# NFU Annual Report 2023

### NFU Board meetings and responsibilities

Elected board of 2023 was as follows:

* Randi Solhjell, University of Oslo (Co-chair, extended)

● Ingunn Bjørkhaug, Fafo, Oslo (extended)

● Darley Kjosavik, Noragric, NMBU, Oslo (EADI representative, extended)

● Arnhild Leer-Helgesen, Institute for Global Development and Planning, Agder

University, Kristiansand (Chair, extended)

● Jason Miklian, Centre for Development and the Environment (SUM) (Co-chair, extended)

● Frida Bjørnseth, OsloMet, (extended)

● Tatek Abebe, NTNU (new 2023)

● Benedicte Kivle, VID (new 2023)

**NFU Coordinator**Julia Baldanza de Mattos

**EADI Representative**Darley Kjosavik, Noragric, NMBU

The NFU Annual meeting 2021/22 was held 15 May 2023, on zoom.

The NFU board had one additional meeting, in Oslo, 28 September 2023.

### 2. NFU Coordinator

Through University of Agder’s student recruitment, NFU selected an NFU coordinator, Julia Baldanza de Mattos acting until December 2023. Her main tasks as an NFU Coordinator have been:

* Content Creation: Develop and write engaging post and articles relevant to NFU.
* Social Media Management: Regularly update and monitor social media accounts on platforms like Facebook and Twitter to maintain a consistent online presence.
* Event Promotion: Promote NFU, NFU members and partners events and activities through various social media channels to maximize attendance and participation.
* Collaborations: Seek collaboration opportunities with other development associations or organizations to expand reach.
* Analytics and Reporting: Monitor social media analytics to assess performance and track engagement.
* Website Management: Maintain and update the WordPress website with relevant content, ensuring it serves as an informative and user-friendly platform. Collaborate with UIA IT support and Webhuset to ensure website features are updated and working well.
* Board Support: Provide support to NFU board and cooperate with them to find ways to promote NFU. Keep minutes of board meetings.

### 3. Network activities

Arnhild took part in three Network-to-Network meeting, organized by the EADI secretariat, to increase collaboration between networks in different countries. Arnhild has also participated as a member of the organizing committee for the 7th Nordic Development Research Conference, organized in Uppsala, Sweden, 21-23 August 2023.

Darley Kjosavik has been NFU’s representative in EADI’s Executive Committee. Both she and Arnhild attended the EADI Conference in Lisbon in 2023, also representing NFU in network meetings.

### 4. NFU in the media

Both Julia Baldanza and Arnhild Leer-Helgesen (as the chair of NFU) were active in media debates on the implementation of school fees for students from outside of Europe/EØS and cuts in funds for development research and academic cooperation outside Europe.

Panorama Nyheter:

[Norpart-utlysning trukket tilbake: – Høyere utdanning og forskning i Norge er blitt eurosentrisk (panoramanyheter.no)](https://www.panoramanyheter.no/internasjonalt-samarbeid-jobb-og-studier-studenter/regjeringen-stanser-globale-forskningsprogrammer/340988)

[Kraftig nedgang i antallet internasjonale studenter etter studieavgift (panoramanyheter.no)](https://www.panoramanyheter.no/jobb-og-studier-norge-studieavgift/kraftig-nedgang-i-antallet-internasjonale-studenter/340332)

[Regjeringen innfører ny stipendordning: – 200 studenter er et veldig lite plaster på et stort sår (panoramanyheter.no)](https://www.panoramanyheter.no/jobb-og-studier-studenter-studieavgift/innforer-ny-stipendordning-200-studenter-er-et-veldig-lite-plaster-pa-et-stort-sar/344771)

University World News:

[Fears for global academic cooperation as call shelved (universityworldnews.com)](https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20230719155035411)

### Co-organized seminars

SUM invited NFU to co-organize a book launch and debate on 28 September 2023 in Oslo, titled "Må vi gi opp utvikling?». The panel consisted of the book editors Benedicte Bull and Mariel Støren, Håvard Mokleiv Nygård (leder for kunnskapsavdelingen, Norad), Kjersti Jahnsen Mowe (leder for programavdelingen, SAIH) and Arnhild representing NFU. The moderator was Nikolai Hegertun (Seniorrådgiver, Kunnskapsavdelingen, Norad). More information on the event can be found here:

[Må vi gi opp utvikling? Boklansering og debatt - Senter for utvikling og miljø (uio.no)](https://www.sum.uio.no/forskning/aktuelt/arrangementer/andre/2023/boklansering-handbook-of-international-development.html)

1. NorDev 2023 in Uppsala

NFU has participating in organizing the Joint Nordic Development Research Conferences (NorDev) since 2011. The 7th NorDev Conference was held in Uppsala 21-23 August in 2023. Arnhild acted as the NFU representative in the committee, which included several digital meetings before the conference and leading a panel and holding the closing remarks at the conference.

During the conference NFU announced an informal NFU meeting for Norwegian participants. The meeting was not well announced, but four participants met informally.

1. NorDev 2025

The eight NorDev Conference is to be held in Norway, and NFU posted a call for institutions interested in hosting the conference with the deadline 31 January 2024. In February the NFU board decided that NMBU will host the 8th NorDev Conference.

In previous years, NFU have regularly got funding from Norglobal (through applications from partner institutions) for national and Nordic conferences on development research. From 1.1.2022 such funds from Norglobal are no longer available. Arnhild has been in contact with both NFR, MFA and Norad regarding support for NorDev 2025, without results.

8. Accounts 2023

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Account 2022** | **Account 2023** |
| **Income** |  |  |
| Membership fees | 0 | 0 |
| Interest |  |  |
| Other (external and institutional funding) |  |  |
| Total income/available funds | 12585 | 9900 |
|  |  |  |
| **Expenditure** |  |  |
| NFU coordinator\* | 0 | 0 |
| NFU Web-site | 2685 | 2933 |
| EADI/Nordic cooperation | 0 | 0 |
| MA thesis award | 0 | 0 |
| DNB expenses\*\* | 0 | 0 |
| Other/miscellaneous | 0 | 0 |
| Total expenses | 2685 | 2933 |
| **Balance 31.12** | 9900 | 6967 |

\*The coordinator was funded through internal UiA funds (Student in research project)

\*\*The bank account was closed in 2021 and the remaining funds transferred to an NFU project account at UiA early 2023, approved by the NFU board. This was done to reduce the cost of having an account and to ease the administration of small funds. When/if NFU starts to increase their income, another arrangement has to be found.