



Minutes of the EERA Council Meeting in Porto

17 – 18 January 2014

Faculdade de Psicologia e de Ciências da Educação da Universidade do Porto

Rua Alfredo Allen 4200-135 Porto, Portugal

Room: 250 (2nd floor)

17 Jan: 9:00 – 17:00h

18 Jan: 9:00 – 15:00 h

1. Welcome and apologies

Council started with a longer introduction of the attending member representatives.

Members represented

Asociación Interuniversitaria de Investigación Pedagógica (AIDIPE): Samuel Fernandez; Centro de Investigação, Difusão e Intervenção Educacional (CIDInE): Ana Paula Cabral; Educational Studies Association of Ireland (ESAI): Delma Byrne, Estonian Academic Research Association (EAPS): Karmen Trasberg, Hungarian Educational Research Association (HERA): Gyöngyvér Pataki; Österreichische Gesellschaft für Forschung und Entwicklung im Bildungswesen (OEFEB) Angelika Paseka; Scottish Educational Research Association (SERA) George Head; Slovak Educational Research Society (SERS) Paulin Korsnakova; Sociedad Espanola de Pedagogía (SEP) Gonzalo Jover Olmeda; Sociedade Portuguesa de Ciências da Educação (SPCE): Sofia Marques da Silva; Società Italiana di Pedagogia (SIPED): Mariagrazia Riva; Swiss Society for Research in Education (SSRE): Roland Reichenbach; Turkish Educational Research Association (EAB): Mustafa Yunus Eryaman; Nordic Educational Research Association (NERA): John Krejsler; The Slovenian Educational Research Association (SLODRE): Pavel Zgaga; Belarus National Association "Innovation in Education" (BNA "IE"): Nikolai Gorbachev

EERA President Lejf Moos, EERA Treasurer Herbert Altrichter, EERA Secretary General Marit Hoveid, Networks Representative on Council Maria Figueiredo, President Elect Theo Wubbels, EERA Office Manager Angelika Wegscheider, ERG Link Convenor Patricia Fidalgo
EERA Office – ERO Monica Brandis

EERA received apologies for not coming from

British Educational Research Association (BERA), Association des chercheurs belges francophones en éducation (ABCéduc)/EERJ; Association des Enseignants et Chercheurs en Sciences de l'Éducation (AECSE); Czech Educational Research Association (CERA); Educational Administration Research and Development Association (EARDA); Educational Research Armenian Center (ERAC); Finnish Educational Research Association (FERA); Flemish Educational Research Forum (VFO); Hellenic Educational Society (HES) Polskie Towarzystwo Pedagogiczne; Vereniging voor Onderwijs Research (VOR); - Cyprus Pedagogical Association (CPA); Deutsche Gesellschaft für Erziehungswissenschaft (DGfE); Cyprus Educational Sciences Association (KEB-DER)



2. Agenda

No additional agenda items were asked for.

3. Confirmation of minutes

Minutes were confirmed.

4. Formal nomination of Auditor

Lejf Moos informed council on the need to formally nominate the EERA Auditor and suggested to re-nominate Andreas Vollmer for the years 2012, 2013 and 2014.

He then called for a formal vote and Andreas Vollmer was unanimously confirmed as the EERA Auditor for 2012, 2013 and 2014.

Re-elections need to be done in 2015/2016.

5. New Members

Lejf Moos reported on various requests for membership.

Spain

A request from a Spanish Training Centre was turned down as it was not seen as coming from a nationwide research-focused association. Additionally, Council had decided in September 2012 that no national, regional or supra-regional organisation for general educational research will, until a further decision is taken, be admitted as a new member of EERA e.V., if another national, regional or supra-regional organisation has already been admitted as a member from the country of domicile stated by the applicant organisation.

Romania

A group of researchers from Romania aim at establishing an Education Research Association. They have asked to have the University of Bucharest accepted as a candidate member (as defined in §4.1 in the Constitution) until they succeed in establishing an association. In addition they invited EERA for an information workshop on how to build up an association. Theo Wubbels and Lejf Moos will visit them in March.

The candidate membership was accepted.

Kasachstan

The possible application of Kasachstan (until Council meeting only a demonstration of interest, no full application) raised more profound discussions as it asked for a clearer definition of what is to be seen as "Europe". While some argued the member list of the Council of Europe should be taken as a means to decide (N.B. Kasachstan and Belarus are both missing there) others argued that the list of subscribers of the European Cultural Convention should be taken.

