

Minutes of the EERA Council Meeting

Berlin, 14 - 15 March 2025

Attendees:

| | Name | Association |
|----|----------------------------|---|
| 1 | Alexander Christ | Topic Modelling Workshop |
| 2 | Andreas Hadjar | EERA Treasurer |
| 3 | Angelika Wegscheider | EERA Office |
| 4 | Anna Aleksanyan | Educational Research Armenian Society (ERAS) |
| 5 | Carmen Carmona | Asociación Interuniversitaria de Investigación Pedagógica (AIDIPE) |
| 6 | Celine Healy | Educational Studies Association of Ireland (ESAI) |
| 7 | Christoph Schindler | Topic Modelling Workshop |
| 8 | Daniela Preis | EERA Office |
| 9 | Dita Nimante | Latvian Association for Research in Education (LARE) |
| 10 | Dragica Pavlović Babic | Educational Research Association of Serbia (DIOS) |
| 11 | Egle Pranckūnienė | Lithuanian Academic Educational Association (LERA) |
| 12 | Elly de Bruijn | Vereniging voor Onderwijs Research (VOR) |
| 13 | Eric Mangez | Association des Cherchers 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 | Gábor Erdei | Hungarian Educational Research Association (HERA) |
| 17 | Gonzalo Jover | Sociedad Española de Pedagogía (SEP) |
| 18 | Heli Ruokamo | Finnish Educational Research Association (FERA) |
| 19 | Huseyin Uzunboyulu | Cyprus Educational Sciences Association (KEB-DER) |
| 20 | Ineke M. Pit-ten Cate | Luxembourg Educational Research Association (LuxERA) |
| 21 | Jana Poláchová Vašátková | Česká asociace pedagogického výzkumu (ČAPV) |
| 22 | Joanna Madalińska-Michalak | Polskie Towarzystwo Pedagogiczne (PTP) |
| 23 | Kirsten Sivesind | European Education Research Journal (EERJ) |
| 24 | Lisa Bugno | Emerging Researchers' Group |
| 25 | Luca Agostinetto | Società Italiana di Pedagogia (SIPED) |
| 26 | Lucian Ion Ciolan | EERA Secretary General |
| 27 | Maarten Deleye | Topic Modelling Workshop |
| 28 | Marco Rieckmann | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Erziehungswissenschaft (DGfE) |
| 29 | Maria Pacheco Figueiredo | Sociedade Portuguesa de Ciências da Educação (SPCE) |
| 30 | Marit Honerød Hoveid | EERA President |
| 31 | Marta Licardo | The Slovenian Educational Research Association (SLODRE) |
| 32 | Mhairi Beaton | British Educational Research Association (BERA) |
| 33 | Michael Dal | Nordic Educational Research Association (NERA) |
| 34 | Nihat Gurel Kahveci | Turkish Educational Research Association (EAB) |
| 35 | Oksana Zabolotna | Ukrainian Educational Research Association (UERA) |
| 36 | Paulina Korsnakova | Slovak Educational Research Society (SERS) |
| 37 | Sébastien Akira Alix | Association des Enseignants et Chercheurs en Sciences de l'Education (AECSE) |
| 38 | Smiljana Jošić | Local Organising Committee (LOC) ECER 2025 |
| 39 | Stephen McKinney | Scottish Educational Research Association (SERA) |

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| 40 | Vafa Gasimova | Azerbaijani Educational Research Association - AzERA (Candidate Member) |
| 41 | Yasar Kondakci | Educational Administration Research and Development Association (EARDA) |
| 42 | Zoe Moody | Swiss Society for Research in Education (SSRE) |

1. Apologies and Welcome to New Members

Marit Honerod Hoveid welcomed the new council member Gábor Erdei, HERA and welcomed back Yasar Kondakci, EARDA, who already was a member some years back. She also announced the names of people who were unable to attend.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

Council confirmed the minutes of the last meeting.

3. Result and Budget

3.1 Expected Result 2024

Andreas Hadjar explained the expected results to Council: there will be a loss mostly caused by the lower number of ECER participants in Nicosia as well as higher expenditures for the anniversary and the topic modelling project.

3.2 Budget Update 2025

The current numbers for ECER 2025 look very promising. Thanks to this, and to the good reserve we have, all projects can be realised as planned, despite the loss in 2024.

Budget Checkers will be Stephen McKinney, Lisa Bugno and Maria Figueiredo.

