

Minutes EERA Council, Göteborg
Saturday 12th January 2008, 11:00 – 17:00

Present: David Bridges (BERA), Paul Conway (ESAI), Joana Duarte (PGN), Bénédicte Gendron (AECSE), Ingrid Gogolin (President), Björn Hasselgren (LOC 2008), Michael Holmquist (LOC 2008), Stefan Hopmann (Vienna), Wim Jochems (Treasurer), Lisbeth Lundahl (Secretary General), Michael Uljens (FERA), Lejf Moos (NERA), Ilse Schrittester (Vienna), Ian Menter (SERA), Angelika Wegscheider (EERA-Office)

Minutes: Angelika Wegscheider

1. Apologies for absence and welcome to new members

Peter van Petegem, Ian Grosvenor, Matthis Behrens, Rudolf Tippelt, Herbert Altrichter, Martin Lawn and Marc Demeuse were prevented from coming and sent their apologies.

2. Confirmation of minutes of 18th and 22nd September 2007 Council Meeting

Minutes were confirmed

3. Matters arising from last Council Meeting

There were some questions whether there is news regarding WERA. Ingrid Gogolin reported on the last WERA meeting in London (Sept. 2007, see last council minutes) again and suggested that those council members who plan to be at AERA conference in March contact her, so that a meeting could be planned there.

4. ECER 2008 Gothenburg

(i) Local Committee Report

Council agreed that the website looks good and is as well easy to navigate, but the ECER logo should be placed more prominently.

The conference will be held in 3 buildings, which are close together and offer a mix of old and new architecture. All rooms (40, booked so far) will be equipped with

overhead, video beamer and PC. Student helpers will provide support in all the rooms; there will also be a phone hotline if they can't solve technical problems. WLAN will be accessible on most regions; the conference name badges will carry an access code that allows log in. Conference delegates are allowed to use two PC-rooms which will probably also provide printing facilities. There will also be two copy machines. LOC will provide additional signing to guide delegates through the university building.

3 social events

- Wednesday 10. Sept. 08: Reception in city hall, 19.15 h (10 minutes walk)
- Thursday 11. Sept. 08: Reception at Harbour (Kajskjul 8); 19.00 h (10 minutes walk)
- Friday, 12. Sept. 08: small invited reception at the University, for council members, LOC, presidents of associations and invited persons.

Hotels

Hotel booking: 550 beds reserved. Hotels/hostels are at the website, places to eat and go out it will be published at the website soon and/or leaflet.

Lunch

Lunch is not included in the conference fees! Last year a sandwich lunch was offered, but people complained on the quality and amounts. However, not offering lunch means delegates leave the conference at lunchtime which reduces networking possibilities. As there are two cafeterias at the conference venue delegates could have a light lunch there; in addition fruits shall be offered at several public areas at the conference.

(ii) Programme Schedule

The programme schedule will follow the design from 2007. There will be no parallel offer to the EERJ roundtable. Programme will also reserve time for presenting and discussing the EERQI project.

(iii) Review process

As the Call for Proposals was sent out later than usual, it was agreed that submission deadline should be prolonged till 20th February. The national associations are asked to inform their members on ECER2008, either by advertising it on their website and/or by forwarding the Call for Papers!

(iv) Keynote speakers

Council agreed on the suggestions put forward by LOC: Ference Marton and Sharon Gewirtz. No decision was taken so far concerning keynotes invited by EERA. Some new suggestions were put forward, so it was agreed to establish a small dossier on each suggestions, to mail it to all Council Members and to decide afterwards.

As a principle for deciding on keynotes it was agreed that:

- keynotes should rather present European researchers (or researchers contributing to European research) than non European researchers
- one keynote should always be given by someone from the country hosting the conference
- male and female researchers should be invited
- keynote speakers should come from different regions
- it was also suggested to be pro-active about ethnicity and to invite researchers from minorities.

(v) New Associations' Meeting

It was decided that delegates from Eastern European countries without an existing national association should be invited to a New Associations Meeting at Göteborg.

5. Constitution matters

Nothing new to report. All papers have been handed in to German authorities.

6. Treasurer's report on financial situation

All sterling accounts have been closed and EERA is fully Euro-based since January 2008. The preliminary result for 2007 slightly deviates from the result expected in autumn as some additional cost arose in Glasgow and in the legal procedures of the transition process. Berlin office will work on a budget of about 90.000 Euro per year. The report was approved by the Council.

David Bridges asked why EERJ produced a net-dept instead of a net-gain and suggested that the business model of the publishers might be the problem. Lejf Moos stated that money which is transferred to EERJ is not real funding, as conference fees had been augmented some time ago in order to include subscriptions fees for EERJ. As this had been already questioned before Ingrid Gogolin suggested building a task group to

discuss the item with Martin Lawn and report to Council. David Bridges and Paul Conway build this task group and probably prepare a proposal.

7. Conference software

Parts of the system are working since December (online submission); the part allowing reviewing is currently adapted to the needs of ECER and EERA networks and will be in function with the beginning of February. There are little complaints so far; most delegates seem to master the system quite easily. This holds especially true if they hand in papers, poster and workshops. Symposia seem to be slightly more complicated. The online payment system will be tested in February.

