

**Minutes of the EERA Council Meeting
Free University Berlin, 16th & 17th June 2007**

Present:

Ingrid Gogolin, President, Wim Jochems, Treasurer, Lisbeth Lundahl, Secretary General
David Bridges, Paul Conway, Inaki Dendaluze, Joana Duarte, Jeremy Hoad, Ian Menter, Leif
Moos, Rudolf Tippelt

EERA Office: Juliet Buckner, Angelika Wegscheider. GERA Office: Jana Dreyer
Björn Hasselgren, LOC Gothenburg, Hans Merckens, Free University of Berlin

1 Apologies for absence and welcome to new members

Rudolf Tippelt, GERA, Ian Menter, SERA, Jeremy Hoad, BERA, and Joanna Duarte, PGN, were
welcomed as new members. Apologies were noted from Herbert Altrichter, Matthis Behrens,
Benedicte Gendron, Francesca Gobbo, Ian Grosvenor, Martin Lawn

2 Agenda

The agenda was approved with the addition of two more items: the question of office bearers and the
EERJ report.

3 Confirmation of minutes of 13th and 14th January 2007 Council meeting in Ghent

The minutes were approved.

4 EERQI proposal

Ingrid Gogolin reported on the impressive preparation procedures for the proposal. A large number of
partners with various backgrounds took part in the process (technicians, editors, representatives of na-
tional associations and other European associations e.g. EARLI). Chances of being accepted are not
very high, but the Council agreed that even if the proposal is rejected the idea should not be dropped.
The proposal will be presented at ECER in Ghent, and those who helped to prepare the proposal will
be told formally that EERA highly appreciates their effort.

5 ECER 2007

(i) Local Committee report

By mistake Bram de Wever of the local organising committee (LOC) was not invited to the Berlin
Council meeting, but Ingrid Gogolin could report from a telephone conversation with Bram that the
preparation process is going very well.

However, new Belgian laws may lead to difficulties. If a conference lasts more than 5 days, delegates
have to undergo a complete immigration process. Delegates attending both the pre-conference and
main conference might therefore have problems. Bram de Wever suggested formally advertising the
main conference for just three days, and reserving Saturday for informal networking. The Council
agreed to this.

(ii) Programme schedule

The work on the programme schedule was briefly reported. ECER usually has a reception for Council members and convenors with the hosting city. But the date proposed by the mayor clashes with the final ceremony of ECER on Friday and with the final session. The Council agreed that the reception should be held on Thursday as an informal meeting, open to Council members, convenors and national presidents. Wine and finger food will be provided. There will be a welcome ceremony on Wednesday evening, which will probably be attended by the Flemish educational minister.

(iii) Publishers

Unfortunately the publishers' exhibit won't be in the main building, but the LOC is trying to arrange that the area will be busy. Internet access will be provided and there will be space for informal meetings. At the time of the Council meeting, 7 publishers had registered. One publisher had suggested round tables to hold discussions with potential contributors. This might be considered for the future, but this year publishers should be asked to use their stalls for this.

(iv) Conference bags, posters and flyers

Those who wished to have information on national conferences included in the ECER conference bags were asked provide the LOC with all the material by September 1st.

(v) Keynotes

The local committee had invited Prof. Slavin as a keynote speaker. The Council agreed that a response should be given to Prof. Slavin after his introduction.

(vi) Review process

The Council discussed the report from Ian Grosvenor.

(vii) Pre-conference

Joana Duarte reported that eighty proposals to the pre-conference had been accepted. The programme was already drafted and keynotes organised. The website information about the postgraduate network was under revision. However there was still a need for mentors for the various sessions. It was concluded that a deadline for finding mentors needs to be decided in future. Award for young researchers: Ingrid Gogolin reported that the Genevan local organizing committee and the Swiss association had managed to obtain a Government allowance for ECER 2006 which could be spent as grants for 22 new researchers. This was an exceptional event. Council congratulated and thanked the Swiss association and the local organisers for their efforts. This year the winner of the new researchers' award will receive an invitation to ECER 2008. Joana Duarte will manage the review process together with Paul Standish.

