

Minutes of the EERA Council Meeting 16 January 2026

Attendees

	Name	Association
1	Andreas Hadjar	EERA Treasurer
2	Angelika Wegscheider	EERA Office
3	Anna Aleksanyan	Educational Research Armenian Society (ERAS)
4	Blerim Saqipi	Prishtina University
5	Branislava Baranovic	Croatian Educational Research Association (CERA)
6	Carmen Carmona	Asociación Interuniversitaria de Investigación Pedagógica (AIDIPE)
7	Celine Healy	Educational Studies Association of Ireland (ESAI)
8	Christian Ydesen	European Educational Research Journal (EERJ)
9	Daniela Preis	EERA Office
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	Erich Svecnik	Österreichische Gesellschaft für Forschung und Entwicklung im Bildungswesen (OEFEB)
14	Erika Juhasz	ECER 2027
15	Fabio Dovigo	EERA Networks' Representative on Council
16	Gábor Erdei	Hungarian Educational Research Association (HERA)
17	Heli Ruokamo	Finnish Educational Research Association (FERA)
18	Huseyin Uzunboylu	Cyprus Educational Sciences Association (KEB-DER)
19	Iida Kiesi (TAU)	ECER 2026
20	Ineke M. Pit-ten Cate	Luxembourg Educational Research Association (LuxERA)
21	Jana Poláčková Vašátková	Česká asociace pedagogického výzkumu (ČAPV)
22	Javid Jafarov	Azerbaijan (Candidate Member)
23	Joanna Madalińska-Michalak	Polskie Towarzystwo Pedagogiczne (PTP)
24	Kairat Kurakbayev	Kazakhstan Educational Research Association (KERA)
25	Karmen Trasberg	Estonian Academic Research Association (EAPS)
26	Lisa Bugno	Emerging Researchers' Group
27	Luca Agostinetto	Società Italiana di Pedagogia (SIPED)
28	Lucian Ion Ciolan	EERA Secretary General
29	Marco Rieckmann	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Erziehungswissenschaft (DGfE)
30	Maria Pacheco Figueiredo	Sociedade Portuguesa de Ciências da Educação (SPCE)
31	Marit Honerød Hoveid	EERA President
32	Marta Licardo	The Slovenian Educational Research Association (SLODRE)
33	Melissa Tuytens	Vlaams Forum Onderwijsonderzoek (VFO)
34	Michael Dal	Nordic Educational Research Association (NERA)
35	Nelli Piattoeva	LOC 2026
36	Oksana Zabolotna	Ukrainian Educational Research Association (UERA)
37	Paulina Korsnakova	Slovak Educational Research Society (SERS)
38	Pierre Tulowitzky	Swiss Society for Research in Education (SSRE)
39	Revaz Tabatadze	The University of Georgia
40	Ros McLellan	British Educational Research Association (BERA)

41	Sandrita Škėrienė	Lithuanian Academic Educational Association (LERA)
42	Sébastien Akira Alix	Association des Enseignants et Chercheurs en Sciences de l'Education (AECSE)
43	Stephen McKinney	Scottish Educational Research Association (SERA)
44	Tinatin Gudushauri	The University of Georgia
45	Yasar Kondakci	Educational Administration Research and Development Association (EARDA)

1. Welcome

After a round of introductions, Marit Honerød Hoveid informed Council of apologies and welcomed new Council members.

2. Confirmation of Minutes Council Meeting September 2025

Ineke M. Pit-ten Cate asked for correction of her name in 4.2. Rest was confirmed.

3. ECER 2026 [Information]

3.1 Russian/Belarusian Participation

Marit Honerød Hoveid explained that this year, other than in previous years, participants representing Russian and Belarusian institutions are not welcome to participate at ECER. Tampere University, the host of ECER 2026, strictly follows the recommendation of the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture to not engage in any collaboration with **Russian** and **Belarusian** institutions. This means ECER 2026 will not accept submissions by authors/co-authors who list an affiliation with a Russian or Belarusian university/institution or are based in Russia or Belarus. Submissions not adhering to this will be rejected for formal reasons. Most council members welcomed this decision, as it is important to follow the rules of the host university, while others were surprised and disappointed. Oksana Zabolotna thanked Council and expressed hope that this would mean that Ukrainian researchers would come back to ECER.

