



Minutes of the EERA Council Meeting in Berlin

Friday 14 January 2011 (09:00 – 17:00)

Saturday 15 January 2011 (09:00 – 14:00)

Gesellschaft für Erdkunde, Arno-Holz-Straße 14, 12165 Berlin

Participants:

Herbert Altrichter, Österreichische Gesellschaft für Forschung und Entwicklung (OEFEB); **David Bridges**, British Educational Research Association (BERA); **Sakir Cincir**, Educational Administration Research and Development Association (EARDA); **Ross Deuchar**, Scottish Educational Research Association (SERA); **Mustafa Yunus Eryaman**, Turkish Educational Research Association (EAB); **Gernot Goldenbaum**, LOC Berlin (only Friday morning); **Ian Grosvenor**, EERA Secretary General; **Fiona Hallett**, Emerging Researchers' Network; **Tina Hascher**, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Erziehungswissenschaft (DGfE); **Gunilla Holm**, Finnish Educational Research Association (FERA); **Marit Honerod Hoveid**, Networks' Representative on Council; **Gonzalo Jover Olmeda**, Sociedad Espanola de Pedagogia (SEP); **John Krejsler**, Nordic Educational Research Association (NERA); **Harm Kuper**, LOC Berlin (only Friday morning); **Amelia Lopes**, Sociedade Portuguesa de Ciências da Educação (SPCE), **Katharina Maag Merki**, Swiss Society for Research in Education (SSRE); **Raquel-Amaya Martínez González**, Asociación Interuniversitaria de Investigación Pedagógica (AIDIPE); **Ian Menter**, Senior Mentor ERGroup; **Joanna Michalak**, Polskie Towarzystwo Pedagogiczne (PTP); **Lejf Moos**, EERA President; **Joe O'Hara**, Educational Studies Association of Ireland (ESAI, only Friday); **Maria Pacheco Figueiredo**, Networks' Representative on Council Elect; **Daniela Preis**, EERA Office; **Gregorio Rodriguez Gomez**, LOC Cadiz (only Friday); **Huseyin Uzunboylu** (KED-DER), **Angelika Wegscheider**, EERA Office; **Theo Wubbels**, EERA Treasurer and Vereniging voor Onderwijs Research (VOR);

1 Apologies for Absence and welcome to new member

Apologies for Absence: Brigitte Gruson, Peter van Petegem, Francesca Gobbo, Paulina Korsnakova, Martin Lawn and Petr Novotny

New representative of SPCE: The new colleague from Portugal, Amelia Lopes, was welcomed.

2 Approval of Agenda

Approved

3 Confirmation of Minutes of June 2010 Council Meeting

Minutes were confirmed, on page 7 it should read EERA, not ECER

4 Matters Arising from Minutes and Action Points

4.1 Senior Mentor: now and in principles (for General Regulations)

As the coming months will be very busy for the ERGroup, with the Best Paper Award and reviewing for ERC 2011, it would be good for them to continue the efficient work with the current Senior Mentor, Ian Menter, until the conference.

Council accepted to have Ian Menter as co-opted council member until September 2011.

Lejf Moos suggested the principle that the Senior Mentor should always be selected from the council members and will hold this post for a duration of four years. Should his or her pre-existing council membership end during his or her time as Senior Mentor, then he or she will remain on Council as a co-opted Council member.

4.2 Constitution

The Finanzamt (tax office) now asked to have another item inserted in the EERA Constitution, which makes a formal voting on this amendment necessary within 2011. EERA needs to insert in §3.1 the following:

“No person is allowed to receive privileges from EERA based on expenditures that are unrelated to the objective of the association or to receive compensations which are disproportionately high”.

In German: Es darf keine Person durch Ausgaben, die dem Zweck der Körperschaft fremd sind, oder durch unverhältnismäßig hohe Vergütungen begünstigt werden.”

Formal voting is scheduled for June.

