

# Minutes of the EERA Council Meeting March 2023

## 24/25 March 2023, Berlin

### Attendees

	Name	Association
1	Ana Kozina	The Slovenian Educational Research Association (SLODRE)
2	Andreas Hadjar	EERA Treasurer
3	Angelika Wegscheider	EERA Office
4	Branislava Baranovic	Croatian Educational Research Association (CERA)
5	Carmen Carmona	Asociación Interuniversitaria de Investigación Pedagógica (AIDIPE)
6	Celine Healy	Educational Studies Association of Ireland (ESAI)
7	Daniela Preis	EERA Office
8	Dita Nimante	University of Latvia (Candidate Member)
9	Dragica Pavlović Babic	Educational Research Association of Serbia (DIOS)
10	Elisabetta Biffi	Società Italiana di Pedagogia (SIPED)
11	Elly de Bruijn	Vereniging voor Onderwijs Research (VOR)
12	Erich Svecnik	Österreichische Gesellschaft für Forschung und Entwicklung im Bildungswesen (OEFEB)
13	Fabio Dovigo	EERA Networks' Representative on Council Elect
14	Gonzalo Jover	Sociedad Española de Pedagogía (SEP)
15	Helen Phtiaka	Cyprus Pedagogical Association (CPA)
16	Heli Ruokamo	Finnish Educational Research Association (FERA)
17	Huseyin Uzunboylu	Cyprus Educational Sciences Association (KEB-DER)
18	Ineke M. Pit-ten Cate	Luxembourg Educational Research Association (LuxERA)
19	Jana Poláčková Vašátková	Česká asociace pedagogického výzkumu (ČAPV)
20	Joe O'Hara	EERA President
21	John Benedicto Krejsler	Nordic Educational Research Association (NERA)
22	Karmen Trasberg	Estonian Academic Research Association (EAPS)
23	Liudmila Rupšienė	Lithuanian Academic Educational Association (LERA)
24	Lucian Ion Ciolan	Romanian Educational Research Association (ARCE)
25	Maria Pacheco Figueiredo	EERA Secretary General
26	Marit Honerod Hoveid	EERA President Elect
27	Mhairi Beaton	British Educational Research Association (BERA)
28	Monika Pogatsnik	Hungarian Educational Research Association (HERA)
29	Nihat Gurel Kahveci	Turkish Educational Research Association (EAB)
30	Oksana Zabolotna	Ukrainian Educational Research Association (UERA)
31	Paulina Korsnakova	Slovak Educational Research Society (SERS)
32	Petra Grell	EERA Networks' Representative on Council
33	Saneeya Qureshi	Emerging Researchers' Group
34	Sofia Marques da Silva	Sociedade Portuguesa de Ciências da Educação (SPCE)
35	Sotiria Grek	European Educational Research Journal
36	Stephen McKinney	Scottish Educational Research Association (SERA)
37	Zoe Moody	Swiss Society for Research in Education (SSRE)

## 1. Apologies and Welcome of New Members

Joe O'Hara informed Council that Anna Aleksanyan, Eric Mangez, Iouri Zagoumenov, Joanna Madalińska-Michalak, Kairat Kurakbayev, Marco Rieckmann, Milosh M. Raykov, Paolo Landri, Sébastien Akira Alix, Wouter Schelfhout, Yasar Kondakci and Yonka Parvanova sent their apologies.

He welcomed Carmen Carmona, Elly de Bruijn, Heli Ruokamo and Monika Pogatsnik to their first in person Council Meeting.

## 2. Confirmation of Minutes

Council confirmed the minutes as they are.

## 3. ECER 2023

### 3.1 General Report (Office and LOC)

Stephen McKinney gave a general report on the state of preparations for ECER 2023, on the locations and plans for music for the socials, the possible side events for participants etc. And he assured Council that although we will be using 17 buildings, all are very close by, maximum 5 minutes' walk from each other.

Angelika Wegscheider added the submission numbers, information on the reviewing process and the plan to include an interactive map in the conference app. She especially mentioned that the number of reviewers decreased and that it was difficult, therefore, to cope with the record number of submissions. Joe O'Hara asked Council to encourage people at home to consider reviewing in future. He also thanked EERA Office and Stephen for their work so far.

### 3.2 LOC Report

### 3.3 EERA Sessions

The EERA Sessions reviewing volunteers are Elly de Bruijn, Marit Hoveid and Maria Figueiredo.

