

Minutes of the EERA Council Meeting Berlin, 15 & 16 March 2024

Attendees

	Name	Organisation
1	Andreas Hadjar	EERA Treasurer
2	Angelika Wegscheider	EERA Office
3	Branislava Baranovic	Croatian Educational Research Association (CERA)
4	Carmen Carmona	Asociación Interuniversitaria de Investigación Pedagógica (AIDIPE)
5	Christoph Schindler	EERA Network 12
6	Chua Bee Leng	WERA President
7	Daniela Preis	EERA Office
8	Dita Nimante	Latvian Association for Research in Education (LARE)
9	Doretta Dow	EERA Office
10	Egle Pranckūnienė	Lithuanian Academic Educational Association (LERA)
11	Elly de Bruijn	Vereniging voor Onderwijs Research (VOR)
12	Emete Toros	Cyprus Educational Sciences Association (KEB-DER)
13	Eric Mangez	Association des chercheurs belges francophones en éducation (ABCéduc)
14	Erich Svecnik	Österreichische Gesellschaft für Forschung und Entwicklung im Bildungswesen (OEFEB)
15	Fabio Dovigo	EERA Networks' Representative on Council
16	Gonzalo Jover	Sociedad Española de Pedagogía (SEP)
17	Ineke M. Pit-ten Cate	Luxembourg Educational Research Association (LuxERA)
18	Jana Poláčková Vašátková	Česká asociace pedagogického výzkumu (ČAPV)
19	Jenny Berger	EERA Office
20	Karmen Trasberg	Estonian Academic Research Association (EAPS)
21	Klaus Rummler	EERA Network 6
22	Luca Agostinetto	Società Italiana di Pedagogia (SIPED)
23	Lucian Ion Ciolan	EERA Secretary General Elect
24	Maria Pacheco Figueiredo	EERA Secretary General
25	Marit Hoveid	EERA President
26	Mhairi Beaton	British Educational Research Association (BERA)
27	Monika Pogatsnik	Hungarian Educational Research Association (HERA)
28	Nihat Gurel Kahveci	Turkish Educational Research Association (EAB)
29	Oksana Zabolotna	Ukrainian Educational Research Association (UERA)
30	Paolo Landri	European Educational Research Journal
31	Paulina Korsnakova	Slovak Educational Research Society (SERS)
32	Sébastien Akira Alix	Association des Enseignants et Chercheurs en Sciences de l'Education (AECSE)
33	Stephen McKinney	Scottish Educational Research Association (SERA)
34	Vafa Gasimova	Azerbaijan

1. Apologies and Welcome of New Members

Marit Honerød Hoveid welcomed the new Council member Egle Pranckūnienė as well as guests to the meeting: Christoph Schindler, Klaus Rummler, Emete Toros and Vafa Gasimova.

She also forwarded the apologies of 16 Council Members.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

Council approved of the August 2023 minutes.

3. Elections Treasurer

21 Council members were eligible to vote by presence or proxy. The nomination committee counted the votes and Marit Hoveid confirmed that Andreas Hadjar was re-elected.

4. 10:00 – 15:00 Workshop Open Access / Open Science

Invited guests: Christoph Schindler (NW 12) and Klaus Rummler (NW 6)

Input on the theme Open Access/Open science was given by Christoph and Klaus. Afterwards council members were divided into 4 groups and the discussion was organised as a type of world café. Four themes were discussed:

1. Open Access. Moderated by Klaus Rummler
Keywords: structures & practices; scholar-led; sustainability
2. (Open) Research Data. Moderated by Paulina Korsnakova.
Keywords: examples, accessibility & documentation; risks and benefits
3. Open Science Communication. Moderated by Christoph Schindler
Keywords: information about open research; common capacities, federated diversity
4. The Role EERA can Play. Moderated by Maria Figueiredo
Questions: See input from Survey (in the papers for the meeting)

The moderators of each table and Marit Hoveid will, based on the discussions that took place, organise the key points from the discussions. For EERA, a possible way forward is to develop a position paper on the theme. An EERA session will also be dedicated to this topic in Nicosia. And an agreement was made as to follow it up in the next years. What is seen as crucial is that we as educational researchers develop a clearer stance on how to address OA/OS within educational research.

