



Minutes of the EERA Council Meeting in Istanbul

1 – 2 February 2013

Bahçeşehir University (BAU), Çırağan Caddesi Osmanpaşa Mektebi Sokak No: 4 – 6,
34353 Beşiktaş, Istanbul

Participants:

Herbert Altrichter, Österreichische Gesellschaft für Forschung und Entwicklung (OEFEB); **David Bosold**, EERA Office; **Cristina Cardona Moltó**, Asociación Interuniversitaria de Investigación Pedagógica (AIDIPE); **Şakir Çinkır**, Educational Administration Research and Development Association (EARDA); **Mustafa Yunus Eryaman**, Turkish Educational Research Association (EAB); **Patrícia Fidalgo**, Emerging Researchers' Group (ERG); **Maria Pacheco Figueiredo**, Network Representative on Council (NRC); **Brigitte Gruson**, Association des Enseignants et Chercheurs en Sciences de l'Éducation (AECSE); **Tina Hascher**, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Erziehungswissenschaft (DGfE); **George Head**, Scottish Educational Research Association (SERA); **Gunilla Holm**, Finnish Educational Research Association (FERA); **Romy Klecker**, EERA Office; **John Krejsler**, Nordic Educational Research Association (NERA); **Sofia Marques da Silva**, Sociedade Portuguesa de Ciências da Educação (SPCE); **Isabelle Mili**, Swiss Society for Research in Education (SSRE); **Lejf Moos**, EERA President; **Sally Power**, British Educational Research Association (BERA); **Joe O'Hara**, Educational Studies Association of Ireland (ESAI); **Gyöngyvér Pataki**, Hungarian Educational Research Association (HERA); **Helen Phtiaka**, Cyprus Pedagogical Association (CPA); **Roland Reichenbach**, Swiss Society for Research in Education (SSRE); **Huseyin Uzunboylu**, Cyprus Educational Sciences Association (KEB-DER); **Sinem Vatanartiran**, LOC Istanbul (ECER 2013); **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 representative of the Local Organising Committee for ECER 2013. He thanked the LOC Istanbul for inviting EERA Council to Istanbul. Apologies were received from: Anna Aleksanyan, Ana Paula Cabral, Evelyne Charlier, Nadine Engels, Francesca Gobbo, Marit Honerød-Hoveid, Gonzalo Jover Olmeda, Palmira Jucevičienė, Edwin Keiner, Paulina Korsnakova, Joanna Madalińska-Michalak, Konstantinos D. Malafantis, Petr Novotný, Iouri Zagoumenov.

2 Agenda

The agenda was approved. The president announced that 4.2.3 of the agenda, the report of the ECER 2014 Anniversary group, would be considered under 9. Anniversary events and activities.

3 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the September meeting in Cádiz were confirmed without changes.



4 ECER/EERA Conference Reports

4.1 2013: Istanbul, planning and tour of the venue, information on programme events, PR activities during ECER

Sinem Vatanartiran gave a tour of the campus ranging from seminar rooms to the lecture halls and the rooftop terraces. For ECER 2013, BAU will have 60 rooms for parallel sessions that are all equipped with computers and video projectors. Since the two biggest lecture halls have a capacity of approx. 300 seats, the two parallel keynotes will be streamed on the internet and also be projected in other halls on the campus. There will be a note on limited availability of seats in the printed conference programme as well as further details on the live stream and other places where the keynotes can be watched.

As to the idea of promoting ECER 2013 in the news, the following topics were identified as salient issues in Turkey: (a) early childhood education and age of school entry, (b) privatisation of universities and recent legal changes to allow the establishment of for-profit universities, (c) measurement, testing and evaluation, most notably with regards to crossnational tests such as PISA.

It was agreed to establish a Press Office for ECER (to be located in a separate room on the BAU campus during the conference) that shall promote the theme of the conference, creativity and innovation. A working group (Lejf, Maria, Sinem, Theo, Yunus) will work on procedures how to involve the networks and to investigate what the respective networks consider to be the most pressing issue to be discussed at ECER 2013. The proposal shall be presented and discussed at the Convenors' Seminar in Berlin in April 2013.