5 ECERs

5.1 Evaluations of ECER 2010, Session Return Slips and Participant Evaluation (report from Convenor Meeting and discussion)

About 75 % of the session return slips could be collected. For raising the turnout, it was decided that in future, there will be a booklet in each room, which includes the daily programme in that room plus the session return sheets.

Reporting from the NW Seminar and the discussion on the evaluations there, Marit Hoveid pointed out that EERA office will continue to monitor and contact no-shows, although the link convenors decided at the network seminar that there will be no black lists. Link Convenors also discussed in their seminar that the status of the poster sessions should be improved. The convenors decided to have a fixed deadline for ECER submission, always on 1 February. For ECER 2010, the rejection rate was at about 14 %. For the future, all networks will have keywords, which will also be displayed at the network overview page.

554 delegates took part in the online evaluation. Half of these people were at ECER for the first time. The overall evaluation was very positive. This was also true for the central events, which all got good evaluations. For the EERJ roundtable it was noted however that there had been relatively little discussion among the presenters.

Council agreed on continuing with the online evaluation in future and suggested to publish the outcomes of the last evaluation online and perhaps as a short article in the Printed Programme.

5.2 Council Invited Sessions (from Helsinki, 4.3: report from Convenors and decision)

M. Hoveid reported that the network convenors had accepted to give room for these Council invited sessions and suggested to use this format also as a platform for potential new networks. I.e. one of these 3 sessions can be reserved for “candidate networks”.

Lejf Moos asked Council to send proposals for Council Invited sessions to Angelika Wegscheider at the EERA Office within the next two weeks.

5.3 2011: Berlin

LOC Berlin presented the arrangements that have been made for ECER 2011 so far:

- There are 55 session rooms reserved, all in one building, and two auditoriums for the keynote speakers which can be connected via video streaming for a maximum of 1400 places.
- It is planned to have one "Exhibition Area" for posters, the book exhibition and an arts exhibition on Urban Arts. One of the social events will take place in a glasshouse of Botanischer Garten.
- The president of Freie Universität, the chancellor of the University as well as a representative from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research have been invited to deliver an address at the opening ceremony.

It was decided to have one Chair of a Keynote speech from LOC and two from Council, Herbert Altrichter and John Krejsler volunteered. LOC should now try to find a third chair, preferably a woman. Treasurer and LOC had agreed to guarantee payment for at least 1400 participants.

5.4 2012: Cadiz

5.4.1 Presentation of venue, hotels etc. (LOC)

LOC Cadiz reported on first preparations for ECER 2012 (17 to 21 September): The conference will take place in 5 faculties, all located in the City Centre of Cadiz. 60 % of the delegates can be accommodated in Cadiz itself (rooms are already blocked), the others can find rooms in several towns close by, all in a distance of about 20 to 35 minutes by public transport. The airport is located in Jerez de la Frontera. Council pointed out that with this special situation of accommodation, it is even more important to have very clear and well structured information online, in order to make clear that the different towns are so close to each other and the journey is even shorter than from some places in Berlin to FU.

5.4.2 Discussion of theme and keynoters for the conference (proposal for LOC) – this is the 20th ECER – special features, special issue of EERJ?

Council welcomed the theme suggestion, especially as it strongly signals ECER's global/rather than only European focus.

Nevertheless it was agreed that the text should be even more global, less focusing on Spain, and also invite critical thoughts about the UNESCO programme. The title could be shortened by skipping "and always"

The following further suggestions were made and will be explored by Executive/Council:

providing some key issues as examples for the different perspectives this theme offers, Emphasizing the African perspective (with regard to the special location in the South of Spain)

inviting WERA to have their focal meeting there.

It was decided that Marit Honerod Hoveid, Martin Lawn, Lejf Moos and the LOC will present an amended text at the June meeting.

The representative of the ERGroup asked to consider the possibility to plan the invited speakers for the ERC at the same time as the main conference keynotes. This would make planning easier.

As the discussion proceeded without addressing the ECER anniversary, Executives will discuss the event in their next meeting, develop ideas with LOC and report to Council in June.