### 3.4 Chairing and Scheduling Keynotes

Chaired by LOC: Alfredo Artiles, Richard Rose, Carol Taylor (Chairs named by LOC)

Chaired by Council:

Barbara Read – Ineke Pit-ten Cate

Margaret Sutherland – Mhairi Beaton

Mark Priestley – Zoe Moody

Branislava Baranovic was asked by her network to forward concerns regarding the fact that there is no non-white keynote speaker, despite the theme on diversity. Joe O'Hara described the complicated process how the keynote shortlist is put together, with two suggestions coming from LOC, two from the networks and two from the Council working group. Adding another criterion to the two existing (geographical diversity and gender) would make it even more complicated. This could be discussed and taken into consideration by Council. However, the quickest way for the network would be to come up with respective suggestions for the keynote speaker process for Belgrade.

### **3.5 Associations Meet and Greet:**

This year's Member Associations at ECER will be SERA, CPA, ARCE and UERA. Daniela Preis will get back to the associations with details.

### **3.6 Committee Poster Award**

The Poster Jury will evaluate the posters between 11 and 24 August and will decide on the winners either virtually or in person at ECER on 24 August.

Volunteers for the jury: Jana Poláčková Vašátková, Karmen Trasberg, Paula Korsnakova, Dragica Pavlović Babic and Andreas Hadjar.

## **4. Future ECERS**

### **4.1 ECER 2024, Nicosia**

#### **4.1.1 Theme**

Council confirmed the theme suggested by the scientific committee.

#### **4.1.2 Keynote Speakers**

Council also confirmed the suggested keynote speakers.

#### **4.1.3 Leaflet**

At ECER 2023, there will be no conference bag and we should thus consider not having ECER leaflets either. Could there be a video introducing ECER in Nicosia? And in Glasgow, we could have posters with QR codes leading to these videos. Helen Phtiaka will look into it.

#### **4.1.4 General Report LOC**

Helen Phtiaka reported that it might be rather hot end of August, but that all university rooms, cars, buses and hotels are air conditioned. People will be able to stay either in Nicosia or on the country side.

### **4.2 Bids as of 2025**

#### **4.2.1 2025 Belgrade**

Marit Honerod Hoveid told Council about her and Angelika's visit to Belgrade. They were shown the university and other facilities that will be used for the conference. There is a variety of rooms, some might seem a bit old fashioned on a first look, but all will be equipped with computers and projectors. The campus is downtown, with lots of restaurants, shops and cafés next to it. Marit stressed that the local organisers they met were very eager and competent. She is confident that it will be a great venue.

Dragica Pavlovic Babic thanked Marit and Angelika for coming this early in the process, as their visit reassured her and her team and reduced anxieties. They are all very happy to go forth, and look forward to welcoming ECER. For many, it will be the first time in Serbia, which is important. Joe thanked everybody and said he is pleased that ECER will go to Belgrade, as it is EERA's goal to go to places we haven't been yet.

## 1.1 Set up Scientific Committee

**Ex officio:** Marit Honerod Hoveid, Maria Figueiredo and her shadow, Fabio Dovigo, Dragica Pavlovic Babic, Paolo Landri and Sanneya Qureshi plus her shadow.

**Volunteers from Council:** John Benedicto Krejsler, Erich Svecnik, Lucian Ciolan, Ana Kozina, Karmen Trasberg and Branislava Baranovic.

### 4.2.2 2026 Tampere

They are well ahead of their time and already sent a proposed budget and the contract will soon be signed.

### 4.2.3 2027 Kyrenia

Joe reminded Council that for 2027 Kyrenia is in the planning. Exec will soon need to start working on the early preparations to see into the feasibility of hosting the conference there.

## 5. Elections

### 5.1 Elections of Secretary General

Lucian Ciolan was elected as Secretary General with 30 yes and one abstain votes.

### 5.2 Elections of Senior Mentor

Mhairi Beaton was elected as ERG Senior Mentor with 30 yes and one abstain votes.

### 5.3 Confirmation of ERC Link Convenor

Saneeya Qureshi described how the application process worked and introduced the preferred candidate to Council. Council approved of this candidate, so that Lisa Bugno will start shadowing in August 2023 and take over in August 2024.

## 6. Publications

### 6.1 EERJ

#### 6.1.1 Editors' Report

Sotiria Grek gave an overview of the activities of the co-editors and the editorial board; she informed Council that new co-editors would be elected in 2024, who will start their term on 1 January 2025. An overview of the general and special issues of the past year as well as an outlook to future special issues was also part of the report. Sotiria also asked Council to encourage people to review articles.