8. EERA Office

(i) Closing down the Glasgow office

In November Angelika visited the Glasgow office once again to browse their archives and have the data from the ELITE Database system saved. John Queen and Juliet Buckner have packed 18 boxes with files; they will be shipped to Berlin within the next week. According to Scottish law, financial documents must be kept for seven years. John Queen will finish the data for the 2007 audit.

(ii) The Berlin office

Daniela Schwämmlein, the new assistant, took up work on 2. January. She started on the book-keeping procedures and on the conference management system. Working contracts have been signed in December.

Wim Jochems pointed out that EERA has effected an insurance against being personally responsible for negative economic results.

(iii) Announcing conferences

The office advertises conferences at the news section of the EERA website. There had been pledges that a specific conference should not be advertised, as it is seemingly not of sufficient quality. This raised the question whether an internal blacklist should be developed. Council decided not to do so. It would also be difficult to define criteria on which the office decides what is to be put on the web and what is not. But if Council members object to advertising a specific conference they should make an argued case that a conference is not worth being published and show where it contradicts EERA policies. Paul Conway suggested a list server as a medium to inform researchers. Office will get in contact with him to explore options.

9. Reports from Networks

Lisbeth Lundahl briefly commented the network reports. 14 networks out of 24 (ca. 60 percent) had presented reports about their activities in 2007 by January 10. One reminder was sent out some time ago, another one will go out after the council meeting. The reports mainly reflect activities during ECER in Ghent (number of proposals, sessions, attendance etc) and comment the discussion in the convenors' meeting there.

- In general positive reports of stimulating and good presentations and discussions. In particular positive feed-back regarding joint sessions
- the isolated location was mentioned as a problem by some networks (but not all) – time consuming walks, fewer participants
- several networks were worried about presenters not showing up
- two networks reported that several presenters did not bring a paper or handout (e. g. network 11 – 1/3 of the presenters)
- the "at risk" network 14 has delivered a good report discussing how they want to move forward
- VETNET expresses a wish to contribute to the EERQI project
- Several networks were negative to blind review procedures
- NW 8 was closed in accordance with the council decision in September. The link convenor, who was contacted before the Ghent meeting, had not objected to the closure.
- NW14, which has had a low number of participants in recent delivered a good report on how they wanted to proceed, in accordance with the plans presented to the Secretary General and council in September 2007.
- One network expressed a wish for certificates for chairs and network convenors.

Council considered two aspects to be worrying: no shows and delegates who do not hand in full papers or handouts. It was agreed to establish a "grey list" on people who did not show up. Delegates who failed to cancel their participation should not be refunded (cancellation two month ahead 80% refund). Delegates with accepted papers, who did not register until 31. July will be withdrawn from the programme. Joana Duarte pointed out that poster sessions seemed to be more prone to "no-shows" than paper sessions. She therefore tries to add more value to the poster session by assigning a chair to it, too.

Lisbeth Lundahl asked how the situation concerning papers and handouts could be improved. Office will stress the necessity to bring handouts/papers to the conferences. The session chairs should be instructed to clearly ask for them and, if delegates did not bring material, inform them that they were expected to do so.

Postgraduate Network/ Best Paper Award

While reviewing the papers handed in, it turned out that some of them had been joint work of junior and senior researchers. In order to pay attention to national differences on who is named as author, it was decided not to exclude these papers automatically. But it must be assured that the junior researcher is the lead author. Council decided that in future a cover sheet should be added to the paper stating that the junior researcher is in fact the lead author. EERA will stick to the name of the award; "Best Paper Award", ECER 200X, as this will be easily recognised in a CV.

Decision making process: Referees should send their results to Paul Standish who then should suggest a candidate/some candidates to the Council. Information will be circulated and Council will then decide on his suggestions.

10. Communications:

(i) ECER 2009 and 2010 (Ingrid)

ECER 2009, Vienna

Ilse Schrittester and Stefan Hopmann introduced Vienna as conference. Conference could be held in two buildings (two minutes walking distance, all rooms fully equipped) – the university main building and the faculty of law building. The book exhibition could be placed in the atrium of the main building near the cafeteria. The university has good catering facilities, in addition some 50 restaurants are close by.

Conference Date:

Pre-Conference: Fr – Sat: 25-26 September

Main Conference: Mo – We: 28-30

On Sunday thematic walks could be offered.

Because of a huge conference, the LOC in Vienna has only been able to block 400 (decent) beds + 150 beds in hostels. However, there are many high standard private pensions in town as well and there will be accommodation outside Vienna.

Council agreed that Vienna should host the conference nevertheless (Berlin would have been a second possibility). But delegates will need to be informed early enough that they need to arrange for accommodation early.

Ingrid Gogolin pointed out that Vienna could be a gateway to the east and that hosting ECER there could be an approach to open up for eastern European. Stefan Hopmann said that the Ministry of science and research might support some travel costs for eastern European researchers.

