

**Minutes of the
EERA Council Meeting
Friday 20 June, 9:00 – 17:00
Saturday 21 June, 9:00 – 13:30
Einsteinsaal, Akademie der Wissenschaften
Jägerstraße 22/23, 10117 Berlin**

Attendees

Eduardo García-Jiménez, (AIDIPE), Nune Hovhannisyan (Armenia), ERIC Mangez, (ABCéduc) AND EERJ, Nicolau Gorbachev (BNA "IE"), Felicity Wikeley (BERA), Patricia Fidalgo (ERG), Huseyin Uzunboylu (KEB-DER), Petr Novotný Czech Educational Research Association (CERA), Nune Hovhannisyan (for Anna Aleksanyan) Educational Research Armenian Center (ERAC), Angelika Wegscheider EERA Office, Monica Brandis EERA Office, Leif Moos EERA President, Theo Wubbels, EERA President elect, Marit Hoveid EERA Secretary General, Herbert Altrichter EERA Treasurer, Karmen Trasberg Estonian Academic Research Association (EAPS), Gyongyver Pataki Hungarian Educational Research Association (HERA), John Benedicto Krejsler Nordic Educational Research Association (NERA), Angelika Paseka Österreichische Gesellschaft für Forschung und Entwicklung im Bildungswesen (OEFEB), Joanna Madalińska-Michalak Polskie Towarzystwo Pedagogiczne (PTP), George Head Scottish Educational Research Association (SERA), Sofia Marques Silva, Sociedade Portuguesa de Ciências da Educação (SPCE), Maria Grazia Riva Società Italiana di Pedagogia (SIPED), Pavel Zgaga The Slovenian Educational Research Association (SLODRE), Yunus Eryaman Turkish Educational Research Association (EAB), Monique Volman Vereniging voor Onderwijs Research (VOR)

Appologies

André Mottart, (Belgium); Helen Phitaki, (Cyprus); Gunilla Holm, (Finland); AECSE France (new representative to be announced); Kairat Kurakbayev (Kazakhstan, invited as guest); Maria Figueiredo, (NW Speaker on Council), Paula Korsnakova (Slovakia), Gonzalo Jover (SEP, Spain), Ahmet Aypay (Turkey, EARDA), Roland Reichenbach (Switzerland), Delma Byrne (Ireland), Ana Cabral Portugal (CIDInE), Sabine Reh (DGfE, Germany)

1 Welcome, Agenda and Minutes

Minutes were approved without any changes.

As Eric Mangez was only able to participate on the first day all issues relating EERJ were discussed on Friday The Agenda was extended by two new applications for membership. Documents had been circulated before.

2 Conferences

2.1 Porto 2014: LOC-report, EERA Sessions, WERA session, Anniversary, Programme Layout

Sofia Marques reported on the Local Organizers progresses: a minimum of 100 Volunteers will be available, the new system for WIFI is already in place and easy to work with. For the Welcome reception on Tuesday a short concert is organised in one of the lecture halls. As not all the rooms reserved for students had been booked the offer was sent to all participants now.

Lejf Moos introduced to this years' EERA Sessions including the Anniversary Round Table with previous Presidents/Secretary Generals (Marit Hoveid), a Round Table on future developments, a Session on H2020, resulting from the Convenors Seminar, a WERA Symposium , a session on the Portuguese Educational System.. In addition there are the Central Events: 5 Keynotes, the Keynote Panel and the EERJ Moot.

Marit Hoveid reported on the Anniversary Events: the EERJ Special Issue is close to being published, the visual history website will be officially launched in the opening ceremony, the Thursday social event will see some more programme than usual.

Angelika Wegscheider briefly informed Council that the layout of the printed programme had been redesigned in order to cut down pages.

2.2 Budapest 2015:

2.2.1 LOC-report

Gyöngyver Pataki shared video impressions of Corvinus University and Budapest for ECER 2015 (7 – 15 September) ECER 2015 will be a joint event of Debrecen and Corvinus University, HERA and EERA. 75 Seminar Rooms in Corvinus University are reserved, as well as two big lecture halls. Currently she is negotiating places for Social events.

