



European Educational Research Association

Annual General Assembly

20th September 2007, 17.15 h– 18:45 h

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Ingrid Gogolin, President of EERA, opened the meeting and presented the current EERA Council. She welcomed the new member association Italy.

2. Further items for the agenda

No further items were nominated.

3. President's short report

3.1 ECER 2007

The President's short report started with a review of the well organized preparation process of ECER 2007. ECER 2007 proved to be a success with:

More than 1000 delegates in Main Conference
More than 80 delegates in Pre Conference
25 posters, 10 workshops, 30 symposia, 880 papers

EERA thanked the Local Organizers.

3.2 Best paper award 2006

Winner of the Best Paper Award 2006 was Amanda Cook Jones

3.3 New network initiatives

Ingrid Gogolin informed on a new initiative, started by Edwin Keiner, to found a new Comparative Research Network.

3.4 New member candidate

The Association Belge des Chercheurs en Education has applied for membership.

4. Secretary General's Report

Lisbeth Lundahl, Secretary General, reported on the transition process of EERA. In 2006 a tender for hosting the EERA office had been issued as the contract with Glasgow ran out.

The background was that EERA wanted to be more active in between ECERs. Therefore new office tasks would arise. Lisbeth Lundahl pointed out, that while ECERs would still remain most important to EERA the association also wants to develop and pursue new projects like e.g. summer schools, closer network contacts, more cooperation with other international research organisation, etc.

Two associations had answered the tender - DGfE (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Erziehungswissenschaft) and SERA (Scottish Educational Research Association). It was decided to prolong the contract with Strathclyde for one year while preparing the office in Berlin.

EERA expressed special thank to Juliet Buckner, who took over responsibilities for the Glasgow office in April during a very busy time and who will leave EERA by the end of the year.

Angelika Wegscheider, the manager of the Berlin office was introduced to the General Assembly.

5. Treasurer's Report

Wim Jochems presented the audited results for 2006, audited figures and unrestricted funds since 2003 and the estimated balance for 2007.

He pointed out that for a long term stable situation, EERA should aim at an annual balance of about 200.000 Euro. He also explained that due to the special situation in 2007 (prepare transition to Berlin, additional costs through World-EERA meeting, etc.) there would be a negative balance in 2007, which could be outbalanced by EERA's savings.

Although he stressed that it was essential to reduce some costs, like banking costs, he also pointed out that the financial situation allows EERA to fund new initiatives of well functioning networks. Convenors will be informed on this. The treasurers also reported that the Postgraduate Network would receive some funding after handing in a development plan.

Concerning membership fees and conference fees it was agreed that there should no increase for 2008.

Result 2006 (audited/unrestricted)

Income	in €	in £
EERA memberships	8.500	5,900
ECER 2006 fees	376.000	259,000
Interest	3.000	2,000
total income	387.500	266,900
Expenditures		

Geneva costs	133.000	92,000
Office Glasgow	103.000	71,000
Council	7.000	5,000
earmarked posts	14.000	9,500
EERJ subsidy	18.000	12,200
Banking costs	14.500	9,800
total expenditure	289.500	199,500
Result 2006	98.000	67,400

Audited figures and unrestricted funds

	in €	in £
Result 2003	- 46.493	- 32,064
Result 2004	+ 38.155	+ 26,314
Result 2005	+ 58.625	+ 40,431
balance end 2005	+ 150.926	+ 104,086
Result 2006	+ 98.000	+ 67,377
balance end 2006	+ 248.926	+ 171,463

Estimated result 2007

Income	in €	in £
EERA memberships	8.700	5,800
ECER 2007 fees	270.000	181,000
Interest	4.000	2,600
Expenditure		
Ghent costs	118.000	80,000
Office Glasgow	105.000	71,000
Council	6.000	4,000
earmarked posts	18.000	12,000
EERJ subsidy	18.000	12,000
EERQI / WERA	15.000	10,000
Office Berlin	35.000	23,800
Estimated result 2007	- 33.000	-22,000

At the end of his report the treasurer asked the AGA to approve of his figures.
They were unanimously approved of.

6. EERJ-Report

Martin Lawn reported on a very successful year for EERJ with more than estimated 70.000 downloads. He pointed out that EERJ was ranked as A-Journal on the ERIH ranking list, which is a great success.

The EERJ board however rejects every second paper. The most frequent problem is a lack of European dimension.

He also informed the AGA that EERJ will change its URL from www.wwwwords.co.uk/EERJ to www.wwwwords.eu/EERJ , although the old address will be kept as well.

7. Network Convener's Report

Ian Grosvenor pointed out that new idea of Joint Session seemed to be successful, as ECER 2007 offered 7 Joint Sessions bringing together different networks and using varying presentation formats.

The Open Network had been closed during submission process. 20 proposals which had come in for Open Network could easily be redirected to other networks which proved that it had been right to close the Open Network, as it was not really necessary.

At the first Convenors Meeting at ECER 2007 a new Conference Software had been presented and welcomed by the Convenors. It will help to speed up the process and is quite open to adaptations. The discussion which followed the presentation also showed how differently networks work.

Ian Grosvenor pointed out that the Pre-Conference had been very successful and expressed his thanks to Joana Duarte and Paul Standish. He also pointed out that there was need for more support for the Postgraduate Network.

