



**Minutes of the  
EERA Council Meeting in Cádiz  
13-14 January 2012  
Facultad de Filosofía y Letras,  
Avda. Gómez Ulla, 1, 11003 Cádiz**

**Participants:**

**Herbert Altrichter**, Österreichische Gesellschaft für Forschung und Entwicklung (OEFEB); **David Bosold**, EERA Office; **Mustafa Yunus Eryaman**, Turkish Educational Research Association (EAB); **Ian Grosvenor**, EERA Secretary General; **Gunilla Holm**, Finnish Educational Research Association (FERA); **Marit Honerod Hoveid**, EERA Secretary General Elect; **Gonzalo Jover Olmeda**, Sociedad Española de Pedagogía (SEP); **Edwin Keiner**, EERJ; **John Krejsler**, Nordic Educational Research Association (NERA); **Sofia Marques da Silva**, Sociedade Portuguesa de Ciências da Educação (SPCE); **Raquel-Amaya Martínez González**, Asociación Interuniversitaria de Investigación Pedagógica (AIDIPE); **Lejf Moos**, EERA President; **Petr Novotny**, Czech Educational Research Association (CERA); **Gyöngyvér Pataki**, Hungarian Educational Research Association (HERA); **Daniela Preis**, EERA Administrative Assistant; **Miriam Canovas**, **Antonio García Morilla**, **Gregorio Rodríguez Gómez** (LOC 2012); **Huseyin Uzunboylu**, Cyprus Educational Sciences Association (KEB-DER); **Angelika Wegscheider**, EERA Office Manager; **Theo Wubbels**, EERA Treasurer, Vereniging voor Onderwijs Research (VOR); **Pavel Zgaga**, Slovenian Educational Research Association (SLODRE)

Minutes: David Bosold

**1 Welcome, Apologies**

The president welcomed all Council members and the members of the Local Organising Committee. Apologies were received from: Ross Deuchar, Sakir Cincir, Ana Paula Cabral, Maria Pacheco Figueiredo, Francesca Gobbo, Fiona Hallet, Tina Hascher, Paula Korsnakova, Katharina Maag Merki, Joanna Michalak, Alis Oancea and Joe O'Hara.

**2 Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved without further changes.

**3 Confirmation of Minutes Berlin, September 17, 2011**

The treasurer asked to rephrase the sentence "... budget of 2012..." into "approved of the budget for 2012" (p. 6). With this change the minutes from the Berlin meeting were confirmed.

## 4 Matters Arising from Minutes

The president reported that James Calderhead had responded to the EERA letter and said he felt honoured to be given life membership as the association's Founding President.

## 5 ECERs

### 5.1 ECER 2012, Cádiz

#### 5.1.1 LOC and Office

The LOC reported that the committee at UCA (Universidad de Cádiz) consisted of 20 people and that it was in permanent contact with the EERA office in Berlin. A Cádiz-based travel agency was additionally supporting LOC in providing customised accommodation and travel packages for ECER participants which should reduce the logistical efforts for conference attendees regarding the booking of flights, transfers and hotel rooms.

The exact timing and nomination of chair persons for the ECER 2012 keynotes would be decided together with the EERA office and Exec.

#### 5.1.2 Tour through Buildings

LOC gave a brief tour of the UCA building on Avenida Gómez Ulla paying specific attention to the lecture halls (keynotes), the two patios for receptions and social events as well as the ground floor space needed for the registration desk and the book exhibition. Moreover, sample class rooms were shown to Council members in order to demonstrate technical equipment (LCD projectors, etc.) available during the conference.

#### 5.1.3 EERJ Roundtable

Edwin Keiner reported on the theme (Research Impact and Educational Research) and format of the upcoming EERJ Roundtable. Some attendees raised the question whether the title 'roundtable' was an apt description for an event based on the presentation of a research project by one researcher and an EERA Council member to be followed by responses from two scholars from the field. Edwin Keiner highlighted the fact that the key idea behind the newly designed roundtable had been the outreach function to the audience. He further stressed that he also expects the results to be published in the EERJ proceedings. In addition, he would consider renaming the event, one suggestion being "EERJ Panel". Edwin Keiner will get in touch with the EERA office regarding the titling.