2.2.2 WERA Focal Meeting

ECER 2015 will be hosting the WERA Focal Meeting. Expected implications for ECER 2015: about 200 additional participants, 40 Sessions and 1 Keynote (During ECER session time slots). Full details need to be discussed further.

2.2.3 Theme and Keynoters

It was agreed to invite the keynotes in the order suggested by the working group. If one of them should be unable to follow the invitation the next person of the same gender is to be invited. It was also suggested that for upcoming conferences more emphasis should be laid on country spread as well as on field of research spread for Keynote speakers.

The proposed theme raised some discussions regarding the concept of transition and whether or not the theme was too broad. It was eventually approved but it was also agreed that a line on the transitions of research methods should be included and that the keynote speakers should be guided to addressing research on transition in their presentations. Lejf Moos will redraft the theme. Office will invite the keynote speakers.

2.3 ECER 2016

Unfortunately the planned host (Free University Amsterdam) for ECER 2016 needed to step back as the start of the academic year was changed and did not leave time for ECER anymore. Council members and Convenors had been asked to suggest possible venues. Some universities looked into this more closely but found out that they either had not enough rooms in a close cluster or that the 2016 date was not feasible. Now there are talks with University College Dublin, who hosted ECER a decade ago.

Ciaran Surgue, who is the LOC representative, will be invited to participate in the Council Meeting in September.

2.4 2017, 2018, 2019: applications?

Applicants who are interested in hosting an ECER in any of these years are asked to get in contact with the EERA office for further guidance on what is required of a host University. No commitments for hosting an ECER have been made yet, what we have is:

2017: Copenhagen is interested (They are moving into a new campus in 2016)

2018: Open...

2019: Glasgow/SERA is interested

2.5 Mission statement for ECERs

Lejf Moos introduced to the ideas of having mission statements for ECERs and for Summer Schools. The suggested text triggered considerable discussions as many felt that it should also remark on being inclusive to various research communities and traditions. Also it was felt that research should be in the focus and that the European dimension of ECER is to be addressed.

Discussion the European dimension then raised questions for items that were planned later on the agenda and it was decided to postpone the discussion on mission statement until after an agreement on the notion of Europe and membership criteria linked to this has been gained.

A new text with a mission statement will be written by Theo Wubbels, Maria Figueiredo, Eduardo García-Jiménez and Lejf Moos and presented for discussion in September meeting.

3 Seasonal Schools:

3.1 2014, Trondheim

Marit Hoveid reported on the Summer School 2014, which took place just a week before Council.

70 students had participated, coming from 31 countries but largely from European Universities. The morning session had offered lectures, the afternoon tutorials. She pointed out that the event served two different aims: capacity building on the one side, visibility on the other, as EERA was not known to many of the participants before. In general the summer school received a very positive evaluation from the participants. In fall a report on the summer school will be handed in.

3.2 2015: Sheffield (Report Marit Hoveid)

A call for applications had triggered 3 more or less developed applications for hosting the summer school for 2015 on. Marit Hoveid explained that EXEC had decided for Sheffield as partner for 2015. Sheffield can only do the summer school one year due to finances. They are currently is working on the programme, as the first version did not include enough tutoring time, something that participants always value a lot. It is also planned that papers from participants will be invited for submission in a special issue, (Journal TBA).

3.3 2016: applications (Linz)

As Sheffield will only be able to do the 2015 event, new partners are needed for 2016/2017.

EERA hopes for an updated application from Linz, as they had not been able to come up with a budget early enough for being considered for 2015.

3.4 Mission statement for Seasonal schools

The discussion on the mission statements was rescheduled to next meeting, as questions on the European Dimension needed to be clarified first

A new text with a mission statement will be written by Theo Wubbels, Maria Figueiredo, Eduardo García-Jiménez and Lejf Moos and presented for discussion in September meeting.

4 Networks

4.1 Quality Work/Evaluation of ECER 2013

Marit Hoveid gave a brief account of the Network Seminar in April 2014 and the discussions about conference quality, to which it was dedicated. Based on a paper addressing various aspects of the conference and the preparation process the convenors discussed how to deal with reoccurring problems.