5.5 2013: Istanbul

Postponed due to open issues on the form of cooperation between the two hosting member associations. Executive will pursue this further.

5.6 2014: London

No news.

5.7 2015: Italy / Portugal?

David Bridges has contacted Christina Devecchi and Francesca Gobbo, but has not received any news so far. The representative of SPCE expressed interest to organise an ECER in Porto/Portugal. This could be done in 2016, or maybe in 2015, if Italy could not host ECER 2015.

6 EC from FP 7 to FP 8

6.1 Outline of new EC plans for research in FP 8 and 6.2 Discussion

In future, the EC funding will be re-structured and the educational research department is thereby degraded into an office.

Council was troubled by the growing invisibility of Educational Research within the EC.

It was agreed that EERA and its members should work actively with the Commission to influence the development. In December, Lejf Moos had sent out an email to Council members on the basis of a working group from DIPF as a reaction to the current development. The aim was to point out the concerns raised by the current development. Council members were invited to use this text and send it to national politicians, newspapers and Universities, but also to EU.

There was wide agreement that it would take some time now to make Educational Research more visible again, but the more important it is to start trying now.

It was suggested that the EERJ round table at ECER 2011 could focus on "the future of education research". Martin Lawn will be asked, but it seems that first plannings for the round table have been made, so that an alternative for presenting this topic at ECER should be considered, maybe in parallel to the EERJ Round table slot.

Also it was suggested that EERA and the member associations should start to develop a common stand on the question. Ian Menter and John Krejsler agreed to join a working group with executives and David Bridges suggested contacting the BERA president John Gardner.

This group should communicate with Council and involve members regularly. The paper, written by the EERA executives and published in February will be the basis for further work; A short paper based on the published paper with a short bibliography will be sent to EERA members.

It was agreed that EERA should take a lead for making clear the ways of action and communication. The result could be an open letter, signed by all member associations' presidents and published in educational press. The act of signing this letter could take place at the next ECER.

In general it was felt that EU funding is especially important for cross-border research, which is rarely funded nationally. In many countries, Educational Researchers face the difficulty that governmental funding is more and more linked to certain topics and outcomes. Free research with open results is considered less and less worth being supported. Also Council felt that there is a contradiction between underlining the importance of "knowledge society" whereas educational research is not considered as a motor for education.

Council members reported on the funding situation in their countries:

In Portugal, the situation is similar to the general trend. In Turkey, there are two levels of funding, from the ministries and also from universities. Especially the universities considerably cut their funding sums, which leads to big problems. In Spain, research in humanities has always been poorly funded, but the Bologna Process leads to a positive

effect here. As Bologna was taken very negatively in Spain, the investments in teaching and research on teaching were increased. In Ireland, there is hardly any funding available, due to the general financial situation. But education itself is seen as very important, whereas educational research is not considered as a motor for education, which is contradictory. In the Netherlands, a new report on how to better spend funding has been developed. The schools and teachers for example can now say that they need research on a certain topic. In Austria, there have been no cuts so far, but the funds are frozen on last year's level. Funding however focuses on providing data for evidence based policy and therefore reduced basic research. In Germany, the situation is not too bad but highly competitive. Bildungsforschung is separated from the other fields and considered more important. In Poland, there is a big variety. The universities are autonomous and those researchers who are at a rich university are lucky. The national funding is under the impact of EU, which means that it becomes much more strategic than it used to be.

7 Members' Reports

Three council members (Herbert Altrichter, OEFEB; John Krejsler, NERA; and Mustafa Yunus Eyraman, EAB) briefly presented their member associations. The presentations raised questions on how practitioners can be members in research associations ("associate members", ÖFEB, where some sections actively invited teachers as members) and addressed language policy of conferences (NERA making English the conference language). But also the aim and interest of an Educational Research Association was discussed and whether or not a more political realm should be entered. EAB as a relatively young association already has a considerable number of academic networks, many of them initially started by EAB board members. It was also pointed out that the association especially focuses on researchers / geographic areas with Turk-population (Balkan states, former Soviet Republics, Iran, Iraq) and thereby organises largely international conferences.

