

**Minutes Council Meeting Ghent,
Tuesday, 18th September 2007,
Saturday, 22nd September**

Tuesday, 18th September

Present: David Bridges (BERA), Joana Duarte (PGN), Bénédicte Gendron (AECSE), Ingrid Gogolin, (President), Ian Grosvenor (Networks' Convenor), Björn Hasselgren (LOC 2008), Jeremy Hoad (BERA), Wim Jochems (Treasurer), Lisbeth Lundahl (Secretary General), Martin Lawn (EERJ), Ian Menter (SERA), Lejf Moos (NERA), Rudolf Tippelt (DGfE), Martin Valcke (LOC 2007), Bram de Wever (LOC 2007) ,Angelika Wegscheider (EERA office)

Minutes: Angelika Wegscheider

1.) Apologies for absences and welcome to new members.

No absences had been announced in beforehand, no new members were present.

2.) Confirmation of Minutes of Council Meeting in Berlin, 16th – 17th June

Minutes were approved, but Martin Lawn indicated that he would not be able he would not be able to participate in the group appointed to work with the book review proposal of Inaki Dendaluze.

3.) Matters arising from last council that would not arise anywhere else in agenda

No such matters were announced.

4.) ECER Ghent

Ingrid Gogolin welcomed Martin Valcke and Bram de Wever and pointed out how smoothly ECER07 proceeded. She thanked the local organising committee for all efforts and the excellent preparation of the conference. The concerns of publishers about being separated from the main venue seemed to be sorted out, as a wifi access point and a coffee place would be close to the exhibition.

5.) ECER 2008, Gothenburg

Björn Hasselgren reported on the preparation of ECER 2008. A flyer was published to be distributed at ECER 2007. Flyers and posters will be sent to EERA member associations according to their order-numbers and will be made available as PDF file as well. Björn Hasselgren pointed out that Joana Duarte had already made good contact with the LOC in Gothenburg and that they are commonly developing ideas for the PreConf.

The LOC in Gothenburg has also prepared a website, which was welcomed. Some changes need to be made:

- the Glasgow address has to be substituted by the Berlin address.
- Preconference, EERJ-Roundtable and Keynotes need to be part of main navigation
- Hotel/travel information needs to go online soon
- Ecer2008.eu should be reserved and used
(current address: www.ped.gu.se/ecer2008)

Regarding keynotes for ECER2008 no decisions have been taken so far. LOC and Council will both invite two keynotes. It was agreed to mutually inform each other in beforehand. Council strongly recommends aiming at gender-balance regarding central parts of the programme.

6.) President's report

6.1 EERQI

Council received good news regarding the seventh framework programme proposal EERQI (European Educational Research Quality Indicators). The consortium is formally invited to negotiate, which means there is a high change of being accepted!

6.2 W-ERA

At the AERA conference in Chicago (April 2007) a general agreement had been accepted: Participating organisations should further explore the possibilities of establishing a world association for educational research. Six task groups had been founded in Chicago in order to work till a second meeting in September 2007 in London. EERA and BERA had hosted this meeting commonly.

Although there had been tensions with AERA while preparing the meeting, it turned out to be quite fruitful in the end. On one hand it had shown differences in interests, on the other hand the diversity of language, culture and research traditions was recognised as important issue.

A second statement was agreed on. It indicates that some formal structure should be considered to be developed.

Lejf Moos pointed out that no decision on participating in a so-called World-ERA is to be taken till the meeting in Singapore (November 2008). After Singapore there should be a plan at hand that could be taken back to organisations and be considered then.

There were suggestions to include more Educational Research Associations and also more American Educational Research Associations involved in the process.

Martin Lawn asked who would be represented by EERA within this process. Jeremy Hoad pointed out that it seemed to be important to have national and supranational associations involved. Ingrid Gogolin reminded that so far, no decisions had been taken at all – the only agreement was to explore possibilities.

7.) Secretary General's Report

Postponed to Saturday's council meeting

8.) EERA Office Report

Postponed to Saturday's council meeting

9.) Network Convener's Report

Postponed to Saturday's council meeting

10.) Treasurer's Report

Wim Jochems informed Council on the financial bearings of EERA. There was a positive result in 2006, which had already been audited.

