



Minutes EERA Council Meeting

Friday 19 June - Saturday 20 June

Seminarzentrum Kantstraße 47, 10625 Berlin

Attendees

Angelika Paseka, Österreichische Gesellschaft für Forschung und Entwicklung im Bildungswesen (OEFEB); **Angelika Wegscheider**, EERA Office; **Anna Aleksanyan**, Educational Research Armenian Center (ERAC); **Branislava Baranovic**, Zagreb Institute for Social Research, Croatia (ZISR); **Ciaran Sugrue**, LOC 2016, University College Dublin; **Daniela Preis**, EERA Office; **Delma Byrne**, Educational Studies Association of Ireland (ESAI); **Eric Mangez**, Association des chercheurs belges francophones en éducation (ABCéduc) and EERJ; **Felicity Wikeley**, British Educational Research Association (BERA); **George Head**, Scottish Educational Research Association (SERA); **Gyöngyvér Pataki**, Hungarian Educational Research Association (HERA); **Herbert Altrichter**, EERA Treasurer; **Huseyin Uzunboylu**, Cyprus Educational Sciences Association (KEB-DER); **Jani Ursin**, EERA Network Representative on Council Elect; **Joanna Madalińska-Michalak**, Polskie Towarzystwo Pedagogiczne (PTP); **John Benedicto Krejsler**, Nordic Educational Research Association (NERA); **Kadir Beycioğlu**, Educational Administration Research and Development Association (EARDA); **Karmen Trasberg**, Estonian Academic Research Association (EAPS); **Lucian Ciolan**, Romania, University of Bucharest; **Marco Rieckmann**, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Erziehungswissenschaft (DGfE); **Maria Pacheco Figueiredo**, EERA Network Representative on Council; **Marit Honerod Hoveid**, EERA Secretary General; **Milosh M. Raykov**, Malta Educational Research Association; **Mustafa Yunus Eryaman**, Turkish Educational Research Association (EAB); **Nassira Hedjerassi**, Association des Enseignants et Chercheurs en Sciences de l'Éducation (AECSE); **Nikolai Gorbatchev**, Belarus National Association "Innovation in Education" (BNA "IE"); **Palmira Jucevičienė**, Lithuanian Academic Educational Association (LERA); **Pavel Zgaga**, The Slovenian Educational Research Association (SLODRE); **Petr Novotny**, Czech Educational Research Association (CERA); **Satu Perälä-Littunen**, Finnish Educational Research Association (FERA); **Sofia Marques da Silva**, Sociedade Portuguesa de Ciências da Educação (SPCE); **Theo Wubbels**, EERA President

1 Welcome, Agenda and Minutes

Theo Wubbels welcomed all attendees and informed Council that Ana Cabral, Paula Korsnakova, Monique Volman, Gonzalo Jover, Eduardo Jimenez, Mariagrazia Riva, Roland Reichenbach, Patricia Fidalgo and Helen Phtiaka had sent their excuses for not being able to attend. Iouri Zagoumenov, Kairat Kurakbayev and Ahmet Aypay were also unable to attend, but had appointed respectively Nikolai Gorbatchev, Carole Foucher and Kadir Beycioğlu as replacements.

The agenda was accepted without further changes.

The Minutes of the January Council Meeting were also accepted without request for changes.

Theo Wubbels also reminded everybody to as early as possible let Office know in case they should be unable to attend Council meetings as Office needs participation numbers for arranging rooms, catering, etc.

2 Conferences

2.1 Budapest 2015:

2.1.1 LOC-report

Gyöngyvér Pataki reported that the mensa's reconstruction in the main building was finished on time, so that it can be used during ECER. All contracts are signed and all important details are fixed. The Venue Booklet is almost finished as well. She recommended checking bus and underground connections online before arrival, as the signs indicating the way are difficult to find and understand.

It was agreed that opting out of the printed programme does not mean opting out of the venue booklet.

2.1.2 WERA Focal Meeting

It will be as big as one of the bigger networks, with additional invited sessions and workshops.