3.2 Update from LOC 2026

Nelli Piattoeva and Iida Kiesi reported on the current plannings: they already have 100 volunteers, the Welcome Reception is well under way, for the Thursday, activities will be recommended instead of offering a self-paid social event. In Spring 2026, a Citizens' Conference referring to the ECER theme is organised, granting the people of Tampere an insight into educational research as discussed at ECER.

Council Members really like this idea. In answer to a question the local organisers say that it does not really make sense to stay in Helsinki and commute every day. The train takes at least 1h40, and to reach the first session, you would have to get up very early. In addition, there are many hotels in walking distance of the venue, so staying in Tampere directly should be no problem.

3.3 Report Office and Exec Visit

Angelika Wegscheider informed Council of the changes to the standard schedule. Due to the seven keynotes this year, it was decided to start earlier on Tuesday and have one keynote directly after the opening ceremony. The other six keynotes will take place on Wednesday and Thursday in the first session, a suggestion made by the network link convenors. Ineke Pit-ten Cate was concerned about the new schedule for Tuesday, as there is more in parallel with the ERC programme now, and especially because keynotes draw lots of attention. There is only an overlap of 15 minutes and unfortunately this year there is no alternative to this new schedule. In answer to the question of why there are so many keynotes in general, it was explained that

ECER wants to cover a variety of areas. On a practical level, there are too many participants and the even the biggest rooms are too small to accommodate just one keynote speaker at a time. Another necessary change will be that presenters bring their own devices to do their presentations. It is easy to connect them with the projectors, and there will be many technical volunteers who will be able to help, if need be. Presenters will be informed accordingly in advance. The question whether this would take much longer than with a fixed device and USB sticks was answered in the negative.

4. Upcoming ECERs

4.1 Theme of ECER 2027 [Discussion/Decision]

4.1.1 Confirmation of the Theme:

The theme with the shortened title was welcomed and approved by Council, as it is very relevant and will inspire fruitful discussions. At the March meeting, the working group will come up with the keynote proposals, two suggestions will come from LOC and four from the scientific committee.

4.2 ECER 2028 and onwards

4.2.1 ECER 2028:

waiting for Budget Proposal.

4.2.2 ECER 2029 and Onwards: We have signs of interests from Ireland, Czechia and France.

The Université Paris Est-Créteil, in eastern Paris, has sent a letter of intent to host ECER 2029. Currently some last open organisational questions are discussed before the official proposal is handed in.

Jana Poláčková Vašátková explained that her association would really be interested in hosting an ECER. However, for them the long time between first plannings and actual conference is a bit difficult, as at the time of the conference, a new government will be in place, which makes it hard to plan now.

Maynooth University, Ireland would also be interested,

Egle Pranckūnienė also expressed interest in her association's name, but in order to have enough rooms for all parallel sessions, a consortium of universities in one city would have to host ECER. Angelika replied that we are quite flexible with accommodating different structures.

5. Term of Office of ERG Link Convenor

Marit reminded council that Lisa Bugno was appointed as incoming ERG Link Convenor after the selection process in spring 2023 for the following period:

- a year of shadowing from ECER 2023 onwards until ECER 2024,
- plus 4 years of mandate, ending at ECER 2028.

When the previous Link convenor needed to step down a year earlier and left before ECER 2023 instead of only at ECER 2024, Lisa Bugno did take on more responsibilities in what was meant to be an induction period, which was highly appreciated. The induction she got was mediated via the Secretary General and/or Office.

Exec suggests, even though Lisa started taking on full responsibility earlier than anticipated, her term as ERG link convenor should end as planned, by ECER 2028. This is not an extension of her term, but a confirmation of the mandate that Lisa was given.

Council approved of the suggestion and Lisa Bugno thanked them for it. She is pleased with the decision, as it brings continuity for the Emerging Researchers' Group.

6. Update on Nomination Process President

In March, the new president will be elected; on 1 February the nomination phase ends. Two Council Members nominate a person who needs to be full member of one of our member associations. The new president will then start shadowing at the Council Meeting in August.

7. Application of Georgia

Tinatin Gudushauri and Revaz Tabatadze introduced their association, the Georgian Association for Interdisciplinary Research in Education (GAIRE), founded last year, with which they would like to become candidate members of EERA. Council wanted to obtain additional information, such as how the association plans to increase its membership and what the membership requirements are.