After the report, Council started to discuss whether EERJ should be open access. Sotiria reported that EERJ is already partly Open Access. As the contract with SAGE needs to be renewed in 2026, the new editors could look into the matter when they take on.

#### 6.1.2 Financial Report

Andreas Hadjar informed Council that the financial report of EERJ was checked and approved of.

### 6.2 Book Series

The book series has been quite successful, and the editors have done a great job. A new book has just been approved by the publishers. However, it is now slowing down with regard to

incoming suggestions, so that Joe would like to ask Council to bring the Call to their members. It would be a shame to let it fall away, but if there is no interest, it makes no sense to continue with the series.

### **6.3 Blog**

The EERA Blog is a good means to introduce new research or a national association. In its first two years, it had almost 55.000 views. Emerging Researchers are very active there, but Council could also remind colleagues that there is an opportunity to publish in the blog.

Link that can be forwarded: <https://blog.eera-ecer.de/contributing-to-the-eera-blog/>

## **7. Emerging Researchers' Group**

### **7.1 ERC Report**

Saneeya Qureshi reported on the reviewing and mentoring process of ERC submissions and thanked Council members who had acted as mentors for the young researchers. She also thanked the Local Organisers for organising three extra rooms needed due to the record number of submissions. The next step with them now is to set up the Interactive Session as well as the Lunch Break with Local Academics. She asked Council to consider acting as mentor during ERC sessions, especially on the Tuesday. The information and request will soon be sent out. She also thanked the Best Paper reviewers, and the organisers of the Summer School in Porto, with record-breaking numbers too, as well as her co-convenors for their great work.

Ineke Pit-ten Cate thanked Saneeya that she came to their early career conference. It really had an impact, as it accelerated interest in ERC, ECER and the Summer Schools.

Joe emphasized the importance of promoting emerging researchers as one big part of EERA's mission. This work is so well done by the Emerging Researchers' Group and he thanked anyone who contributed. Special thanks went to Saneeya for her incredible energy and expertise.

## **8. External Relationships**

Joe O'Hara updated Council on the latest developments of the three associations EERA is a member with.

He also pointed out that this part of the work of the EERA president is quite time consuming and could maybe be divided, taking in other people than the president as representatives of EERA with the above associations. Marit Hoveid will look into it.

### **8.1 WERA**

EERA represents all member associations on the WERA board, but some of them are members themselves. That makes it a bit complicated in some respect, but we take an active part in the WERA work. Marit and Joe will both be at the coming WERA Council meeting.

### **8.2 EASSH**

EASSH is establishing a physical space in Brussels that can then be used by members when they are there to talk to EU Officials, for example. The most visible success of EASSH was that in Horizon Europe, more money was reserved for social sciences than in Horizon 2020. When founded, 20 associations were involved. Currently they have 70 members, so that they have a voice in policy now. They also look into research quality. And as EERA does not only have EU members, we also bring these voices into the meetings.

### 8.3 ISE

ISE has published a manifesto on early career researchers' precarity and similar social aspects, which EERA has passed on to member associations.

## 9. EERA Activities

### 9.1 Summer School

#### 9.1.1 Report Porto

This year's Summer School received a record number of 200 applications from 38 countries, which were evaluated by 48 reviewers. In the end 93 were accepted. Currently they are working on the logistics. The tutors and keynotes lists have not yet been finalised. Four research centres are involved, Porto, Algarve, Minho and Aveiro, together with SPCE. They accepted to do a third year, as the following university in Chemnitz is only available in 2025 and 2026. Thank you for this flexibility and willingness to do it again.

#### 9.1.2 Future Plans: Chemnitz

They will organise the Summer School in 2025 and 2026. In 2025, Chemnitz is European Cultural Capital and they have plans to include that in the programme.

We are now looking for venues for 2027/2028. The information on the requirements can be found in the General Regulations. It is a positive way to impact on early researchers, so please consider organising it, or spread the info to the institutions in your countries.

### 9.2 Writing Workshops

As George Head was no longer available to co-organise the Writing Workshops, a new team was set up to offer these workshops in future: Stephen McKinney, Céline Healey, Mhairi Beaton and Lucian Ciolan will, in teams of two, hold these workshops and travel to national associations. It is favourable to organise these workshops as part of or in combination with the national conferences. EERA will pay for travel and accommodation of the tutors as well as catering. Lucian will send a request for a workshop with their national conference in October. Joe asked whether there are other ways how EERA can support the national associations. Please come forward with ideas.

## 10. Networks

After a few calmer years, the networks clearly start working again, Petra Grell reported. More Network Funding applications are coming in and there is also a group who wants to set up a new network.