Council meeting in Vienna: 9-11 January 2009

ECER 2010

Torino is still an option that could be further explored. But when Vienna seemed to be problematic, Ingrid asked if it would be possible to have ECER 2009 in Berlin. As the Free University and DGfE (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Erziehungswissenschaft) had signalled they would be willing to host ECER 2009, they might be prepared to do so in 2010 as well.

David Bridges asked for some eastern or southern venue and reminded Council that, Inaki Dendaluze had suggested San Sebastian once.

Ingrid Gogolin said she wanted to leave office in 2009 with two more conference venues planned ahead (2010/2011). So it was decided to explore Torino and Berlin for 2010 and others for 2011 (Montpellier, San Sebastian)

(ii) Summer school (postponed from September council meeting)

The report on DGfE/EERA summer school showed that it was not too international after all. But EERA, on the other hand, has contributed rather little so far. Council discussed whether EERA should proceed with contributing to DGfE Summer School or whether something new should be developed.

Leif Moos argued for taking more responsibility for PhDs and said that EERA member associations could do the summer school in cooperation with a university. An EERA summer school would be a powerful signal that EERA does not forget young researchers. Paul Conway suggested that two neighbouring member associations could conduct summer school as joint effort.

It was agreed that if EERA developed a summer school on its own, a clear business plan would be needed beforehand!

Wim Jochems suggested that EERA, rather than developing summer schools of its own, should help to make visible what already exists and/or join existing summer schools.

David Bridges pointed at the possibility of offering funding for PhD students who wish to go to summer schools in other countries.

It was decided that

- member associations provide the EERA office with information about their winter and summer schools – as a service to the members
- EERA continues to contribute to the German summer school; Members should suggest colleagues who could contribute (if possible within the coming week)
- Paul and Lejf continue to develop the idea of a partnership school.

In order to support DGFE/EERA Summer School 2008 EERA members should announce it and name colleagues who would be able to contribute to Summer School. First suggestions were already put forward: Brian Hudson, who agreed to come in 2007, but fell ill; some TLRP member (see: Capacity building)

(iii) European Educational Research Quality Index (EERQI)

So far there is no news. Negotiations are highly bureaucratic! But there is still hope to receive a positive answer in the end. The University of Hamburg paid some 4,000 Euro for further preparations. Humboldt University might become a partner as well.

(iv) New Network Proposal

A new network proposal was handed in by André de Robert: "Teachers identities between educational public sector changes and protest experiences". The group behind the network proposal originates from an ISCHE Standing Working Group on Teacher's Unions. (ISCHE groups end after 5 years). Ian Grosvenor had provided a written reaction indicating that the proposed theme seemed to be too narrow as an area for a new network and pointed out that the focus would also fit within other networks – like history of education, teachers as professionals and others. The proposers should contact the above mentioned networks and ask them if they would be willing to host joint sessions on the outlined agenda during the next two years.

Council agreed on this suggestion.

(v) Frequency of Council Meetings

Martin Lawn had suggested that EERA should have two instead of three council meetings. These two meetings could be longer than meetings are today and office bearers could meet a third time if necessary. After a discussion it was decided to keep the three meetings per year if one of them would be of strategical character rather than business focussed.

In addition it was considered to be important that Council Members had the possibility of getting to know each other, which would be more difficult if there were only two

meetings. It was also argued that limiting the number of meetings would increase the responsibility of office bearers.

11. Recruitment of new Secretary General

The rhythm of succession has been discussed and agreed in Ghent. In a brief discussion, the need of recruiting an academically well-qualified person was underscored, as a main task of the Secretary General is to contribute to quality improvement of the work of EERA. The president, treasurer and convenor representative will prepare a proposal to the next EERA council meeting, in line with the procedures EERA has adopted in Berlin.

12. Investigation of standards of national associations

Ethical guidelines on research are quite similar, so it was questionable whether EERA should need her own guidelines. Moreover, someone who felt that ethical codices had been neglected would rather contact the national research association than EERA. Therefore it was not seen as necessary that EERA should develop guidelines on her own. But EERA should link to existing ethical guidelines and encourage member associations to develop their own standards, if they have not done so yet. A sentence on the EERA website should underline that EERA relies and strongly endorses the development of ethical guidelines.

13. Proposal on European Educational Research Book Critique

(postponed from September council meeting)

Paul Conway checked a US correspondent engaged in a similar project: Once a system is established costs would be relatively low. The project would help highlight books which are published in other languages than English (e.g. in the US-project: Spanish books are covered to a high extent). Ingrid Gogolin pointed out, that if the EERQI project is accepted something similar could probably be part of EERQI.

It was decided to put the topic on the June Council Meeting. Paul Conway will prepare a small report of what he found out when talking to the US-project.

14. Next meetings

14- 15 June 2008, Berlin

9. Sept. and 13. Sept. 2008, Göteborg

9-11 January 2009, Vienna.

15. Agenda for next meeting

- EERQI/ book review
- Summer School /research training across Europe
- What is distinctive in the European educational tradition? What are the kinds of discussions we want to further? Keynote symposia?

16. Miscellaneous

Joana Duarte informed council that she might invite her Co-Convenor for the summer meeting.