29000	14504
DNB expenses	1500	540
Other/miscellaneous	0	0
<i>Total expenses</i>	<u>69000</u>	<u>30743</u>
<b>Result</b>	<u>+5050</u>	<u>9765</u>

\*Two of three institutions had paid 8000 NOK in 2018, SUM paid their membership in 2019.

\*\*Flight ticket for the NFU coordinator

\*\*\*Not awarded in 2018 due to lack of funding

\*\*\*\*As of mid-2018, unpaid position but account reflects the stipend until August 2018 and expenditures in NFU activities.

**Balance as of 31 December 2018**

### **3.1. NFU Board meetings**

The Board plans for four meetings in 2019. NFU will attempt to have at least one face-to-face meeting (General Assembly).

### **3.2. NFU Membership**

The economic situation of the association requires an active recruitment for 2019 to avoid more deficits. Clearer work responsibilities within the board, and a well-functioning and active information group could be key in this work. For compensating the deficit in the budget, the board will continue applying for external funding and institutional support.

The cuts in funding to development research and to development organisations recent years have led to an increased focus on the field of development in general. Given the situation, the public visibility of the NFU is pertinent and the board needs to continue to voice the interests of development research. In addition, regular email announcements, an updated and relevant website, relevant events, and the offer of Forum for Development Studies will be key.

Active recruitment is not the only explanation as to why NFU has decreasing membership base. There are also some system faults; therefore a well functioning system should be made as well.

### **3.3. Increase the benefits to, and number and activity level of NFU members**

NFU will continue to offer Forum for Development Studies to its members. Forum will be contacted for the possibility of adding the NFU invoice inside every journal, or the third issue each year.

The NFU will continue to maintain an updated website, offer regular email announcements, and take part in relevant events. A main task for the Board will be to try to secure funds for upcoming conferences, and to increase the membership base. The decision to go for a 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle of Nordic Conference collaboration (Denmark 2019, Finland 2021, Sweden 2023 and Norway 2025) will of course depend on funding, which is coordinated jointly with the Nordic partners. Members of the Board and FORUM will meet with Norglobal in December 2018 and continue discussions with MFA and NORAD on prioritizing these types of events.

During the conferences, it is crucial that the attendees can sign up to become a member of NFU (or get a reduced price as a member). It is also possible that all attendees automatically becomes a member of NFU and hopefully continue as member following years.

### **3.4. Procedures and strategy for strengthening role of NFU in relevant public hearings**

The NFU will continue to provide input to hearing documents and will aim to be better at drawing on the broader membership in providing this input. In addition, it is necessary to be active in national forums and networks, such as SAIH and the National Council for Development Studies.

### **3.5. Strengthen and consolidate Nordic and international networking**

We will continue our communication with the Nordic development associations and also with EADI. One board member should also be the EADI representative. Darley Kjosavik (NMBU/Noragric) has been the EADI-representative the last four years. Kjosavik informed the board about the EADI Directors meeting in Vienna (2018). Development studies are in general facing a crisis in Europe. As an example, the development association of Austria had received funding for 37 years, but no longer from 2018. A statement of solidarity with the Austrian Commission for Development Research (KEF) was spread widely among the European associations. Darley Kjosavik signed on behalf of NFU. For 2019, NFU can consider a similar call for support to the Norwegian Government (e.g. MFA, Norad) through EADI representatives.

In addition, we will apply for the upcoming conference support through NORGLOBAL (NFR), with deadline 13 February 2019, asking for approximately 200.000 NOK to the Nordic conference held in Copenhagen. In addition, we will apply for the network support also through NORGLOBAL in spring 2019, in order to secure funding for Nordic and international networking.

### **3.6. Consolidate the functioning of the NFU Board**

Maintaining a coordinator function is intended to help the Board continue to strive towards a more efficient handling of membership, our relationship to Routledge/Forum and external communication. With the assistance of a coordinator, NFU must aim to continue to provide an updated website and regular newsletters. A clearer division of work within the board will also ensure a well-functioning association. The board should continue to clarify roles and responsibilities.

### **3.7. National council for development studies**

Poul Wisborg from the Academic Council for Development Studies (Fagorgan for utviklingsstudier) gave an orientation on the General Assembly. The council is set up in connection with the Regulations for Universities Norway (UHR), which is an interest organization for accredited institutions. There are several strategic bodies, and one therefore also for development studies. Noragric is heading this council, and it is a possible place for more public events to be organized for 2019 and beyond.

### **3.8. Forum for Development Studies**

NFU will be in closer dialogue with the editors of Forum for Development Studies in order to collaborate on funding opportunities. As the economic situation is right now, it was decided on the General Assembly meeting that our membership base cannot all automatically receive the Forum for Development Studies (through Routledge) from 2019. NFU wishes to offer all members a subscription, but only those who are interested in it. Furthermore, whenever there is a new issue, there should be included links in our newsletter and website and facebook, and NFU could spend more time on promoting Forum for Development studies so that their articles are available and read.

### **3.9. Budget**



	<b>Account 2018</b>	<b>Budget 2019</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Membership fees	24500	25000
Interest	8	10
Other (external and institutional funding)	16000	50000
<i>Total income</i>	40508	75010
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Board meetings	2500	1000
Forum for Development Studies*	9665	3000
NFU Web-site	400	400
EADI/Nordic cooperation	2434	2434
MA thesis award	0	0
Honorarium auditor	700	700
Coordinator**	14504	3000
DNB expenses	540	540
Other/miscellaneous	0	0
<i>Total expenses</i>	30743	11074
<b>Result</b>	+9765	+63936

\* This year, NFU has decided discontinue with the Forum membership due to the financial situation. However, there will be a possibility to ask for Forum subscription as members of NFU.

\*\*A small compensation for the coordinator role, with the aim of more regular stipend arrangement.

#### 4. Board changes

Elected board of 2019 is

- Randi Solhjell (Chair, extended), Research Department at the Norwegian Police University College, Oslo
- Erlend Eidsvik, Dept. of Social Sciences, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, Bergen (extended)
- Ingunn Bjørkhaug, Fafo, Oslo (extended)
- Darley Kjosavik, Noragric, NMBU, Oslo (EADi representative, extended)
- Rachel I. Djesa, Senter for samiske studier (SESAM), UiT – The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø (extended)
- Teklehaymanot Weldemichel, Department of Geography NTNU, Trondheim (extended)
- Arnhild Leer-Helgesen, Institute for Global Development and Planning, Agder University, Kristiansand (new in the board this year)
- Jason Miklian, Centre for Development and the Environment (SUM) (new in the board this year)

In addition, the NFU coordinator for the past years, Andrea Fritsvold, is leaving office. Thus, NFU gets a new student coordinator for 2019. It was sent out a call for a new student coordinator at SUM, and the NFU board 2018 reviewed all (4) applications. After careful consideration, Valerinne Prayastra Hutagalung is suggested as the new coordinator. At the general assembly, Valerinne Prayastra Hutagalung was approved as the new coordinator of NFU.

Finally, Jason Miklian has suggested Kaja Borchgrevink at PRIO as board member. She will be formally invited to the next board member in 2019 to vote for her membership. PRIO is a leading institute, also with a number of excellent development scholars and the Board would like to express great interest for having Kaja Borchgrevink on the team.

#### 5. Incoming business

There were no incoming business.