### 5.2 ECER 2013, Istanbul

The President reconfirmed that Exec would be meeting the Istanbul LOC in April 2012 and would give a brief report on the outcome of the gathering during the next Council meeting in June 2012.

#### 5.2.1 LOC and Office

Yunus Eryaman reported on behalf of the Istanbul LOC and stressed that at least a dozen conferences the size of ECER had been organised by Yıldız Technical University in previous years. The university was also currently investing in new facilities such as an auditorium for 1.000 people. As to next year's conference he said that the space needed for ECER 2013 was to be found in the buildings of three faculties located next to each other.

#### 5.2.2 Theme and Keynoters

As in previous years, a committee of EERA and LOC representatives was formed. It consists of Lejf Moos, President; Maria Figueredo, Networks' Representative on Council; Edwin Keiner, EERJ and Hasan Unal, LOC ECER 2013 (Istanbul). The committee will prepare a document for the upcoming Council meeting in June 2012. This document shall take into account the discussions within Council on the conference theme as well as the results stemming from the committee's meeting with the Turkish Minister in April 2012.

As far as the two tentative titles for ECER 2013 were concerned – ‘Creativity and Innovation in Education’ vs. ‘Education in Different Cultures: What we can learn from each other’ – most Council members argued in favour of the first title. One objection related to the second topic was that it resembled the ECER theme in Helsinki 2010.

A focus on ‘Creativity and Innovation’ would not only allow for a theme more closely related to the European Commission’s Horizon 2020 strategy released in late 2011 – therefore representing an additional opportunity to shape the public discourse on these issues – but also allow for a more fruitful exchange between arts and science. Besides, it would allow for a critical reappraisal and self-reflection of Educational Research as such.

Notwithstanding general support for a focus on ‘Creativity and Innovation’, Council suggested to rephrase the second part of the proposal. In order to reflect EERA’s objectives, the tentative title should include the words ‘educational research’ instead of ‘education’.

### **5.3 ECER 2014, London**

No LOC 2014 representative was present at the meeting in Cádiz. Ian Grosvenor reported from an earlier meeting with the organisers that London would see a lot of events in 2014 due to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great War and that this had been taken into consideration by the ECER LOC. More details are to be provided for one of the upcoming Council meetings (either Berlin or Cádiz).

### **5.4 ECER 2015, 2016, 2017 Applications**

Gyöngyvér Pataki presented HERA’s application for an ECER in Budapest in 2015. ECER 2015 is to be held on the premises of Corvinus University centrally located on the banks of the Danube. Since Corvinus University was able to offer both the necessary number of rooms and lecture halls as well as the technical equipment, Council approved of the application.

Subsequently, Sofia Marques da Silva gave a presentation on the University of Porto as the location for ECER 2016. Although ECER could not be held in one building/faculty there would be enough space in the three faculty buildings on the Asprela Campus. The campus was linked to the city’s metro network which would allow for a smooth transfer of conference participants from the hotels in the city centre. In addition, there were half a dozen hotels in the Asprela area. Council also approved of the Porto application.

Regarding ECER 2017, the President briefly reported on an earlier encounter with Italian researchers who had shown interest in hosting the annual conference. There were however organizational problems that do not allow for a proposal. So 2017 is still open and no application from Italy is to be expected.

### **5.5 Poster Prize, new Procedures and Volunteers for the Poster Committee**

Lejf Moos stated that Waxmann (publisher) had continued its sponsorship of the Best Poster Award. The money for 2012 would allow for three poster awards.

As regards the selection process, Council decided that each network would nominate one poster. The selection committee made up of EERA officers would then select the three most outstanding posters out of a total of 27 nominations. Council also supported the nomination for the members of the selection committee. This committee will include John Krejsler (NERA), Edwin Keiner (EERJ), Brigitte Gruson (AECSE), Gyöngyvér Pataki (HERA).

With respect to the Evaluation Form (Appendix) the following changes were adopted:

The range ‘very bad’ (1) – ‘very good’ (5) should be changed to ‘satisfactory’ (1) – ‘good’ (3) – ‘very good’ (5) [or ‘outstanding’]. Given that the 27 posters in the competition would be pre-selected as the best poster from the respective networks, Council expects that all posters can at least be rated ‘satisfactory’. Therefore, criteria such as ‘very poor’ need not be listed.

