

Minutes of the EERA Council Meeting in Gothenburg

Saturday 10 January 2009, 11:00 – 18:00

Sunday 11 January 2009. 09:00 – 13:00

Present: Herbert Altrichter (ÖFEB), David Bridges (BERA), Joana Duarte (PGN), Mustafa Yunus Eryamas (EAB), Bénédicte Gendron (AECSE), Francesca Gobbo (SIPED), Ingrid Gogolin (President), Ian Grosvenor (Secretary General), Fiona Hallet (PGN), Gunilla Holm (FERA), Marit Honerod Hoveid (Networks Representative on Council), Stefan Hopmann (LOC Vienna), Wim Jochems (Treasurer), Raquel Amaya Martinez Gonzalez (AIDIPE), Ian Menter (SERA, PGN), Joe O'Hara (ESAI), Leijf Moos (NERA), Ilse Schrittester (LOC Vienna), Daniela Schwämmlein (EERA-Office), Rudolf Tippelt (GERA), Angelika Wegscheider (EERA-Office), Tanja Werkl (LOC Vienna), Theo Wubbels (VOR),

Minutes: Angelika Wegscheider, Daniela Schwämmlein

1. Apologies for absence and welcome to new members

Matthis Behrens, Martin Lawn and Peter van Petegem asked to be excused. Raquel Amaya Martinez Gonzales. Bénédicte Gendron had to leave earlier and was absent on Sunday. As this was Bénédicte's last meeting as a Council member, Council thanked her for her commitment, not only, but not least with the task of generating new members for EERA.

Gunilla Holm and Yunus Eryamas were welcomed as new Council Members.

2. Confirmation of minutes of September 2008 Council Meeting

Minutes were confirmed after correction of some smaller typos.

It was agreed that minutes should be published online only after confirmation in future and. Financial details will be provided as Appendix.

3. Matters arising from last Council Meeting

Jeremy Hoad had suggested he could report back to EERA council on how BEI processes with the new fee structure. Ian Grosvenor said that he would be able to report on BEI and EERA as he had taken over negotiations.

4. Presidential Report

Honorary Memberships

Ingrid Gogolin informed Council that both former presidents who were invited to Honorary membership accepted this offer and that the website has been updated accordingly

EERQI

The EERQI coordination office/University of Hamburg welcomed two new members of staff, Tania Hartin (Secretary) and Virginia Moukouli (Manager).
The first deliverables which were handed in to the EU were highly appreciated.

As the prototype for the harvesting machine is ready now, a first test is planned. Therefore all Presidents of Member Associations and Council Members will be asked to nominate scholars who are excellent from their point of view. When the harvester then crawls through the various databases it will be seen as a positive result if the machine singles out papers of these authors.

EERA needs to deal with a smaller EERQI funding than expected. EERA was by mistake listed as public entity when the budget was negotiated. As EERA is not public, funding quota are different and the budget will be reduced accordingly.

Constitutional questions:

The EERA constitution will need at least one formal amendment. Whenever an Office Bearer is new in office he/she needs to be listed in the "Vereinsregister". This can only be done by an Office Bearer ("vertretungsberechtigter Vorstand") and needs to be done in Germany, as otherwise the embassies need to be involved. EERA therefore needs a German representative as an additional person in the group of "vertretungsberechtigter Vorstand".

It was suggested that the representative of GERA should take over this role. The necessary alteration in the constitution will be discussed with the Laywer and presented in the June meeting.

Presidents Meeting at ECER 2009

EERA was contacted by the President of the French Association and asked whether there could be a joined Council/Presidents meeting at ECER 2009.

It was agreed to arrange for a reception at Sunday evening after the Council/Convenors reception.

5. Secretary General Report

Ian Grosvenor reported that following to the last Council Meeting in September he had contacted all Council Members in order to have their ideas on possible candidates for the ECER President and Treasurer.

While Lejf Moos was endorsed by Council Members as candidate for the President there is still no formal candidate for the Treasurer, although some persons said they

would consider doing it if no other person was found. Discussions will therefore need to go on. It was agreed that it would be preferable to elect a person from within the council.