5. ECERs

5.1 ECER 2024 Nicosia

5.1.1 Numbers (Office)

Angelika Wegscheider reported on this year's submission numbers with 288 for ERC and 2433 for ECER. Based on these numbers, she expects about 2300 to 2500 participants, which means we are back to standard numbers from before the pandemic. We will have three cities as hotel hubs, Nicosia, Larnaca and Limassol. Shuttles from the cities to the venue can be booked and paid for in advance. In order to allow some time for the travel in the morning, the morning sessions will start 30 minutes later than usual, and the lunch break will be 15 minutes shorter. Lunch also needs to be booked in advance, as there are no cafés or restaurants close to the

Campus and the cafeterias can otherwise not guarantee smooth catering for all ECER participants during the shorter lunch breaks.

Considering new measures to account for gender diversity, ERG suggested a pilot providing pronoun badges for those ERC participants who would like to wear them. Furthermore, the ERG co-convenors will wear pronouns badges. Exec decided to take on the idea using badges saying Ask Me About ECER for volunteers from Council and for Execs and NW badges for the convenors.

The chairs from Council for keynotes:

Paulina Korsnakova – Keri Facer,
Ineke Pit ten Kate - Michalinos Zembylas,
Stephen McKinney - Marianna Papastephanou

Poster Jury: Branislava Baranovic, Oksana Zabolotna, Egle Pranckūnienė, Jana Polachova Vastatkova.

5.1.2 Anniversary

The EERA Blog has started receiving contributions around the EERA Anniversary, from former EERA officials, link convenors, editors, council members and execs. They are really interesting to read, and we hope for many more to come. The blog post authors have been asked to participate in an EERA Session. During ECER, the blog posts will be shown on site, on posters or the like. Details to be looked at.

5.1.3 EERA Sessions

A second round of submission is now open until 15 April, and Office will send out the invitation once again.

VOR reported on their practice to submit one EERA Session each year, rotating amongst their 13 divisions.

Reviewers: Marit Hoveid, Maria Figueiredo, Erich Svecnik, Elly de Bruijn.

5.1.4 Accessibility

EERA Office has started working with an expert who gave a workshop at ECER 2023. The EERA Network Inclusive Education has also been involved in developing guidelines on how to prepare an accessible presentation. In addition, presenters will be encouraged to use microphones, a quiet room will be provided for people with neurodiversity, and other measures will be organised. The expert, Nicole Brown, will offer a Tuesday Morning Workshop on Accessibility in Research.

5.1.5 Associations Meet & Greet

Traditionally, the hosting association does one of the meet & greets, and we strongly encourage next year's hosting association to also do one. That means that another four slots can be granted. EERA Office will send out information on how to apply.

5.2 ECER 2025 Belgrade

Council endorsed the final version of the theme and found it wide enough to include many research topics.

Dragica Pavlovic Babic informed via Zoom on the venue in the city centre with five separate buildings which are only 3 minutes walk from each other. Many hotels and AirBnB apartments are also in close proximity, and hotels have already been pre-booked. On site, the necessary rooms have also been booked. Accessibility is an issue due to the old buildings of the university,

but accessible toilets are now available in most buildings, and more are to come. LOC has set up a working group looking at how to improve the situation. They work closely with the association of students with disabilities, who will also provide volunteers during ECER. LOC plans to have a video ready for Nicosia, introducing the city of Belgrade as well as the university.

Marit thanked Dragica and said that she is certain that this will be another excellent ECER, once more a city centre conference which means that we will put a stamp on the city during that week.

Stephen McKinney reminded Council that the lack of diversity of last year's keynote speakers was an issue and he asked if that had been taken into account when putting together this year's list. Marit said that the criteria were not changed after ECER 2023, i.e. ethnicity has not been taken into consideration officially, but it was looked at gender balance and a broad variety of research topics. However, the committee was aware of the issue and this year there is a clear focus on speakers from the region. Branislava Baranovic emphasized that this is the first time that the region is represented in such a way, with the four countries of Ex-Yugoslavia being well represented, with a nice array of diverse speakers.

Council approved of the ECER theme and ERC keynote speaker suggestions.

5.3 ECER 2026 Tampere

Nelli Piattoeva introduced the city of Tampere as well as the university, via Zoom. ECER will take place in two buildings in the city centre, with lots of hotels close by. Participants can either fly to Helsinki or Turku, both a 1,5 hours' train ride away from Tampere. There are also ferries from the Baltic countries to Helsinki.

