



Minutes of the EERA Council Meeting in Berlin

19 – 20 June 2010
Berlin, Arnimallee 12

Participants:

David Bridges, British Educational Research Association (BERA); **Necati Cerrahoglu**, Turkish Educational Research Association (EAB); **Ian Grosvenor**, EERA Secretary General; **Brigitte Gruson**, Association des Enseignants et Chercheurs en Sciences de l'Education (AECSE); **Fiona Hallett**, Emerging Researchers' Network; **Gunilla Holm**, Finnish Educational Research Association (FERA); **Marit Honerod Hoveid**, Networks' Representative on Council, **Gonzalo Jover Olmeda**, Sociedad Espanola de Pedagogia (SEP); **Sakir Cincir**, Educational Administration Research and Development Association (EARDA); **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**, EERA President; **Joe O'Hara**, Educational Studies Association of Ireland (ESAI); **Daniela Preis**, EERA Office; **Rudolf Tippelt**, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Erziehungswissenschaft (DGfE); **Tuija Veinte**, LOC Helsinki; **Angelika Wegscheider**, EERA Office; **Theo Wubbels**, EERA Treasurer and Vereniging voor Onderwijs Research (VOR);

Guests:

Andrea Bordas and **Gyöngyvér Pataki**, representing a group of Hungarian researchers interested in establishing a national association

1 Apologies for Absence and welcome to new members

Apologies for absence from Francesca Gobbo, Petr Novotny, Herbert Altrichter and Jan Danek. Welcome to Necati Cerrahoglu who replaced Yunus Eryaman exceptionally.

2 Confirmation of minutes of January 2010 Council Meeting

It was pointed out that ECER anniversary is in 2012 and EERA anniversary in 2014

Minutes confirmed without amendments.

3 Matters arising from minutes and action points

No matters arising from minutes or action points.

4 ECERs

4.1 ECER 2010, Helsinki

4.1.1 Report LOC and Office (Tuija Veintie, Angelika Wegscheider)

LOC reported on the buildings in which the conference will take place, one for the Pre-conference, four for main conference sessions plus one Computer building, Alexandria.

Delegates will receive a free public transport ticket, valid from 23 to 28 August, also for the return to the airport.

It is planned to offer a Conference Pub, a restaurant where delegates can gather and get special prices for drinks and food.

Keynote streaming, podcasts and web2.0 features for the conference

ECER 2010 will test Web2.0 features like twitter and flickr (shared space for photos), the group who did the podcasts last year will take care for this, will also do videopodcast again (with Convenors) and will offer a conference radio programme during breaks. First steps towards this have already been done.

In addition keynotes will be streamed and afterwards also uploaded on an EERA channel.

4.1.2 Report Pre-Conference (Ian Menter)

The response to scholarships was very positive, there were 40 applications, and 20 were accepted.

As there is still a shortage of chairs/session mentors, Council is asked if some are able to chair one or more sessions.

4.1.3 EERJ Roundtable (Martin Lawn)

Education Research in New Contexts – submerged, interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary. The contexts of education research across Europe are changing, partly as a consequence of institutional restructuring or mergers, new knowledge institutes and research funding programmes.

Sub disciplinarity, inter-disciplinarity and trans-disciplinarity seem to be emerging as offering diverse futures for education research contexts. The reduction of isolated disciplinary power has been growing in different ways in EU policy for several years and a focus on inter-disciplinarity [furthering expertise through common developments] and trans-disciplinarity [leading to radical epistemological rethinking] is aimed at 'overcoming traditional disciplinary clustering' [European Research Council].

Leena Koski, Department of Sociology, University of Joensuu, Rudolf Tippelt, Co-Coordinator of Munich Centre of Learning Science, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Germany and Paul Smeyers, Ghent University are invited to join as speakers.

They will be asked whether they accept recording and streaming.

4.2 ECER 2011, Berlin

4.2.1 Theme and keynotes, proposal from committee (HK, ML, MH, LM) (discussion and decision)

Council liked the suggested theme very much, as it will be exciting to look closer at it, especially at a place like Berlin.

Working group provided Council with a list of possible keynote speakers with a Top 4 and some others. One of them a leading Sociologists in this field, it was concluded that if she accepts no other speaker should be scheduled in parallel to her and only 3 keynotes invited in total.

Within the top 4 there are 3 researchers who are no Educational Researchers. Some council members asked what signal it would be if EERA invites mostly researchers from other disciplines. But others also found it valuable to open up and allow presentations of interdisciplinary research. On the whole, there was a common feeling that it should nevertheless be balanced.