Ian Grosvenor ended his report by informing the AGA that his term will end at next ECER and that the convenors have already nominated the next Network Convener: Marit Honeröd Hoveid, currently Link-Convener of Network 10

8. Discussion of reports

Martin Lawn questioned whether it would not be better to skip the idea of a Pre-Conference and integrate postgraduates into the main conference instead of offering separated events.

Ian Grosvenor reported that this had been discussed with Joana Duarte (Convener of Postgraduate Network) and Paul Standish (Senior Mentor). He explained that integrating postgraduates into the Main-Conference would mean to give up a special strength of the Pre-Conference: fostering the relationships between postgraduates.

9. EERA Constitution

Ingrid Gogolin informed on legal aspects of the transition process to Germany and presented the new EERA constitution, which had been circulated before. It had been necessary to adapt and reword the existing constitution to German law. The new organizational status of EERA is called "Verein". The Verein was founded early enough to have the legal procedures finished by January 2008. Wim Jochems pointed out that, although the German law would not ask for annual audits, the new constitution still requires them.

The new constitution was unanimously adopted.

Furthermore it was necessary to find agreement on how to transfer money that belongs to EERA as a Scottish charity to EERA as a German Verein.

Therefore the AGA was asked to agree on following procedures:

The General Assembly unanimously agrees to donate (according to Section III para. 17 of the constitution) all the property of the Association remaining after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities to the German Association by the name European Educational Research Association based in Berlin, Germany. The donation shall be carried out after the ECER 2007 in Gent without undue delay.

Further, the General Assembly unanimously agrees to wind-up the Association with effect from December 31st, 2007 requiring the consent of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). For the case, that consent cannot be obtained until that date, it is agreed that the wind-up shall take place within the year 2008."

These suggestions were unanimously adopted.

11. International Educational Research Association - World ERA

At the AERA conference in Chicago (April 2007) a general agreement had been accepted: Participating organisations should further explore the possibilities of establishing a world association for educational research. Six task groups had been founded in Chicago in order to work till a second meeting in September 2007 in London. EERA and BERA had hosted this meeting commonly.

Although there had been tensions with AERA while preparing the meeting, it turned out to be quite fruitful in the end. On one hand it had shown differences in interests, on the other hand the diversity of language, culture and research traditions was recognised as important issue.

A second statement was agreed on. It indicates that some formal structure should be considered to be developed.

Martin Lawn asked for awareness of CO2 footprints and suggested virtual meetings.

12. EERA Mid Term Programme

12.1 EERQI Proposal (European Educational Research Quality Indicators)

In cooperation with a European consortium of 18 participants (EERA, BERA, EARLI, XEROX Research Labs France, Computing Centers, 5 Publishers, Educational Researchers, Librarians & Information Specialists) EERA has delivered a proposal for the 7 framework programme

EERQI deliverables are:

- * A set of quality indicators which
 - include qualitative criteria
 - include journal articles, books, book chapters, online publications & more
 - consider European multilingualism (inclusion of English, French, German, Swedish, with electronic texts in other languages being analysed as well...)
- * A specially developed search and query engine
- * Aggregated content base of research publications
- * Automated evaluation procedures, multilingual semantic analysis
- * Guidelines for transfer to other social science fields & a sustainability plan
- * Final Conference to demonstrate project results

The consortium had been invited for negotiations, which is a great success.

12.2 Strengthen position of new researchers

Ingrid Gogolin reported on how EERA aims at strengthening the position of new researchers by developing new ideas for a summer school and by providing more support to the PGN and the Pre-Conference.

In August 2007, the third DGfE & EERA Summer School for new researchers was held in Ludwigsfelde near Berlin. As in previous years places were booked out within days. This proves the tremendous need for summer schools in research methods. Council agreed to develop this idea further. Currently a task group is developing ideas who summer school could get more international than it is at the moment and whether it is possible to offer an EERA summer school that might change venues comparable to the ECER.

Ingrid Gogolin pointed also out that the Postgraduate Network (PGN) needed more support in organising the Pre-Conference, the Best Paper Award etc. She reported on a meeting with the Link-Convenor (Joana Duarte) and Senior Mentor (Paul Standish) where it is was agreed that Post-docs are welcome to the PGN as well and that they should also be encouraged to act as convenors. Ingrid Gogolin asked the AGA to actively invite Post-docs becoming members of the Postgraduate Network.

Although there was agreement that the PGN should in general adhere to the rules for Networks within EERA it was also common sense that the PGN as the only status based network, might need to slightly deviate form basic principles.

13. Future ECERs

13.1 ECER 2008 2008 Göteborg

Björn Hasselgren from the Local Organizing Committee presented pictures of Göteborg and its university. The general theme for 2008 conference will be "From Teaching to Learning?"

Dates: Pre-Conference 8-9 September 2008, Main Conference 10 -12 September 2008.

13.2 ECER 2009 ff

No decisions had been taken so far, but there are two promising possible venues.

14 Miscellaneous

ECER 2007 did not offer a searchable abstract-database on Educationline; the EERA Office was asked to arrange this retrospectively.

Minutes:
Angelika Wegscheider