Two additional ideas were put forward in order to increase the visibility of EERA and ECER. Both might be held as an EERA Session:

- (1) A symposium to showcase Turkey (tentative title: "Learning about educational research in Turkey") (Sinem to take this forward).
- (2) A public lecture or round table to open the conference up to the public (this format has been successfully tested by the German Educational Research Association) (Lejf to take this forward).

4.2 2014: London

4.2.1 Contract and collaboration

The contract with LOC 2014 will be signed in spring 2013. Two questions that were raised in the negotiations were (a) the possibility to increase ECER fees by 5-7 per cent and/or (b) to charge ECER participants for attending the social event.

Bearing in mind the impact of the economic crisis on many European researchers, there was a broad consensus that instead of raising ECER fees (even moderately) the current price scheme should be kept in order to allow as many educational researchers the participation in the conference.

As regards the social events at future ECERs, the following guidelines will apply:

- (1) LOCs should strive to receive external funding to cover the biggest share of the social event. The latter need not include more than the equivalent of a light dinner and at least 2 drinks.
- (2) In case no external funding is available, LOCs may charge a modest amount for the social event (<20 EUR).
- (3) Doctoral students shall be exempted from paying for the social event.



4.2.2 Theme from LOC (Annex I) & keynote committee (Sally, LOC, Marit, Maria, Edwin, Lejf, EERA) (discussion and decision)

The theme for ECER 2014 and the brief abstract submitted by LOC were briefly discussed. The word "threats" in the last paragraph of the abstract should be replaced by "challenges". Numerous Council members appreciated the idea to focus on the past in order to counter-balance the current educational discourse that is centred on innovation, challenges and other future-oriented dimensions. Yet, the proposed title "Evidence and Impact: The Past, Present and Future of Educational Research in Europe" was considered too long. The keynote committee will therefore propose a shorter title for the next Council meeting. It will then also present a list of prospective keynote speakers.

4.3 2015: Budapest, application

Following last year's presentation on Budapest and the local infrastructure (travel, accommodation), Gyöngyvér Pataki gave an update on the preparations for ECER 2015. Due to significant overhead costs for administering the ECER budget and high taxes on services such as catering, the university hosting ECER 2015 in Hungary will not be able to profit from the tax exemption of non-profit organisations such as HERA.

It was decided that EERA should nonetheless pursue its current policy of signing ECER contracts with local universities rather than the member associations even if that might result in slightly higher budget figures. In addition, Council reiterated that ECER 2015 in Hungary should be held in Budapest, not any other Hungarian city.

4.4 2016: Porto, application

The two Portuguese member associations, SPCE and CIDInE, will approach the central administration (President's office) of the University of Porto to sign a letter of intent to host ECER 2016 in Porto. There are currently two options: (i) to host ECER at the Faculty of Psychology and Education or (ii) at the Faculty of Engineering. While the infrastructure of the latter is better, higher overhead and rental costs might make the first option more attractive.

In terms of the opening ceremony, first contacts have been established with Santander Bank and the Town Hall.

As regards the date of ECER 2016 in Porto, the conference will have to take place at the end of August. Since there is no EARLI conference in 2016 this should not be problematic.

4.5 2017: Netherlands

Theo Wubbels reported that earlier plans to host ECER 2017 in Utrecht had to be discarded due to the lack of hotel rooms. Plans had hence been adjusted and Maastricht was now considered the best option. The city, home to a university with 16,000 students and having a capacity of 8,000 hotel beds, would be easily accessible for participants with its regional airport (Maastricht-Aachen) and three international airports within a range of 100 km (Bruxelles, Cologne, Düsseldorf).

Council welcomed the plans to host ECER 2017 in Maastricht and asked Theo to continue with the further planning.