The following decisions were taken

- The new length of the submission form (1.300 words as of 2014) was seen as being long enough (only exception NW 13 and their long papers)
- The submission formats of Round Tables and Symposia need to be reworked, so as to make them more distinctive from other formats and to allow more space for references and paper descriptors
- double blind reviewing should be the standard
- authors need to be guided better through the submission guidelines
- reviewers and chairpersons should be better guided towards good reviewing/chairing

She pointed out that work is currently underdone so that for ECER 2015 most of the changes and enhancements should be in place.

Lejf Moos underlined the importance of the network seminar for developing Networks and the conference quality.

4.2 Suggestion for Accommodation for Link Convenors

In the last Convenors Seminar (April 2014), it was suggested that EERA could pay for the accommodation for link convenors during ECER, and could organize to have all link convenors in the same hotel as council and exec. This would be in addition to the free entries already provided by EERA which are appreciated.

This would be seen as some sort of re-compensation for the growing work linked to EERA and, a way to enhance cross network cooperation but also council- convenors cooperation if all staid in the same hotel.

Herbert Altrichter pointed out the housing for one convenor for each of the 30 networks for 5 days would probably cost about 15.000 Euro, which equals 3 network fundings or one EERA Summer School.

While council was not in general against this suggestion there was a feeling that more scenarios were needed for an in depth discussion. These should not only keep in mind cost aspects (how many nights/ differences for low and high GDP countries) but also criteria for having access to this (election procedures link convenors?) as well as the general feasibility of it (is there a hotel where we could get up to 70 rooms for council and convenors?)

Also it should be considered if parts of the aims linked to the suggestion (enhancement of cooperation between council/convenors) can be addressed differently.
Marit, Maria, Theo and Herbert will develop more ideas for the January council meeting.

4.3 New Network Representative on Council

Jani Ursin, who had been elected by the Network Convenors as acting as new network representative, was formally approved by council. He will act as shadow to Maria Figueiredo and take over her role in September 2015.

4.4 New network

The new network on Organizational Education was accepted without any requests for further amendments. They will have an inaugural symposium at ECER 2014. The group is already established within DGfE (GERA) and WERA. The discussion around the name of the network was commented on and the native English speakers agreed that the English language could accommodate for this German translation of 'Organisationspädagogik'.

5 Strategies

5.1 WG 1: Cooperation of member associations (attachment: Samuel, Gonzalo)

Not presented

5.2 WG 2 + 3: Europe and European Perspective (attachment: Lejf, John, George, Gyögyver, Ana Paula, Yunus, Gonzalo)

Lejf Moos introduced to the report of the working group and explained that various aspects would need to be kept in mind when discussing "What is Europe" in the context of EERA.

One was the legal aspects of who to grant membership, another one was a more sociological or political aspect related to values but also to how much Europeanization was aimed at. A third one would be the European dimension within ECER presentations.

The proposed text triggered considerable discussions; but it was widely agreed that Europe could neither be taken as the geographical region nor as the political definition of the European Union. Lejf Moos argued for taking it as a criterion for membership to EERA that a country has signed the European Cultural Convention and the Bologna Process as this would be a straight forward way to decide if a country was "European" if one did not want to go by a geographical definition only.

Council agreed to this.

But it was also argued that partnerships beyond Europe should be strengthened and potentially be put on more formal grounds, which would need an amendment of the Constitution for introducing an affiliated membership.

Council agreed to this. A proposal to change the Constitution on this will be put forward at the September meeting.

The discussions were summed up after the meeting in the following statement.

The 'Greater Europe'

Berlin, June 21st, 2014/Lejf

EERA is inclusive in welcoming applications from national, regional and supra-regional general educational research associations (or groups and institutes that are establishing such associations) from countries not on the Council of Europe list of countries, that meet the following criterion: The country or countries have signed the 'European Cultural Convention' and the 'Bologna Process' as outlined in the Berlin Communiqué: 'Realising the European Higher Education Area.'

This means that the 47 Council of Europe member states together with Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Holy See, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia," Belarus and Kazakhstan are included.

This list of countries may be expanded if the EERA Council wishes so.

References:

<http://hub.coe.int/what-we-do/culture-and-nature/european-cultural-convention>

<http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/Commun/QueVoulezVous.asp?CL=ENG&NT=018>

<http://www.bologna-berlin2003.de/en/aktuell/haupt.htm>

A mission statement for EERA was also discussed – in connection to the Mission statement for ECER. A new text with a mission statement will be written by Theo Wubbels, Maria Figueiredo, Eduardo García-Jiménez and Lejf Moos and presented for discussion in the Council September meeting.