7.1 Next three volunteers:

Theo Wubbels, VOR, Netherlands
 Hüseyin Uzunbolu, KEB-DER, Cyprus
 Raquel-Amaya Martinez Gonzales, AIDIPE, and Gonzalo Jover Olmeda, SEP, together

8 Networks and Funding Applications

8.1 Report from Network Seminar

Marit Hoveid reported from the Network Seminar, which discussed amongst others the ECER evaluation, the presentation formats and the network histories.

In general the discussion was very open. Convenors exchanged views on the altruistic approach to this kind of voluntary work. They enjoy contributing to something larger than their career and the inclusive aspect of ECER.

Convenors would like to move this meeting to early March, so as to be able to use it for planning joint sessions, based on the submissions they got. It was agreed that then the meeting should take place in Berlin.

8.2 Network Funding Applications

8.2.1 VETNET/ERG (amended)

EXEC recommended a little downscaling for using the same principles as before. Council approved application for a maximum of €3000.

8.2.2 HEPEL

Higher Education Network (NW 22) had applied for funding a meeting to constitute a project consortium for an FP7 project. Officers concluded that there was not sufficient benefit to the Network 22, Higher Education, and to EERA as an association to allow the

support of a planning meeting for developing an EU funding proposal, especially as there is an established consortium backing the HEPEL proposal.

EXEC pointed out that they mainly need money for meetings and therefore recommend rejection.

Council approved rejection.

8.2.3 NW 16

Network 16 had had difficulties in doing their project on knowledge sharing and cooperation. As the management of the EERA website had changed during the project, communication was complicated. In addition it turned out that for a secure management of the EERA website parts of the work that should have been done by NW 16 members will need to be done by the website company as allowing third parties access to the server will infringe the liabilities of the company. The project was now extended and NW 16 was invited to suggest a time frame. No additional budget is needed.

EXEC recommended continuation, Council approved.

8.2.4 NW 3 Spring School

Council approved in principle the application for 2012. NW 3 will be invited to send a more detailed proposal including specified budget.

Networks should be informed that the earliest possible Summer School will be in 2013.

8.2.5 NW 11 Two proposals, one for a summer school, one for publication of ECER papers

EXEC recommended rejection, as the summer school proposal did not clearly enough focus on capacity building.
Council approved rejection.

Regarding the application for subsidising printing costs, EXEC recommended rejection as papers could be published online or a publisher should be contacted.
Council approved rejection.

As a general guideline it was decided that work of network participants for network funding can be supported for at most €200 per day and only in exceptional cases.

8.3 Other funding Application

8.3.1 Education Research Observatory

The proposal raised a basic discussion if EERA in general should fund research projects at all. It was felt that if EERA would engage in this, clear procedures for issuing a call and for the assessment of a proposal would be needed.

In general, research projects are very expensive. Therefore Council decided that EERA will not be a research funder, but could commission someone to undertake interesting projects, not necessarily via an open call, but always via a call from Council.

Council welcomed the basic ideas of the proposed research project, but also felt that currently no such big project could be funded. It was however stressed that intellectual support would be offered if the proposers would take the idea to other funding agencies.

8.4 Application for new network on Sports Education

Marit Hoveid reported that Network convenors welcomed the application, but that some suggested the title to be changed to Sports and Physical Education. This is not a requirement for acceptance, but a consideration.

Some council members found the title precise as it is. But that perhaps fighting discrimination and violence should be included more prominently in the research fields Council accepted the new network and one of the Council Invited Sessions will be organised by the future network representatives.

9 ERG

9.1 Report

Fiona Hallet reported that during the Network Seminar, 10 network convenors expressed interest to support the Emerging Researchers' Conference. After ECER 2012 a new paper award will be started: the best post conference collaborative paper. The idea is that researchers who meet at the Emerging Researchers' Conference find common research fields and start to cooperate in writing a paper (post-conference collaborative paper).