It was agreed that the Sociologist should be asked first. If she accepts, further steps can be taken.

4.3 ECER 2012, Cadiz

Dates: Pre: 17 - 18 Sept., Main: 18 - 21 Sept (LM)
Dates confirmed.

4.4 ECER 2013, Istanbul

Will be put up next time.

4.5 ECER 2014, London

ECER 2014 organiser will be in Helsinki. Office and office bearers should try to arrange a meeting there.

4.6 EERA Contract/Agreement with LOC

Draft (Theo Wubbels) (discussion and decision)

The contract used so far only included an agreed budget. Duties of EERA and LOC were not clearly listed. The new frame contract was designed to fill this gap.

Generally Council welcomed the new form of the contract.

Following minor amendments were recommended:

Heading of point 2 should make clear that it is about the provision of rooms, not the organisation of the respective events.

Martin Lawn asked if it would be possible to mention the editorial board meeting of EERJ in the contract, just to inform LOC that such thing exists, for making the organisation for him easier.

In point 8, it should be added that also a representative (e.g. Raquel Almaya Martinez Gonzales for Cadiz) can be at the council meetings.

It would be better to keep the paragraph about the payments from EERA to LOC more flexible. It may be that for LOC, payments in less than 5 parts are favourable.

Council decided to use this contract for future ECER arrangements.

4.7 Evaluation of ECER (Angelika Wegscheider) (Short Report)

Working Group has not yet started, as time was too busy during reviewing and programme planning. Steps taken so far: evaluation of various free/ and cost based online survey tools.

Most tools offer very small surveys on a free basis, if 1000 and more participants are expected a fee is charged.

Currently umfrageonline.com seems to offer the best service for the best rates; evaluating ECER would cost 269 €.

A way has to be found how people can be motivated to take part in the evaluation. One possibility could be a kind of tombola/raffle where one of the persons who went through the evaluation form wins a free entry to next year's ECER.

4.8 Member Association Session and the EERA Panel (Leif Moos)

(Working group: MYE, TW, GJO, LM)

4.8.1 Member Association Session

EERA member associations can plan for a symposium at the ECERs that is not subject to the normal reviewing procedure. This would put the member associations right in the forefront of the ECER planning. It would further collaboration between member associations and it would give more emphasis on the conference theme.

The conditions for the symposia are:

the symposium must be within the theme for the ECER

there must be representatives from a minimum of 3 member associations- the member association is responsible for the quality control of the symposium.

Council discussed the different possible forms and benefits of such an offer. One suggestion was that the session should not only represent 3 associations, but associations from 3 different countries. On the other hand, the session could be used as platform for bridging regional problems, as between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

It would also be a chance for Council to be more visible at ECER, by emphasising that the event is organised by member associations and not individual researchers. Perhaps the title should be "Council Symposium" or "Council Invited Session".

Council could invite the member associations to make a proposal for a session.

The number of sessions should be limited, e.g. 3 sessions per year; associations could take part in session on a rotational basis.

Conclusion:

the session should always relate to the conference theme, be European, and clearly be in the responsibility of Council.

Working Group will redraft proposal, details will be decided in the Helsinki meeting.

4.8.2 EERA Panel

EERA Panel 2010 is already well on the way: All keynoters have agreed to participate to our request that was based on the following principles:

The EERA Panel

all keynoters are invited

the panel will discuss the theme of ECER

moderators will be one EERA Council Representative and one LOC representative

the panel will have 2 major phases: The first: Moderators give questions to the panel on the basis of their keynote speeches. The second will be to open up the discussion to the participants.

This text is on the web site:

"EERA Panel: Education and cultural change

All four keynote speakers are forming a panel that is dedicated towards discussing the conference theme "Education and Cultural Change".

At the first part of the panel we shall take the clues from the keynote speeches as the point of departure for keynotes speakers to discuss the theme. Thereafter there will be time for questions and comments from the conference delegates. The Panel will be moderated by the Chair of the ECER Helsinki Organizing Committee, Gunilla Holm, and Lejf Moos, President of EERA".

5 By Laws

5.1 One meeting to be dedicated to strategic discussions

David Bridges suggested that one business meeting each year of the General Assembly/Council shall be linked to a substantial and more strategic working session with a high level of member engagement. This would allow Council to contribute to EERA not only administratively but also creatively. It could be organised similarly to Network Seminar and should be fixed in the Bylaws, if accepted.

This idea was welcomed; Council suggested to have it in the bylaws also, but also wanted to start this before the Bylaws are finalised.

It was envisaged to have a strategic meeting in June 2011.

