



Minutes of the EERA Council Meeting in Berlin

14 June 2013, 9:00-16:00 hours, 15 June 2013 9:00-13:00 hours

Free University Berlin, Seminarzentrum, Room L 116, Otto-von-Simson-Str. 26,
14195 Berlin

Participants:

Anna Aleksanyan, Educational Research Armenian Center (ERAC); **Herbert Altrichter**, EERA Treasurer Elect; **David Bosold**, EERA Office; **Mustafa Yunus Eryaman**, Turkish Educational Research Association (EAB); **Samuel Fernández**, Asociación Interuniversitaria de Investigación Pedagógica (AIDIPE); **Patrícia Fidalgo**, Emerging Researchers' Group (ERG); **Maria Pacheco Figueiredo**, Network Representative on Council (NRC); **Francesca Gobbo**, Società Italiana di Pedagogia (SIPED); **Tina Hascher**, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Erziehungswissenschaft (DGfE); **George Head**, Scottish Educational Research Association (SERA); **Gunilla Holm**, Finnish Educational Research Association (FERA); **Marit Honerod Hoveid**, EERA Secretary General, **Romy Klecker**, EERA Office; **Nick Johnson**, LOC London (ECER 2014); **John Krejsler**, Nordic Educational Research Association (NERA); **Sofia Marques da Silva**, Sociedade Portuguesa de Ciências da Educação (SPCE); **Joanna Madalińska-Michalak**, Polskie Towarzystwo Pedagogiczne (PTP), **Lejf Moos**, EERA President; **Petr Novotny**, Czech Educational Research Association (CERA); **Joe O'Hara**, Educational Studies Association of Ireland (ESAI); **Angelika Paseka**, Österreichische Gesellschaft für Forschung und Entwicklung im Bildungswesen (OEFEB); **Sally Power**, British Educational Research Association (BERA); **Huseyin Uzunboylu**, Cyprus Educational Sciences Association (KEB-DER); **Sinem Vatanartiran**, LOC Istanbul (ECER 2013); **Monique Volman**, Vereniging voor Onderwijs Research (VOR); **Angelika Wegscheider**, EERA Office; **Theo Wubbels**, EERA Treasurer, Vereniging voor Onderwijs Research (VOR); **Pavel Zgaga**, Slovenian Educational Research Association (SLODRE)

Minutes: Angelika Wegscheider

Friday, 14 June 2013

Welcome, apologies, new participants

The President welcomed all Council members and representatives of the Local Organising Committee for London 2014 and Istanbul 2013. Angelika Wegscheider was welcomed back from maternity leave.

Apologies were received from: Edwin Keiner, Eric Mangez, Brigitte Gruzon, Iouri Zagoumenov, Ana Paula Cabral, Ahmet Aypay, Nadine Engels, Konstantinos D. Malafantis, Gyöngyvér Pataki, Palmira Juceviciene, Paulina Kosnarkova, Gonzalo Jover Olmeda, Roland Reichenbach, Helen Phtiaika

Confirmation of minutes, matters arising from minutes

The minutes of February were approved without further changes.

Agenda

The agenda was approved with one change. Point **4.2 EERA Conference/ECER 2014, London (report)** was discussed after lunch.

ECER/EERA conference reports

4.1 EERA Conference/ECER 2013, Istanbul (report)

Planning, programme, social events

Sinem Vatanartiran, LOC 2013 representative from Istanbul, and Angelika Wegscheider shared their impressions on the current political situation in Istanbul. Sinem informed that there were protests at Taksim Square and that they were limited to this part of the city. In her opinion, the situation has calmed down and will not be a problem for ECER 2013. Angelika agreed that in the light of a now discussed public vote over the future of Gezi Park the conference should not be in danger. The president suggested that a statement should be prepared for going online or being sent out to delegates who raise concerns which would assure participants that there are no plans of cancelling or moving ECER (ECER will take place in Istanbul) and that participants – if in doubt about the security situation - should turn to the homepages of their respective foreign ministries since EERA has no means to build an independent assessment of the security situation. There was no objection from the council against this proposal.