Marit thanked her and said she is proud of the future venues, the upcoming conferences look really promising.

The Scientific Committee was set up. In addition to all ex officio members, (EERA President and Secretary General, EERA Networks' Representative on Council, ERG Link Convenor, head of Local Organising Committee and one of the editors of EERJ), Carmen Carmona volunteered to be council representative in the committee.

The process regarding the Theme for the conference in 2026 will start after the meeting, with the intention of finalizing it at the council meeting in Nicosia. Keynotes are then selected afterwards and approved in the March council meeting.

5.4 ECER 2027 Kyrenia

Emete Toros, the ECER 2027 coordinator, presented the University of Kyrenia as well as the city. There are many hotels in close proximity to the campus. Campus is a very modern complex offering enough rooms for ECER and common spaces for the poster and publishers' exhibitions etc. Participants will be able to fly to Larnaca and travel to Kyrenia from there, or fly into the airport on Northern Cyprus. Negotiations is already in place concerning the budget for the conference.

5.5 ECER 2028 Salamanca – Presentation

Gonzalo Jover introduced the potential ECER 2028 venue, Salamanca, with its 150000 inhabitants, of which 30000 are students at the 4th oldest university in Europe. ECER would take place at the new campus, close to the city centre, and 65 rooms can easily be provided in parallel. Madrid and its airport is 200 km away, and a shuttle bus connects the airport directly with Salamanca city centre.

Marit thanked Gonzalo and Carmen for their shared proposal and pointed out that it shows once more the importance to organise ECERs at universities instead of conference centres.

Council approved of Salamanca as the 2028 venue for ECER.

SATURDAY 16 March

6. Budget

6.1 Overview 2023

Andreas Hadjar informed Council on the expected results of the financial year 2023.

6.2 Outlook 2024

He confirmed that the positive result will allow continuing funding projects also in 2024, and that this also allows extra funding for the anniversary as well as the topic modelling project etc. Volunteers for budget check during ECER: Mhairi Beaton, Lisa Bugno and Gonzalo Jover.

7. Work of Council & General Regulations

7.1 SOP/and GR

Maria Figueiredo introduced some changes and additions to the SOP that were all approved by Council:

- Structure for Professional Development Talks with EERA Office
- Timeline for Elections
- ERG Best Paper process
- ERG Bursary process
- ERG Link Convenor election

Council also confirmed the change of the General Regulations regarding the Emerging Researchers' Group (ERG) Representative selection process.

7.2 New Plan for a Meeting Schedule

Marit suggested a new meeting schedule, with the meeting after ECER only taking place on the Saturday, full day, and an online meeting in January replacing the Sunday after ECER. For the meeting in March in Berlin, workshops should become a standard option. In addition, she would like to reintroduce the member association reports, where the associations can introduce themselves or special projects or talk about specific themes such as their approach to Open Access.

Council approved of the suggestions.

8. Member Report

National/regional research associations present their work and ongoing projects or ongoing business.

This time: BERA suggesting new forms of cooperation.

Mhairi Beaton reported that BERA would be interested in a closer relationship with the other EERA members, beyond the bi-annual council meetings. The BERA board came up with several ideas/suggestions:

- There could be bilateral agreements between associations for certain projects,
- A Council newsletter could be sent regularly, via which the associations could inform the others about developments or current projects etc.

- Additional contact persons could be appointed who should then also receive the Council communication and could feed back to the association too.
- Expert from within the associations could also be connected for certain topics etc.
- There could be working groups with experts from Council that work together on certain topics, good example would be open access.

Council reacted very positively to the suggestions in general. The question arose on who would be responsible for the newsletter and the additional work linked to it. One alternative could be a survey that is open all year, where everyone can upload content, and twice a year a non-laid out report could be distributed. Another similar solution could be a Council Mailing list, via which information could be shared. Before the pandemic, regional neighbours had started visiting national conferences, which sometimes resulted in mutual cooperation. BERA offers an international rate, and people from abroad could attend online meetings. Another suggestion was that each association could have a small part on their website that offers information on them in English. For associations with professional offices, it might also be interesting to create contacts between EERA Office and theirs, to talk about experiences, best practice, compare procedures and structures etc.