2.1.3 Chairs for Keynote Speakers

Sofia Marques da Silva will chair Tamas Kozma's keynote, Pavel Zgaga will chair Michael Apple. LOC will suggest 2 further keynote chairs.

2.1.4 EERA sessions

a) What does it mean to live together in a culturally diverse Europe?:

Exploring the Role of Education and Educational Research

Confirmed by Council without changes

b.) Central European Panel (LOC)

confirmed. Council suggested looking for a different title.

c.) The future of Research in the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) in Europe.

Confirmed. Lucian Ciolan volunteered to act as discussant.

d.) Erasmus Meet and Greet

Confirmed with changes. A discussion came up with concerns that this could be too practical for an EERA Session. EERA could not offer a session to find partners for Erasmus projects. Council suggested that the list of speakers could be broadened and that it becomes more academic and informative.

e.) New forms of research communication

Confirmed with some changes

f.) ERC funding options

Confirmed

2.1.5 Member associations exhibits

It was agreed that all member association stands will consist of one table and one poster wall, that information will be on the table all the time, and that a Meet and Greet slot will be fixed and announced on the tables. This year AIDIPE, EAB, HERA and SIPED will be presented.

2.1.6 Posters – Award and Poster Session

Poster Jury for this year: Karmen Trasberg, Petr Novotny, Felicity Wickely, Angelika Paseka volunteered.

See also under networks

2.2 Dublin 2016

2.2.1 LOC-report

Contract is about to be signed, as there is an American Football match taking place the weekend after ECER, accommodation may be a problem. The second social event now has to be self-paying, as it could not be financed otherwise.

2.2.2 Theme and keynotes

Conference Theme Dublin 2016

LEADING EDUCATION: THE DISTINCT CONTRIBUTIONS OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND RESEARCHERS

Educational research can play a leading role in imaginatively and creatively constructing our education futures with the bricolage from past and present, and from research, policy and practice. Tensions between competing interests challenge educational researchers and practitioners alike, and give rise to the more general concern of what it means to exercise leadership, and what, as individuals and communities of practice, we stand for in such circumstances.

For educational researchers, being professionally responsible requires decision-making and action in the public interest as well as in the interest of professions, and implies discretionary judgement and relative autonomy. Consequently, there is a particular challenge for researchers within a policy environment that increasingly requires knowledge on 'what works'. They are faced with short-term and performance oriented forms of accountability and tendencies of privatization and commercialisation in education research. These trends compete with a wish for rigour and public commitment of educational research and thus questions arise on who and what can and should lead educational research, as a contribution to a quality education for all and at all levels.

There is general recognition that leadership encompasses beliefs, values and the cultivation of dispositions; that leadership formation is not just the preserve of the few, the born leaders, but everyone has a contribution to make in this regard. Consequently, researchers have an individual and collective responsibility to meet this leadership challenge through their work.

In addition to reports on their research and scholarship from conceptual, theoretical and practical perspectives, participants are invited to address in what ways their work sheds light on the contemporary educational research landscape. By contributing from this perspective, you are being provoked into finding new compass readings that have generative potential towards the cultivation of a language of education and its leadership formation that promotes educational research as a common good while finding continuity in the challenges and changes that this represents, and in the process contributing to the leading capacity of education, the distinct contribution of research while exercising your responsibility in this regard

Theme is accepted with the above wording.

Keynotes:

ESAI, LOC and Exec decided that number zero should be re-discussed. Number one and two on the list can already now be invited; in order to keep the gender balance, either number three or four are invited, depending on the gender of number zero.

Council accepted this, but it was pointed out that geographical spread should be an issue for next year.

Council approved the suggested keynote speaker for the Emerging Researcher's Conference as well.

One council member highlighted that (again) Eastern European researchers were not represented in the group of invitees and asked that the committee would stronger look into this direction in the next year(s) .