A third line argument was a geographical one (12% of Kasachstan is in Europe). The EERA constitution does not define "Europe", it just asks that an association is domiciled there.

It was agreed that a decision on a Kasachstan membership needs to be based on a clearer framework and not on ad hoc arguments. The question was therefore included in the strategic discussions and Working Groups later that day.



Additionally Council agreed to invite Kasachstan to apply for membership while alerting them to the fact that EERA still struggles with defining its boundaries for membership.

6. Conferences

6.1 2014: Porto

a.) General report

Sofia reported on the preparations for rooms, volunteers and the various social events. Things seemed to be well prepared and within the general time schedule. Some open questions remain regarding the positioning of the registration area. She also announced that in the near future a new WIFI System will be set up, which will then also be accessible for ECER delegates.

There will be video transmissions of keynote sessions to additional lecture halls. Angelika confirmed that a conference App and a new format for the printed programme is developed (lighter, thinner, nicer).

b.) keynote chairing

Keynote Chairs were decided:

- Madeleine Arnot : LOC, Helena C. Araújo
- Antonio Novoa: John Kreisler
- Maralyn Cochran Smith: Marit H. Hoveid
- Gert Biesta: LOC, Isabela Menezes...
- Agnes Van Santen: Paulina Korsnakova

c.) Anniversary

Marit H. Hoveid reported on the Anniversary activities and from a meeting with Ian Grosvenor who is preparing a visual history based on a (mobile) website. It proved to be more difficult than thought to retrieve enough photos of ECERs and other EERA activities for filling this site, so some more efforts are needed to get/ create visuals from early ECERs.

The basic navigation categories are set now, the website will allow steady updating and can grow in the future. Formal launch is planned for the opening ceremony.

Other projects within the anniversary activities are proceeding well: 2 Panels/ Roundtables are planned, EERJ special issue with many promising articles. The conference social will have some special features and some more official programme than usually.

d.) Poster Prize

Although there is currently no partner for the Poster Prize council decided to also offer it for 2014. Office is asked to sound funding options with publishers. One idea for reducing the time pressure for the poster prize would be to select it in 2014 and award it in 2015 – thereby applying a similar process as for the best paper award.

Council supported the suggestions put forward by the 2013 committee to enlarge the committee to 4 persons or 3 + a substitute so as to facilitate the process.

6.1.2014 –d.) Emerging Researchers Conference 2014

Patricia Fidalgo informed council that instead of having two keynotes they want to offer a keynote and a round table (Thinking as researchers) for ERC 2014. She is in negotiation with LOC for deciding whom to invite. She also highlighted the small social for the bursary winners.

Again there will be a mock viva and a WS on publishing. Some networks will come to introduce



themselves to the Emerging Researchers.

She also reported that she managed to engage more Emerging Researchers Co-Convenors who are taking on different tasks. One of them will focus on the conference quality, another on managing the contacts to the Networks.

Lejf Moos thanked Patricia for the good work that is been done in the Emerging Researchers Group.

6.2 2015: ECER 2015, Budapest

DATES: 7 – 11 Sept. 2015

The suggested theme “Education in Transition” was presented and discussed. While the topic “Transition” and also the focus on the Eastern European area was welcomed on the one hand, it was asked to open “transition” from the political transition to the broader relations of transition and education (eg education and workplace). This was supported by the argument that also in lifelong learning transition is an important concept.

Suggestions were put forward such as to change the title into “education as transition”.

Lejf Moos then asked if the focus should be on education or on education research, John Krejsler recalled the anthropological aspects of transition and suggested a subtitle including the double face of research – being either contesting or affirmative. Roland Reichenbach questioned the concepts of progress and innovations – one being directed towards a “higher aim”, the other lacking visions. Lejf Moos thanked Council for the discussions and called for a working group: Gyöngyver Pataki from LOC 2015, Marit Hoveid, Lejf Moos, Theo Wubbels, Maria Figueredo and Sofia Marques da Silva will work on the theme taking the suggestions and arguments from council into consideration. An updated version of the theme plus a list of suggested keynotes will be presented to Council In June.