In 2007 EERA has to cope with some additional costs, like the W-ERA meeting, transition to Berlin, EERQI preparation. The anticipated negative result for 2007 (based on assumption of 1000 ECER participants) can be covered with EERA savings. The treasurer pointed out that there is no need to increase fees. More so, EERA is able to offer well functioning networks funding for particular activities (excluding hotel/travel expenses), which should be announced at AGA.

Wim Jochems informed the Council that in order to enable a smooth transition to Berlin, the Sterling Accounts needed to be closed by December 15th.

Council resolved to close all Sterling Accounts in the UK on December 15th 2007.

The financial overview was accepted.

11.) Audit 2006, Estimated result 2007**Result 2006 (audited/unrestricted)**

Income	in €	in £
EERA memberships	8.500	5,900
ECER 2006 fees	376.000	259,000
Interest	3.000	2,000
total income	387.500	266,900
Expenditures		
Geneva costs	133.000	92,000
office Glasgow	103.000	71,000
Council	7.000	5,000
earmarked posts	14.000	9,500
EERJ subsidy	18.000	12,200
Banking costs	14.500	9,800
total expenditure	289.500	199,500
Result 2006	98.000	67,400

Estimated result 2007

Income	in €	in £
EERA memberships	8.700	5,800
ECER 2007 fees	270.000	181,000
Interest	4.000	2,600
Expenditure		
Ghent costs	118.000	80,000
office Glasgow	105.000	71,000
Council	6.000	4,000
earmarked posts	18.000	12,000
EERJ subsidy	18.000	12,000
EERQI / WERA	15.000	10,000
office Berlin	35.000	23,800
Estimated result 2007	- 33.000	-22,000

12.) New Constitution; Founding of German Verein

A German lawyer had transformed the existing EERA constitution corresponding to German law. After collecting responses of Council members, some smaller alterations to the drafted constitutions have been made. On this basis a German Verein had been founded on September, 7th 2007 in Hamburg.

According to the old constitution, constitutional changes need to be accepted by the General Assembly, Ingrid Gogolin explained. That's why members had been asked to authorize somebody to vote in AGA.

The Constitution will therefore be presented in the AGA where members will be asked to vote on it.

13.) DGfE/ EERA Summer School 2007

Rudolf Tippelt reported on the DGfE/EERA Summer School 2007, which was held in Ludwigsfelde near Berlin. As in the previous years, summer school was booked out within two or three weeks after announcement. The demand for training in methodology amongst young researchers is very high. This year's summer school welcomed 120 participants, mainly from Germany, Austria and Switzerland. DGfE is happy to host a summer school in 2008 but will also be glad to contribute to a more European EERA-initiative.

**Minutes Council Meeting Ghent,
Tuesday, 18th September 2007,
Saturday, 22nd September**

Saturday, 21st September

Present: David Bridges (BERA), Juliet Buckner (EERA office), Paul Conway (ESAI), Joana Duarte (PGN), Ingrid Gogolin, (President), Ian Grosvenor (Networks' Convenor), Jeremy Hoad (BERA), Wim Jochems (Treasurer) , Palmira Juceviciene (LERA), Lisbeth Lundahl (Secretary General), Martin Lawn (EERJ), Lejf Moos (NERA), Ian Menter (SERA), Angelika Wegscheider (EERA office)

Bénédicte Gendron had apologized for not being able to attend the Saturday meeting due to family commitments.

Council Meeting on Saturday started with an evaluation of ECER2007 and Ian Grosvenor's Networks Convenors Report.

14.) Report of Networks Convenor.
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Ian Grosvenor reported on two convenor meetings during ECER2007; following recommendations had been put forward by the convenors.

- Accommodation; there had been difficulties with the booking company which was used for ECER07; some rooms were not available, some delegates had to move between different hotels.
- Conference venue; the split venue was seen as a disadvantage of ECER07. Future decisions for conference venues should draw this into account. Decisions should also reflect on accessibility aspects
- Staying in one room was positive! The office tried to allocate specific rooms to specific networks throughout all the conference. This helped quick orientation.
- Badges were good. The idea of having the session timetable and programme on the back of the badge was highly appreciated.
- Rooms where chairs can't be moved are not suitable for round table sessions.
- Number of cancellations and number of delegates who did not come have been quite high. Ian Grosvenor asked to have this monitored by the office and suggests having a look at the past years in order to see whether this is a rising problem or not. The problem is rather that delegates don't show up than with cancellations.