2.3 2017 Glasgow / Copenhagen state of affairs

George Head reported on the developments regarding a conference in Glasgow. He informed Council that the Scottish Government and the City of Glasgow are keen to have the conference, and offered funding of 90,000 £. The Glasgow City Council also offered to host one Social Event. The latest possible dates would be 28 August to 1 September, as the students come back afterwards. Office pointed out that this week would collide with EARLI, which has been avoided so far. Council generally approved that if needed the conference dates could also be earlier in August. This would mean that the conference would have to take place one week earlier. George Head will check, also how much risk the university is willing to take. The question came up if the earlier date would mean losing participants, as many may still be on holidays in that period. However, others may be free then and could combine it with holidays. BERA made a survey among their members with regard to early conference dates, and the result was 50/50. Nassira Hedjerassi informed Council that they would also be interested in hosting ECER. In 2017, it could either be in Lyon or Rennes, in 2018 it would be in Rennes. Malta is generally interested, but would have to postpone, due to changes at the university. The same holds true for Poland.

2.4 2018: Bolzano

University of Bolzano sent an application. Budget is under negotiation.

2.5 ECER General

2.5.1 Video presentations /Distance presentations

Maria Figueiredo reported on the possibility to offer video presentations at the conference. This would not mean distance presentations, but that the author is there to present his or her video, either at a central place or in interactive sessions. The second option would mean no extra costs for the local organisers, as the existing equipment would be sufficient, apart from additional loudspeakers. At a central place, screens would have to be organised, which could be financed by sponsoring. Some Council members had already witnessed this kind of general video exhibition and found it very interesting and reported that lots of attention was attracted by that. There is a growing interest in this kind of offer, but there should be clear technical standards and fixed formats, in order to guarantee a certain quality. In addition, the videos should not exceed 3 minutes. Council is interested; therefore a proposal will be discussed with the Networks during the September meeting.

Distance participation is not wanted for the moment, as too many organisational issues would have to be solved (fee, technique for live conversation etc.). Although Council wants to explore the idea further, someone called attention to the risk that institutions could force their employees to save money by not travelling to the events any more. And meeting in person does still make a big difference and is one of the major interests at a conference.

2.5.2 General regulations on EERA sessions

General

EERA sessions are sessions that are of interest for a broad group of participants and are initiated from LOC, Council, EERJ or network convenors often in cooperation between two of these groups. These sessions highlight for example topics that are of special importance for the host country, concern policies and practicalities in the host country, present and discuss general policies on education or educational research in Europe, present a new network or have a pressing topicality.

Organizers

EERA Sessions can be proposed and organized by the Local organizers, council members, link convenors and the EERJ lead editor(s).

Time line

January before the conference

Office invites local organizers, council members, link convenors and EERJ lead Editor(s) to send in proposals

April

Evaluation committee decides on sessions to be organized

Criteria for evaluation

General reviewing criteria for ECER proposals will be applied and additional criteria are:

1. Interesting for a broad group of participants
2. Broader significance than two networks
3. Topicality

Council found this very positive, would however like to have EERA Strategy in it. It should also be clear that they are always in parallel to network sessions. Their number is limited to the number of session slots, i.e. 14 at present. So far, evaluation of the interest in them has not been made, could however be done at the next conference by explicitly inviting the chairs to also fill in session return slips.

The proposal will be developed further and a final proposal will be ready for the meeting in September.

3 Seasonal Schools:

3.1 2015: Sheffield

67 of 70 places filled

3.2 2016: Linz

Next year's Summer School will take place from 10 to 16 July. It will be on methodology again Council is invited to come forward with persons who could contribute as mentors or speakers.

The Czech association expressed interest to host the EERA Summer School after the two years in Linz.

4 EERA Affairs

4.1 Letter of intent Open Call For Tenders Eac/47/2014 - Provision Of Evaluation And Impact - Assessment-Related Services

Theo informed council that EERA participated in a tender. If accepted EERAs task would be to support finding researchers who could contribute to projects. While this step was welcomed in principle, some Council members expressed their concerns regarding working with private consultancies.

4.2 Office

Still no decision on the where-about of the new EERA office.

5 Networks

5.1 Feedback from Networks' Seminar in April

Maria reported from the April Network Seminar which focussed on council and convenor relations, network reports to council, networks cooperation with journals and discussing election procedures for link convenors.

