# image1.png NFU Annual Plan 2024

## NFU Board meetings

The Board plans to hold two digital board meetings in addition to the Annual meeting in 2024.

The first meeting was held February 13 2024 and the next will be in November/December.

## NFU Membership

At the moment NFU has no updated list of individual members and individual membership is free. A renewal of an active list of individual members requires an active recruitment, administration, and work with attracting attention and showing the relevance and benefits of connecting with NFU. At the moment this is beyond NFU’s capacity. The board will continue to search for external funding opportunities and institutional support as way to increase NFU activities and visibility. Individual membership is still free in 2024.

The cuts in funding to development research and education has worsened the recent years, with for example cuts of Norglobal funds and implementation of school fees for non-European students. Given the situation, the public visibility of NFU is pertinent and the board will continue to voice the interests of development research and studies.

## New NFU Coordinator

Julia Baldanza ended her contract in December 2023 when she finished her MA at UiA. The process of recruiting a new Coordinator took longer than expected due lack of time. NFU announced a call to first year students at the Master in Global Development, Crisis and Change for an NFU Coordinator in February. Five students applied, out of which two were seen as most qualified and called for a short interview. Based on this, Eglatina Berdellina was selected and offered the position early May. Due to travels and study obligations, she will start officially in June.

The NFU Coordinator position is funded with 60 hours from internal UiA funds. This is not a long-lasting arrangement but can cover some basic economic support for the coordinator in 2024.

## NorDev 2025

## Two institutions reponded to the call from NFU and presented their interest in hosting NorDev 2025, NMBU and UiA. UiA withdrew their applications due to internal reasons, and NFU were very pleased with the quality of the proposal and the commitment from NMBU. The decision was made in February and NMBU started the work immediately. The dialogue with NFU, for now represented by Arnhild, is established, and a first meeting with the Nordic partners was held in April and with EADI in May. Jennifer West, leading the work with NorDev 2025, will take part in the Annual meeting and discuss the plans and requests for support from NFU.

In 2024, planning NorDev 2025 together with NMBU will be a priority. In the Annual meeting roles and responsibility will be further clarified.

## Co-organized events

The NFU biannual conference is put on hold and replaced by co-organized seminars/events with partnering institutions. NFU’s intention has been to co-organize events with other actors twice a year. In 2024, Fagråd for Utviklingsstudier (represented by Haldis Haukanes and Hilde Refstie) and NFU organized a session on the SDG Conference Bergen 2024, titled “Confronting Eurocentrism in Sustainability Debates: A Critical Development Studies Approach”. Board member Tatek Abebe was among the panelists but was not able to participate. Arnhild held a brief introduction on behalf of NFU. More information here:

[Day Zero 2024 programme | SDG Conference in Bergen | UiB](https://www.uib.no/en/sdgconference/167110/day-zero-2024-programme#confronting-eurocentrism-in-sustainability-debates-a-critical-development-studies-approach)

During Arendalsuka NFU will co-organize an event together with UiA 12 August, on the consequences of cuts in academic cooperation with countries outside of Europe. The event will be in Norwegian: “Hvilken verden av muligheter?» More details will come.

## Communication

Due to the lack of an NFU Coordinator from January to May, there have been few activities on social media and no up-dates on the webpage so far in 2024. Hopefully there will be a re-start of the communication channels in June, with Eglatina in place. The aim is to have at least monthly up-dates on the webpage and regular activities on social media. All board members and others are encouraged to share information for publication with Eglatina.

## Strengthening role of NFU

NFU will continue to seek alliances and cooperation with institutions that have common interests, such as for example SAIH, the National Council for Development Studies and the different institutions working with development research and education. NFU will also advocate for increased focus and funding for knowledge production and research that involve researchers from the Global south.

## Strengthen and consolidate Nordic and international networking

NFU will continue our communication with the Nordic development associations and EADI.

One NFU board member should also be the EADI representative. Darley Kjosavik (NMBU/Noragric) is currently the EADI-representative. Kjosavik participates in the EADI Executive Committee meeting and EADI Director’s meeting and seminar. Arnhild Leer-Helgesen continues to represent NFU in the Network-to-Network meetings, initiated by the EADI secretariat.

## Consolidate the functioning of the NFU Board

With the assistant of the coordinator, NFU aim to continue to provide an updated website and possibly start regular newsletters. Funding has been and continue to be key to uphold a good function of a coordinator. In 2024 this funding is provided through internal UiA funds. However, the board must strive to find long-term solutions to this. A clearer division of work within the board will also ensure a well-functioning association. The board will continue to clarify roles and responsibilities.

## Forum for Development Studies

NFU board member Randi Solhjell, together with Søren Jeppesen (Danish FAU), have been guest editors for a special issue in Forum for Development Studies, based on the NorDev Conference 2023. Three articles have already been published (online first) and the remaining articles will be published in fall 2024 together with an introduction by Solhjell and Jeppesen. NFU will promote Forum for Development studies so that their articles are available and read.

## Budget 2024

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|  | **Budget 2024** |
| **Income** |  |
| Membership fees | 0 |
| Interest |  |
| Other (external and institutional funding) |  |
| Funds pr.31.1.23 | 6967 |
| Total income/available funds | 6967 |
|  |  |
| **Expenditure** |  |
| NFU coordinator\* |  |
| NFU Web-site | 3500 |
| EADI/Nordic cooperation | 0 |
| MA thesis award\*\* | 0 |
| Bank charges | 0 |
| Other/miscellaneous  | 0 |
| **Total expenses** | 3500 |
| **Result** | 3467 |