5 Visibility

5.1 Periscope application, Convenors seminar in June

The President briefly recapitulated EERA's work on Horizon 2020. After the strategy talks in Council in June 2012 and the three symposia at ECER 2012 in Cádiz (organised in cooperation with some EERA Networks), a working group had been formed in order to work on a grant proposal for the EU's Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). The working group (Palle Rasmussen, Peter Gray, Paul Smeyers, Marit Honerod, Alis Oancea and Leif Moos) had met in Oxford in October 2012 to prepare the proposal that was eventually submitted in mid-November (Title: PERISCOPE - Purposeful Educational Research in Identity-Setting Citizenship Options and Priorities in Europe).

A key part of the proposal was a workshop to be attended by Link Convenors to continue the discussions on the 6th challenge of Horizon 2020 currently reserved for Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH). Previous lobbying of national contact points and EU institutions in Brussels following the strategy talks of Council members in June 2012 had resulted in some changes of the Commission's text and a greater visibility of SSH. With European Council negotiations on the seven year budget of the EU and the European Parliament's discussion of Horizon 2020 further efforts were now needed.

The President therefore proposed to increase the EERA 2013 expenditures by 25.000 EUR for hosting the Horizon 2020 workshop with link convenors in June 2013 in case the grant proposal was not accepted. Thus the 2013 deficit will increase by 25,000 EUR. The proposal was accepted unanimously.

5.2 ISE report

The President reported on recent development within ISE, the Initiative for Science in Europe. Plans were currently underway to transform ISE into a non-profit organisation with a constitution similar to that of EERA. So far, ISE was still heavily dominated (and funded) by organisations from the health sector. Besides EERA only the European Sociological Association (ESA) and the Association of Social Anthropologists (observer status) were member organisations with an SSH rather than a life sciences background.

Discussions within ISE were however of great significance for EERA, e.g. the current ones on open access and documentation.

In order to strengthen ties with ISE and to raise the visibility of both organisations, the President was asked to invite Michele Garfinkel from the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) to take part in an ISE symposium on open access at ECER 2013. The latter shall be organised as an EERA session. NW 06 on Open Learning: Media, Environments and Culture shall be contacted to take part in the further planning.

5.3 EASSH report

After the online petition to include SSH in Horizon 2020 negotiations, EASSH has been less active in 2012. The President will report on relevant activities in the next meeting.

5.4 WERA report

The President reported that some members have expressed a sense of frustration with WERA administration/Office and the lack of WERA activities contributing to the original WERA mission that eventually led to the decision of some associations to leave the organisation. While there was still room for improvement as far as the management of WERA was concerned, new initiatives such as the World Education Research Summit and its International Research Networks (WERA-IRNs) would underline the potential of the association.

Against the background of the recent withdrawal of NERA and BERA and further EERA member associations considering this option, Council members and EERA EXEC agreed that EERA's



membership would be important to represent a European perspective. EXEC and Council should also continue the discussion on what EERA actually expects from its WERA membership.

5.5 Wikipedia entry on EERA (see Annex II)

Council members welcomed the idea of a Wikipedia entry. With regard to the draft text, the following changes were suggested:

- The EERA logo should be added.
- The last sentence under 1 reading “EERA is an association of national and regional associations...” should be the paragraph’s first sentence.
- The sentence under 3 including the words “to make sure” should be rephrased.
- The EERA member associations should be listed in the vernacular and the English version. All members are encouraged to upload a brief English summary of their associations onto their national websites.
- The “Besides” under 8 shall be deleted.

The EERA Office will make sure that the Wikipedia entry is online in the coming two months. It will also prepare a short summary that the member associations should use for a Wikipedia entry in their mother tongue. In order to keep the entry up-to-date, the EERA Office will check and revise the Wikipedia text on a quarterly basis. Member associations are encouraged to check the entry in their language also on a quarterly basis.

6 EERA – EARLI collaboration

The President, the Treasurer and the NRC had talks with the outgoing EARLI President in November last year. So far no final decisions have been taken. The Idea of a season school shall be pursued, although with a higher participation fee and less participants than originally planned. Due to the delay the first season school will most likely not be held before 2015.