9. EERA Activities and New EERA Project

9.1 Summer School

9.1.1 Porto, 2024

Maria Figueiredo updated Council Members that 84 participants were accepted from the 97 applicants, one keynote is confirmed (Vanessa Andreotti) and that thanks to the four institutions involved, they have no problems with finding tutors. There are also international tutors, Volker Bank, host of next year's EERSS, Geert Thyssen from Network 17, Histories of Education and someone from ERG.

9.1.2 2025/2026, Chemnitz

The contract is currently being discussed. In 2025, Chemnitz is Cultural Capital of Europe and it is planned to offer a theme taking this into consideration. In 2026, the theme will go back to methodology.

9.1.3 2027/2028 Applications Needed, Please

Council Members were asked to consider hosting the ECER Summer School after Chemnitz. This is usually organised as a cooperation of a university and the EERA member association. EERA Office to send out the Hosting an EERA Summer School document (<https://eera-ecer.de/seasonschools/hosting-an-eera-summer-school>)

One of the former hosts reported that it is a rewarding thing to do, it is good to work with this international group of young researchers, with high quality conversations, and you get outstanding feedback.

9.2 Academic Writing Workshops

There are now four colleagues who hold these workshops in teams of two. They refined the setup to make it more interactive, now lasting two days with six sessions. The workshops are fully financed by EERA (travel costs of the tutors, catering etc.). Lately there was one workshop in Romania that was very well received, and the following are in preparation: Vienna, Italy, the Baltic countries.

9.3 Mapping the Educational Research Field: “Topic modelling project”

A Belgian researcher has been temporarily employed by EERA to work on this project. The main idea of this project is to try to map the educational research area based on the last 30 years of abstracts from ECER, identifying hot and cold topics and changes over time (see description in the papers for the meeting)

There will be an EERA Session on some of the preliminary findings from this project, in Nicosia. A Scientific Committee was put together as an advisory group for the project, Marit Hoveid, Lucian Ciolan, Carmen Carmona, Paulina Korsnakova, Maria Figueiredo and Jana Polachova Vastatkova.

9.4 Supporting Educational Research in Ukraine (Report)

Oksana Zabolotna gave a final overview of the smaller projects and the summer school on resilience that were organised with the funding from EERA. She informed Council that the financial report had been handed in to EERA Office and thanked Council once more for the opportunity.

Marit thanked her for the work that was put into it by Oksana and her colleagues and said she was so glad that we were able to support the researchers in Ukraine under these circumstances.

10. Networks

10.1 New Network Application

The application for a new network, Childism and Decoloniality in Education will be discussed at the Network Seminar, where the other networks will look at it and can express concerns regarding an overlap with their own focus. The group will already offer a session during ECER. The new network that was included in the submission process for the first time this year, Research on Citizenship Education, received 48 submissions, with various topics covered. This is a very successful start.

10.2 Network Funding

One network sent a proposal for a season school, another one for a development project. It would be good to create synergy between networks, but also between networks and Council. This would help to reduce competition thanks to cooperation, see the open research project of networks 6 and 12. Council members who are involved in EERA networks were asked to encourage them to apply for a funding project.

10.3 ERG Update

According to Lisa Bugno, the Emerging Researchers' Conference received 276 submissions (221 papers, 40 posters and 15 Ignite Talks) and 56 bursary applications. 21 Best Paper 2023 applications came in, of which 7 were shortlisted and re-submitted, following the revised review process. Studia Paedagogica will offer an online meeting for emerging researchers in order to get better paper proposals. Lisa has asked Networks to appoint a fixed contact person supporting the ERG during the conference and with reviewing, and she has already received 10 answers so far, a good outcome. She will look into new offers throughout the year with online meetings or workshops etc. She was also able to nominate 6 new volunteers for reviewing etc who had answered an according survey. During ERC a few new things will be introduced:

- There will be an EERA Anniversary Session with former link convenors
- For LGBTQ+ inclusivity badges indicating the pronouns will be offered to ERC participants

- On the Monday morning a new session will be offered welcoming newcomers to ERC. Lisa thanked all Council Members who had helped with reviewing etc and said she would also be grateful for any volunteers for mentoring and participating in the EERA lunch break event during ERC. Marit thanked Lisa for her great work.

