MINUTES

EERA Council Meeting in Vienna

Sunday 27 September 16:30- 19.00,
HG, Elise Richter Saal

Thursday 01 October 09.00 – 13.00
Garnisongasse 3, Großer Hörsaal

Sunday

Ingrid Gogolin and Felice Levine summarised the accomplishments of WERA until now that had led to the inauguration foreseen next Tuesday. WERA council had its first official meeting yesterday and today and progress had been made on plans for WERA symposia in education research conferences, capacity building, communication through the website, and the election of the first "regular" officers. EERA council members expressed satisfaction with the formation of WERA after initial doubts about the organisation. Questions, however, were raised about the aims of WERA.

1. Apologies for absence and welcome to new members

Herbert Altrichter, Österreichische Gesellschaft für Forschung und Entwicklung (OEFEB); **David Bridges**,British Educational Research Association (BERA); **Joana da Silveira Duarte** and **Fiona Hallett**, Postgraduate Network; **Mustafa Yunus Eryaman**, Turkish Educational Research Association (EAB); **Francesca Gobbo**, Società Italiana di Pedagogia (SIPED); **Ian,Grosvenor**, EERA Secretary General; **Brigitte Gruson**, Association des Enseignants et Chercheurs en Sciences de l'Education (AESCE); **Gunilla Holm**, Finnish Educational Research Association (FERA); **Marit Honerod Hoveid**, Networks' Representative on Council, **Wim,Jochems**, EERA Treasurer; **Gonzalo Jover Olmeda**, Sociedad Espanola de Pedagogia (SEP); **Yasar Kondakci**, Educational Administration Research and Development Association (EARDA); **Inger Kraav**, Estonian Academic Research Association (EAPS); **John Krejsler**, Nordic Educational Research Association (NERA); **Martin Lawn**, Editor of European Educational Research Journal (EERJ); **Katharina Maag Merki**, Swiss Society for Research in Education (SSRE); **Raquel-Amaya Martínez González**, Asociación Interuniversitaria de Investigación Pedagógica (AIDIPE); **Ian Menter**, Scottish Educational Research Association (SERA); **Joanna Michalak**, Polskie Towarzystwo Pedagogiczne (PTP); **Lejf Moos**, Nordic Educational Research Association (NERA); **Joe O'Hara**, Educational Studies Association of Ireland (ESAI); **Rudolf Tippelt**, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Erziehungswissenschaft (DGfE); **Angelika Wegscheider**, EERA Office; **Jose-Luis Wolfs** Association Belge de Chercheurs en Education (ABC-Educ); **Theo Wubbels**,Vereniging voor Onderwijs Research (VOR)

2. Confirmation of minutes of Council Meeting in June

A question arose regarding the possibility to have keynotes translated. Council re-assured that this should be possible in principle but that decisions need to be taken in each case.

3. Matters arising from minutes of Council Meeting in June [not elsewhere on the agenda]

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4. Review of Action points if not elsewhere on Agenda

The agenda was slightly changed in order to meet the attendances of various council members. Future ECERs have been discussed on both meeting days. The minutes will present the summed up discussion following the first agenda of the meeting.

5. ECER 2009

Postponed to Thursday, as LOC was absent.

6. ECER 2010

Report of LOC
Based on the participation numbers of 2009, LOC organised an additional house for the 2010 conference in order to provide enough conference rooms. All houses will be in walking distance as will be the majority of the hotels.
LOC and EERA office will meet during the Conference in order to arrange first ways of cooperation.
There might be an option for an excursion to Tallinn in cooperation with the education research association there.

Suggestion of Keynotes

Martin Lawn reported on the Working Group who developed 4 ideas for keynote speakers. The candidates were presented and discussed. Council agreed on them and also decided that if one of them would be unable to follow the invitation, the Working Group should find and decide on a new candidate.

Some colleagues asked that speaking styles should be drawn into consideration when inviting a keynote speaker.

7. Treasurer's report on financial situation

Wim Jochems presented the financial report, the results of the audit, the estimated balance for 2009 and the budget overview for 2010. (SEE ANNEX I Budget and Overview)

Questions arose on how EERA contributed financially to EERQI and WERA. The Treasurer answered that WERA will ask membership fees and EERA pays an invited Dinner for WERA Council during ECER; for the preparation process of WERA Council Members' travel costs to WERA meetings had been covered. EERQI had been supported financially before the project received funding and asks now for co-

funding within the funding agreement of with the European Commission. Wim Jochems also confirmed that Council Members and Link Convenors were granted free access to ECER 2009, which should also be offered for ECER 2010.