4. Workshop – Mapping of European Educational Research

The work and the discussion were based on input from two projects, which both are using the abstracts from ECER's over a 30-year period. One is initiated by Council on using topic modelling for a mapping of educational research in Europe and the other initiated by colleagues at DIPF, Leibniz Institute for Research and Information in Education who have developed an App developed for researching the ECER database. To try it out, please see here: <https://dipf-lis.shinyapps.io/EduTopicsECER/>

The workshop first introduced the two projects and then the members were divided into groups who discussed the following questions:

1. To what extent can data driven, meta mapping/reviews help frame European Educational Research as a field?
 - What are possible gains and pitfalls? (see handout on table)
 - To what extent and in which ways are the trends we see in the research field the effect of (educational) policy and funding programs?
 - In what way can EERA members (national/regional associations) make use of and help develop this kind of mapping?
2. How can we understand and deal with the apparently ongoing diversification, specialization and fragmentation of European educational research? Is this to be applauded or problematized?

3. Open Data. What actions could/should EERA and national/regional associations take in promoting and providing Open Data repositories for this kind of mapping research/analysis?

The output of the workshop will be announced in the next council meeting, and a follow up suggested.

One of the aims of this workshop is to tease out what EERA could highlight as key topics in educational research. In the current development of the next framework program, FP10, this is called for in SSH research.

5. ECERS

5.1 Short Report ECER 2025

5.1.1 Submission Numbers and Best Poster Award Info

We received 3000 submissions, of which 300 were submitted to the Emerging Researchers' Conference. 115 submissions from Turkey, which is a good sign, as we had hardly any last year. We also have considerably more from Romania, Serbia and others from the region. There is a record number of 256 posters. This is a challenge, with regard to finding a suitable location for the exhibition, but also with regard to the Best Poster Award. The plan has been to go back to on-spot evaluation, this now has to be re-considered due to these numbers. The colleagues who were part of the jury emphasized that they really preferred the on-spot evaluation and especially the possibility to discuss the outcome in person. A suggestion was to ask if the networks could do the assessment online, and then the EERA jury can evaluate the shortlist in person.

The volunteers for this year's poster jury are: Jana Poláchová Vašátková, Stephen McKinney, Egle Pranckūnienė and Zoé Moody.

The number of submissions from Russia has increased considerably, and questions from reviewers have come up again on how to treat them. EERA's position has been that they should be evaluated on their scientific standard like any other submission and that no one (person) should be excluded because of the political situation in their country. EERA underscores the need to be inclusive and to offer space for deliberation and discussion. Colleagues from Russia/RERA who Exec meet last year in Nicosia also stressed the need for them to be able to attend international conferences and not to lose contact. For Russians living in Russia traveling abroad has become increasingly more difficult. At the same time EERA and the EERA member associations want to express their solidarity with Ukraine colleagues, and the understanding that this can cause a difficult situation for them.

It was discussed in Council: most understand EERA's position, but some also pointed out that the Ukrainian colleagues have objections being at a conference with Russians. Oksana Zabolotna confirmed that this year not many colleagues from Ukraine plan to attend due to this. It was decided that EERA would publish the statement again, pointing out that people attending ECERs are expected to agree with the statement. In addition, we should look into repeating the financial support for Ukrainian research and make this public.

5.1.2 Update on Working Group Childcare survey

Council was informed that a survey is currently evaluated in which participants from previous ECERs were asked to share their needs or expectations with regard to childcare at future ECERs. In addition, LOC has started working on childcare offers for ECER 2025.

5.2 Keynotes

5.2.1 Pending Keynote abstract (What to do?)

The abstract which was still pending at the time of the Council Meeting reached Office and was confirmed by Marit shortly after the Council Meeting. Problem is solved.

5.2.2 Looking for Chairpersons from Council:

Wednesday:

Karin Doolan (University of Zadar) => LOC

Ben Williamson (University of Edinburgh) => LOC

Pavel Zgaga (University of Ljubljana) => **Joanna Madalinska Michalak**

Thursday:

Aleksandar Baucal (University of Belgrade) => **Paula Korsnakova**

Tünde Kovács Cerović (University of Belgrade) => **Marta Licardo**

Gabi Lombardo (EASSH) => LOC

5.2.3 EERA Session Reviewing Group (president/sec gen / +X)

Volunteers: Maria Pacheco Figueiredo and Erich Svecnik

5.3 Update from LOC 2025

Dragica Pavlovic Babic reported on the progress of preparing ECER 2025, with the hotel website being finalised, conference tours bookable, social event venues fixed etc. She also informed Council on the ongoing Student Protests at her university. The buildings are still occupied, but apart from teaching everything takes place normally. And they hope to be back to teaching in the next weeks. The problem for LOC currently is to secure volunteers for ECER, as the contact with their students is limited.

5.4 Keynote Proposal ECER 2026

There was a long list of suggestions with 15 proposals, and the scientific working group had voted and suggested a list of six invitees. However, when LOC saw the list, they were a bit disappointed that none of the two Sami candidates were shortlisted. From their perspective, it would be very important for diversity reasons to also include one of them, in order to highlight the indigenous views. Council agreed that this should be taken into account, and instead of changing the existing list, add one of these two as a seventh keynote speaker. This will be discussed with LOC to find the best solution.