5.3 WG 4: Engagement of members (attachment: Theo, Karmen, Pavel)

Theo Wubbels reported on the working group who focused on how to encourage educational research communities in countries with no educational research association to strengthen their networking and also their links to EERA but also investigated how to strengthen EERAs ties with associations that are currently often very loose, leaving those countries underrepresented in EERA activities.

Regarding potential new members a list of countries which could be invited was presented. This list will need to be checked against the new membership criteria after Council (members/ or associations partners ...) But it was agreed that the Working Group should go on working with it, possibly by identifying target countries via looking into ECER participation of researchers from these countries over the last couple of years. The idea was to invite them to a meeting at ECER 2014. Petr Novotny pointed out that approaching people in Budapest might be easier than in Porto because more Eastern Low GDP countries will be attending. It was also suggested that less active members could be invited to a meeting during ECER. Council decided that a letter of the president should be sent to those countries which are rarely in EERA council, asking them to explain their reasons.

Working Group to report in upcoming meeting(s). (Pavel Zgaga, Karmen Trasberg Theo Wubbels)

5.4 WG 5 + 6: Publications

Herbert Altrichter circulated a new paper as an outdated version of the report had been included in the Council Documents.

He presented the ideas of the working group underlining the importance of EERJ, but also the special scope of EERJ which would leave space for potential other EERA related publications.

The working group had been thinking in different direction reaching from establishing new journal(s) to strengthening already existing links to different journals.

Eric Mangez stated that EERJ was open for any submissions as long as it would “speak to an European audience”. He also said that Networks should be strongly encouraged to submit to EERJ.

Marit Hoveid pointed out that a journal would increase visibility, but that this maybe could also be reached via (regular) special issues in existing journals or book series and reviews.

Theo Wubbels suggested that to revise the description of EERJ’s scope at the websites, because this seems to be different from what Eric said.

Patricia Fidalgo underlined the cooperation between ERG and EERJ regarding the best paper award. Since a couple of years the winning paper is published in EERJ. This year 4 short listed papers will be published. She asked if that could be developed into a standard procedure. Eric Mangez was positive in principle towards this idea but said that he would need to consult with the EERJ board for a final answer.

Petr Novotny reported that the Czech Association runs a Journal (Studia Paedagogica) which is published once a year in English. This journal is interested in a partnership with the Emerging Researchers Group. ERG papers could be published there. A model for a cooperation agreement will be set up

Also Nicolau Gorbachev invited ERG to submit papers to some of their journals (E-learning Worlds, Open Education). This was welcomed by council and the working group was asked to also think into these directions when going on with their work.

On the other hand there was also agreement that setting up a new journal should not be left completely out of sight as there might be areas which are underrepresented currently. On the other hand there was also agreement that setting up a new journal should not be left completely out of sight as there might be areas which are underrepresented currently.

The working group was extended by Eric Mangez and Petr Novotny who joined Maria Figueiredo, Herbert Altrichter, Theo Wubbels, Maria Grazia Riva and Roland Reichenbach.

Multilingual Abstract in EERJ

Following discussions from January Council, EERJ had been asked to consider multilingual abstracts to the English papers. Eric Mangez reported that this had been evaluated as regards to the financial aspects as well as to how that would influence current publication processes of the journal. Translations would probably cost 50 Euro per language and the publication process would be considerably slowed down. Therefore EERJ takes it that there are too many difficulties linked to the idea without really being justified by the expected added value.

Lejf Moos thanked Eric for having evaluated into this.

6 New members applications: (Kazakhstan, Malta, Romania, Croatia and Albania)

6.1 Kazakhstan Educational Research Association (KERA)

Based on the agreement on how to deal with the legal interpretation of the term “Europe” Kazakhstan was accepted as full member.

6.2 Malta

Malta was accepted for Candidate Membership. They will receive Council invitations from now on and are asked to apply for full membership within a two year period.

6.3 Romania

Did not send documents, was postponed

6.4 Croatia

Croatia was accepted for Candidate Membership. They will receive Council invitations from now on and are asked to apply for full membership within a two year period.