5.1.1 Council and Convenors communication

Maria reported that convenors were interested in establishing council-convenors communication seen as dialogue (not as monitoring) on substantial issues, relevant to the development of both the networks and EERA.

5.1.2 Feasibility studies on publications

Some networks have already started to work on strengthening their relations to existing journals, some with, others without asking for the budget that was attributed to it. Most current example: NW 08/Health Education is currently working on a Memorandum of Understanding with a journal guaranteeing the common use of communication channels and agreed special issues.

5.1.3 Recommendation about procedures and mandates for Convenors and Link Convenors (LC)

Maria summed up Convenors discussions on the selection procedures and mandates for Link Convenors, which asked for principles and recommendations instead of standardized rules. As the networks work very differently and have grown organically, it would be hard to have binding procedures for all of them. Principles for and one recommended procedure should be offered to the networks regarding selection of convenors and link convenors. The principles include transparency, legitimacy, openness, trust, and continuity

Council's recommended procedure will suggest that participants in the network meeting elect the convenors. Each candidate would need 2 nominations in support of him/her. Convenors would then appoint the link convenor from within their group.

These recommendations could on the one hand serve as guidelines for new networks. On the other hand, existing networks could check their existing procedures against these recommendations and principles.

Council members discussed the principles and asked for a softer wording on the geographical representation and gender balance in the convenors group. While all agreed any over-regulations would undermine voluntary work, it was also agreed that some standards should be asked for (eg in order to enhance transparency, agendas for network meetings should be sent out).

Council agreed:

- that all networks should make it explicit how a link convenor comes to place as missing transparency undermines the legitimation for the link convenors to act.
- that agendas for the networks meetings should be sent out to presenters in each network
- that gender balance as well as the geographical spread should be taken into account in the selection of convenors
- that the principles should be binding for all networks
- and that the procedure of electing and appointing convenors and Link Convenors is a recommendation only. However, if networks decide not to use this procedure they should be able to explain their own procedure and also why this is more appropriate for them.

In September, the recommendation will be discussed with the convenors.

5.2 Funding applications: activities and season schools

NW 28, sociology of education: funding agreed.

NW 20: workshop, some questions open. Maria to discuss with Gyöngyver.

5.3 Poster session pilot

Three networks piloting posters in session rooms (as a standard session) plus leaving them there for being displayed throughout the conference. One network tries out video presentations.

6 EERJ

6.1 Contract Sage

The contract was signed in the version sent out to Council before the meeting.

6.2 EERA General Regulations; section EERJ

All additional clauses were approved by Council.

6.3 Oral report lead editors

Eric Mangez thanked Exec and Council for the good communication so far, which he pointed out is very important. In future, he will report once a year at the Council Meeting after ECER, together with his co-editor Maarten Simons. EERJ will move from 4 to 6 issues a year, which means a nonstop process during the whole year. For the lead editors this means about 20 % of their time being put into it. EERJ envisages working more with open calls, up to three a year, because the quality of papers has proved being very high and more papers come in like that. It also makes the journal more visible. Eric Mangez asked Council to spread the Calls in future. The new call will be on the work-life balance of researchers. Another big change is the use of an online submitting system with Sage, replacing the old system using Dropbox. The new system now also allows Online First papers; once they are accepted, they can be accessible online, not yet within an issue, but they will be included in the next issue later.

Asked for the rejection rate, Eric said that answering this would need to wait a while as with the old system it was difficult to collect the full data on this.

Eric said, council and networks could approach the editorial board with ideas for special issues or open calls, which will then be discussed at the board meeting.

The Editors will meet Council and Convenors during ECER as they are invited to the Council Invited Reception on Wednesday.

7 Strategies

7.1 Number of EERA Council meetings

Theo Wubbels introduced the new meeting structure with two meetings, one in March/spring in Berlin and one after the conference (Saturday, full day and Sunday half the day). Exec meetings need to be re-considered with regard to this timeline too, and it could also be thought about Exec meeting via Skype. One Council Member highlighted that Exec should still travel, to allow meeting in person, also with office, which is important.