5.5 ECER 2027

SIPED had signalled they had been working on possibilities for hosting ECER 2027. Shortly before the Council meeting, they had a discussion with the university in question and decided it was not possible for them to organise ECER in 2027. They would need more time to prepare for such a large event and hoped to be able to come back with a proposal for 2029 or 2030. Therefore, Exec had asked the colleagues from HERA if they would be able to organise ECER in 2027 instead of 2029, their first intention. Erika Juhasz, who was already head of LOC in 2015, and other colleagues from the University of Debrecen agreed to this change of years and have handed in a formal application to host ECER 2027. This was accepted by Council.

5.6 ECER 2028 Salamanca

According to Gonzal Jover, the University of Salamanca has started working internally and now needs to decide at which campus within the university ECER will take place. Also, a budget is being developed.

5.7 ECERs Beyond 2028

The council members were invited to consider hosting an ECER in 2029 or later.

6. Open Science/Open Access/Open data

Council members were asked to report on their associations' approach to open access. NERA's journal Nordic Studies in Education is issued four times a year and changed to Open Access a few years ago, They receive support from the Nordic Board for Periodicals in the Humanities and Social Sciences (NOP-HS). In the process they also had to change published, and look for other benefits for their members. Before the change, having free access to the journals was one of the main benefits. Therefore, the whole structure had to change, this is now done and the outcome has been good.

EARDA also offers a free journal, the authors are also not charged. They now only publish online, as they did not find a publishing house that was willing to offer this. They did not want the authors to pay, as this would exclude researchers without funding from publishing. OeFEB is with Springer, the Austrian market has been seen as too small for Open Access. They are offering workshops for emerging researchers on open data. The infrastructure is there, but the PhD students are reluctant to publish their data.

AIDIPE has offered diamond access since 1994 for all their journals, they are funded via the member fees and are listed in Scopus.

SERA has a contract with BRILL, all is free, and even old issues can be accessed for free. This is excellent for their members and many others, they have readers and authors from all over the world.

EERJ found that the universities are reluctant, it depends on the licence levels, and they are afraid to give up control. Publishers can sell articles to third parties.

According to Marit, There are journals within the education research area in South America and South Africa that are fully open access, we can also learn from them. She suggested that the survey from last year will be repeated, to collect more data and to see developments. An EERA Session should also be organised, Klaus Rummler is planning to hand suggestions for a session. Carmen Carmona, Lisa Bugno, Erich Svecnik and Michael Dal would be interested in participating.

7. Networks

7.1 Honorary Members

Nominations in for:

- Fiona Chambers
- Ken Jones
- Monica Rosen (†)

Council approved of the Honorary Members suggested by the networks.

7.2 New Network Proposal “Education in the Anthropocene”

Council was informed that we received an application for a new network, Education in the Anthropocene. The Executive Board has, after a round of reworks by the submitters, determined that the document had not adequately addressed the previously identified areas of concern. (Potential overlap with Network 30, the explicit articulation of connections between the Anthropocene and educational sciences, and a clear delineation of the specific focus on educational research) Consequently, Exec has concluded that the proposal will not proceed to the subsequent phases of the approval process by the EERA Networks and Council.

7.3 ERG Update [Information/Confirmation]

7.3.1 New ERG Senior Mentor

Mhairi Beaton decided to step down as Senior Mentor for health reasons. In order to act quickly in this emergency situation, Ineke Pit-ten Cate was asked by the EERA president if she would be willing to step in immediately. Maria Figueiredo pointed Exec to the fact that this position requires a formal vote, according to the General Regulations. To follow these regulations, but still not leave the ERG without help, it was decided that Ineke would step in now, on an interim basis, and that the formal process would be set up for an election during the next Council Meeting in September.

7.3.2 ERG Report

Lisa Bugno acknowledged the great work that was done by her team of senior mentor, senior fellows and the co-convenors in the last year. She also welcomed the new co-convenors as well as the interim's senior mentor. ERC 2025 received a high number of submissions, 304 in total, with the record-breaking number of 40 posters. The best poster award 2024 as well as the bursary applications 2025 are also well underway. Lisa informed Council of the way she collaborates with LOC and on the new Walk and Talk project. Two projects that were piloted last year, Welcome Newcomers as well as the pronoun badges were confirmed to be repeated this year. She also had a proposal for collaboration with Council Members: **Introducing ERG**, online meetings organized in collaboration with national associations, specifically dedicated to Emerging Researchers, to present initiatives designed to support them. If you are interested, please contact Lisa or the EERA Office.

8. EERA Summer School

8.1 2025 and 2026 Chemnitz

The contract for Chemnitz will need to be redone, due to administrative issues at the Chemnitz University of Technology (TU Chemnitz). This is in the process. Otherwise, LOC is active and currently preparing hand-outs for tutors.