Some networks have meanwhile established lists of institutions that have not shown up during the last couple of years.

- Some networks felt isolated because their sessions were not placed in the main buildings of the conference.
- Some delegates complained about under-representation of female contributors to ECER main events.
- In some cases convenors did not adhere to the rules for symposium panels (different nations); some did not know that this would be the rule.
- There is a commitment to joint sessions between different networks; (9 this year) Convenors had already started to make arrangements for next year.
- There was a question for reduced conference fees for retired members.
- VETNET had a ten year's celebrations, which they found very good, and advisable for other networks as well.

Council agreed that these aspects should be taken up constructively for the preparation of ECER 2008 and future ECERs.

15.) Other Reports from activities during the conference

Palmira Juceviciene reported that some PhD students participating in the pre-conference said they would rather like to participate in main conference and networks. Pros and Cons of this had been discussed in a meeting with Postgraduate Network Convenor, Senior Mentor, Network's Convenor and President, they had come to the conclusion to keep the idea of the Pre-Conference because of its very specific profile and scope.

16.) Weak Networks / New Networks

Lisbeth Lundahl reported on her contacts with Network 8 and 14. According to the criteria formulated at the council meeting in June 2007, both had been identified as weak and the question of closing down the networks was raised.

Network 8, "Economics of Education" had only received 4 proposals for ECER2007, the link convenor did not attend ECER 2007 and will retire soon. Council decided that Network 8 should be closed.

The situation of network 14 is better, however. At a meeting between the Secretary General and the convenors during the ECER in Ghent, several promising strategies for the future were discussed, and network activities in 2006 and 2007 would be reported. The council concluded that network 14 continues along the lines reported by Secretary

General. It was also decided that weak networks should be monitored based on retrospective data over networks with few proposals (6 – 10) during the last years.

It was further reported that Edwin Keiner had started an initiative for a new network dealing with comparative education.

17.) New support for PGN

Joana Duarte, convenor of the Postgraduate Network (PGN), reported on the PGN-meeting on Monday, 18th September, which had focused on three main topics:

- the need for support in terms of human resources
- how the work of PGN could be made more visible
- whether there could be some further funding (for example 2 scholarships for delegates from Eastern EU countries, scholarships to defend thesis)

Joana Duarte reported on a second meeting with Ingrid Gogolin, Paul Standish and Ian Grosvenor. The PGN wants to improve organizational procedures, to augment participation and strengthen the relationship between main/pre-conference. The EERA Summer School would be an additional project to address young researchers directly.

Ingrid Gogolin pointed out that PGN needs financial support for activities, such as travel costs for the Convenor and Senior Mentor. Council was asked to welcome this in principle and leave details to Joana Duarte, Paul Standish and Wim Jochems.

This was accepted.

Due to high degree of fluctuation in the PGN, it was suggested to co-opt Paul Standish, the Senior Mentor of the PGN, to the council as well. The Postgraduate Network was asked to develop a successor plan for the Senior Mentor and the Convenor(s). In order to enlarge the PGN's focus newly qualified post-docs should be addressed as well and invited to become Convenors. The office will support PGN in establishing a memory of how to proceed.

PGN-convenors

Council agreed that as a rule of thumb there should be 3 convenors in the Postgraduate Network, just like in other networks. But unlike other convenors PGN convenors should rather be selected than elected. Potential candidates should be nominated by PGN-Convenor and Senior Mentor and formally asked by the president if they want to take over the role. This would underline the importance of the post, candidates could put the formal letter of invitation on their records.

Best Paper Award

It was agreed that the winner of the **best paper award** should be announced and invited to ECER early enough to give the nominee a chance to hand in a paper for the coming ECER (Main Conference). Proposal deadline was 1. February this year; best paper should be announced some time before (4 weeks?) In order to have selected a candidate by end of January Council should support Paul Standish in reviewing papers for best paper award. Papers shall be distributed to willing supporters by November 15th. Ian Menter, Ingrid Gogolin, Lisbeth Lundahl and David Bridges volunteered to participate in the review process.