6.3 2016: ECER 2016, Netherlands

Theo Wubbels presented Amsterdam and the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam as a conference venue. The advantages of Amsterdam were obvious: the city is extremely well connected to plenty of destinations and has enough hotel capacities. Two, maybe three universities would cooperate for ECER 2016.

Possible conference dates are early in the year: 29 August – 2 September.

Preparation and budget planning are going on well, only one open item: second social event. Amsterdam will be more expensive than Porto, but still within a manageable budget.

6.4. Options for 2017 and beyond

It was reported that Cyprus is still interested and that they prepare for an application.

Italy was invited to think again about bringing ECER to Italy as this was attempted several times already, but was never successful. Georg Head reported that SERA still is interested in bringing ECER to Glasgow and so is the City of Glasgow. But they might want to have the conference in 2019, as SERA celebrates the 45th anniversary then.

Paulina Korsnakova said that the Slovak Educational Research Society (SERS) would also be interested in hosting ECER. As Lejf Moos and Theo Wubbels will attend the Slovak conference in Trnava, they can discuss the proposal with the Slovak association there.

Council encourage all interested parties to contact local universities and produce applications for hosting the ECER conference in 2017 and beyond.



7. Conference Quality

Lejf Moos reported on the letter from EXEC to Link convenors and reminded Council on the concerns about conference quality that were raised by Council Members and Link Convenors in meetings over ECER 2013

Most prominently there were concerns that in a substantial number of sessions papers had either no research question at all or no answer to it. It was also reported that Convenors reflected on conference quality also in terms of rooms and more important time/opportunities for discussion within and also after the sessions. Getting in touch seems to be more difficult if a larger number of "usual" attendants stay away and many new comers are participating.

Also it was said that what counted as a good presentation is partially culturally bound. It was discussed if rejection rates need to be raised, how this can be done without discriminating non-native-English speakers, how presentation skills/styles for ECER could be formed (i.e. keeping in mind that the audience did not have access to full papers before the conference), how presenters could be made aware of what is expected from them, how chairs could be better managing the session so as to stimulate discussions. It was also stated that demanding "research basics" like validity, reliability and triangulation would not serve network with a non-empirical approach. So while some common standards are needed, not all networks will be able to work alike.

All in all different layers to work were spotted: Submission quality and the reviewing process, presentation skills, tasks of chairpersons.

Exec will report council's ideas and concerns to Link Convenors in April, at the convenor seminar, and start a discussion and suggest possible actions to be taken around these issues. Council will be informed in June council meeting.

8. Summer School

Marit H. Hoveid reported from the 2013 summer school in Trondheim, which sought to make EERA more visible. There were increased numbers of LGDP students, the organization went smoothly. Biggest benefit for attendees was to meet people from very different schools of study and have discussions with peers and tutors about their work.

The model of the 2013 event will be more or less copied for 2014, but for the upcoming years EERA (2015/2016) is looking for a new university to take over the EERSS. Marit is saving a place as a tutor for somebody from the new university in order to allow an organiser to follow and support the 2014 event. Council members and network convenors are invited to get back to their universities and evaluate if they would be willing to host and support the event. There are costs to be taken into account as 50/50 distribution of costs is envisaged. (EERA part maximum about 15.000 Euro per Year).

For more information see:

<http://www.eera-ecer.de/season-schools/educational-methodology/>

9. Visibility and Horizon 2020

9.1 WERA

Marit reported from WERA Focal meeting in Guanajuato, Mexico, which consisted of 30 – 40 papers within the Mexican Conference. WERA is conscious to build up possibilities for publication and has come to terms with a publisher (Routledge). A yearbook will be published from 2014 onwards. Both papers from the focal meeting and the IRNs (international research networks) will serve as strands for papers, the executive board will act as a reviewing committee. Also, a WERA Journal is discussed and



might start in 2015, in addition occasional book projects are planned.

While some larger members have withdrawn from WERA, WERA is still seen as an important organisation, especially from the perspective of smaller research associations. WERA has decided to open the association for individual membership.

There is a new president elect – Sari Lindblom-Ylänne - and the Secretary General election is to take place in Spring. The nomination process is currently open.

WERA Focals

WERA is also looking for new strands of revenues and the focal meetings might be one of them. The WERA council has thus decided to ask that half of the registration fee for the focal meeting representatives go to WERA. Georg Head briefly reported on the arrangements done for the WERA Focal meeting 2014, but not all financial details have been settled. For 2015 EERA and LOC 2015 have made a proposal to WERA, but no decision has been reached yet.