The LOC representative for ECER 2013 reported that there will be a boat trip on the Bosphorus for the main social event. Three social events are planned:

1. A cocktail reception for the Emerging Researchers Conference on the terrace of Bahçeşehir University on Monday 9 September for about 300 people
2. A reception next to the Bosphorus with live music on Tuesday 10 September
3. A boat tour which goes to Marmara, the old city, and from the European to the Asian side. It will take about three hours. There will be cocktails, dinner and music. Seven boats were reserved for up to three hundred people on one boat. A solution has to be found to evenly spread the participants on the single boats.

Sinem added that there are 50 volunteers available to help conference attendees and language will not pose a problem for them. She has met almost half of them and will continue to do so. The LOC representative explained that the university is a campus university and will offer participants easy access to all seminar rooms and lecture halls.

It was mentioned that a jury is needed for the Waxmann Poster Prize. A committee or jury has to vote for the best poster. Maria informed Council about the revised process: all authors are contacted before ECER to submit a PDF version of the poster if they want to enter the competition. This lowers the number of posters to be evaluated. The network convenors choose the best poster of the network and submit this information by e-mail. Petr Novotny, Sally Power and Angelika Paseka agreed to be on the jury. It was decided that the work has to be done in Istanbul and on Thursday 12 September.

Promoting Conference in News

Theo Wubbels said that a paper has been prepared for the Networks in order to let them nominate candidates for a media meeting. The Convenors welcomed this idea. Sinem suggested that there should be a round table discussion – a question and answer session.

EERA learning about Turkish Educational Research (report)

Sinem suggested allocating a spot in the conference programme for informing conference participants on the Turkish education system. Office and LOC will find a suitable time for this session and LOC will invite speakers from BAU.

Session open to public (report)

A working group has been working on a session open to the public. The addressed audience are teachers and the focus will be "Quality measurement" and "School Readiness". Network Convenors will be invited to nominate speakers for this session.

4.2 EERA Conference/ECER 2014, London (report)

4.2.1 General situation and budget (overview, decisions on printed program and social events etc.)

Nick Johnson (LOC London 2014) explained that the university building, which will be used as the venue for ECER 2014, is very central and near the tube stops Kings Cross and St. Pancras where the participants have fast and easy access to London, for instance, with the Eurostar. The tube lines are within ten minutes walking distance.

The BERA researchers will be directed to ECER and 600 researchers are expected on the first day of the conference. More UK delegates will come to the ECER 2014. The Institute of Education will be the delivering partner for the conference. The BERA president will be also the vice chair of LOC in London.

The treasurer reported that the conference in London 2014 will be much more expensive than any other conference. The per capita cost will be very high as compared to previous conferences, and in addition EERA will need to save on additional things: There will be *one* booklet instead of two printed on very thin paper. It has been decided that there will only be one social event – the birthday party on Wednesday evening and that BERA supports the Emerging Researcher's social event. Theo Wubbels reported that there will be a deficit of 20 to 30 euro per person and therefore the option is to increase the fee by 7 per cent and or draw money from the bank. Bearing in mind the impact of the economic crisis on many European researchers, there was the broad consensus not to raise the fees for participants from low GDP countries and PhD students.

4.2.2 Themes and keynote (Appendix, the document is strictly confidential, please do not circulate)

Lejf Moos reported on the process of the working group on theme and keynote. The theme had been presented before and was reworked. A number of keynote candidates have been found and the working group had agreed on an order in which they ought to be approached. Lejf Moos asked council to approve of the suggested order in which to invite

keynotes and Council did so after some discussion. Some of the candidates were also considered good candidates for special sessions around the history of EERA.

1.2.3 *EERA Anniversary*

Marit Hoveid reported on the Working group for the EERA anniversary. EERA will be celebrating its 20th anniversary and BERA its 40th anniversary at ECER 2014 in London. A special anniversary group has been established for a special issue of EERJ, including Martin Lawn, Edwin Keiner and Marit Hoveid. The ideas for the 20th anniversary celebration in London 2014 include the following suggestions:

- Articles about EERA Council, what networks represent, all published in the EERJ to appear as a special issue on EERA and ECERs
- Gyöngyvér Pataki (HERA) has been collecting anecdotes
- Martin Law agreed to an EERJ round table
- An EERA panel (invite council members and stakeholders)
- Having a birthday party with a birthday cake
- Online exhibition on EERA's Visual History
- A round table of former Secretary Generals and Presidents chaired by Marit

Further project ideas for which final decisions are pending include (i) a commemorative map of member associations and (ii) a visual history of networks

More detailed ideas will be presented in September.