Council accepted the 2008 figures and it was agreed that this should go to AGA.

Wim Jochems reported that the Budget 2009 had needed several revisions due to the unexpectedly high numbers of participants. ECER 2009 welcomes about 1900 paying delegates, when 1300 were expected in the first budget draft. This means that although some network projects received funding and although EERA carried on and extended commitment to other projects like WERA and EERQI, EERA savings were still considerably high and that actions need to be taken to guarantee that the money is re-invested in educational research.

He repeated his invitation to put forward ideas on how to invest money within the aims of EERA but also made clear that he saw the need for a further reduction of fees.

Council suggested increasing the PGN funding by granting more scholarships and considered more funding for ongoing projects. It was decided to increase the PGN Budget with 10.000 Euro dedicated to scholarships students from Eastern and Southern European Countries. It was also decided to suggest to AGA that EERA fees are reduced for all delegate-classes (12% each)

As some council members argued that not only ECER fees are a burden for Eastern and Southern European Researchers but also accommodation, travel costs and food.

Council resolved to earmark 10.000 euro in addition for providing subsidised lodging for young researchers for ECER 2010.

8. Secretary General Report

ECER database / BEI
Ian Grosvenor reported on discussions with British Education Index (BEI) who used to do the ECER programmes before the move to Germany and still have an ECER archive of abstracts no longer directly accessible, plus a broad number of ECER related papers that delegates had handed in to the Collections of Conference Papers within BEI.
He summed up three options on how archives of BEI could be integrated into the EERA archives which steadily grow with each new conference.
BEI had offered to hand over all their data as XML files, which would allow EERA, after some remodelling to integrate all old archives in the database in the EERA website. A one – off payment would be agreed upon for this.
Two other options combine this first suggestion with ongoing cooperation and additional support, subject to fees: BEI offered e.g. to include an XML version of the ECER programme into their database (= this asks EERA for technical development when producing the file) plus a fee for BEI to integrate this also on their databases. This was not seen as a real add on. So with regard to the question of integration all EERA Archives into one system, council decided to follow the suggestion of a hand over of data linked to a one-off payment.
Nevertheless council members pointed out the searching options in the actual database would not be elaborate enough for accessing a larger abstracts and paper archive. This needs to be further developed. It was suggested to ask colleagues from NW 12 if they can assist with that or suggest someone who could.

Proposal for a Senior Project Officer

Ian Grosvenor presented his proposal to engage a Senior Research Officer who would establish an EERA Archive and write a history of EERA policy and EERA Networks development. Concerns were put forward regarding the timeframe. Ian Grosvenor explained he planned this as a freelancing contract equalling the working time of r 6 month full time engagement. The task should be fulfilled within a 12 month project duration in 2010.

The level of remuneration should be following EU pro-rata level.

Council welcomed the proposal in principle but nevertheless raised concerns if this would not rather be two very different jobs, one more linked to institutional memory and the other more to technical development. Council asked that this should be reflected and that support of Postgraduate Students should be included in a tender for this project.

09. EERJ Report

Martin Lawn reported on access to EERJ, which is free in the year after delegate visited ECER, older versions are free anyway. EERJ focuses on common conditions on Europe and thereby helps to develop a European Research Area.

The journal, so Martin Lawn, also reflects that EERA got more and more solid as an association and in its aims, but EERJ still misses contributions from Council Members. With this he also raised the question how deeply Council Members were involved in ECER and if they presented research themselves.

He pointed out the EERJ is very closely linked to ECER as the majority of published papers are ECER presentations. The published symposia would reflect the interests of the EERA networks. The Journal at the moment has a list of 5.000 delegates from previous ECERs who receive the Journal. So EERJ truly reflects ECER – but it reflects EERA only to some extent, convenors would be more interested in EERJ than the EERA Council, so Martin Lawn.

Council Members agreed to these observations but also pointed out that Council is to a large extent an administrative body, especially as Council Members would be there in the role of representatives of their association and not as researchers. Some asked for strategic meetings, some asked for finding common themes Council Symposia / EERJ contributions. It was agreed to have this reflected in the Office Bearers meeting.