9.2 EASSH

The group is re-establishing itself and will have a meeting in Berlin in May. Office is asked to support the event.

9.3 ISE:

There is still a focus on open access as a working field. A joint statement is in the process of being developed.

9.4 H2020:

Lejf Moos gave an overview of the latest developments. Social Sciences/Humanities are no longer a DG within the EC, but a unit below the directorate below the DG. While some challenges within H2020 meanwhile seem to better address the needs of SSH, still underfunding is feared.

Some Council Members reported on new working fields which their universities developed: such as qualitative research in health sciences, teaching radiologist to interpret the Xrays, etc.

This would on the one hand of course shift away the focus from central societal question, but would on the other hand financially support the institutions.

There will be a half day workshop after the Network Seminar in April which aims at evaluating the current calls and see where Education Research might find its place.

10. Budget

Herbert Altrichter presented the latest figures (end of November 2013) There were no major changes to the expected figures as presented in September. He also reported that he is working with office to streamline some of the booking accounts.

11. EERA Strategy

Lejf Moos introduced the amended paper on EERA strategies and invited Council members to discuss the paper item per item. Results of these discussions should be seen as a first input for the working groups. These were set up during the meeting and was given time for first deliberations in the afternoon. All of the groups are supposed to report back in June Council. Papers from the working groups should be sent to EERA office not later than 4 week prior to the Council meeting.

- Strengthening cooperation of more than one member association per country

A working Group was built in order to discuss and bring together experiences of cooperation within a



country if more than one association is member.

WG 1: Samuel and Gonzalo

- **Strengthening cooperation of member associations**

Some members reported on current cooperation within conferences: TERA and GERA cooperate as many Turkish-German researchers are bridging the gap between the two communities. Also SERA and Iceland cooperate over the conference.

Belarus has managed to include external presenters via a video conference tool.

It was also mentioned that not only language but the country specific contexts of educational research would set limits to cooperation – ie lacking knowledge of situation and main discourses in neighbouring countries. The context was seen as as important as language issues and EXEC was asked to rework the text of the strategy paper in this aspect.

Also EXEC was asked to develop a new funding scheme of cooperation proposals from neighbouring associations, similar to the network funding scheme.

- **Strengthening cooperation beyond Europe:**

Here again the question: “What is Europe and who should be included beyond?” was raised.

In the discussions the originally two different working groups on collaboration with associations beyond Europe and cooperation with Latin America where combined and took over the task of suggesting a definition of what is “Europe” and of suggesting limits for whom to include as members of EERA. Furthermore the group will propose amendments to the general regulations if necessary regarding these issues

WG 2 + 3: Lejf, John, George, Gyögyver, Ana Paula, Yunus, Gonzalo

Attracting new Members

Council Members reported on a number of initiatives in countries not yet linked to EERA – like Serbia, Albania. There might be a danger of getting more than one application from Serbia as there seems to be more than one initiative. Karmen and Pavel volunteered to contact researchers from the neighbouring countries to see how far they have come in respect of building up a national educational research associations and also introduce EERA to them.

WG 4: Karmen and Pavel

Strengthening engagement of not less active member associations

It was decided that Exec should send a letter to those Member Associations that have evidence of little activity with EERA, e.g. associations that rarely attend council meetings, where also a low number of researchers participate in ECER. Some countries that were identified were: France, Italy, Belgium, and Greece. It was also alerted to the fact that EERA members associations always should forward the call for papers to ECER to their communities of researchers.

Enhancing cooperation between EXEC and Council

Exec will work on a newsletter, the paper Work for Council will be enhanced (be one time, papers not tabled but sent before)

Induction of new Council Members

Handbook for new council members/ mentoring of new members:



A system of mentoring/paring is already in the General Regulations, but not yet working. Exec will further work on it.

Also the presentations of member associations within Council are aiming at creating better understanding and more insight into the work and traditions of other associations and of the research culture and political situation within member countries. Therefore more time will be given at the Council meeting to present situation within each member association/country.

Publications

The initially planned two working groups (WG 5 "Translating excellent papers to English/ WG 6 broadening publication Channels/6) were combined.)

Exec will approach EERJ for discussing multilingual abstracts.