1.3 **EERA Conference/ECER 2015, Budapest (report)**

Leif Moos reminded Council of the decision to hold ECER 2015 in Hungary in a major city. The University of Debrecen, the Corvinus University (Budapest), the Hungarian Educational Research Association and the European Educational Research Association signed a Memorandum of Understanding now, which assures the cooperation of all partners before the contract is finalised.

1.4 **EERA Conference/ECER 2016, Porto (report)**

Sofia Marques da Silva reported that the letter of intent to host ECER 2016 in Porto was signed and stamped and there will be a meeting with CIDINE in September. The Faculty of Engineering

was contacted and LOC is still deciding if the conference shall be held there, in one building, or in the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences plus another building. The sixteen schools are not on the same campus but four or five schools are on the same campus. LOC is more concerned about the next step and therefore need more guidance from council. Sofia informed those at the meeting that the school year starts in early September and therefore ECER 2016 will have to take place at the end of August. The next step is the formal signing of the referendum. Theo mentioned that there will be a meeting in Istanbul between Sofia Marques da Silva, Theo Wubbels and Lejf Moos, and Herbert Altrichter.

1.5 EERA Conference/ECER 2017, Netherlands (report)

Theo Wubbels reported that they are currently talking about two cities. It has not been clear yet if the ECER 2017 will be held in Maastricht or Amsterdam. The airport will close down in Maastricht and therefore discussions have been starting with universities in Amsterdam. It could happen that the conference will not be held in the Netherlands. Lejf said that a decision on whether the conference will take place in the Netherlands should be made in Istanbul in September

2. Election of President (Nominating and Election Committee, see appendix)

The election committee for the nomination of the new president consisting of Brigitte Gruson (AECSE), Sofia Marques da Silva (SPCE and Petr Novotny (CERA) presented details of the voting procedure and oversaw the voting process. Petr Novotny announced that there was one nomination which is Theo Wubbels and that confirmed that this nomination had come in before the deadline.

The election committee reiterated that two Council Members had authorised other Council members present at the meeting to vote on their behalf. The EERA office had received signed nomination forms by fax from the two absentees. A total of 18 Council members were thus eligible to take part in the election.

Paper ballots were subsequently handed out to all Council members authorized to vote. Upon casting the ballots, the election committee counted the votes and Sofia Marques da Silva announced the election result:

- 18 votes in total

- 17 vote for "yes"
- 1 vote for "no"
- No abstentions

Theo Wubbels thanked everyone present for his election.

3. Name Change ECER (proposal and decision)

At the Council meeting in Istanbul, it was discussed whether EERA should start a process of changing the name of ECER into (first) EERA Conference/ECER and (eventually) EERA Conference. As the decision raised question afterwards, Lejf Moos asked Council to re-discuss the issue. The initial proposal was: "From 2013, ECER will be named 'EERA Conference/ECER' for a period of three years. After an evaluation in 2015 it will be decided whether the conference should be renamed EERA Conference from 2016. "

In order to minimise confusion and to highlight EERA, Exec suggested moving from "ECERs" to "EERA Conference" over the coming four to five years.

Discussion arose about what would be better - sticking to the well established brand of "ECER", which is "the European Conference on Educational Research " or changing to EERA Conference, which would then highlight the visibility and underline the meaning of the association.

Council decided that before changing to a new name more ideas should be developed in order to address the issue that the association standing behind ECER was often forgotten. A working group consisting of Marit Hoveid, Petr Novotny, Theo Wubbels are now going to work out a new proposal that will help to link ECER closer to the EERA. The new proposal is scheduled for the Council Meeting in Istanbul in September.

4. Horizon2020 Network Workshop (report)

The President briefly highlighted the recent developments in the negotiations of the follow-up for the EU's 7th Framework Programme (2007-2013) entitled Horizon 2020.