Working Relations between Secretary General, Network Representative on Council and Office

The Secretary General, Network Representative and Office have taken up good working relations. In a meeting in October Ian Grosvenor, Marit Hoveid and Angelika Wegscheider established new Templates for Network Descriptors and Network Reports, found a new way of doing both the Session Return Slips and the Chairing Guidelines and analysed negative reviews. Templates were sent to Networks who used them to update their descriptors.

It was agreed that the October Working meeting between Secretary General, Network Representative and EERA Office should become a standard.

6. Treasurer's Report on financial situation

The treasurer informed Council on a slightly revised Contract with the local organisers and updated the Budget Overview (see appendix 1).

The treasurer provided a provisional overview of the incomes and expenditures of 2008, as not all financial details are yet available.

The Gothenburg ECER was very successful, also in financial perspective (more than 1500 delegates). Extra costs have been made for adjusting the conference software and the upgrade of the website. Also the closure of the Glasgow office took quite some costs in 2008.

The treasurer expects a positive result of at least € 170.000. This is also a result of the fact that EERA has not been very successful in starting new activities (apart from the EERQI project). He once again stressed the need to develop plans for (different types of) summer schools and projects in which networks are participating.

The estimated balance end 2008 will be about € 375.000 which is a conservative estimate.

Due to the global financial crisis and the difficulties of the ING Bank, Wim Jochems suggested spreading the money that is presently on one ING Bank savings account. Before doing so, more information on the guaranteed sum for institutions in the Netherlands and Germany needs to be sought.

It was decided that the treasurer should generally be permitted to spread the money in different banks in order to minimize the risk of loosing money due to low guarantee funds of banks.

Wim Jochems asked to have a small audit when he leaves his post – in addition to the general annual audits EERA needs to do according to the constitution. One way of realising this would be to have the audit after the AGA and have the date of taking over the position of Treasurer on 1 October. The audit would then include January – September 2009.

Budget Plan 2009

The treasurer presented also an adjusted budget proposal 2009 in which more financial means are made available for organizing summer schools, seminars and domain specific activities.

Project plans with a sustainable effect on EERA need to be developed. The aim should be to invest in projects that may later run on an independent budget.

If this does not sufficiently minimize the capital, the fees for ECER 2010 will have to

The council approved the adjusted budget proposal and decided to discuss the details of these funds later in its meeting (see items 15 and 17 in the minutes).
See appendix 2.

7. ECER 2009, Vienna

Local Committee Report

Ilse Schrittester, Stefan Hopmann and Tanja Werkl reported on ECER 2009. 70% of the main conference sessions will take place in the main building, and it will be taken into account to keep each network in one area. Some smaller networks will have all their sessions in the law building. The pre-conference will be on one floor of the main building. The six keynotes will all take place in the main building, unless the book exhibition needs to be moved inside because of bad weather. It would be possible to invite also some institutions to the exhibition that would like to present themselves with a stand. If the council members get requests like that, please forward them to the EERA Office as soon as possible.

Stefan Hopmann asked the council members once more to spread, via the national associations, the information on the need of booking the hotel rooms as soon as possible.

Due to the financial situation, until now hardly any private sponsors could be activated. The LOC promised to go on trying.

There will be a helpdesk during the ECER 2009 for persons with special needs.

It was agreed to have an initial telephone conference with the EERA Office and the team of local organisers and that the Office would get a list of contacts and their respective duties soon.

The council decided on the Hotel Regina to be the council hotel during the ECER, if possible.

8. Networks' Representative on Council report

There are still some weak networks that haven't sent reports for several years now. They could be given a deadline, e.g.: if they don't show more initiative immediately after the ECER 2009, they risk to be closed.

Council discussed that smaller networks or networks with no obvious differentiation in scope could be merged. This topic should be raised with Convenors and at the Council-Convenors meeting in Vienna.

Marit Hoveid and Ian Grosvenor presented an idea for creating an annual network seminar in Berlin, with one convenor per network invited. It would enable the convenors to come to know each other, to work across networks and to contribute to a European research space. The seminar should take place in Berlin on Thursday and Friday before the June Council meeting.

Wim suggested a sum of 20.000 € for this project.
The council agreed to that.

This year, network report/descriptor templates were used in order to have a more uniform presentation and information of each network on the website and to highlight how Networks are distinct from each other.