The item ‘speaking to a European audience’ listed in the analytical grid ‘content’ was considered too ambiguous by most Council members. Council suggested that ‘Research of European relevance’ might be a more apt description for this rubric of the evaluation form.

## 6 New Members: Application from ERAC, PEC and AMIE and General Discussion

Council discussed the three membership applications against the background of the future size and structure of EERA (see 6.4). It was decided that Exec had full authority to decide on ERAC's and PEC's membership following its request for additional information (see 6.1 and 6.2, respectively). In addition, any decision concerning AMIE's application was postponed until the next Council meeting in Berlin in June 2012 (see 6.3).

### 6.1 Educational Research Armenian Centre (ERAC)

Council approved of the President's proposal to request further information from ERAC regarding (a) its reach within Armenia (beyond Yerevan), (b) the academic background of members (due to the high level of PhD and MA students) and (c) track record of academic achievements (i.e. research outcomes).

Council further decided that Exec will be able to grant membership status if ERAC can provide for the requested documents and give evidence that the provisions specified in EERA's constitution (§2.3) and further details on the EERA website (see criteria for membership) are met.

### 6.2 Cyprus Pedagogical Association (PEC)

Moreover, Council approved of the President's suggestion to request further information from PEC regarding its application. Thus far, a clear record of academic achievements (conferences, publications, etc.) was lacking.

Exec will be able to grant membership status if PEC can provide for the requested information and give evidence that the provisions specified in EERA's constitution (§2.3) are met.

A Council member raised concerns that PEC's constitution would officially support a pan-Cypriot perspective but tacitly support political positions held by the Greek Cypriot side.

Exec confirmed to look into this and report back during the Berlin meeting in June 2012.

### 6.3 Asociación Multidisciplinar de Investigación Educativa (AMIE)

Any decision on AMIE's application was postponed until June 2012 (Berlin meeting).

### 6.4 Size of EERA and general regulations regarding membership

Specific attention in the discussion was paid to the possibility of an associate membership or probational period for new members. Council agreed that Exec will come up with a new text on candidate members and the size of Council in June 2012.

Also Council discussed if and how a very young association could have sufficient proof for their stability and research activities in order to qualify for the membership criteria right from the beginning of their existence or if EERA should hold back decisions in order to give the young associations time to develop and prove their stability.

The application of AMIE resulted in a general discussion about the size of EERA council and the maximum amount of membership associations from a European country given that AMIE would be the third Spanish association to join EERA in case its application for membership was approved.

This would in the current framing of the constitution also mean that Spain was represented with 3 associations in the EERA council as EERA membership also means a seat in council.

A number of aspects were raised by EERA council members regarding a significant growth in member organisations, e.g. the possible need for a reintroduction of an AGA or by requesting Exec to take care of/manage more items of operational matter (of course within the framework laid out in the Constitution and the general regulations) – thus leaving more room for Council to discuss and decide strategic matters). These concerns will be taken into consideration by Exec's working group. The latter will table a paper during the upcoming meeting (June 2012, Berlin) and ask Council for approval.

## 7 Members' Reports with General Discussion

Following the debate on EERA membership and the shape of the association in the near future, Council decided to change the order of the Agenda by having the presentations of the Members' reports (TOP 8) prior to aspects regarding the visibility of EERA (TOP 7).

### 7.1 Brigitte Gruson, AECSE

In her presentation, Brigitte Gruson focused on the current challenges of the *Association des chercheurs et enseignants en science de l'éducation* ([www.aecse.net](http://www.aecse.net)), the French Educational Research Association. Against the backdrop of deep structural reforms in the educational sector in France (financial autonomy of universities, reform in teacher education, introduction of B.A. and M.A. programmes in research education instead of one-year programmes) and a generational divide in the educational research camp, AECSE was currently struggling with decreasing membership figures. The association currently has 300 members but has faced difficulties in attracting younger scholars in recent years. This will remain the primary challenge in the years to come.

AECSE puts out a considerable number of research monographs, edited volumes and conference proceedings and has many of its members contributing to French journals devoted to educational research.

As far as funding for research is concerned, Brigitte Gruson stated that although the overall funding levels were acceptable, university budgets were strained. It would therefore not be possible to paint a generic picture of funding for educational research in France.