Lejf Moos reported that EERA is also a participant of ISE (Initiative of Science in Europe) He informed that EERA tries to influence Horizon 2020, that there were three workshops at Cadiz on Horizon 2020 and that the participants there agreed to work on it. The president reported that

EERA applied for funding for a workshop bringing together the network convenors but did not get the funding from the EU. The president reported that EERA applied for funding for workshop organised for the network convenors but did not get the funding from the EU and that now EERA has supported the workshop.

The aim of the work with the convenors is to write an agenda for Horizon 2020 funding schemes. The work is still going on and Convenors will present their ideas at ECER 2013.

It was suggested that links between national/regional associations are to be intensified and used to make EERA more visible at national conferences. Efforts to influence European policies by getting in touch with national stakeholders should also be intensified. A statement in a newsletter and networking should be promoted.

5. EERA Strategy 2013-15

Discussion, decisions and formation of working groups (appendix)

The president gave a presentation on the EERA strategy 2013-15. Please see appendix. Four working groups were formed. These groups were asked to further discuss the drafted strategies and to highlight which of the topics listed within them should be addressed in the nearer future. The groups addressed the structure and inner workings of EERA, aspects of visibility and links with other research associations, plus outreach to EU bodies and national governments.

Group one discussed the topic 'Members'. The drafted strategy foresaw the establishment of regional ties between member associations. This importance of that was underlined by the working group, who said that member associations could also promote the idea of establishing an association in neighbouring countries if there was none so far. The group also suggested establishing links to South America and supporting new associations.

Group two discussed the topic 'Council and EXEC'. The group was not sure how the relationship between Council and Exec can be improved or if that was needed, but the group addressed the problem of short terms of offices of Council members. Once they are induced, they sometimes need to leave already. The working group addressed the problem of English as the dominant language, which makes it difficult to develop the diversity of languages and cultures in Council, which was one item in the drafted strategy.

Group three discussed the topic 'visibility, relations and influences on the world'. The group discussed EERJ, as one of EERA's means to become visible. They agreed that the connection to the EERJ and Council could be developed further and that the relation was currently too loose. One idea was that EERJ might devote one of its issues per year to ECER. The group also underlined the need for publication and suggested that Council and EERJ should look into options for publishing ECER papers.

The working group highlighted the need for further strengthening the links with other important associations, like the American, Australian or Asian associations as this would not only strengthen the visibility of EERA but also promote the ongoing work with ISE and H2020.

Group four discussed the topic 'capacity building and scientific exchange'. The group focussed on the meaning of ECER and the quality of the conference. They suggested making the process of accepting papers more transparent and asked that submitters should focus more on the European dimension. Especially in the Emerging Researchers Conference the European dimension was often too weak. In addition the working group mentioned the option of addressing an H2020 theme with an ECER Theme in order to promote the European dimension.

Lejf Moos asked all working group to formulate their ideas as strategic plans, explaining what should be done until when. These ideas should be presented in the Istanbul council meeting and will help Council decide on what to focus at in the near future.

Saturday, 15 June 2013

1. Members Reports:

9.1 EARDA -

EARDA was set up in 2000 and had then about 20 funding members. Now it counts about 300. The purpose of the association is to support the educational research and education and training services of other educational institutions in the field. This is carried out by various activities like publication and dissemination of research results, cooperation with national and international relevant institutions, organizing conferences and seminars. In addition the association works for relevant documentation related to education research (gathering, storage and distribution, etc.) and it conducts scientific research. The association does not deal with politics.

Current activities are in the field of researching educational management (Institutional Evaluation of Basic Education Schools (for MoNE), Cost-Benefit Analysis of Basic Education Schools, Social Impact Assessment of Basic Education Schools (Boarding schools, primary schools, primary schools with transportation) Social Impact Assessment of Centre for Vocational and Technical Education.) and in the field of Training programmes, one designed for Trainees in the education related field and one designed for Middle management.

Theo Wubbels asked for attempts of merging or cooperation of the various associations in educational research in order to raise the power of these associations, as seemingly there are a lot of educational research associations in Turkey and in general the membership numbers were low. It was then explained that in the Turkish tradition people might have more reservations on joining non-governmental associations as in other places. In addition there were fruitful initiatives for cooperation, such as building a national council on educational research, which is being built up currently with both EERA member associations involved.