Descriptors and Reports will be analysed to prepare a report on Networks, how they work and how they plan to develop. Ian Grosvenor and Marit Hoveid will prepare a report for June Council Meeting.

9. EERA Office

Angelika Wegscheider introduced the new staff member, Rachel Beddow, student helper from England.

Up to now, the number of submissions for ECER 2009 was very low. If this does not improve significantly until the end of the month, the submission deadline should be extended to 15 February. The review process could be started in parallel to the prolonged deadline on 1 February with the existing submissions.

In case network 21 has as many proposals as last year and they need help for reviewing, the EERA Office will inform the council members via email.

10. Constitutional Questions

Council agreed on the amendment re: the position of a German office bearer. Rudolf Tippelt will talk to the GERA board and they will decide whether this should be the President or the Representative to Council of GERA. The amendment as well as the election have to be re-discussed at the council meeting in June and decided at the AGA.

11. Regulations

Ian Grosvenor started to capture the procedural ways of work of the different persons in charge within EERA. He asked the council whether they thought this should be completed and they agreed. It was suggested to do the same for the PGN, the Senior Mentor and so on.

It was also agreed that the old working regulations of EERA should be revised under the light of the new constitution and new working conditions. Ingrid Gogolin pointed out, that whatever is to be decided for internal regulations would need to be in line with the EERA constitution.

12. Postgraduate network report

All PGN Action Points of the last council meeting in September were realised due to the good cooperation between the PGN convenors and the EERA Office.

Joana Duarte and Ian Menter thanked the Best Paper Award reviewers once more for their support and suggested that next year, the reviewing could be done by other council members. They reported that there were 37 papers on the whole, with one clear winner, three runners up and three other very good papers. The three runners up should perhaps also be mentioned in the ceremony and on the webpage. All the 7 papers will be sent to Martin Lawn for publication in EERJ.

Because of the 2009 dates of the Pre-conference (free Sunday), it may be even more difficult to find mentors this year. An according email will be sent around soon.

Ingrid Gogolin thanked the three PGN representatives for their good and professional work.

13. Next ECERs

2011 – Berlin
2012 – Cadiz
2013 – UK [or 2014] or Turkey

12.1 ECER Conference 2013

David Bridges reported on the possibility of having a joint conference with BERA in 2013. It could take place in London, but not at the University, as there would be too many delegates for the University venue. As BERA would reschedule their conference to London if EERA and BERA go for a joint conference, David Bridges asked for a swift response.

This raised the general question of joint conferences. In Lille and Bath, the experiences were not only positive, as the organisation was much more difficult, and the two joint conferences did not merge too well into one.

A joint organisation committee sharing the reviewing, programming etc. would be essential, but that would mean a logistically hard work. BERA proposals would have to consider the European aspect or local sessions would have to be organised.

Ian Menter argued that there could also be two conferences, the ECER in Scotland and the BERA conference in England. One concern is that this would undermine the importance of the BERA conference.

Ian Menter will explore on the Scottish possibility with contact to David Bridges.

Mustafa Yunus Eryamas said that in 2013, the Turkish association could be ready to host the conference in Turkey. He was asked to prepare a proposal for the June meeting.

12.2 ECER Conference 2010 in Torino

Francesca Gobbo explained her efforts to prepare a satisfying proposal for the ECER 2010 in Torino. But this turned out to be more difficult than expected. The deans of faculties, from whom the rooms would need to be rented, were unable to block the

rooms that much in advance and Francesca would be the only person doing something for the conference in Italy as SIPED is not really into EERA. She said that this would be too much personal responsibility for her and all in all Torino would finally be no option for 2010.

Ingrid Gogolin thanked Francesca for all her efforts and pointed out that as EERA is discussing on how to support new associations, a common small EERA/SIPED event might be a good way to start.

12.3 **ECER Conference 2010 in Helsinki**

Gunilla Holm reported on the possibility of having the conference in Helsinki in 2010. She said that people at the University are very interested, the educational department is willing to be involved and the general support is very strong.

The only difficulty is the timing, as in the first week of September, there is another conference on the venue. There would still be enough rooms, on the venue as well as hotel rooms, but it could be a little disturbing to have to care for separating the coffee break areas and so on. The other opportunity is to have the conference from 23 to 27 August. Arrangements for receptions were already taken for both weeks.