Thursday

Opening of the meeting: The meeting started with welcoming Lejf Moos as new President and Theo Wubbels as new Treasurer of EERA as well as Christian Rudelt, EERA's EERQI Research Assistant.

05. ECER 2009 report, postponed from Sunday

LOC Report
Stefan Hopmann reported on a successful conference: Feedback had been very positive academically and regarding organisation. But he also reported on some difficulties regarding the decentralised Social Events on Tuesday evening. Many people who had enrolled for them did not attend the meetings, others had been informed that places were already booked out. On the other hand delegates had also welcomed smaller groups and the opportunity of visiting places, as Birgitte Gruson pointed out.

Council thanked the Local Organizing Committee for their work and commitment.

Pre-Conference Report
Fiona Hallett presented the PGN report on their activities and on the Pre-Conference.
She highlighted the problems of no-shows and late withdrawals and suggested that a deposit should be claimed for the registration at the Pre-conf which would be refunded after /while the conference. No-shows would not get the deposit back and the money would be transferred to a scholarship fund.
She also pointed out that more and more networks offer support and engagement in the Pre-Conference. Network 9 has offered cooperation, 3 other networks have volunteered to run a methodology panel, one wanted to contribute by giving input on ethical dimensions

Fiona also reflected on the possibility of a new name for the Pre-Conference; PGN had thought about "Emerging Researchers"

After PGN presented their budget, Treasurer reminded PGN that the Scholarships would not be 11.000 Euro but 10.000 Euro, he also suggested to reduce the budget for the invited lecture from 3500 to 2500 Euro.

The idea of a deposit and for finding effective measures against no-shows seemed compelling to Council. Angelika Wegscheider said that a clear definition needs to be found what a no-show is and what a late-withdrawal and whether their needed to be differences in actions taken against them.
The Office Bearers / Office Working Group will focus on this in December.
With regard to the Main Conference: people who cancel their participation shortly before the conference only can claim fees back (not more than 80% in any case) if they present a medical statement.

10. EERA Office Report EERQI

ECER Review
Angelika Wegscheider reported that ECER 2009 was difficult due to the growth of submission numbers. ECER had grown in submission numbers, in participation numbers, in networks, in symposia, in parallel sessions and in the number of rooms that were needed.

ECER 09 was only manageable with the 50 rooms that were available because time slots which usually are not open for parallel sessions where opened for them. While it was technically much easier to check for time clashes as it had been the year before, some clashes could just not be resolved. This held true for papers with many authors who were linked to more papers. Angelika Wegscheider highlighted the necessity to find solutions on that and referred to a working group that would report later in the meeting.

She also reported on technical problems linked to the Web-hosting agency which made automatic updates impossible for some time and which slowed down communication processes with delegates and chairs. As a consequence EERA will need to find a new web-hoster. Proposal will be made to the Treasurer.

<u>ECER payments</u>
Payments and claims for refunds were closely monitored this year, only a handful of payments are still pending.

<u>Other Remarks</u>
Martin Lawn reported on the EERJ Roundtable. Unlike last year, where people needed to move to a bigger lecture hall, this year's Roundtable showed much less audience, which might be linked to the fact that parallel slots were allowed. He also informed the Office/Council that there had been a mistake in the printed programme regarding time/date of one of the keynote addresses.

Office will send out an updated list of council members, plus their email addresses and their term of office to Council members after the meeting.

<u>EERQI – Report</u>
Christian Rudelt reported that he started working for EERA/EERQI in August and gave a brief overview on the tasks he had been focusing on so far.

Angelika Wegscheider informed Council that the Office is informed on Christian Rudelt's engagement in EERQI by written reports that will form a part of the Office Report which is sent out to Office Bearers on a regular basis and by regular phone meetings/ meetings in Hamburg with Christian and the EERQI management. The academic lead person for Christian is Ingrid Gogolin, the managerial lead person is Angelika Wegscheider.

Council showed some concerns about how EERA can be kept informed on the progress of the project as now all but one EERQI partners who had been represented on the EERA Council as well had left EERA Council.
As a first measure Council members should receive the policy brief of EERQI, that had been developed for the European Commission.