18.) New Nations Meeting, new members

The meeting was attended by roughly 20 delegates from seven countries. Bénédicte Gendron and Ingrid Gogolin offered EERA's advice for development of national associations. Especially Bénédicte Gendron offered to keep contact and inform Council about follow-up developments.

19.) Proposal on standards

Martin Lawn suggested that EERA should establish comparable standards for its member organisations. Ingrid Gogolin answered that she already had started to collect standards of national associations. These standards should be compared in order to derive standards for EERA.

The results will be presented and discussed in January.

David Bridges suggested having a round table for ECER 2008 on these questions.

20.) Proposal on European Educational Research Book Critique

Although the principal idea was welcomed as a good project, Council agreed that the project itself would be too big, as it would also depend a lot on volunteers.

Paul Conway volunteered to contact somebody running a similar project to ask how complex the project would be. Further decisions were postponed till next Council.

21.) Report on EERJ

Martin Lawn reported on a successful year for EERJ with more than estimated 70.000 downloads. He pointed out that EERJ was ranked as A-Journal on the ERIH ranking list. He was also positive that the keynotes would be published in EERJ. .

The main URL of the journal will change from www.wwwords.co.uk/EERJ to www.wwwords.eu/EERJ, although the old address will be kept as well.

Council thanked Martin Lawn for his commitment to the EERJ.

22.) Principle for Succession of Office Bearers

Ingrid Gogolin, Lisbeth Lundahl, Wim Jochems and Ian Grosvenor have developed a proposal for new principles for succession of office bearers.

The aim is that the three office bearers and the Network's Convenor don't stop their terms at the same time. In the last year of their term a person should be nominated who will follow them in office. (President/ Treasurer/General Secretary / Network Convenor "elect")

The proposal was accepted by the council.

Lisbeth Lundahl and Ian Grosvenor will both stop their term at ECER 2008; a successor for Ian Grosvenor has already been found: Marit Honeröd Hoveid; Link-Convenor of Network 10.

23.) EERA 2009

Ingrid Gogolin and Wim Jochems reported on their initiatives for finding a venue for 2009. Two options turned up: Vienna and Turino;

Vienna has a large faculty and a strong organiser. The Eastern location is a plus, as the conference theme might well be chosen according to this.

Turino shows time clashes with other conferences, but the possibilities will also be further explored. Council welcomed both options and asked Ingrid Gogolin and Wim Jochems to go on with investigations.

24.) EERA Office Berlin/ Report on investigation of conference software

ConfToolPro had been presented to the Convenors, a task group of convenors will assist in adopting the software to EERA needs.

For January additional staff is searched – one secretary and two student assistants.

25.) EERA Office Glasgow

Juliet Buckner reported that staffing situation was still difficult; new full time staff for financials aspects is needed. It is still open, which data need to be transferred to Berlin. Ian Grosvenor volunteered to have a look at the archive and develop a retention schedule. ´

Juliet Buckner highlighted some questions, which could not be discussed in depth but which should be kept in mind for further consideration:

1.) Should EERA formally invite delegates? Some delegates seem to really need an invitation. For most delegates a certificate of acceptance to present seemed to be enough.

2.) Some delegates asked for Email addresses of other delegates. Should email addresses be printed in the programme? Does EERA need to ask for permission? Or could EERA have a delegate index with institutions?

3.) The question on the registration form whether delegates want to have the Journal for free seems to be misunderstood frequently. One should find a new way of formulation it.

4.) ECER2007 did not have a searchable database on Educationline. It was suggested to contact Sam Saunders to get it online retrospectively.

26.) Miscellaneous

David Bridges reported on plans for a tri-lingual conference on philosophy of education in Zürich and asked whether this would be fundable according to the new plans for funding strong networks.

27.) Proposal for EERA Summer school

- was postponed to next meeting

28.) Confirmations of dates of next meetings

January 11 – 13th Gothenburg, Sat 11.00 – Sunday till noon

June 14 – 15th, Berlin