6.5 Albania

Some discussions arose regarding the status of the institute putting forward the application. Pavel Zavga explained their role and position within the Albanian research scene and they were accepted for Candidate Membership. They will receive Council Invitations from now on and are asked to apply for full membership within a two year period.

7 Visibility: work with ISE, EASSH, H2020 and Convenors

Initiative for Science in Europe - ISE

Lejf Moos reported that ISE is currently working on the new data protection act (EC) that may render also research related data gathering more difficult. A second working field is Open Access (ISE Paper had been sent out earlier that year) All in there was agreement that as ISE is still more oriented towards sciences EERAs engagement/ membership should be evaluated. It was scheduled for discussion in January 2015.

European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities - EASSH

Lejf Moos reported on the general work of EASSH, trying to get in more associations for the pressure group, as numbers would count. He also reported on the EASSH meeting in Berlin (May), where an agreement for reorganising the currently loose partnership/network into a legal body in its own right (association) was made. Lejf Moos had been appointed there to manage this transition and will therefore lead this work for the next couple of months.

A new meeting is to take place 14 July (Berlin) for discussing next steps.

Angelika Paseka thanked Lejf for the work he is putting into this.

H2020 – Convenors

A part of the Convenors Meeting in April had been dedicated to discussing Horizon 2020 Calls and how education research can fit into this. Results and ideas will be discussed and presented in an EERA Session at ECER 2014.

World Education Research Association - WERA

Lejf Moos reported that WERA had a new president elect (Felice Levine) and a new Secretary General (Liesel Eberson); also WERA is currently working on publications (plans for year books and journal). In addition there are task forces on central themes – one of them being “Poverty and the Opportunity to Learn” A Whitepaper on this had been circulated for comments and contributions. Two of the network convenors responded to this.

8 Budget

Herbert Altrichter presented the Results (still unaudited) of 2013 to Council. The good news was that the loss was far lower than expected in September 2013 (40.000 instead of 80.000). In some parts of the budget the expenses had exceeded the original plans: Office, Software, Travel costs. Also, the network meeting reg. H2020 had contributed to higher expenses. Herbert Altrichter suggested that after the auditing (taking place in July) and with a better outlook on the finances of 2014, a new round of Network Funding could be started and EERA would be back to normal operations in 2015. Council agreed to this.

9 Members Reports (3x20 minutes)

9.1 AIDIPE and SEP (Eduardo García-Jiménez)

Eudardo briefly introduced to special features of the Education System in Spain and introduced council to the current top five problems:

- 1) diversity
- 2) teacher training: not enough pedagogical training
- 3) over-regulation: new law every 6 years
- 4) efficiency (35% don't complete upper secondary)
- 5) reading, maths, sciences+problem solving lower than OECD (PISA)

AIDIPE founding member of EERA, 396 members, 250 members attending biennial conference, two journals: RIE/ RELIEVE

SEP: no real difference between the two associations today, 500 members, 1 journal, next conference in Chile. A merge might be possible in future.

Data protection and research is a problem in Spain (Council to investigate whether other European countries face similar problem)

9.2 BELARUS

Nicolau Gorbachev started with a general introduction to Belarus, its cities, economic and social structure. He then explained that one of the current aims was to bring the national system of education into Europe to increase competitiveness. He gave an overview on the education system and of the Educational Research Association established in 2000. The association "Innovation in Education" is made up of educators, young people and parents. Despite the name there is no special focus on ICT.

Leif Moos thanked for the presentations and expressed the encouragement to write a short report for the EERA web site on this. He also stated that members who were not present in Berlin should be asked to present in the next meeting.

10 Next Meetings

- 6 September 2014, Porto (09:00 – 15:00)
- 16 – 17 January 2015 Budapest
- 8 April 2015 Exec, Berlin
- 9 – 10 April 2015 Convenors Seminar in Berlin
- 19 – 20 June 2015 Council Meeting Berlin
- 12 September 2015 Council meeting in Budapest

11 AOB

Duties: evaluate posters on the basis of suggestions from networks (one per network), make a ranking; this year prize will be announced in closing ceremony, therefore more time for nws and jury to select the winners

New team: Petr Novotny, Karmen Trasberg, Huseyin Uzunboylu, George Head