Secondly Angelika Wegscheider and Christian Rudelt were asked to prepare a report that could also be used for a publication with EERJ. They will do this in cooperation with the project management; David Bridges was also invited to contribute to this. The report should be ready for discussion in the January Council Meeting.
It was also decided that EERQI should be a regular topic for the Council Agenda and that EERA's representation in EERQI needs to be clarified. Office bearers will develop a suggestion for January Council.

Network Funding

VETNET/ NW 02
Marit Hoveid informed council on VETNET's funding application. They asked for funds to redo their website and turn it into a community website using social networking software. They also pioneered Video and Audio-Podcasts from ECER 2009,which they did across all networks and which will be integrated into the EERA Website. (Access to Typo3 will be granted)
These ideas were welcomed, but questions came up as travel costs are integrated in this proposal. Theo Wubbels as new treasurer agreed to cover them, as the they were related to technical staff, who would otherwise not come to EERA.
Council decided to agree to fund NW 02/ Vetnet, but to ask them to show other networks how to make use/build up a community website, to report at the Helsinki Convenors Meeting and to spread the Videos also via the EERA Website.

General Funding Principles
Council discussed that under certain circumstances travel costs may be covered, but that proposals for funding meetings of convenors for programme planning should better not be accepted as this could also be done via a skype meeting. Ian Grosvenor suggested that Council should take a case by case decision. NW should not be invited to include travel costs in their proposals, if they need to do, they need to make a clear argument for it.

Meeting with NW 16
Following a decision of June Council, NW 16 was granted funding for their website development but also invited to a meeting during ECERT 2009 in order to ensure that their developments will also be accessibly/ of value to other networks.
Unlike VETNET who opted for a new community software, NW 16 will try to make full use of the existing web management system. What is developed there will be transferable to other networks.

Report from Network Convenors Meetings

Marit summed up the two convenors meetings during ECER: Convenors had welcomed that each room was staffed with conference helpers, they had reported on a quality improvement of presentations, but now-shows/late withdrawals were still seen as a problem.
Convenors had also discussed when someone is a member of a EERA network and if this should be defined somehow.
The formats of presentations had been discussed; the Philosophy of Education Network has experimented with longer abstracts for ECER 2009.

Major topic at the meeting was growth. Convenors agreed that EERA needs to take strategic decision on this. Some first measures had been agreed on.
On the other hand the last day also thinned out – like in previous years. As one measure against this it had been decided that Symposia need to take place in the last two slots of the conference. Networks will not group 4 papers into one session next year, as this was seen as problematic.

12. How to keep ECERs manageable

ECER is growing in many respects: submitted papers, number and size of symposia, ECER networks, parallel sessions, rooms that are needed, number of delegates. This puts pressure on the Office, the reviewers and the Local Organisers.
Some decisions regarding submissions process have been take with the convenors (reducing submission period, no mercy after period is over, limited number of presenters per paper, better define the symposium submission form, all slots need to be filled before a parallel slot is opened, symposia need to be planned for Friday afternoon.)
A new symposium submission form will help to better detect symposia that do not follow the ECER guidelines, changes in the reviewing form will better assist reviewers and Convenors.

Ian Grosvenor pointed out that the debate is still in process, as the focus of the working group changed. ECER is growing so fast that very strategic decisions need to be taken. What has been discussed so far is working around edges, whereas a strategic vision from Council is needed. Council briefly discussed options. If ECER grows further can EERA still cooperate with Universities? Should the conference be extended for one day? One idea to naturally limit the conference size would be to ask for full papers to be handed in. Could ECER be split up in different conferences at different places – i.e. specialised conference in certain countries? Should Networks have their Pre-conferences?

The Working group was asked to develop a paper for January. Council members are invited to put forward their ideas to either Angelika or Ian Grosvenor until end of November.

13. EERA Constitution

Lejf Moos presented the idea to collect Council Members' concerns and questions regarding the constitution and let a lawyer draft changes that would meet German legal regulations and the traditions of EERA and the needs of a growing association.

Various ideas were put forward: it was discussed whether all members should be part of Council. While it was agreed that there needs to be a broad and deliberating forum it was also seen that a steadily growing council might become too big for effective work. One idea was to create a subcommittee of Council, while it was still not pointed out which tasks would be taken over by the subcommittee.
Council also discussed how AGA could be turned into an event interesting for a broader audience.