5.2 General Regulations for EERA (Ian Grosvenor)

Council discussed the suggestions put forward by Ian Grosvenor and amended them. The working group on Bylaws should now focus on:

1. Role descriptor for all Executive Officers and the Network's Representative on Council
2. Role descriptor for Council Members

3. Role descriptor for Network Convenors
4. Role descriptor for EERA Office Manager and Office Assistant
5. Management of the EERA Office
6. Management and Reporting of EERA Networks
7. Management of the European Educational Research Journal
8. Management of the EERA website
9. Structure of the Annual Executive Report to Council
10. Procedures for the election of the Network's Representative on Council
11. Timelines for production of reports, agendas etc
12. Induction procedures for new Council members
13. ECER organisation
14. Election procedures
15. Procedures for applications of new members

Council was asked to send proposals or ideas for additional Bylaws to the office by mid July.

6 New Member Associations (discussion and decision) (Lejf Moos)

6.1 Definition of "general educational research association"

The wording accepted by Council is:

A general educational research association is defined as an association which addresses the broad field of educational research drawing on multiple forms of enquiry.

6.2 New Applications

- RUTE, Spain,
The application was rejected, as their focus is not broad enough. In the letter informing them about the rejection, it should be pointed out that EERA is interested in a collaboration, and suggest the possibility to work closely with the 3 networks dealing with techniques.
- KIB-DER, Cyprus, decision
EERA had invited the association from the other part of Cyprus to send an application, too, but up to now, it hasn't reached us.
The application was accepted.
- Belarus: formal application, see Appendix.
It was agreed that EERA will help them establish a national association and to accept them as candidate members. A working group made up of Brigitte Gruson, Joanna Michalak, Martin Lawn, David Bridges and Lejf Moos will check the different ways of possible help. The colleagues in Belarus should be contacted and asked what kind of assistance/support they would need; EERA would fund this in accordance to the New Members programme (eg coming to a Workshop in Belarus on how to build up a research association). A paper should be prepared for the Helsinki meeting.
- Hungary: colleagues in Hungary have started to establish/re-establish association.
They will be invited to outline which kind of support they need in order to help to establish their association.
- Associations not replying to Emails/ letters
Portugal
Portuguese conference delegates are invited to the New Associations Meeting.
It was tried in several ways to contact them, also via a link convenor who forwarded messages.
If all this does not lead to a solution soon, Portugal should be excluded next year.
Lithuania
David will give postal address to EERA Office, for another attempt of contacting them.
Lithuanian conference delegates are invited to the New Associations Meeting.

6.3 ECER New Nations Meeting

Suggested Time: Wednesday 25, Session 04 (16.00 – 17.30 h)

Suggested new name, according to new definition: New Associations Meeting.

Colleagues from Portugal and Lithuania will also be invited to try to re-strengthen the links with them.

7 Support to attend to Council meetings for small associations

Leif put forward the question if EERA wants to support small – and financially weak – associations to send representatives to Council meetings? There is a democratic point to it: There is not much point in being a member of Council, if you cannot afford to attend meetings.

There would be several possible models of funding. It would be possible to at least fund them for the meeting during ECER, or for the strategic meeting.

EERA could offer to all member associations to be funded for one meeting, and the associations themselves can say they don't need it.

It was decided that the different scenarios of funding should be developed until the next meeting and be discussed then.

Council suggested to collect evidence for the scale of the problem. Office will contact Council members and ask them how their associations handle this.

8 EERQI

8.1 Short Report from March Seminar

An EERQI Workshop+ General Assembly took place on 18 – 19 March in Hamburg. Before the actual start of it, a meeting was scheduled to discuss the EERA-EERQI relations.

Leif Moos attended this workshop and was impressed by the complexity of the topic. David Bridges was asked to report from the meeting as well. One of the outcomes of the workshop was that a wider research community should be included, as more input would be important. The technical experts involved are of course not aware of the political importance of the project.

The ambition of the project still is to find an alternative to peer review, but the most important outcome from researchers' point of view at the end of the project may be that a machine is not able to do this job. At the moment, the machine is not even really able to find out if a text is on research or not.

8.2 Administration, new colleague etc

Christian Rudelt stepped back from his contract. His position was filled with a freelancer, Verena Sturm, experienced in quantitative research, as this task turned out to be more important for the EERA part in EERQI.

8.3 EERQI Workshop in Geneva

18 – 19 September 2009, following the International Congress of AREF (Actualité de la Recherche en Education et en Formation). Meeting seeks to attract the research community in order to discuss the preliminary results.