### 7.2 Gyöngyvér Pataki, HERA

In the second presentation of EERA member organisations, Gyöngyvér Pataki informed Council members about the *Hungarian Educational Research Association* (<http://hera.org.hu>). Being a very new association, HERA will charge its members for the first time in 2012. The association currently has 200 members spread all over the country and is made up of seven regionally-based chapters (e.g. Budapest, Pécs, Debrecen, Szeged). Besides annual conferences, a newsletter and the organisation's website, HERA also publishes a journal, the *Hungarian Educational Research Journal*.

HERA's work is closely related to civil society and strongly affected by a generational rift in the country's educational research field. Whereas mostly young researchers are members of HERA, many of the old academic cadres that were appointed during the socialist era show no willingness to join the association.

As far as funding is concerned, Pataki highlighted the importance of EU funds. According to HERA's observation almost all available funds were of European origin whereas Hungarian funds were basically non-existent.

### 7.3 Sofia Marques da Silva, SPCE

Sofia Marques da Silva then gave a presentation on the work of the Portuguese Society of Educational Sciences, the *Sociedade Portuguesa de Ciências da Educação* (<http://dl.dropbox.com/u/1730818/spce/publicacoes.html>). SPCE currently has 300 members plus 9 research institutions/universities as collective members and several dozen provisional members who are still enrolled in their academic programmes (B.A., M.A.). One specificity of educational research in Portugal is its inclusion of researchers in other lusophone countries. SPCE therefore expects to increase its membership base by opening up to the Brazilian educational research community.

Key sites of educational research in Portugal can be found in Lisbon and Porto as well as the university towns of Braga (University of Minho), Coimbra and Aveiro.

SPCE's activities encompass a biennial conference (next to be held in Ponta Delgada, 2013), spring seminars and the publication of conference proceedings. The last issue of the Association's journal '*Investigar em Educação*' was published in 2006.

The biggest challenge SPCE faces regards its funding. Educational research has been particularly affected by the austerity measures of the Portuguese government which was one of the reasons for SPCE not to apply for hosting an ECER prior to 2016.

The President thanked for the enlightening and interesting contributions and reminded the speakers to write short texts on the state of educational research in their countries and to send them to the EERA office as quickly as possible.

## 8 Visibility

Lejf Moos reported on a number of initiatives and strategic partnerships in which he and other Exec members had been involved in over the past year.

### 8.1 Horizon 2020, ISE

In the framework of the Initiative for Science in Europe (ISE), EERA had had fruitful discussions with the initiative's Executive Director Wolfgang Eppenschwandtner and other associations on the Feb 2011 'Green Paper' of the commission (which preceded the 'Horizon 2020' strategy of the European Commission released in Nov 2011). ISE has issued a letter to the Commissioner on SSH and a proposition paper on research infrastructure.

As for future cooperation, EERA will participate in a core group meeting in February 2012 and the General Assembly in April/May 2012.

### 8.2 European Alliance for SSH (EASSH)

One result of the work has been the working on forming a European Alliance for SSH (EASSH) together with other umbrella organisations such as Net4Society, ALLEA, ECHIC and ESF ([www.eash.eu](http://www.eash.eu)).

A meeting of the core group in September resulted in the Open Letter (as of today signed by more than 24.000 researchers) and the ensuing invitation of the Commissioner to speak before the British Academy in London in which she declared that SSH was to play an important role in the call for proposals of Horizon 2020.

At this stage, EERA will continue to lobby for a research strategy that is compatible with SSH research, most notably against the background of the security aspect highlighted in the Commission's document. Security, Lejf Moos stated, should either be dropped by the EC or at least give more space for SSH research that is not purely technology-driven and also design mechanisms to ensure a faire share of funding between research communities.

Since EASSH was no organisation in a proper sense, the lack of a secretariat and administrative backbone might hamper future lobbying efforts. Therefore, the idea to distribute a list with the organisations that are part of EASSH was welcomed by Exec. EERA Office will distribute the list of organisations that were present at the Amsterdam meeting in order to allow national member organisations to join and dovetail lobbying efforts on a national level.

The first round of proposals for funds under FP8 ('Horizon 2020') is expected to be announced by the end of 2012/beginning of 2013.