6 ECER 2008

Björn Hasselgren, coordinator of the local committee, reported that the preparations for ECER 2008 in Gothenburg are proceeding well. After a meeting with the Treasurer and the Secretary General, the financial aspects concerning VAT seem to have been clarified. Problems concerning students helping with the conference have been sorted out. Preparations of conference flyers and web-announcement of ECER 2008 are proceeding. The pre-conference 2008 will be held in the same place as the main conference. Joana Duarte has already established good contacts with the local organisers concerning the pre-conference.

7 EERA office, Berlin

Angelika Wegscheider will be the main administrator of the Berlin EERA office. She is in close contact with Juliet Buckner in Glasgow to guarantee a smooth transition process and with Jana Dreyer, GERA. Prof. Hans Merckens has been nominated as a liaison person for EERA/Free University and introduced himself to the Council. At the moment, a contract for the office rooms is being drafted with his help.

A new web address has been registered: www.eera.eu. Conference management systems are being tested, as a new online-based database should be installed for ECER 2008. The idea is to agree on one which could be quite easily adopted for ECER purposes and which offers annual contracts (conftoolPRO). While running ECER 2008 with this system, GERA's new system could be evaluated as well. For ECER 2009 the system could then be altered. Costs for ConftoolPro would be about the same as the annual support for the Elite database currently used by EERA. Jeremy Hoad suggested studying the system employed by EARLI and would like to follow the process. In future the office will be in charge of the website and will take over some financial procedures as well.

Concerning future developments, Rudolf Tippelt reported on the GERA/EERA summer school, for which GERA managed to gather substantial funding.

Juliet Buckner recommended that a person who has English as a first language (or equivalent) is recruited to the new office. After a discussion the Council concluded that if this, however desirable, is not to be the case, official publications should be proof-read to ensure correct English.

8 EERA constitution

EERA cannot remain a Scottish charity after the move of the office to Berlin. As there is no legal status of "European charity", a charity under German law (a "gemeinnütziger eingetragener Verein", abbreviated: e.V.), has to be founded and the Scottish charity closed down. A German lawyer had been contacted to draw up a new constitution. A strict deadline has to be followed. The Scottish entity needs to be closed by Dec. 31st and the German Verein started by Jan. 1st. To meet the timeline for starting a Verein, a founding assembly with seven "founding fathers" has to be held. These, however, do not have to be Germans or living in Germany. The EERA constitution needs to be revised to make it suitable for German charity law. The question of personal liability of members/Council members was raised, and will be forwarded to the lawyer. Following a proposal from the Treasurer, it was decided to have annual audits by a professional auditor.

9 Office bearers

Lisbeth Lundahl summarised the situation concerning office bearers. The terms of the present President and Treasurer end in September 2007, and the present Secretary General is in office till September 2008. In addition, the term of Ian Grosvenor, the coordinator of the network convenors, will end at the same time. Lisbeth Lundahl argued that it would be highly desirable that the president and treasurer stay in office longer to complete the transition process to Berlin. Meanwhile their successors should be found and introduced. By doing so an organisational memory could be build up. During the following discussion, Wim Jochems and Ingrid Gogolin left the room to allow for free discussion. The Council agreed that stability was needed and that Wim Jochems and Ingrid Gogolin should be asked to agree to being re-elected for one or two years. It should also be avoided that EERA lose all the office bearers at the same time. In order to build up an organisational memory two models should be considered: 1. nominating successors a year before term ends (pro: smooth transition/ con: reelection hardly possible); 2. having the former office bearer in Council as an advisor. To bring more stability to the Council the process of replacement of Council members should be reconsidered as well. Officers should be freed from the requirement of being a representative of a national association.

Ingrid Gogolin and Wim Jochems declared themselves willing to prolong their terms in order to support and complete the transition process of the office to Berlin. However Ingrid Gogolin stressed the necessity to develop new procedures, as the Council itself is not a stable board. Wim Jochems argued for a certain freedom to settle the financial questions of the Berlin transition.

The Council asked for a plan to bring these ideas together. Ingrid Gogolin, Wim Jochems and Lisbeth Lundahl should thus propose a system of procession of office bearers, aiming at more continuity and transparency, to the September Council meeting in accordance with the discussion.