Also both meetings should be open to networks if appropriate.

Council approved the new scheme.

7.2 Privacy, ethics in educational research;

Theo introduced the topic and built up working groups on data protection and ethics in education research.

It was broadly agreed that EERA should work on guidelines and initiate discussions on research ethics, but it was also said that the guidelines should rather be designed to stimulate reflection instead of providing a checklist of steps to follow. The EERA guidelines could be more basic so as to define principles to which any guidelines on research ethics should adhere to. The aim is to continuously include reflections on ethics in the research process. It was also suggested to have the issue included in Workshops for the Emerging Researchers Conference and /or the season school.

When discussing the data protection proposal from EU parliament, Council was worried how this would interfere with the re-use of data. Also it was highlighted that some data necessarily collected in European projects would collide with national data protection policies.

Council decided to carry on with two working groups. One is focusing on bringing awareness to the EU parliament how the suggested policy on data protection threatens research (Sophia Marques da Silva, Angelika Paseka). The second one will work on guidelines for codes of ethics

instead of developing a code of ethics (George Head, Liz Todd, Johanna Michalak, Eric Mangez, Marit Honerod Hoveid, Maria Pacheco Figueiredo).

7.3 Potential New Members

Country	Status of contacts	Proposed action
Andorra	No contacts	Approach later
Bosnia and Herzegovina	No contacts	Approach
Bulgaria	No contacts	Approach
Georgia	No contacts	Approach
Kosovo	No contacts	Approach later
Latvia	Approached, not yet association found	Approach again
Luxembourg	Approached	Initial interest
Macedonia	No contacts	Approach
Moldova	No contacts	Approach later
Montenegro	No contacts	Approach
Russia	No contacts	Approach later
San Marino	No contacts	Approach later
Ukraine	Are establishing an organization	Approach again, offer help

The list of approaches was agreed by Council. Researchers from Ukraine, Luxembourg and Macedonia have already indicated interest in establishing links to EERA. Lucian Ciolan and Carole Foucher offered to organise contacts with some countries on the list that have not yet been approached. Office and Exec will again invite participants from the countries above to a "Prospective Members session" during ECER

7.4 Less Active Members

Theo Wubbels had contacted the less active members asking them to explain the reasons for their inactivity. Two council members answered and now attended the meeting, which is a very positive result. Unfortunately, Greece and the Flemish members did not answer. It was agreed that Helen Phtiaka should contact the Greek, and Eric Mangez would contact the Flemish to find out more.

7.5 Publications

Oral Report – meeting with Ian White T&F

Herbert Altrichter reported on the working group on publications and the decision to meet T&F in order to seize grounds for potential cooperation. Four topics had been discussed with them the day before the council meeting.

- 1.) General ways to cooperate
- 2.) NWs and existing or new journals
- 3.) Does it need new journals?
- 4.) Books/book series/ yearbook

Generally, T&F would be interested in cooperation and to offer services (repository, English language editing – subject to fees), but they find that generally new journals would not be needed, while strengthening ties between networks and some T&F journals would be welcome. However, the idea of a review journal, a series of books or a new yearbook might be options to work on.

An ad-hoc working group was set up who discussed options for a review journal and a 'yearbook' in parallel to the strategic discussions. The group will develop a proposal for the upcoming council meeting (Herbert, Marit, Jani, Petr, Pavel)

8 Elections

Petr Novotny reported on the nomination procedures and confirmed that all documents had been handed in complete and in time.

23 Council members present were allowed to cast votes and 6 Council members had sent in nominations to vote for colleagues in council

George Head was elected as Senior Mentor for the Emerging Researchers Group and Maria Pacheco Figueiredo was elected as General Secretary.

Theo Wubbels thanked all candidates.

9 Visibility: work with ISE, EASSH, WERA

9.1 ISE

Theo Wubbels reported on the ISE General Assembly he had attended. He summed up that it is an important however expensive connection. As this was addressed during the ISE GA, it was decided there that the fees should be lowered considerably.