10 New Members

10.1 Belarus and Hungary - acceptance and planned workshops

Lejf Moos pointed out that the applications of the Hungarian and Belarus' research associations had already been discussed in June council 2010 and both associations had been invited to suggest dates and themes for workshops with EERA. Now that the workshops are arranged, formal voting on their membership was to be taken.

10.1.1 Belarus National Association 'Innovations in Education'

Lejf Moos and Rudolf Tippelt will participate in a workshop in Minsk in February.

In a formal voting, 12 council members voted for approving their application for becoming a new member and 2 abstained.

10.1.2 Hungarian Educational Research Association (HERA)

Lejf Moos and Marit Honerod Hoveid will participate in a workshop in Budapest in February.

In a formal voting, 12 council members voted for approving their application for becoming a new member and 2 abstained.

10.2 Application from CERA, Cyprus (report)

Lejf Moos pointed out that in the August Council meeting it was found difficult to see the research status of the founding members. The association was therefore asked to send lists of publications. The material which was sent to EERA shows that some publications have been made, but some of them were rather school text books than research publication. Given that the association is very young, Council decided to let them know that at this early stage, they cannot yet become a member.

But the association should be encouraged to reapply in two or three years' time, so as to see if their research focus has been strengthened.

10.3 Application of Portugal CIDInE

Maria Figueiredo reported on them. Their title is a little misleading, they are called Centre, but are an association, and their Portuguese title does mention Educational Research, which is missing in the English version. They have organised many conferences and have published several books. They also have a considerable number of Brazilian members, and new members always have to be recommended by 3 members.

SPCE's Council member would welcome the application.

In a formal vote, 10 Council members approved their membership, 2 rejected and 2 abstained.

10.4 Status of SPCE (actual Portuguese member association)

Amelia Lopes apologised for the previous communication problems with her association. She now overtook the role of representative and will do anything to improve the contact. She explained that SPCE is a rather old association, founded in the seventies, and has lost importance as the researchers nowadays have other challenges but also other means of communication.

11 EERA Development

11.1 General Regulations

11.1.1 EXEC (information on planning)

Lejf Moos informed Council on current planning of Executives on how to enhance EERA's visibility – by more information and lobbying e.g. within other associations (e.g. ISE), by a more lively website, and more active press relations, a report policy for Council and networks. Also EERA member associations should be more included in these actions and the general level of networking should be enhanced. Executives will continue to work on this.

11.1.2 Template for EERA Summer Schools

Council found that the time considered for Network Summer Schools is too short, will be changed from 1 – 2 days to 1 – 3 days. Given that Network Summer Schools should be a longer lasting funding model it was resolved that only two courses per year could be supported. This means that networks would only be able to apply for the funding after a call is issued. The next call is planned for 2012 for courses taking place in 2013/14.

Council accepted the regulations.

11.1.3 Nomination and election of office bearers

11.1.3.1 Amended proposal (from Helsinki 5.1: decision)

Member association representatives (: Council Members) AC

- Are nominated and elected by their associations according to the regulations of those associations

Emergent Researcher Group representative AC

- The ERG representative is nominated and elected by the ERG and approved by Council for a period of 4 years

Senior Mentor to ERG

- The Senior Mentor to ERG is elected from and by Council and co-opted to Council for a period of 4 years.

European Educational Research Journal Editor

- The EERJ Editor is elected by Council after nomination has been consulted with the Publisher for a period of ? years

The Network Convenor Representative on Council (AC)

The Network Representative is nominated and elected for a 4 year period by the network convenors and approved by Council no later than June the year before she/he takes up the post

The President, Secretary General and Treasurer

Changes marked in grey:

- The Exec/office bearers are nominated by and elected by Council (C 5.5) for a four year period (C 6.5)
- The election shall be conducted no later than the end of June one year prior to taking on the position by September 15th. (C 6.7)
- The nomination and election procedure:
 - All members of EERA Member Associations can be nominated (C 6.9)
 - All council members can nominate candidates