Council discussed how the Constitution can be adjusted in ways that reflect the legal reality in Germany and the reality of EERA, meaning finding new relations between bodies of the association. This could include forming an Executive Committee. A proposal will be discussed with a lawyer and discussed in Council in January.

After some debate Lejf Moos summed up what was said and pointed out that a lawyer will be consulted in order to find ways of solving the issue of control without reducing the number of representatives.

14. EERA – Next Generation

Lejf Moos summed up how EERA currently supported the development of the next generation of educational researcher via the various activities of the Postgraduate Network, the DGfE/EERA summer school near Berlin and more recently the Network specific summer schools.
He highlighted two new proposals - one for a new scheme of partnership summer schools, one for creating a European Educational Research Infrastructure – EERI.

Summer Schools
The summer schools should last 5 days, focus on methodology and would also grant ECTS points. The training courses would take place for a period of about 2 - 4 years organised by the same group of partners. (EERA, a University, a National Member Association) The time of year of year for this training school is still negotiable.
First group of partners would be DGfE, University of Göteborg and EERA. A first meeting between Lejf Moos, Karin Rönnermann and Rudolf Tippelt has already taken place, an next one is scheduled for mid of November in Berlin.
For the Council Meeting in January a budget plan and more detailed planning will be presented.

EERI
The idea to create a European Educational Research Infrastructure focuses on further developing the Pre-Conference as real world learning environment and investigating options to develop / make use of virtual learning environments.

Initially two working groups were suggested, one (EERI – A) with the task to develop ideas and plans for sections of the pre-Conference that can take care of some of the educational activities, a Working Group (EERI-B) with the task to develop ideas and plans for a virtual educational research space in consultation with the former planning group and with participation from relevant EERA networks (#16, 12, 6).
David Bridges pointed out that BERA now manages the former TLRP virtual learning/research environment and that this could be used as well.

Joana Duarte and Fiona Hallett welcomed the initiatives but also pointed out the necessity of an early inclusion of the Postgraduate Network in these developments. Also Ian Menter stressed the necessity to feed in the voices of the Postgraduate Network in the plannings. Fiona Hallett stressed that PGN also plans cooperation with VETNET in order to built up a community website.

A working group with Joana, Fiona, Ian M, Lejf M, Angelika will meet in Helsinki on the morning of January 23, before Council meeting.

15. Applications of new members

Two Applications had been put forward by RUTE (University Network of Educational Technology) and KIB-DER (CESA, Cyprus Educational Research Association).
Council could not take decisions on these two applications as it was unclear how they meet EERA's conditions for membership.

Conditions are: being a national or regional general interest education research association. However, "regional" could cover sub-national regions or regions consisting of various nation states. Both models actually exist within the current ECER membership. Council concluded that before taking decisions on future members the expected longer impacts of these developments should be reflected. This especially applies for the KIB-DER Application. A second Cypriot association has

shown interest to join EERA as well.

With regard to the application of the RUTE it was decided that the two Spanish member associations in EERA should collect more information on the association and make a suggestion to Council.

16. Upcoming ECERs

Berlin 2011; Berlin LOC had sent a proposal, which was accepted by council. EERA and LOC will start to negotiate the budget soon.

Cadiz 2012; Cadiz has sent in a proposal shortly before the Council Meeting, which was welcomed in principle. However questions arose if there would be enough capacity for hosting about 2000 people. Council will invite the LOC to explore these questions deeper and report back before the January Council Meeting.

Turkey, 2013; The two Turkish Member Associations in EERA are invited to prepare a shared proposal for hosting ECER.

London 2014; BERA has developed a proposal, which was welcomed in principle. However questions arose if London could meet the capacity needs of ECER. Council will invite BERA to explore this further.

17. Miscellaneous

WERA part two
The interims leadership of WERA will end their term of office in May 2010. Elections of a new leadership are currently prepared and members are invited to suggest possible candidates for President/Vice-President/ President Elect and Secretary General.
The current president can not be nominated for a future post, the Secretary General can.
Suggestions for possible candidates should be brought forward to EERA President.

17. Next Meetings

January 2010:   23. – 24.01.2010 Helsinki
June   2010:   19. – 20.06.2010 Berlin
August 2010: (ECER)   24. August, afternoon, 28. August, morning