Council was invited to join the meeting in Geneva.

9 External Collaboration

9.1 Short Report from WERA Council meeting in Denver

The meeting was not judged to be completely satisfactory. WERA council did not decide on the proposals made, such as reducing the meetings to less than 2 a year, as the representatives said they were interims and obviously weren't prepared for taking/forcing decisions.

Although the pre-meeting of EERA members was seen critically by some colleagues, EERA should stick to this.

It would be good to receive the Agenda earlier, for enabling the associations to discuss it beforehand. And the draft minutes of the meetings should also be sent earlier, closer to the meetings, as otherwise, it is difficult to revise them.

Council should think about proposals for the next agenda.

An evaluation should be made with regard to the 3 year test phase EERA had decided on.

9.2 ISE (Initiative for Science in Europe)

"The Initiative for Science in Europe (ISE) is a platform for European learned societies and scientific organizations whose aim is to promote mechanisms to support basic science at a European level, involve scientist in the design and implementation of European science policies, and to advocate strong independent scientific advice in European policy making." It was initially created in 2004 to facilitate debate surrounding the establishment of the European Research Council (ERC) 2007. The focus is on research infrastructure.

The Barcelona ISE Conference on 28 May had the title: ERC - From programme to Institutions. Lejf Moos could not participate because the French air controllers went on strike and his flight was cancelled.

9.3 "Educating Europe – Educational Sciences go FP7 and beyond"

Conference in Brussels end June

The conference is arranged by 'Das Deutsche Institut für Internationale Pädagogische Forschung' (DIPF), 'Das Netzwerk der Nationalen Kontaktstellen für das Thema Sozial- Wirtschafts- und Geisteswissenschaften' (NET4SOCIETY) and the 'EU Commission' on 'The Indicative Strategic Research Roadmap' 2011-2013.

Potentials for funding of educational research in Europe will be discussed and that will form a background for the EU Commissions working programme for 2012 and 2013.

Martin Lawn cited a contact from the EU Commission who had told him that educational applications often fail because they only focus on education and are not interdisciplinary. If an application is prepared, this should be considered.

Members of EERA networks 02 and 25 will be at the meeting as well.

10 Summer Schools

10.1 Summer School on Academic Writing

Gothenburg University, June 14-18

More than 170 research students from 34 countries have applied for participation in the European Educational Research Summer School "Writing Educational Research". Places were restricted to 70, so a careful selection needed to be taken. (criteria: from EERA Member countries, doing educational research, in the mid-studies)

The five days training course "Writing Educational Research" was designed to support emerging researchers in enhancing their academic writing. The course was given in cooperation with the University of Gothenburg, participants could gain 7,5 ECTS points.

The participants' response was very positive.

Next year, it will take place in Gothenburg again, but Council could already think about a location for 2012 and 2013. So if someone is interested in hosting a Summer School, please inform EERA office.

10.2 History of Education

Ghent, Belgium, 10-13 June

This conference was for postgraduate history of education researchers registered at European universities and post-doctoral historians of education who are interested in the histories of European educational spaces and discourses and new ways of working with images, artefacts and archives. Leading international historians of education offered advice about the research process, including publication, and there were opportunities for students to discuss their research topics and to network.

The conference was supported by the European Educational Research Association (EERA), the Stichting Paedagogica Historica, the International Standing Conference for the History of Education (ISCHE) and the Graduate School, Ghent University. It was organised by EERA Network 17 'Histories of Education' and the Universities of Birmingham, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Ghent and Leuven.

The summer school was free. Students only had to cover the cost of their travel to Gent.

Ian Grosvenor reported on a very good evaluation. The participants all were very happy with the outcomes, the contacts made and the whole atmosphere. He would like to thank all the people who organised it.

Other networks should also think about offering such Summer Schools in their field of research.

Perhaps it would also be a good idea to offer such Summer Schools to other target groups as well e.g. senior researchers who would like to improve their skills in presenting or publishing in English.

11 Treasurer Short Report

Theo Wubbels reported on the meeting with the auditor and informed Council that everything was in order. The official exculpation of the office bearers is postponed to the next AGA, when an official audit report in English is available. Theo expressed his appreciation for the way Wim Jochems has organized EERA's financial business.

The auditor recommended to write down the rules for reimbursement for Council, to update these, when necessary and to have them confirmed by Council. Therefore Theo Wubbels will prepare such a paper and send it to Council.

12 Networks (discussions and decisions)

12.1 Report on network development and structure

Network 1 now has a new name, it changed from Continuous Professional Development for Teachers and Leaders in Schools to Continuing Professional Development: Learning for individuals, leaders and organisations, which was accepted by Council.