- A nominating- and election committee for every officer is appointed by Council with three Council members – one of which is elected to be the chair of the committee - at the January Council meeting
- The nominating- and election committee shall propose nominations and call for nominations from Council members no later than three month after the January meeting
- Candidates who have the support from at least two Council members are nominated.
- All candidates, who have accepted nomination, shall produce a short presentation (max. 200 words)
- The nominating- and election committee shall produce a list with the names and presentations of all nominees. One month prior to the June Council meeting this list shall be transmitted to each member of Council
- A ballot (6.6) is carried out at the June Council meeting.
- Candidates are elected on the basis of simple majority of votes.
- If there are more than two candidates votes would be taken as single transferable votes

Council accepted the proposal with the following amendments:

Senior Mentor: Text will be reworded, in order to point out that he or she is only a co-opted member after the normal council membership ended.

European Educational Research Journal Editor: Postponed as the Editorial Board has not yet commented.

The President, Secretary General and Treasurer:

- **All** change to **Only** members of EERA Member Associations can be nominated (C 6.9)

11.1.4 Election of committee for Secretary General position

David Bridges, Gunilla Holm and Gonzalo Jover volunteered. David Bridges will chair the committee.

11.1.5 New template for membership application (approval)

Council approved of the new procedures asking for more detailed information on the research background of the prospective member associations.

It was decided to additionally ask for the motivation of the application, to have it as a principle that a council member from a neighbouring association/country will comment on an application and that applicants are invited to present their associations to the EERA council in the council meeting after ECER.

11.1.6 11.1.5. Support for needy member associations

Leif Moos informed Council that taxation authorities confirmed that covering travel costs or providing support towards travel costs for members' representatives to Council meetings is fine as long as it is done within the limits of German Reisekostengesetz, which also applies to office bearers.

Council therefore agreed to reimburse travel costs of representatives from Low GDP member countries under following conditions:

- up to 300 Euro travel and accommodation per meeting
- standard EERA procedures for reimbursements need to be followed (evidence provided)

The EERA support should be understood as a co-funding. Therefore, EERA will not fund more than 300 Euro per meeting.

11.2 Summer Schools (reports)

Leif Moos reported on the EERA Summer School that has been organised together with University of Gothenburg in 2010 and 2011. Everything is set up for 2011.

A new partner University is searched for 2012 and 2013. The university will have to contribute with about 12.000 € per year, which could also include work of university staff.

The Histories of Education Summer School has received 36 applications from 14 different countries. The budget will be finished and given to the EERA treasurer in February.

12 Exculpation of EXEC

12.1 Treasurer's Report: Accounts for 2009 and 2010

Theo Wubbels presented the audited figures of 2009 and the first results for 2010.

In a formal vote Council decided unanimously for the exculpation of the treasurer for the year 2009.

In 2010 a deficit of almost 100.000 € was accumulated. The budget for 2011 also foresees a deficit of about the same amount. So EERA is successfully reducing the high balance which might have lead to taxation issues. If EERA continued spending that much, there would be no reserves left in 4-5 years. The treasurer recommended maintaining savings approximately equivalent to the costs of one conference. He suggested a sum of 260.000 € to be fixed. And he also recommended raising the ECER fees for 2012 by 5 %.

In Council, the idea of raising fees was not taken positively by all members. Some said that due to the increasingly difficult funding situation for researchers, this should only be considered as a last resort option. This means that expenditures will have to be reduced according to EERA priorities. Priorities for future budgets should be discussed in the next council meeting.

12.2 President's Report 2009/10

In a formal vote Council decided unanimously for the exculpation of the president for the year 2009.

"2009 - 2010 has again been a busy and productive year for EERA. I shall report briefly on the work of Council:

ECER

We had the biggest ever ECER in Vienna (more than 2000 attendants and 1600 submissions)

We have had a very successful ECER in Helsinki (app. 1700 attendants and 1500 submissions. A new feature was launched, the EERA Panel)

We have progressed with planning 2011 in Berlin, having agreed on the theme: 'Urban Education' and have three keynoters, who have accepted our invitation and have started planning for 2012 in Cadiz, 2013 in Istanbul and 2014 in London. A new contract with LOC's is being introduced.