9.2 Gunilla Holm, FERA

FERA was established in 1967 but the first council of education researchers dates back to 1954. FERA has over 700 members. The association runs a conference in Finnish and Swedish with a growing number of English sessions. They are publishing a reviewed journal which 5 edition per year. In addition a book series is edited – from 2001 to now 60 book have been published, 50% of them in English. In addition an online Journal focussing more on sociology and history is edited.

Council Members were impressed by the membership numbers (750) of FERA and asked if also practitioners would be members. Gunilla explained that only university staff would be member of FERA, but that being member would just be standard for researchers in the field. One reason might be that fees for the conferences were considerably reduced then, but there also seems to be a notion that one loses parts of the debates in the field if one is not member.

Situations of education research changed lately, financing of doctoral students cut down, no internal funding for research in universities. External funds need to be found. Competition for this is hard.

Other questions addressed the perception of the Finnish education system by other nations and how the system would be valued within Finland as such. Gunilla explained that PISA did not play such a big role within the debate in Finland, one was content with ranking high, but that was not

the main focus. The focus was more on who would rank not so well within Finland (migrants/Romas). Another issue to be addressed is that Finnish pupils seem to dislike school more often than in other countries. While they achieve high they are seemingly unhappy. But in general education as such is valued highly. This also shows in the value for education professions: Competition for teacher education programmes is high; only 7% of applicants are accepted.

10 Visibility

10.1 WERA, incl. International Research Networks (IRN) (report – appendix)

Lejf Moos and Theo Wubbels reported on recent developments within WERA:

WERA is still active in organising focal meetings and sessions within other conferences, one session will also be held at ECER.

Lately, some (of the larger) members of WERA have opted out, as for some the membership fees were quite high, but still the number of members rests stable, as new ones came in. It was also argued that political reasons like a disagreement with the aims of the association might have led to the draw back of some of the members.

When discussing the Budget of WERA Theo Wubbels explained that AERA would support WERA in addition to the money that came in via the membership fees. Expenditures are mainly due to a 50% secretary, to travel for officers and to support attendance of LOW GDP members at WERA meetings. Ideas for raising funds e.g. through a journal or fees for focal meetings were currently discussed, so Theo Wubbels.

Finally, Lejf Moos highlighted that some IRNs have been established and they started to work. A call for new IRNs was issued and needs to go on the EERA website and to NW convenors.

10.2 EASSH and ISE (report)

Lejf Moos then summed up the events within the EASSH working group and the ISE initiative.

Both designed to coordinate lobbying in Brussels.

EASSH has successfully launched a letter to the Commissioner.

ISE has now 3 soft sciences in their group. EERA will feature sessions on H2020 at ECER 2013.

Some of them will present results from the NW workshop, others will focus on open access and on more political implications.

Further activities regarding visibility

A new article 'Re-humanising research' in Public Service Europe is in the loop.

10.3 Collaboration with EARLI (report)

Theo Wubbels reported that while discussing possible cooperation with EARLI , especially a shared summer school, some misunderstandings have occurred. As some of Exec and also some Council Members will attend the EARLI conference in Munich it was suggested to restart the process there.

Going to Munich and meeting EARLI: Theo Wubbels, Herbert Altrichter, Tina Hascher, Lejf Moos.

10.4 WIKIPEDIA (report)

David Bosold reported that the Wikipedia entry in English was finished, but it still needed translation in member-languages. (Shorter version)

Office will send out the short version and asks council members to organize the translation and the update of the Wikipedia entry in the official language of their country.

Working Group on Quality of Teacher Education

Tina Hascher suggested starting a discussion on the quality control of teacher education, as much change would go on in some countries and having an overview of the debates would be helpful. It was discussed if EERA could or should start a process on this. The agreement was that this was something to be done via the Member Associations rather than via the Networks. A working group was established in order to point out ways on how to do this. They will report in September (Tina Hascher, Marit Hoveid, Maria Figueireido, Joe O'Hara, Herbert Altrichter, Joanna Madalińska-Michalak)

11 Report from the Network seminar

11.1 Discussion on development of network structure (paper presented)

Maria started her report with an overview of how networks are/have been founded and developed, she pointed out that Council would overview the work of networks and had already closed down two in the past years.