In the end of August, the student dormitories could still be used for cheaper accommodation for the pre-conference delegates.

Marit had already asked the convenors on the possibility of having the conference that early. The reaction was not very positive as with the new academic year, August is the only possibility for taking longer holidays.

It may be necessary to reconsider the ECER timing in general, as with the Bologna process, the academic year will be centralized throughout Europe

The council agreed on the ECER 2010 taking place in Helsinki from 23 to 27 August (pre-conference 23 – 24, main conference 25 - 27 August)

Ingrid Gogolin thanked Gunilla Holm and the other colleagues in Helsinki, namely Hannele Niemi, for taking over the responsibility for ECER 2010.

14. WERA

Ingrid Gogolin and Wim Jochems started their report on the Singapore Meeting with an overview of the history of the WERA process. After overcoming starting differences in the points of view what a WERA might be or become, a good basis was found in the Singapore Meeting which allowed the start of a World Educational Research Association for at least a three year development period. Therefore a Constitution, a Workplan and a Financial Plan had been developed and agreed in Singapore.

Council welcomed the decisions deriving from the preparation of the Singapore Meeting, the pragmatic way of stepping forward and the lean constitution of the suggested association, which will be able to work on a rather small budget provided by member associations. Rudolf Tippelt highlighted the rotating office, which will help to prevent that the new association will be linked too closely to one of its member associations.

Council agreed that EERA should take part at the further process and should accordingly become a member of WERA. Council decided that the three year development phase should be monitored closely in order to allow a reconsideration of decision after the initial three years' period. EERA representative(s) at WERA should regularly report back to EERA Council.

Council then discussed who should represent EERA at WERA in the "interim phase" and afterwards. It was agreed that for the time being the EERA representative should not represent a national association as well in order to avoid conflicts of interests.

Wim Jochems was elected to have the vote for EERA at the San Diego meeting, where next steps will be negotiated.

It was seen as necessary that the EERA president should represent EERA at WERA once it is formally founded, e.g. after the "interim phase". It was agreed that Wim Jochems should be suggested for the Nomination Committee for Office bearers at the San Diego meeting. Ingrid Gogolin should be nominated for one of the Interim phase Officebearers, meaning that she will not be electable (if "Interim President") or stand in for election ("if Interim SG").

For ECER 2009 it was agreed to have a preparation meeting on Saturday and Sunday plus an official founding ceremony on Monday (Session 4) and a workshop/invited session in addition to that.

15. Summer Schools and Graduate Training

14.1 GERA/EERA Summer School

Rudolf Tippelt reported on the 2008 EERA/GERA Summer School, which was very successful with 120 students, including several international participants, especially from Eastern European countries. Thanks to the funding of the German ministry of education, the fee could be very low again.

It was again mentioned that for the 2009 summer school more offers in English would be highly appreciated. Council was asked again to actively recruit researchers in the field of quantitative or qualitative research methods for a workshop of either 2,5 or 5 days.

Unfortunately, 120 participants is the maximum, as the space in Ludwigsfelde is limited. Due to travel costs etc, international students need more time for taking the decision to participate; thus, the English programme should be published as soon as possible.

Council agreed that a reservation of places for international students should be made. Wim Jochems suggested making available an amount of € 20.000 for a bilingual GERA/EERA Summer School.

14.2 Proposal Summer Schools

Ian Grosvenor, Marit Honerod Hoveid and Leijf Moos introduced their proposal on the different possibilities for EERA Summer Schools.

Strengthen international notion of GERA/EERA Summer School

The first idea would be to strengthen the EERA involvement and the international aspect of the existing GERA/EERA Summer School. At present it seems to be perceived as a German Summer School with a few English contributions.

For turning the GERA/EERA Summer School into an international event, a more international planning group is needed. It was decided that for 2009, Lejf Moos should work with the German planning group in order to internationalise the event. From 2010 on, an international planning group should organise the event.

It was also discussed how EERA member associations could be more involved in the planning, and if the common Summer School should in a medium or long term move to a different member association.

International Summer School in parallel to existing

The second option would be to have a large international Summer School in parallel to the GERA/EERA event.