New Member Associations

We had four applications: KEB-DER from Cyprus was accepted, RUTE from Spain was rejected and applications/letters of interest from Belarus and Hungary are being supported.

Emergent Researchers

The Emergent Researchers Group (ERG) has carried through very successful pre-conferences in Vienna and Helsinki with best paper awards

Two new features: EERA Summer Schools (one on History of Education and the other on Academic Writing) were run with very high level of interest and success

Constitution

AGA had agreed on a new constitution

We have started work on a set of General Regulations, that fit the Constitution

Networks

The network's Convenor Seminar was carried through in Helsinki in January with a very high level of satisfaction

The work on network reports, descriptors and network structure and development is being carried on

External Relations

EERQI: We participate in seminars and have engaged a new assistant for this job
WERA: We participate in Council meeting and working groups
ISE (Initiative for Science in Europe): We participate (if flights are not cancelled) in the work around the European Research Council (ERC)
Education Europe: We participate in work around the EU Commission's 7th and 8th Research Framework Programmes

EERA History

Martin Lawn is producing a database and overviews of the EERA history

EERA Website and Database

Work on enhancing the proceedings at ECERS through streaming etc. is continued
Work on website and database is continued with technical investigations in possibilities and restraints."

12.3 Secretary General's report

In a formal vote Council decided unanimously for the exculpation of the secretary general for the year 2009.

13 Council June Meeting

13.1 Agenda-ideas: The Future of EERA

Two suggested strands of discussion for the June Meeting

- a.) follow up from discussions on the development from FP7 to FP8
- b.) 3 member representatives plus 1 executive to prepare discussion on the basis of member perspectives, and Martin Lawn's Report and Key-Ideas

Council discussed the suggestions and supported the idea to talk about the change in European or transnational research with economic aspects being more and more important. It may be interesting to invite people from outside Council to this meeting, for example university rectors, someone from the European Science Foundation or also people who are in favour of this change, in order to get more expertise and a broader discussion. On the other hand, it could also be good to start such discussions with the expertise existing within EERA, by discussing more profoundly about the situation in the different countries. Key questions could be developed that can then be sent to member associations for evaluation. A working group with EXEC, Ian Menter, David Bridges, John Krejsler, Huseyin Uzunboylu, Gonzalo Jover and Theo Wubbels was formed. Lejf to chair it.

14 External Relations

14.1 EERQI:

14.1.1 Report from Hamburg meeting

Lejf Moos reported that the preparation for the final conference has started. The various partners had made a good step forward with their respective tasks. Executives suggested to offer some support for council members in order to participate in the EERQI final conference, provided our EERQI budget would allow for that. Details will be sent out shortly

14.1.2 Sustainability Plan, Discussion and decision

Developing a sustainability plan is one of the EERQI deliverables. A first idea suggests to build up a European Research Network (legal body on its own), organisation and funding of the body yet to be discussed. Another idea was if one of the EERQI partners could host the (technical) EERQI outcomes (Multilanguage searching engine, the content base, etc.)

The EERQI management had contacted EERA in order to ask if EERA would be willing to kind of "godfather" the building of a European Research Network, or similar. Council agreed that in principle this could be considered, but it could not mean financial or man power contributions without resources provided. Also it was pointed out that the technical outputs of EERQI could only be sustained if the technical partners would further contribute to this. Lejf will feed back to the EERQI management, that EERA would basically be interested to support the sustainability of EERQI but that for a firm decision more information is needed.

14.1.3 Possible ways ahead - Discussion and decision

Lejf Moos pointed out that in addition to the sustainability plan for EERQI (building a new legal body) also possible follow up projects are considered. A first idea seems to be rather technical/bibliometric in focus and it was suggested that if the focus remains like this EERA should not further participate. On the other hand it was also argued that EERA could help to make the project idea more promising for education research by participating in the preparation process. Lejf Moos will stay in touch with the EERQI management as they proceed with the planning.