### 8.3 WERA, Procedure for Evaluation

The president reported on the outcome of WERA's focal meeting in Kaohsiung, Taiwan in December which had not resulted in a clearer picture of the intentions and purposes of WERA that were to be assessed in order to discuss EERA's continued membership in WERA during the June meeting 2012. As of today, it was still unclear whether WERA considered itself a club-like entity or a global educational research association.

Although there was no doubt that WERA was here to stay, EERA would now have to see in how far WERA's current management is working satisfactorily.

There will be an up dated report from Lejf in June followed by Council discussion and decision on continued membership of WERA.

## 8.4 EERJ

Edwin Keiner briefly presented some of the changes in the structure of EERJ issues. EERJ seeks to increase its coverage of new publications relevant for the field and is therefore interested in receiving synopses of books that (a) have a European/comparative perspective and/or (b) sparked a debate or controversy in the country where it was published (irrespective of the publication language). Submissions should be in English and slightly longer than a book review and shorter than a review article.

## 9 Finances

Council was asked to approve of a series of financial regulations pertaining to the work of EERA office and the treasurer.

### 9.1 Formal Endorsement of Financial Regulations

9.1.1 Council approved of EERA travel regulations (specified in Appendix, p. 21). The heading 'Council members and others' was rephrased in order to include the EERJ representative. The document now reads 'Council members, EERJ representative and others'.

9.1.2 Council approved of EERA regulations on financial structure, payment procedures, refunds and other general procedures (*ibid.*).

9.1.3 Council appointed Andreas Vollmer as auditor of the budget year 2011.

9.1.4 Council approved of the change of EERA's book-keeping system from a revenues and expenditures system (EÜR) into a profit and loss-statement system (GuV, HGB). Following an earlier enquiry by Edwin Keiner, the EERA office had confirmed that this was in line with Germany's law of associations (Vereinsrecht).

### 9.2 Budget Update (information)

The treasurer presented the state of affairs for the budget for 2012 which will see lower expenditures in some parts of the budget than previously expected because staff costs in the EERA office had increased. Although former expenses such as podcasts with link convenors, etc. were not in the current budget, EERA could not continue funding on previous levels due to the uncertainty of how many funds could be raised through ECER 2012.

One suggestion eventually approved by Council was to postpone any network funding for season schools and network projects until the June meeting. Depending on the number of ECER delegates registered by then, Council might have more leeway to sponsor network events.

## 10 Formation of Committee for Nomination and Election of new Treasurer

Modelled on the rules and regulations of the nomination and election of the Secretary General last year, a committee was established that will prepare the election process of the new treasurer. Brigitte Gruson (AECSE), Sofia Marques da Silva (SPCE) and Petr Novotny (CERA) were nominated for membership in the committee. All three accepted the nomination and were thus appointed.

## 11 General Regulations

### 11.1 Emerging Researchers' Roles and Responsibilities

The following changes were discussed within Council and approved by all members. Since there are but link convenors and co-convenors there should be no use of the term 'convenor' in the regulations on Emerging Researchers.

Against the backdrop of tasks described for co-convenors – "In addition to the Link Convenor there will be six Convenors and they will cover a range of defined activities" (p. 6) – regulations

were rephrased to stipulate "In addition to the Link Convenor there will a maximum of six Co-Convenors covering a range of defined activities".

Moreover, the list of defined activities was amended by an additional phrase reading: "Two Convenors should evaluate the academic performance at the conference" (ibid.). Furthermore, the sentence "Two Convenors will have responsibility for expanding ERG activities" was revised and now reads "Two Convenors will have responsibility for developing ERG activities" (ibid.). In order to symbolically remunerate the convenors of the ERG it was decided that all ERG officers leaving office should receive a certificate honouring their work.

## 11.2 ECER, LOC Regulations

Council approved of the regulations laid out in the annex (p. 28ff.). The following changes were adopted:

The sentence: "a time conflict with the BERA or other national conferences needs to be avoided whenever possible" now reads: "a time conflict with any other national conference (e.g. BERA) needs to be avoided whenever possible" (p. 28).