11. Member Relations and New Membership

The EERA president has been present at several national research conferences, and had keynotes. Reports from these were postponed and will be included in the presidents report in the Nicosia meeting.

11.1 New Membership

11.1.1 Azerbadjan– application and presentation by Javid Jafarov (discussion/decision)

Jafarov was not able to attend the meeting, so Vafa Gasimova introduced their application for candidate membership. EERA held a workshop in Baku in February. The full application was sent to EERA afterwards. AzERA has set up a board, and have organised partnerships with other education institutions. They have newly created a website which also offers parts in English, funding is confirmed and they are already working on a book project. They aim at creating a platform for young researchers, offering professional development and encourage the establishment of SIGs. They have started planning for a conference in 2024 in collaboration with all universities and the National Academy of Sciences.

Council approved of the application for candidate membership. They were encouraged to get back to EERA if they needed some further support in the process of setting up their association. EERA will in collaboration with AzERA find an association that can function as their mentor.

11.1.2 Kosovo (discussion)

Two applications had come in from Kosovo, one for membership and one for candidate membership. All council members had received an email from the association seeking full membership a day prior to the meeting. Marit reported from the workshop held in Pristina in February. The challenge is to get the one association already established to collaborate with the other group who represents a wider group of educational researchers in Kosovo. The key to a solution is to find ways for the two applicants to participate. Although it looked promising on the first day of the workshop, we did not succeed in bringing both groups together during the two-day workshop. Given EERA regulation, we cannot approve a candidate member as long as there is an established educational association in a country. However, the application from KEAD is not satisfactory according to the criteria for application and Marit suggested council to not approve it.

Nihat Gurel Kahveci stressed that his association had not in any way been involved with the applying association KEAD. He confirmed that he is ready to help and thinks that the process could get on the right track if it was re-started.

The outcome of the discussion was that neither of the applications were endorsed. The suggestion is to continue to see if the two groups in Kosovo can find a common ground to cooperate and make a joint application. Marit will invite them both to a meeting in Nicosia. In the meantime – to support educational research in Kosovo, educational researchers from Kosovo are given the privileges as if they were candidate member

12. Publications, Blog and Social Media

12.1 EERJ Report

Paolo Landri reported on last year's developments, on submissions, readers' numbers and special issues that were realised. He also gave an overview of the special issues planned in the coming year (see EERJ report in shared Teams folder).

He also informed Council that they are currently working on a theme that is relevant for everyone, for the EERJ Moot taking place during ECER. He answered the question from a Council Member on how special issues are decided on that they take external suggestions and check their Europeanization, whether they promote the research agenda and if they show the relationship between localities and more global issues. These are rather loose criteria, and they are very happy to accept special issue ideas.

Lucian Ciolan wanted to share a word of appreciation: his Romanian colleagues are really happy that they have free access to EERJ via their membership in ARCE. He reminded the other associations' representatives that they could arrange the same for their members, and that many do not yet make use of it. Office will send out information on how that can be arranged.

12.2 Springer Series – Information

A new editor is appointed: Jani Ursin and the editorial board is expanded some. A new book is published in the series (Transdisciplinary Teaching in Inclusive Schools - Promoting Transdisciplinary Education for Learners with Special Needs) and council members are encouraged to think about possible projects for the series.

12.3 EERA Blog

We have published 100 blog posts so far, but got 100.000 clicks So far there are only 15 posts with relation to an EERA member association, so please consider publishing at the EERA blog if you have something to share.

13. External Relations

13.1 EEASH – Information

The EEASH had their general assembly in Brussels on Dec. 8. 2023. The minutes had not arrived yet – but will be shared with Council members when it arrives. EEASH seems to be in a good position as to propose more social science and humanities approaches into the EU framework program.

13.2 WERA – Information

The focal meeting was in Singapore in November. Former pres. Joe O'Hara attended it on behalf of EERA. An election for the next president has also happened. Exec. proposed Joe for this position. He was elected.

13.3 WERA/BERA Conference

The next WERA Focal Meeting will be part of the BERA conference, in September in Manchester, with a total of 2800 participants expected.

14. Upcoming Meetings

Nicosia: only Saturday, full day, 31 August 2024

Berlin: 14 – 15 March 2025
Dates for the online meeting? TBC later