14.2 WERA

14.2.1 Report from Council Meeting in Kuala Lumpur

Lejf Moos briefly reported on the WERA Council Meeting, Kuala Lumpur, November 22, 2010, in which 17 associations and 4 office bearers had been represented. Between one third and half of the representatives were excused or being substituted.

Past WERA Activities:

WERA Symposia: AERA, ECER, BERA, SIEI (Peru), KERA (Korea), AIAER (India). All well evaluated.

WERA Focal Meeting: APERA (Kuala Lumpur)

WERA-IRN (International Research Networks for WERA): Call was out in September 2010. Until now one interested and interesting group.

Capacity Building: One proposal on international database, (no funding until now), One proposal on WERA-VERA (Virtual Educational Research Academy) (no funding until now)

The following EERA proposals had been discussed in Kuala Lumpur:

Only one candidate for office from each association: a nominating procedure is now to be developed

Chairs of committees from Council: "from Council means" the immediate past, actual and elected members

No more than one Council meeting per year: It was agreed to have one per year as a standard and for the five starting years of the association Council can decide on having two. (There was no formal decision made on an extra meeting in 2011 in KL.)

Minutes and agenda two month after and before: will be done

14.3 ISE

14.3.1 Approval of commitment to participate for giving EERA voice in EC and ERA/lobbyism and establishing networks with peer associations (€ 2.000 per year for 3 years)

Lejf Moos reported that there will be a new structure which foresees that most organisations pay 2.000 €, and 3 pay more than 10.000 €; and only those with a contribution of more than 10.000 € have the right to vote. He recommended that ISE should be asked to amend the constitution in a way that all members have a vote, and if this is not done, that EERA pulls out of the project. Lejf also suggested that the ISE board would also need to include a representative not coming from "natural" sciences.

Council agreed.

14.4 Tempus project/ Edge Hill University

Council discussed on this special project but also on the question if EERA should generally be partner of such kind of projects.

Lejf Moos briefly introduced the project, which had been put forward to EERA by Fiona Hallett (ERG and Edge Hill University) and also described the possible role of EERA within it. This project was seen as very relevant to the EERA mission, as it focuses on building capacity and on developing research ability across broader Europe. In addition, supporting it would not include a financial contribution from EERA but would raise EERA's engagement. The project foresees EERA's role in evaluation.

There was a consensus that EERA should not take a leading role but may well support the project with expertise. Two EERA experts will need to be found. First volunteers stepped forward.

Council decided to participate and that Fiona Hallett will be responsible for finding the experts and agreeing the details.

15 Office

15.1 BEI and Archive

For the Paper Archive a cooperation with Fachhochschule Potsdam is sought, a Student helper will be hired from the BA programme on archiving there.

Angelika Wegscheider also reported from a meeting with British Education Index and pointed out two possibilities for doing the archives.

The first one: EERA buys the archives from BEI and integrates them in the EERA website.

The second one: BEI remains responsible for archives and full-paper contributions and receives an annual database from EERA after each conference for inclusion in BEI. EERA presenters can send their papers to BEI for being included as well.

It was argued that an ongoing cooperation would only be needed if EERA would support the continuation of uploading full papers.

Doing it the way it is done now has relatively little effect for ECER presenters, as the papers only remain retrievable via the EERA website. If included in BEI this would raise the download rate of the papers immensely.

Full paper submissions had been discussed controversially before in Council – partly critical on the expected academic quality and / or options of later publications, partly welcoming when discussing networks who engaged in collecting papers.

Council resolved that the option of uploading full papers to the ECER databases should be stopped as no quality control could be imposed to these submissions.

Following this decision it was also agreed buying of the BEI archives for including them in the EERA Website.

16 Next Council Meetings

24 – 25 June 2011, Berlin

17 September 2011, Berlin (9:00 – 15:00)

13 – 14: January 2012, Cadiz

Open: June 2012, September 2012,

17 AOB

It was also mentioned to communicate Council meeting dates earlier, as some colleagues will be unable to attend the June meeting...