Because no progress has been made since the beginning of the year, Helen Phtiaka will contact her colleague and newly elected EARLI President Costas Constantinou to revitalise the negotiations. Theo and Leif will also pursue the matter.

7 Sponsorships

Council welcomed the Proposal for a more principled approach to sponsorship and approved the suggestions drafted by the Treasurer. It was decided to include the following revisions in the text, all in section “Principles”:

- 1a. should be revised by dropping the “immediate” so that the sentence reads: “organisations and companies that [...] are in other ways of immediate importance for...”.
- 1c. should read “want to promote the well-being, work (“work” to be added), learning and development of students and/or (instead of a simple “or”) educational researchers”.

Council members emphasised that EERA should be adamant about the transparent nature of the sponsorship stipulated under 3. “The regulations of contracts about the sponsorship are public”.

Furthermore, Council confirmed to be open for sponsorship enquiries in general. Once EXEC considers a prospective sponsorship agreement to be in the interest of EERA, it will bring it to the attention of Council.



8 Collaboration on conferences with other associations

The decision by EERA to being a host of the April Conference organised by the University of Verona and OISE/Toronto was welcomed by Council members given that this might raise EERA's profile in Italy where ties with the local educational research community are currently rather loose.

In the ensuing discussion, Council agreed that requests for conference collaboration should be guided by the following ideas:

- In order to prevent a weakening of ECER and EERA's reputation, EERA should not be the co-host of too many conferences, even if no financial or logistical support would be provided.
- The example of WERA focal meetings was quoted as an example on how EERA might be able to increase its visibility at a very limited number of conferences in Europe.
- There should be a mapping of conferences across EERA member associations in order to strengthen ties between their associations and EERA.

It was decided, that EXEC shall be able to take decisions on conference collaboration on a case-by-case basis. In each case it should look carefully into the strategic dimension of the decision.

9 Anniversary Events and Activities

The NRC as member of the committee for the 2014 EERA anniversary presented the suggestions for anniversary activities. Plans for proposals 7 (round table with former EERA Presidents and Sec-Gens), 8 (round table on the future of EERA and the European educational research area) and 13 (birthday party) were lauded, even if the exact nature of the birthday party would have to be discussed. Proposals 3 (quantitative data on ECERs), 4 (comparative analysis and revitalisation of a survey of link convenors), 5a (special EERJ issue), 5b (commemorative EERJ hardcopy) and 6 (analysis and collection of interviews) were considered by some Council members as too inward-looking. It was suggested to make them relevant for wider educational research topics.

As regards proposals 1 (EERA Legacy project, online exhibition) and 5b (EERA hard copy), Council agreed that plans for printed documents should not be pursued. The EERA Legacy project (1) shall hence only be realised as an online exhibition. It may also include items 10 (commemorative map of EERA member associations) and 12 (visual history of networks).

Gyöngyvér Pataki will conduct interviews at the Convenors' seminar in April, the Council meeting in June and at ECER 2013 in Istanbul to collect jokes and anecdotes related to EERA/ECER (proposal 9). The representative of the Emerging Researchers' Group informed Council that proposal 14, a competition involving high-school students, would not be pursued as part of the ECER 2014 Anniversary activities.

Council endorsed the Treasurer's proposal to earmark a total maximum of 55,000 EUR for anniversary activities in 2014. The exact allocation of the money with respect to each proposal shall be decided in the June meeting in Berlin. Two further suggestions were made to the anniversary committee: (1) to link the history of EERA and ECER with portraits of individuals and (2) to inquire what had happened to (some) emerging researchers.

10 EERA Strategy

Following up on the strategy work in Berlin in June 2012, Council engaged in a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) in the following areas: a) capacity building, b) visibility & relations, c) academic work, d) internal functions (group work and plenary to produce input for EXEC draft to be ready for the June Council meeting).