While working on the structure of Networks, Network Convenors during the Seminar in April found that this was more a dynamic field than a fixed structure. She therefore argued that networks did not need so much of a restructuring, but new forms of presenting them needed to be found and collaboration between them needed to be deepened.

One of the ideas of presenting networks better was a new introductory text on networks and their meaning for EERA within the EERA website, another one a new and more meaningful listing of networks in the EERA Website. Currently they are listed by numbers – that used to be historically valuable, as it showed when which networks came into being. But with the closure of two networks their (then open) numbers have been given to newly founded ones.

While some years ago overlaps of networks might have been perceived as something bad, these overlaps have now been turned into a creative feature by establishing more and more Joint Sessions. ECER 2013 will have more than 25 of them. The Convenors Seminar (scheduled after reviewing was over) has proved to be the suitable place for planning these Joint Sessions.

Maria then also reported that networks developed new criteria for accepting new networks and that they agreed on an evaluation of those after three years. Networks also decided that also established networks should undergo a self – evaluation process and report to council every third year. Council welcomed this.

Another issue to be addressed are double redirections of good papers. A double redirection leads to a rejection in the second round. Maria, after having analysed this situation this year, suggested that a solution is found for the papers rejected based only on double redirection, like a third network suggestion or EERA sessions, finding them a place for presentation.

Council also welcomed this proposal and Maria will work further on this.

Questions came up regarding how to rejuvenate the convenors group. While networks are asked to change the Link Convenor after three years this would not necessarily lead to the inclusion of new researchers within the convenors group, someone claimed. Maria explained that much has been achieved already as a couple of years ago networks were asked to invite more researchers from southern countries to join in, now the structure is more balanced in a regional perspective and the next aim will be to include more researchers from eastern countries.

For choosing new link Convenors it is now suggested that they need to be a member of a national association linked to EERA.

11.2 Funding of network activities

Regarding Network Funding Maria reported that EERA was close to spending the earmarked budget for this, but that some was still left. She pointed out which networks received funding: These were NW02 (VETNET) for an open journal system, NW 10 (Teacher Education) for a seminar, NW 22 (Research on Higher Education) for an international seminar in London One for a season school by NW 09 (Assessment, Evaluation, Testing and Measurement) was turned down as the EERA engagement in network season schools cannot be a permanent one and is designed for getting the schools started.

New Networks

Maria reported that two new networks successfully passed the evaluation by the Link Convenors and asked for the approval by council. The Convenors of the new networks will now have inaugural symposia at ECER. They will fully function with accepting proposals for ECER 2014. The two Networks are "LEd –Network for Language and Education" and "Research on Environmental and Sustainability Education."

12 Conference Frame Contract

Revised version of the contract plus annex to be decided for General Regulations (appendix)

Theo Wubbels presented the restructured frame contract which now consists of the contract plus an annex. He highlighted one more necessary change as the contract should be signed not later than January the year before the conference. Council then also suggested a rewording and asked that LOC should "facilitate" not "arrange" accommodation. In addition it was agreed to seek legal advice on policies regarding cancellation of a conference.

13 Principles on sponsoring

Decision (appendix, also cf. minutes of February 2013 meeting)

Theo Wubbels presented the principles for Sponsorship at ECER. They were agreed without further discussion and will be included in the General Regulation.

14 EERA Office (report)

David Bosold reported on staff changes and presented some statistics. Submission numbers were close to those of last year, just as registration numbers were. Rejection rate was slightly reduced.

15 Dates for next meetings

14. September 2013, Istanbul, 9 – 15 h

17 – 18 January 2014, London

20 – 21 June 2014, Berlin

16 AOB

Any other business

Lejf Moos pointed out that no final agreement with London was possible at that stage as some details regarding the numbers of rooms of certain sizes and the linked costs needed to be clarified first. He asked Council to have EXEC decide on the matter including, if necessary, a search for and contracting an alternative venue once the final budget is tabled. Council agreed to that.

Council agreed to that.

Then Lejf Moos drew council's attention to the sad fact that this had been David's last Council meeting as for family reasons he would be unable to come to ECER. In the name of Council and Exec he thanked David for the work he was doing for EERA and pointed out how successful he had performed.

For EERA



Lejf Moos
President

Secretary



Angelika Wegscheider
EERA Office