All networks handed in reports after ECER 2009 and found the conference very successful.

Several networks reported on an increasing number of presenters who failed to show up. Therefore it was decided that the office should keep monitoring this and that after ECER 2010, EERA should think about consequences.

Network 22 suggested to offer Interactive Roundtables at ECER, like on AERA conferences, this will be discussed with the convenors

There also was a recommendation to offer a second language at ECER, i.e. to make it bilingual. Martin Lawn said that it used to be done before, the practice was that English and the language of the hosting country were accepted. Council discussed about the possibility to offer that, as this would mean a far more complicated reviewing etc. It was agreed to ask the link convenors if they think this would be practicable.

12.2 Applications for funding (MH and IG)

Martin Lawn and other colleagues handed in an application entitled A New European Sociology of Education: a Network for ECER

Office bearers said that within the Network funding scheme this proposal could for formal reasons not be funded, but that Council nevertheless should consider funding it, as it seemed to be a promising proposal. Some said it would be a pity to reject good projects just because they didn't fulfil each criterion.

The application was accepted, but it was recommended to produce a very clear argument why it was accepted, if ever another, similar application comes up.

For future applications, it should be fixed if a Council member involved in the application should stay in the room during the discussion or not. Applicants who are not member of Council would not have the chance to argue, but perhaps Skype or a similar system could also allow them to join the discussion.

12.3 New Network: SHE

Council found the application too narrow; if accepted its scope should be broadened, i.e include both physical and mental health, curricular aspects of health promotion etc. It should be stated clearly that this is a research network and that it deals with promotion through a broad and critical perspective.

Council decided that the application should not be accepted at this point. First it should be checked if this research area could be incorporated within an existing EERA Network. Council pointed out several networks which might be possible. The applicants should be asked to explore this possibility. Then it will be re-discussed at the next council meeting.

Marit will answer them.

12.4 Next meeting of Network Convenors (Ian Grosvenor/ Marit Hoveid)

Proposal for Network Convenor Seminar in the spring of 2011

Council decided to increase the budget from 20.000 € to 25.000 € to allow an extra day, as the convenors had asked for more time.

12.5 ERNet: to have a new position? (Ian Grosvenor)

Recommendation to Council re: the Representation of the Emerging Researchers Group

Under the new proposed EERA Constitution the Emerging Researchers Group [ERN - formerly known as the Postgraduate Network] has a representative co-opted onto Council. The Emerging Researchers Group is unique amongst EERA's Networks as it is the permanent organiser of the pre-Conference and its work and activities exist outside of the remit of the Network's Representative on Council. Office bearers therefore asked Council to endorse ERN's representation, which was accepted.

13 EERA History

Martin Lawn reported on his project about EERA history. The objective was to create a documentary and photographic archive. Martin Lawn collected photographs and data, e.g. a copy from the original funding report and photos of the ceremony. He interviewed about 40 leading EERA academics, and the interviews will be stored in EERA archive. Some of the data should also be published on line.

The Full Report will be sent out to Council Members after the Council Meeting.

14 EERA Website and Database

Angelika Wegscheider reported that technically, it would be no problem to include the BEI archive to the EERA website. BEI should be invited to send example data of the respective years. An external expert had taken a look at the EERA website and databases and confirmed that all necessary data would be collected in order to create a conference repository (including papers and abstracts) and that a good basis was there to extend the database in a way that it could if wished "communicate" with other open access archives. He also suggested some amendments regarding display and search function.

Following decisions need to be taken:

Does EERA want to go on with including full papers in the conference online programme?

Should the imported BEI data then link to papers stored there?

The search function need to be enhanced, especially the full text search.

For the next meeting Angelika Wegscheider will prepare a paper which should help to stimulate a decision on the questions raised.

Linked to the questions around website and database also the introduction of Web 2.0 features for ECER 2010 should be evaluated and further steps discussed.

15 Council Meeting Dates

John Krejsler proposed to have council meetings on working days in future. He said that the signal EERA gives with the existing timing is that Council is "a group of workaholics". After the university reform, less and less space is given for voluntary work, but the university should acknowledge the credit this work brings them by giving the credit of workdays used for such occasions. He proposed not to have council meetings systematically on weekends.

The meetings could also be planned on Friday and Saturday. Council was asked to inform the office by email whether they would be able to attend the meeting in January during the week.

16 OB

Next meetings:

Saturday 28. August 2010: 09.00 h – 15.00 h

14 – 15 January 2011 or 15 - 16 January, depending on decision, see above.