Network Summer Schools

The third option is to have one big event and several smaller Summer Schools, organised by networks. A proposal from Network 17, Histories of Education, was handed in.

Council agreed to take this initiative up as a pilot and grant the support for two initial years with an amount of 5.000 € per year.

Council agreed that this proposal could be a model for other networks; proposals are welcome.

14.3 Graduate School / Post Doc Training

Ingrid Gogolin presented an idea of establishing a post-graduate post doc "Training school". On one hand Educational Research is underrepresented within funding schemes for this kind of endeavours. On the other hand capacity building is one of the central tasks of EERA.

The proposal was based on research about funding possibilities. Options are given within European funding schemes (e.g. Marie Curie; ESF funding). The experiences with EERQI have shown how long it takes to prepare a proposal. Ingrid Gogolin argued that EERA should therefore support the preparation of a proposal by hiring a researcher for one year who could assist to explore possibilities and develop a proposal.

Results could be made available to Networks and Member Associations as well.

Council Members were hesitating with respect to this idea. The discussion was more about what might be the need of young researchers and not how EERA could profit from a project like that.

Council Members wanted to see what exactly the Graduate School or Post Doc Training would be about.

It was concluded that the proposals should be re-discussed in June with more details given.

16. Procedures for regarding new associations

Postponed to June Council meeting.

17. Procedures for financing networks

Marit Honerod Hoveid introduced an application form and the procedures for Network Funding by EERA Council.

Both were welcomed and accepted in principle. The following amendments were discussed and agreed:

1. Only projects with sustainable/structural effect on EERA should be funded (add "and/or objectives" in the application guidance point 2)
2. The project should be handed in with a project title (amend application form)
3. A maximum sum of 5.000 Euro per project was fixed.
4. One person or entity should be responsible for running the project, for administering the money and for reporting.
5. A short financial report needs to be handed in to the treasurer/via the office, with the details being fixed by a German accountant (for book keeping).
6. 80% of the budget should be transferred in advance, 20% after the receipts and the financial reports were handed in.
7. Money should be transferred to an institutional account, no overhead will be provided.
8. Travel costs will generally not be covered; exceptions are possible if they are necessary for realising the project and only make up a small rate of the whole sum.

The document as accepted by the council and can be sent out after rewording by the preparing group.

Generally, first decisions on accepting a proposal can be made during the next council meeting in June. Only if there is a proposal that needs to be accepted earlier, e.g. something that should be realised for ECER 2009, the office informs the office bearers who then decide via electronic voting.

Network 12 handed in a proposal as response to a request from the EERA Council, thus, this proposal was seen differently. Council agreed on funding this proposal outside the just agreed network funding scheme.

18. Procedures for Keynote Nomination

Lejf Moos presented a common proposal of Martin Lawn and him suggesting that a Scientific Committee should take care for Keynote Nomination in future (Council Keynotes).

The Committee should prepare nomination forms including key works and ideas of nominees in order to allow a better discussion in Council. Council Members will be consulted in advance. Nominations should then be discussed and decided in Council one year prior to the Conference.

This was welcomed in principle and it was suggested to have the President, the Editor of EERJ and the Network Representative on Council as members in this Working Group.

Angelika Wegscheider pointed out that if keynotes are to be discussed one year before the conference; the conference themes need to be fixed early enough for allowing this.

19. Agenda for next meeting

- Graduate School / Post Doc Training
- Support for New Members
- ...

20. Miscellaneous

21.1 Publishers' Marketing

It was decided that leaflets from the publishers could be included in the delegates' conference bags, if the LOC agrees. Theo Wubbels, David Bridges and Rudolf Tippelt were asked to send information on their experiences on prices etc.

21.2 Request from EAB

Mustafa Yunus Eryamas asked the EERA council whether it would be interested in joining an evaluation project that is realised by EAB. He was asked to prepare a proposal for the June meeting in exchange with Rudolf Tippelt.

21.2 Network 12 Questionnaire

Network 12 asked the Office whether EERA could send an online questionnaire to conference delegates. Council agreed. The questionnaire on international research cooperation should be sent to the office, from there to council members. After approval, the office sends it to the delegates, who can fill it in voluntarily.