10 Proposals on European educational research book critiques

Inaki Dendaluze presented a proposal to establish periodical reviews of books in various languages. The Council considered this a very good idea. However a number of questions were raised, e.g. concerning costs, subscribers and reviewers. Should it be online rather than offline? Should articles be included? The Council agreed to include Inaki Dendaluze, Martin Lawn, Paul Conway and the convenor of network 12 in a task force to consider these questions.

11 Proposal on standards

The item was postponed to the Ghent Council meeting.

12 Treasurer's report

The treasurer presented an overview of the estimated results of 2006, indicating that ECER 2006 was also financially successful (about + € 100.000). The financial audit is being prepared now, so small differences might occur as compared to the final version that will become available in Ghent. The council welcomed the results presented.

Next, an overview was presented indicating the financial flow over 2007. Extra funds have been added to the 2007 budget as a result of the preparation of the EERQI-project, the preparation of the Berlin

office, an update of the website and the implementation of adequate conference software that allows a more efficient processing of proposals. The final figures will to a large degree depend on the number of paying delegates at the Ghent ECER. The treasurer stresses that EERA has to develop plans for new activities in order to avoid retaining too much money (and thus losing charitable status). It was asked why EERA supports EERJ financially. One year ago the council decided to add a small amount to the conference fee in order to `pay` free access to the journal for one year to those who attend ECER. Council members reported about experience with publishers paying for the possibility of having a journal 'in their name'. The council decided that this should be a topic for the next Council meeting. The council approved the overview.

LERA (Lithuania) has not paid membership fees for two years. Some delegates from Lithuania have said they would not come to ECER because papers were not published afterwards. David will contact LERA to inform them about the procedures. If LERA does not pay, it has to be excluded from 2008. The question was raised why several countries, e.g. Greece and Poland, are not members. It was decided that delegates from countries we want to encourage to create national organisations will be invited to a meeting during ECER. Juliet Buckner should find out such delegates (Hungary, Poland, Rumania etc.) so an invitation could be sent out at the end of August.

13 World Educational Research Association

Wim Jochems, Jeremy Hoad and Lejf Moos reported on a meeting at AERA in Chicago in April 2007, which gathered about 17 national and international organisations representing more or less all parts of the world. A plan for continuing the process was developed. The declaration now rather speaks of a process than of an organisation as such, and takes better into account the cultural and organisational diversity and multitude of languages that exist in Europe. The feeling was that Europeans need to participate in the process in order to have an impact on the agenda. EERA suggested London as the venue for the next meeting in connection with the annual BERA conference (8th -9th September or 4th – 5th September) and volunteered to organise the meeting in cooperation with BERA. BERA will arrange the logistics, EERA will formulate the meeting agenda (including an introduction and time for discussion in smaller groups), and cover costs for meeting rooms and a reception. Ingrid Gogolin will send a formal invitation from EERA.

When discussing EERA's strategy, two topics were addressed – organisational structures and membership issues. Instead of establishing a new organisation or new structures, collaboration in a virtual organisation should be favoured. On the other hand even this would require some structures, with the risk of generating even more structures in the future. Rudolf Tippelt volunteered to get in contact with Wolfgang Schneider, representing one of the psychologist research associations about to establish a world organisation. In the discussion of members of a future world ERA, it was agreed that every effort should be made to be as inclusive as possible. Wim Jochems asked to appoint a Council member to be responsible for the future process. This decision was postponed to the Ghent meeting. Until then, the office bearers together with Lejf and Jeremy were to follow and support the process.

14 Website

The present website management is not smooth and functional enough (e.g. the introduction of online payment took quite some time and has not been unproblematic). Lisbeth took over as webmaster a year ago, and the Department of Interactive Media and Learning at Umeå University manages updates. The EERA office has forwarded contents to be published on the website. In future the office will take over website management, and the webmaster (Secretary General) will have the

final say on contents. Angelika Wegscheider will draw up a plan when and how the website will be transferred to Berlin and the new address (www.eera.eu). Currently our web management does not allow convenors to use the system on their own, which might be reconsidered.