In order to show the full range of publication possibilities it was suggested to develop a list of publications from member associations' who welcome English contributions together with an overview of journals that are linked to Networks,. The possibility of a best dissertation/book/paper award within each association was discussed,

The working group was asked to first develop aims and then find different ways to work on them.

WG 5/6: Herbert, Maria, Mariagrazia, Roland

Change of name (ECER –to EERA conference)

Changing the name of the Conference was once again discussed passionately but also brought back to the question: what is the purpose of it? What is to be gained? It was suggested to have this worked through under professional guidance, not only on the basis of designs and artwork but also on the rationale and necessity. In order to link association and conference it was even suggested to work the other way round – changing EERA names to an acronym mirroring "ECER". At this point Council decided to let this matter rest for the time being.

12.Networks

12.1 Honorary members NW 7 and NW 9 (PAPER INCLUDED)

Two networks suggested Honorary Network Members.

NW 07: Francesca Gobbo

NW 09: Tjeerd Plomp

Council endorsed both suggestions.

12.2 Network Reports – Overview

Maria Figueredo presented results from the 2013 Network Reports.

- First of all: NWs 3,4,5,15,18+29 are late with NW report for 2013. This might be linked to a change in the link convenors.
- Recurring comments from the evaluation of the NW reports were: no hand-outs in sessions, enthusiastic appreciation of joint sessions and the request that chairs should work on improving discussions There was also positive feedback regarding interactive poster sessions



- Half of the networks report on publications they are planning or which they had done; in addition there is more online presence (community websites)
- 3 Networks question the “European perspective/dimension”, one of the criteria of the reviewing process. This is being discussed by Council and will be address in the network Seminar in April.
- Some NWs are requesting to send out individual calls, parallel to the standard ECER call. Objections were raised to one special call with a focus to similar to the scope of another network. Council agreed that special calls need to be treated carefully and should not interfere with the focus of another network. Probably, a framework for integrating special calls within the general call for papers needs to be developed. This will be discussed with network convenors in April
- Some NWs are requesting only 2 papers per session (which is almost impossible due to time and room constraints, except for the very small NWs).
- Some NWs want to add special sessions, such as keynotes and workshops.

All in all there is threat to create sub-conferences within ECER, which should be avoided. Another item that raised concern is: council invited sessions are not evaluated.

The items raised here will also be part of the discussions with convenors in the April meeting in Berlin.

12.3 New Networks

The NW rep has not received any reaction from the group who intended to open a network for psycho-analysis and education. The group preparing a network for organizational education was invited to resubmit, which they have done. Their proposal will be discussed with convenors in April, eventually put forward to Council in June and may then lead to an inaugural symposium in Porto. This group is already accepted as a WERA IRN.

13.ERG

Patricia Fidalgo called for help with mentoring sessions during ERC and also for reviewing as the ERG wants to have a double review this year.

14.Members reports

Delma Byrne, Ireland,
George Head, Scotland
Karmen Trasberg, Estonia

Presenters are encouraged to write up a short text, summarising the presentation, for the web site.

15.

Tina Hascher had suggested a working group on the Teacher Education and defined the aim of it as follows.

“Due to global changes in societies and educational systems teacher education is in many countries on



the top of the reform agenda. There is also a reform pressure resulting from the huge expectancies towards teacher effectiveness, the international competition with regard to rankings representing educational outcomes, and general reforms of the higher education system (eg. applying the ba-ma-architecture to teacher education). the aim of the working group is from an national and international (comparative) perspective

- to highlight trends of teacher education and teacher education reforms
- to discuss the challenges of teacher education and teacher education reform
- to analyse quality and effects of ongoing teacher education reforms
- to look beyond current developments and to identify future perspectives"

Tina Hascher's term of office in GERA/EERA has ended recently. But council still shares her concerns on the issue, therefore it was suggested to that EXEC should invite NW 1 (Continuing Professional Development: Learning for Individuals, Leaders, and Organisations) and NW 10 (Teacher Education) to develop a symposium on this theme.

16.Next meetings

20 – 21 June 2014, Berlin
6 September 2014

17.AOB

HERA had sent ideas on fostering engagement and documentation between conferences and on developing standards for „international“ conferences. Parts of the ideas on documentation will be reflected by the Working Group on Publications. As for the suggestion to create an overview of all conferences that would qualify as international it was seen as too complicated to be defined.