 **NFU General Assembly 2022**

The meeting took place on Zoom, in May 15t at 15:00.

Attendees: Julia Baldanza, Arnhild Leer-Helgesen, Tafesse, Randi Solhjell, Susanne Von Itter, Darley Kjosavik, Ingunn Bjørkhaug, Frida Bjørneseth, Tatek Abebe, Jason Miklian,

 **1. Constitute meeting and approve agenda**

Arnhild Leer-Helgesen was elected to chair the General Assembly and Julia Baldanza as a reporter.

The agenda was approved, with two changes:

1. The greeting and discussion with Susanne von Itter from EADI as point 2 on the agenda.

2. NFU position on school fees under point 7. Incoming business.

**2. EADI participation, General Secretary Susanne von Itter:**

* Susanne von Itter was introduced as the secretary general from EADI to talk about it and the benefits of being a part of a larger network.
* EADI will celebrate 50 years in two years and it’s a well-established association.
* In 2017 EADI and NFU had a conference together in Bergen, which Susanne recognized as a success and an example of the valuable cooperation
* Susanne also mentioned several options for collaboration between NFU and EADI.
* EADI values NFU as a key member of EADI and the participation in the Executive Committee and Network-to-Network meetings
* She also talked about the decline in public funding for conferences and in order to manage that EADI has changed the financial system of their conference and tried to keep the fee low in comparison with other conference. They request that the host institution participate in the funding as well.

Since Darley participates in EADI, she spoke about what she does.

* She has participated in a committee every and in the general conference every third year and that it has been an opportunity to take the Norwegian community environment to EADI and create links with it.
* She also keeps EADI informed about events happening in Norway and they post it on the EADI website.

NFU will continue as a member of EADI, be an active part in the network and search for opportunities for further collaboration.

**3. NFU Annual Report 2021-22**

The report has been uploaded to the website.

Julia talked a bit about what she has been doing in social media, creating posts on fb and twitter. Promoting positions and events that are sent to her or that are from Norwegian institutions that are relevant for development.

NFU will put the bi-annual event on hold and will focus on co-organizing events. This fall there is a chance for a co-organized seminar with SUM.

The master thesis award for 2019-2020 was awarded in 2021. This should be re-instated if funding allows for it can be a great way to spread word about NFU.

NFU has closed the DNB account and transferred the remaining funds (below 10 000 NOK) to a NFU project account at UiA, after approval of the NFU board. This lead to less costs and administration at the current stage.

At the moment the NFU coordinator is renumerated through providesfunding from UiA.

**4. Board changes**

There were two new candidates for board members, Tatek Abebe and Benedicte Kivle and both were approved unanimously.

Tatek Abebe is a Professor at NTNU. His main field is in Development Studies, with a PhD in Geography, and his research has been focused on children and young people. His research is focused on development and generational impacts.

Benedicte Kivle is an associate professor from VID. She is the program coordinator for the Master in Community Development and Social Innovationand the leader of the research cluster “Diaconal community development”.

**5. Annual plan and budget for 2023**

- Fagråd for Utviklingsstudier is willing to cooperate with NFU and co-organize events.

- According to a previous agreement with other Nordic institutions, Norway is the next host for the Nordic Conference in 2025.

**6. Debate: Future seminars and conferences**

**NorDev 2023:**

* NFU managed to get time in the Conference schedule to have an informal meeting and talk about the association.
* The dates of the conference mean that Norwegian attendance is low. Despite this, the numbers of attendees for the Conference are good, but mainly from Sweden.

**Other conferences and seminars:**

- The goal for the next years is to find funding to enable NFU to host or co-host the Nordic Conference of 2025. NFU must search for sources of funding. Board members were encouraged to talk to their institutions and check if any are willing to host the Conference.

- NFU board members and others are encouraged to keep NFU in mind when their institutions are having activities related to development to attempt to find opportunities for NFU participation.

- During the fall NFU will co-organize an activity with SUM and Fagråd for Utviklingsstudier, related to a forthcoming book on development with contributions from several researchers from Norway.

**7. Incoming business**

- It was agreed that NFU would make a statement positioning the organization against the introduction if school fees for international students from outside EU/EØA and Switzerland.

**8. Closing statements**

- It is hoped that UiA will provide funding until the end of 2023 for a student coordinator, but a more long-term solution needs to be found.

- The issue of re-instating membership fees for NFU was raised and it was decided to be discussed further at the next Board meeting (planned to be held September-October of 2023).