15 Network reports

Lisbeth Lundahl briefly went through Ian Grosvenor's networks report. The level of rejection is still very low, but there is a considerable variation between networks. Some research has been done to ask how networks proceed in the review process, showing different working procedures, e.g. with regard to the information given by the referees – from just ticking the boxes (accept – reject) to giving detailed reviews including how to improve the paper. The procedures should be made as transparent as possible by for example publishing them on website. Although the Council regards a low rejection rate as a problem for quality, it is not in favour of a top-down process; the convenors are the ones who should come up with suggestions for a solution.

Therefore it was suggested to postpone the discussion to Ghent, although some first ideas/suggestions were given:

- there are guidelines of handing in proposals - maybe they need to be revised and linked to guidelines by convenors?
- maybe it would be wise to ask for full papers instead of a synopsis? Full papers would enhance quality of papers, of review processes and discussion at the conference. It could also help to make more ECER papers available later on.

The Council addressed the question of how to handle small and weak networks. Some might be just too specialised to receive many proposals, but there might also be a link between web presentation and number of papers. As it is one of the Council's tasks and powers to start and close networks, Council agreed that two smaller networks should be informed that they might be closed if the situation does not change. Indicators for closing networks should be: low number of proposals, no reports in the last two years, no presentation on the website. According to present statistics and website information, this was in particular true for networks 8, 14 and 19. But decisions should not only be made by number - the "necessity" of a network/ the topic's importance should also be drawn into consideration. A solution for small networks could also be to merge with a similar network. Finally, Inaki Dendaluze informed that his organisation plans to hand in a proposal for a new network on methodology.

It was decided that the Secretary General should write to the networks. Angelika Wegscheider was to inform Ian Grosvenor on the discussion.

16 Office report Glasgow

The office has had a lot of pressure as a result of staff changes and gaps when the office was short of staff. The Council therefore sends thanks and regards to all in the office! There are three staff members in Glasgow, but not all of them will be able to work with ECER in Ghent. Juliet Buckner will therefore ask Bram de Wever for somebody to assist her. Angelika Wegscheider will also assist in Ghent.

17 Communications

- (i) ECER 2009 and 2010

Two venues were considered, both enthusiastically suggested by country representatives:

Turino/Italy: the ECER date is problematic, as term starts early. There cannot be a conference in September in Turino, and in August it would clash with the EARLI conference. Francesca Gobbo will look for a smaller university now, as their term starts later.

Vienna/Austria: Vienna is another attractive alternative and has the advantage of being close to Eastern Europe. However, the contacts in Vienna suggested working with a commercial conference management company, which would not be accepted by the Council.

If both places were possible one of them could be considered for 2010. Inaki Dendaluze suggested Cadiz in Spain and will provide the Council with contact details. Ingrid Gogolin reminded the meeting of earlier contacts with Granada, which could not be followed up as the national associations did not support the idea. Finally, Berlin was suggested.

(ii) Summer School 2007

Jana Dreyer reported that a certain number of places had been reserved especially for international students. The English programme and registration form would be forwarded to the Council members. For 2008 Jana Dreyer suggested making an effort to attract more international students. Leif Moos and Paul Conway, constituting a task force on summer schools, proposed a special EERA summer school, which would move around in Europe. They and Jana Dreyer were asked to present various scenarios on whether and how a common EERA/GERA summer school could be developed. If a series of summer schools is planned, there might be funding by the Marie Curie Foundation.

(iii) EERJ report

A new domain has been registered (www.wvwords.eu/eerj). The theme of the EERJ roundtable at ECER 2007 will be "Education, Globalization and the Future of the Knowledge Economy." It will be chaired by Phillip Brown, School of Social Science, Cardiff University, and Hugh Lauder, School of Education, Bath University.

18 Dates for future Council meetings

Council Ghent:

Tue 18th September 17h – 19h

Sat 22nd 10h – 12h

Council Gothenburg:

Fri 11th – Sun 13th January 2008

Council Berlin

Fri 13th – Sun 15th June 2008

18. Miscellaneous

Inaki Dendaluze, whose term at the Council has ended, wanted to thank and say good-bye. The Council thanked Inaki for his commitment and creativity.