The phrase: "ECER also hosts a book exhibition and welcomes about 10-15 publishers each year" was amended and now reads: "ECER also hosts a poster session, a book exhibition and welcomes about 10-15 publishers each year" (ibid.).

The final version of the sentence "The LOC usually is based in a university and supported by one or more EERA Member Associations and which these national associations also may construct" reads: "The LOC usually is based in a university and supported by one or more EERA Member Associations" (ibid.).

The phrase "...provide rooms (approximately 50 rooms in different sizes plus two big lecture halls [minimally 400 seats each] for keynotes and invited events)" is amended to read "...50-60 rooms" (p. 29).

The regulations set out in the document "How to submit your proposal" (p. 30) should also mention the poster session. The third paragraph was therefore rephrased and now reads: "Please note that the Conference also includes a book exhibition with about 10 – 15 publishers and a poster session which need to be located at a central area during main conference".

The typo in paragraph 5 was also corrected: It should read "note on access from next airport" instead of "not on access..." (ibid.)

In addition, the frame for contracts between EERA and a ECER LOC was modified. Instead of 3 lecture rooms with a capacity of more than 400 people the contract should only specify 2 such lecture rooms (p. 32).

## 11.3 Name Changes for Networks

The regulations set out for name changes of networks (p. 6) were approved.

## 11.4 EERJ Editor

Council discussed the regulations concerning EERJ but reached no final decision. While the co-optation of board members and the endorsement of the editor by the EERA Council were seen critically by some Council members, there was a general consensus that the most pivotal problem remained the description of the formal link between EERJ and EERA. The paragraph on p. 6 was not in line with the wording of the constitution. Question arose of how the editorial board was set up, which would suggest the Editor for endorsement by EERA. Edwin Keiner will therefore prepare a short paper and revised version of the stipulation for the June meeting in Berlin.

## 12 Collaboration between EERA and EARLI

Lejf Moos briefly reported on the collaboration between EERA and EARLI. In an encounter with EARLI president Jos Beishuizen, with whom he had also cooperated in the Alliance (EEASH), both came up with the following proposals for a more formalized collaboration between the two organisations. The following proposals were approved by Council members:

**"1 Advertising each other's activities on the web sites**

Dates and content of activities are sent two-monthly by the offices of EARLI and EERA to each other and are published on their websites with links for further information at the original website. EERA organizes two season schools per year for professional development and capacity building. Participants usually are PhD students. EARLI advertises the EERA season schools on her website.

**2 Presidential/council invited session at each other's conferences**

One year before the annual (ECER) and biannual conference (EARLI) the president of the organizing association approaches the other president with an invitation.

**3 Collaboration EERA networks and EARLI SIGs**

Contacts between EERA networks' and EARLI SIGs working in similar domains are fostered to explore what they can offer each other. EARLI and EERA executive committees will urge their network conveners and SIG coordinators working in similar domains to contact each other. This may lead to initiatives for collaborative activities, seasonal schools or conferences.

**4 Shared financial support for collaborative projects, season schools and conferences of network(s) and SIG(s)**

Applications for financial support for activities should be submitted jointly by an EARLI SIG and EERA Network to EARLI and EERA one month prior to Executive Committee (EARLI) respectively Council (EERA) meetings."

**13 Dates for Next Meetings**

22/23 June 2012, Berlin

The Berlin meeting will start on 22 June at 9am and will end around 1pm on 23 June. It is suggested that participants arrive one day earlier (on 21 June 2012). EERA office will reserve rooms at the Best Western Steglitz for the nights of 21 - 22 June and 22 - 23 June.

At the Berlin meeting the following member organisations will present their reports:

CERA (Petr Novotny), SLODRE (Pavel Zgaga) and SSRE (Katharina Maag Merki – tbc)

22 September 2012, Cádiz

The meeting in Cádiz will take place on 22 Sep from 10am to 3pm.

**14 AOB**

Edwin Keiner presented some preliminary findings of the informal meeting that had been held in order to prepare the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of EERA in 2014 during the ECER in London.

Ideas included an off-/online photo exhibition, a poster on the results of a 1994 survey that would be re-conducted in the run-up to ECER 2014 in order to show the developments that took place in the two decades between them, a special EERJ issue, a commemorative copy (hard copy) of EERJ. More details will be provided at the forthcoming Council meeting in Berlin.