Their application for candidate membership was accepted by Council unanimously, and Marit encouraged them to also apply for full membership when ready and informed the EERA is happy to help in the process of establishing the association

8. Publications and Open Access

8.1 Springer – Series

Exec was in discussion with SAGE about offering Open Access for the EERA Book Series. Unfortunately, their prices are too high for EERA, 14,000 € per volume. It would have been desirable to offer open access to Anna Aleksyan's book in progress, but the cost makes this impossible. Exec is actively looking for alternatives and will explore other publishing venues. Anna Aleksyan thanked Exec for their efforts. She stressed that open access to her book would especially be welcomed as most of the authors are from low or very low GDP countries. The book offers sensitive and important content from crisis regions, and it would be important to make it accessible to people from the same regions. She will look into funding and has not yet given up hope.

9. EERJ

9.1.1 Renewed agreement with Sage – EERJ

The agreement with SAGE was up for renewal, so this was taken as opportunity to discuss open access options with them. Again, full open access is too expensive for EERA and even offering 50 % as open access would be too costly. This is why it was decided to stick to the existing model for the next three years. This means that some of the EERJ articles are open access, if the universities of the authors have a publishing agreement with SAGE, paying for OA. All other articles are behind a paywall which makes it difficult for readers from low and very low GDP countries. To access them. The situation is complicated, on the one hand researchers are obliged to produce research and publish articles, on the other hand they need to pay to make it visible. Turkey has a national agreement, and pays reduced fees. EERA should make EERJ open access if the financial resources are there. The general question is if EERA wants to continue support a business model for publishing. Currently with EERJ, one option could be to offer ten open access articles per year for authors from low GDP countries, at a cost of 5,000 €. A comment to that was that even high GDP countries are having budget restrictions now, and all need to look into not so costly publishing venues. Extended EERJ Board Seminar EERJ – Zürich

9.1.2 EERA Membership access to EERJ

The members of EERA member associations are granted free access to EERJ. This needs to be organised by the associations either via a login area on their websites or by sending member lists (templates from SAGE need to be used for that). Please contact Angelika Wegscheider for further information.

10. ERG –Setting up an Online Journal

The plan is to have an Open Access Diamond journal operative from ECER 2026. Council was informed that this is not planned as an alternative to existing collaborations, for example with Studia Paedagogica and EERJ, but as an additional offer for good papers. Dragana Radanovic, a former ERG co-convenor will act as lead editor and will ensure a rigorous process of reviewing. Marit Hoveid will assist in the set-up, of the journal

Council discussed the name suggestions and came up with slightly changed new options, e.g. Journal of Emerging Researchers in Education, which was well received, given that it takes up parts of the ERG name. The decision will be taken by the editors according to these suggestions.

11. External Relations [Information]

11.1 EASSH – GA and the Current Status on FP 10

EASSH is becoming a large lobbying consortia for SSH research, now also attracting a lot of universities. The GA included a workshop on ways in which the work on the next FP10 happens. While the funding opportunities for social sciences first seemed quite promising in the next FP10, it now looks less promising, but this is very unpredictable. The ministries of EU countries are instrumental to what kind of funds will be available for SSH. . So, if Council members/ associations have access to their ministries, they should try to argue and push for investment in SSH research. EASSH put out information regularly on the work they do.

11.2 ISE

ISE works in principle like EASSH and tries to raise awareness for the new funding period being decided upon now. There is a statement that can be signed and/or used to address national ministries with it. Their activities are somehow reduced, at the moment, due to a change in office; those who want to be active can contact Andreas Hadjar.

12. Finances

12.1 Exculpation and Audited Figures 2024

Needs to be postponed (again) to March 2026, although audited figure would usually presented in September at the ECER council meeting or at least at the January online council meeting. Background: handover problems between the tax consultant and the auditor linked to a newly introduced working process where additional docs need to be uploaded to an electronic system as opposed to a joint working day where documents could be exchanged on the spot. This linked to a postponed start of the full process, illnesses and holidays delayed the auditing immensely.

It was suggested to plan the exculpation for 2025 and onwards for the January Council Meeting, as Tampere will take place early in the year and the audit would not be possible by August.

13. AOB

Huseyin Uzunboylu invited Council to the upcoming international conference taking place in March, in Kyrenia. <https://eera-ecer.de/other-organisations-events/11th-cyprus-international-conference-on-educational-research-cyicer-2026>

14. Upcoming Meetings

2026

20 - 21 March, Friday 9:00 – 17:00, Saturday 9:00 – 13:00: Council Meeting in Berlin, Hotel Rossi

22 August, 9:00 – 17:00: Council in Tampere