9.2 EASSH

Theo Wubbels also attended the meeting of the core group as follow up of the Constitutive Assembly of EASSH in Paris and reported back to Council. On the whole, 70 associations are potential members, and the French authorities have approved the constitution. It is organised as a low key organisation, doing important work with an impact, also for EERA. Theo Wubbels invited national associations to consider becoming a member too, the more the better, as the fees are low.

9.3 WERA

The office now completely moved to South Africa, but AERA is still very strong supporting WERA, with the President Elect Felice Levine and half the budget coming from them. The fields of interest are as broad as within EERA, the approach may be a bit less critical, but they are open minded. Several new IRNs were built up; some grew out of EERA networks.

10 Budget

10.1 Audited Budget 2014

As the exculpation will only take place in September, it was decided to postpone the report on the audited budget to that meeting.

10.2 Budget 2015 (Jan-March)

The budget in the first 3 month of 2015 was not very different from the one in 2014. Deviations were linked to difference in dates of payments and late transfers from the credit card acquirer.

10.3 Rise of ECER fees for 2016

Herbert Altrichter showed a new fee structure for 2016, necessary because of the high costs per participant in Dublin. Council discussed the need for a raise, as some found that this would lead to excluding researchers from Low GDP countries. Exec replied that compared to other conferences, ECER is still rather cheap and that fees are still inclusive due to the two groups of fees for low and high GDP countries. In addition, the situation for 2016 is special, as Dublin is an expensive venue. If there were more offers from venues with lower cost, the fees could be lowered again. It was asked if it would be possible to offer bursaries for the main conference, but there is no extra money available for something like that at present.

Herbert Altrichter invited Council to have a look at the expenses and income of EERA; perhaps they have ideas on additional sources of income. Anna, Marco and Milosh have volunteered for this task.

11 Members Reports (2 x 20 minutes)

Romania: Lucian Ciolan reported on his institute, the attempt to establish an association in his country as well as on the situation for researchers in general.

Their attempt to build up an association was to start with activities first and then create the association. The conference last year had 130 participants. Council asked whether there is pressure from the government on researchers; Lucian responded that this would be nice, as this would mean that they are interested in the outcomes. He answered the question why educational research had been closed down in the late communist years explaining that they were too critical and that their research was seen as a hidden source of protest. They also brought in literature from the Western World. The contents of recent research are mostly on early childhood education, the contributions of new technologies to educational research and interdisciplinary research on learning processes etc. There is a high autonomy and diversity, and Lucian hopes that the new association may also help with channelling in this respect.

Germany: Marco Rieckmann reported on the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Erziehungswissenschaft. After his report, Council was interested in the German system of federal states i.e. the 16 states are responsible for the universities on their territories. It was discussed how national funding and influence/standardisation could be increased. The difference between universities and universities of applied sciences is getting smaller and smaller, but professors at UAS still have higher (teaching) work load compared to university professors, and the focus is still less on research but more on teaching. The bigger differences nowadays are between traditional, old universities and the smaller, more local ones. These are forced to create a distinctive profile in order to attract students. German university staff is forced to change posts regularly, as it is for instance usually not possible to become a professor at the university where you did your PhD. If you are unable to find a post as professor, you will end up doing 2 to 3 year contracts until the end of your career. Habilitation still exists, but is more and more replaced by junior professorship. The office of DGfE is staffed with one and a half fulltime posts. The difference to EERA is that they are not involved in the organisation of the bi-annual conference, as this is only done by the hosting university. A new association was created out of one sub-division, with focus on empirical research. Marco explained that DGfE is an old and traditional association, whereas empirical research has become more important in the wake of PISA. Despite problems right after the separation, the new association is now accepted, and a joint list of reviewers for DFG (Deutsche Forschungsgesellschaft) was written, for example.

12 Next Meetings

Council Budapest, 12.09.2015

13 AOB

Maria Pacheco Figueiredo informed Council that last year's keynote speaker Antonio Novoa now has become a candidate for the next Portuguese presidential election.