Reviewing and selection of candidates has been done, and participants registration is open.

8.2 2027 and 2028: updates from Lithuania

The university agreed to support the summer school, they have a committed team.

8.3 Future Years

If someone is interested in hosting/organising an EERA Summer School, please contact Marit or Angelika.

9. Academic Writing Workshops

Switzerland and Luxembourg are set, some other are in the pipeline for instance one in Kyrenia, March 2026. The associations were asked to keep in mind that this opportunity is offered and paid for by EERA (travel costs for workshop leaders will be covered as well as catering for that day). The question arose whether it would be possible to offer it online. Someone answered that this proved not as beneficial as in person, however it would be more beneficial than no workshop at all.

10. Member Relations and New Membership

10.1 Candidate Membership Kosovo

Over the last years extensive communication and meetings have happened. A lot of work has been done to try to merge the two groups from Kosovo (former two applications). KEAD has not responded conducive in any way to the suggestions we have made about collaboration, nor resubmitted a full application in line with EERA criteria. The submitted application lacks in scientific quality. EERA has received an application for candidate membership lead by a broad constituency of educational researchers in Kosovo, and the University of Prishtina. EERA have tried to be inclusive and to promote collaboration, but for this, all parties need to be willing to cooperate. Therefore, Exec suggests accepting the candidate membership lead by the University of Prishtina, and to decline KEAD's full membership application, as it is incomplete. EERA will continue trying to get KEAD on board the bigger group of researchers from Kosovo. After a short discussion on pros and cons, Council accepted this suggestion with one objection.

10.2 Sleeping Membership – Revival?

The candidate member from Bulgaria will be contacted. Full members who have not been active for a long time will also be contacted, i.e. HES, VFO and Cidine.

10.3 Report from Member Associations

AIDIPE and SEP (both from Spain) reported on the status and ongoing projects within educational research in Spain as well as on the historical reason for two associations in their country and the way they cooperate nowadays. A new association, Retinde – has been established. This association will encompass and represent all current research associations in Spain.

11. Publications, Blog and Social Media

11.1 EERJ Report

Kirsten Sivesind reported on the work of the current editorial board: managing submissions in ScholarOne, encouraging new submissions, collaborating with ERG and ECER, eg with reviewing best papers and organising the EERJ Moot. She also showed a publishing record for 2024 and 2025 as well as an overview of planned special issues for 2025/26.

Marit thanked her and the other editors for their valuable work.

11.2 Springer Series

A new book was published in December 2024: Physical Activity and Sport as Social Inclusion Tool for Refugees - A Pedagogical Approach. Currently the models are re-evaluated with Springer, with regard to open access, Open access would theoretically be possible, and

Springer's experience shows that this doubles views and citations, the question remaining in relation to OA has to do with financing.

11.3 EERA has developed an AI Guidance for the EERA Blog

See here for details: <https://blog.eera-ecer.de/ai-guidance-eera/>

In addition, several networks are working on the topic – either with special sessions at ECER/ERC or within seasonal schools.

11.4 Update on Social Media

EERA is on Bluesky, as many leave twitter/X. Council was asked to report whether their associations are also considering leaving X, or if they have already done so. Some associations already left X, eg. OeFEB. BERA has 17.000 followers with X, they will in future use both, one issue being that Hoodsuite does not offer a connection with Bluesky.

Council endorses leaving X, and it was even suggested to consider leaving Facebook as well. It was also mentioned that LinkedIn seem to have grown considerably after many academics have left X.

Council is asked to let Doretta know if their association is on **Bluesky**, via dow@eera.eu.

12. External Relations

12.1 EASSH

We congratulate Joe O'Hara for his election as EASSH president. Being active in this organisation helps increasing the influence on governments and showing that educational research is important. They often send out emails with lots of input, and Council would appreciate if these were forwarded to them. This way the information about what is happening will basically be received through these e-mails.

12.2 WERA

WERA is also working on Open Access, and it is good that the discussion is also happening there.

12.3 WERA/ANPed (Brazil) Conference

Next Focal Meeting, someone from Exec is going there.

12.4 EARLI Conference Symposium 2025

EERA was invited to the EARLI Conference, looking at the Topic Modelling project together. It is good to go deeper and to see how they can be included.

12.5 ISE

Humanities are a small group within ISE, which makes it essential to be active there and bring social sciences more into it. They are currently looking into academic freedom. Andreas Hadjar will be at their next meeting in Brussels. Work within Brussels system can be overwhelming; therefore it is good to have someone working for us.

13. Upcoming Meetings

- Belgrade, 13 September 2025, 9:00 – 17:00
- Online Meeting January 2026, date TBC
- Berlin, 20 -21 March 2026, TBC