Joe thanked Petra for her work and also asked her to pass his thanks on to the networks.

### 10.1 Network Honorary Members

Council approved of all suggested Honorary Network Members:

- Dolf van Veen, NW 5
- Helena Ribeiro de Castro, NW 17
- Dennis Beach, NW 19

### 10.2 Overview Projects

Council approved of the suggested projects.

## 11. Members

### 11.1 Latvia Application full Membership

Dita Nimante thanked Marit Hoveid, Karmen Trasberg and Liudmila Ruspiene for their help and mentoring during the process of setting up the association. All documents are prepared and they are now waiting for approval by the state authorities. 37 researchers and seven institutions are involved.

### 11.2 Member Updates

#### 11.2.1 ARCE

The Romanian Educational Research Association now involves colleagues from Republic of Moldova. For the time being, Moldovan researchers can become honorary members free of charge until there is a Moldovan association.

#### 11.2.2 UERA

According to Oksana Zabolotna, ten projects were funded with the amount granted by EERA. They are also organising a Summer School on Resilience, for which safety and security plans were set up. She said that this is really a great way to support and inspire researchers in Ukraine at present. Joe O'Hara thanked her and all people involved for their willingness to do research in such threatening times.

#### 11.2.3 New Members

Bulgaria, Azerbaijan and Kosovo had started an application process as candidate members which came to a halt during Covid. They will now re-start the process in the coming months.

## 12. Office

### 12.1 General Update

Office is still working with 4 members of staff. Alongside the usual annual work around ECER, Council meetings, Summer School and Network Seminar, Office was lately linked to the upgrade of the website software which required a lot of testing, also office is looking into options for conference Apps. Additional accounts on twitter alternatives have been set up. A new contract for Council and Network Meetings has been agreed, bringing both groups more to the city centre in the upcoming years.

## 13. General Regulations

The general regulations can be found online:

[https://eera-ecer.de/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Documents/Constitution/General\\_Regulations\\_March\\_2018.pdf](https://eera-ecer.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Documents/Constitution/General_Regulations_March_2018.pdf)

In the past years, part of the General Regulations have been taken out and transformed into Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs), to make the document better manageable. This will continue, and if Council has ideas which particular topics can be transformed into SOPs, or if there are passages that seem unclear, please be in touch.

## 14. Communication and Social Media #Edusci

Thanks to Doretta Dow from Office, EERA is now also on Mastodon and Post. But despite the fears regarding Twitter a few months ago, it is obvious that this is still the platform with the most traffic. Nevertheless, it is good to have the two others, for the future.

EERA is now adding the hashtag #Edusci to all its posts, troets and tweets and invited all member associations to also take up this hashtag. This new hashtag was created for education research to be better traced across the various social networks.

Erich Svecnik from OEFEB warned Council that they might be approached by his association for interviews, as they plan to make their Social Media more vivid through video interviews.

## 15. Finances

### 15.1 Preliminary Result 2022 and Budget outlook 2023

The 2022 budget was predicting a loss, but the loss was lower than expected. For the 2023 budget, an even better outcome is expected, as the Glasgow conference already received more submissions than expected. Therefore Exec saw the financial space for raising certain allowances from 2023: in order to acknowledge the increased travel costs, the allowance for Network Seminar attendees as well as Council Low GDP travel support will be increased. Also, the upper limits of network funding will go up. EERA will introduce a reduced ECER fee for retired colleagues and the maximum for the EERA summer school will be risen by 10%.

### 15.2 Set up group of "Budget Checkers" to check the budget during ECER 2023

The volunteers are: Mhairi Beaton, Ana Kozina, Erich Svecnik, Jana Poláčková Vašátková and Saneeya Qureshi.

## 16. Strategy

The working groups looked at the suggested document, commented and suggested changes. They will return their notes to Marit.

## 17. Anniversary

A working group will investigate what can be realised:

Helen Phtiaka, Stephen McKinney, Maria Figueiredo, Gonzalo Jover, Zoe Moody and Sotira Grek.

## 18. AOB

Heli Ruokamo introduced a conference which she co-organises: Media Education Meets Wilderness, 25 – 27 September 2023 at the University of Lapland, Finland.

<https://www.ulapland.fi/EN/Events-University-of-Lapland/MEC-2023>

## 19. Next Meetings

26 – 27 August 2023 (1,5 days), Glasgow

15 – 16 March 2024 (two full days), Berlin

31 August – 1 September 2024 (1,5 days), Nicosia

14 – 15 March 2025 (two full days), Berlin