11 Names

11.1 From ECER to EERA Conference over a number of years?

In order to minimise confusion, EXEC suggested moving from ECERs to EERA Conferences over the coming four to five years. The transitional period should feature references to both acronyms, slightly emphasizing ECER less and EERA more. In order to highlight the link between the two starting from 2014 onwards only an EERA conference logo should be used based on the EERA logo not an ECER logo. Council discussed the issue but a clear decision was not reached. It will be discussed and decided on in June.

11.2 From Sessions to Network Sessions and from Council Invited Symposia to EERA Sessions

Council approved the renaming from "Sessions" to "Network Sessions" (or: "Joint Network Sessions") and from "Council Invited Sessions/symposia" to "EERA Sessions".

12 Formation of Nomination and Election Committee for President Elect Procedures

Council will elect a new President at the June meeting in Berlin and therefore needs a Nomination and Election Committee. This Committee will be headed by Petr Novotný (CERA) and will also include Sofia Marques da Silva (SPCE) and George Head (SERA). EERA Office will provide all necessary details so that the committee can start its work in February.

13 Networks

13.1 Project applications

The NRC informed Council about the recent proposals for network funding and the respective decisions by EXEC. The project "Extend" of Network Research in Sport Pedagogy, and the two season schools (18), by Network Assessment, Evaluation, Testing and Measurement (09) and Network Curriculum Innovation (3) together with Network Mathematics Education Research (24) had been approved. The authors of proposals by Networks Histories of Education (17), Didactics, Teaching and Learning (27), and Sociologies of Education (28) were informed that their proposals needed to be revised.

Council will be informed about the revised proposals and further submissions for network funding at the June meeting.

13.2 Honorary Convenors

Council approved proposal 2 for honorary network members, i.e. that the honorary network membership would allow awardees to attend ECERs at the reduced conference fee available to EERA member associations. The conditions for proposal should be revised as follows:

"The award of an honorary network membership can be proposed for a) ~~retired academics~~ a person after stepping down as link or co-convenor with b) a relevant and ~~substantial~~ exceptional contribution to the network (establishment, development, etc).

13.3 Convenors' seminar Berlin, April 2013

The NRC informed Council about the programme for the Convenors' seminar in Berlin in April. The most important point on the agenda would be the possible restructuring of networks. A Council



working group consisting of Maria Figueiredo (NRC), Joe O'Hara (ESAI) and Gyöngyvér Pataki (HERA) will take part in the discussions.

14 Members' Reports

14.1 Tina Hascher, DGfE

Tina Hascher delivered a presentation on the German Educational Research Association, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Erziehungswissenschaft. The association currently has approximately 3,000 members made up of two different member groups: (a) 2,300 full members, who have at least a PhD and who were nominated by two members of the association and (b) 700 associate members, all graduates without a PhD whose membership is limited for a period of five years. Due to the strict membership criteria, representation of teachers in DGfE was comparatively low.

This was however not the biggest challenge to the association. With the emergence of the Gesellschaft für Empirische Bildungsforschung (GEBF), founded in 2012, an association focussing on empirical educational research, DGfE had to undergo a modernisation process (Modernisierungsrat) in order to accommodate the interests of educational researchers focusing on traditional aspects of education (e.g. history of education) as well as scholars in evidence-based empirical research. So far, these reforms seemed to have worked since no significant drop in membership figures could be observed.

14.2 Gunilla Holm, FERA

The second member report by Gunilla Holm on the Finnish Educational Research Association could not be presented.

15 Next Meetings

The next Council meeting in Berlin is scheduled for 14-15 June 2013 (Friday, 9-17hours and Saturday, 9-14 hours).

The Council meeting after ECER 2013 will be held at Bahçeşehir University (BAU) on 14 September 2013 (Saturday, 9-15 hours).

The Council meeting in London will take place at the Institute of Education (IoE) from 17-18 January 2014.

The Council meeting after ECER 2014 will be held at the IoE, London on 27 September 2014.

16 AOB

Şakir Çinkır (EARDA) will present the members' report in Berlin in June 2013. Gunilla Holm (FERA) will also be asked to deliver a members' report in Berlin.