

Minutes of the EERA Council Meeting 13 September 2025, Belgrade, Serbia

	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	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	Erich Svecnik	Österreichische Gesellschaft für Forschung und Entwicklung im Bildungswesen (OEFEB)
13	Erika Juhasz	ECER 2027
14	Fabio Dovigo	EERA Networks' Representative on Council
15	Gonzalo Jover	Sociedad Española de Pedagogía (SEP)
16	Huseyin Uzunboylu	Cyprus Educational Sciences Association (KEB-DER)
17	Ineke M. Pit-ten Cate	Luxembourg Educational Research Association (LuxERA)
18	Jana Poláková Vašátková	Česká asociace pedagogického výzkumu (ČAPV)
19	Joanna Madalińska-Michalak	Polskie Towarzystwo Pedagogiczne (PTP)
20	Karmen Trasberg	Estonian Academic Research Association (EAPS)
21	Kirsten Sivesind	European Educational Research Journal (EERJ)
22	Lisa Bugno	Emerging Researchers' Group
23	Luca Agostinetti	Società Italiana di Pedagogia (SIPED)
24	Lucian Ion Ciolan	EERA Secretary General
25	Maiju Paananen	ECER 2026
26	Marco Rieckmann	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Erziehungswissenschaft (DGfE)
27	Maria Pacheco Figueiredo	Sociedade Portuguesa de Ciências da Educação (SPCE)
28	Marit Hoveid	EERA President
29	Marta Licardo	The Slovenian Educational Research Association (SLODRE)
30	Márta Takács-Miklósi	ECER 2027
31	Michael Dal	Nordic Educational Research Association (NERA)
32	Milosh M. Raykov	Malta Educational Research Association (MERA)
33	Nienke Nieveen	Vereniging voor Onderwijs Research (VOR)
34	Paulina Korsnakova	Slovak Educational Research Society (SERS)
35	Ruth Wouter	Vlaams Forum Onderwijsonderzoek (VFO)
36	Sébastien Akira Alix	Association des Enseignants et Chercheurs en Sciences de l'Education (AECSE)
37	Stavroula Philippou	Cyprus Pedagogical Association (CPA)
38	Vafa Gasimova	Azerbaijani Educational Research Association - AzERA (Candidate Member)
39	Yasar Kondakci	Educational Administration Research and Development Association (EARDA)
40	Zhanna Jumabayeva	Kazakhstan Educational Research Association (KERA)

Apologies and Welcome to New Members

Marit Hoveid welcomed all Council members, informed Council about apologies and initiated a round of presentation.

She especially welcomed a new candidate member from Kosovo: Prof. Blerim Saqipi, Prishtina University as well as new Council representatives for ECER LOCs Erika Juhasz (ECER 2027), Maiju Paananen (ECER 2026) and national associations Ruth Wouter (Vlaams Forum

1. Onderwijsonderzoek, VFO).

Confirmation of Minutes

Unanimously confirmed.

2. Reports and Exculpations

3.1 President

3. 3.1.1 Report 2024 – 2025

One of the goals for the last year was to strengthen Council by contacting associations that are not so active. This worked for some, as a few associations have started attending meetings again. Marit Hoveid also wanted to look into how to support each other, especially new members and to strengthen options to learn from each other. This is why reports from member associations are back on the council agendas. She is glad of the strong relationship with WERA, and the strong bond with EASSH is also very positive. As a result of this, Gabi Lombardo was invited as a keynote speaker to ECER 2025. They work hard to strengthen educational research in the next EU framework programme. This is currently being developed, so now is the time to act. Marit further pointed to the work EERA for a developing a policy on Open Access Research and the topic modelling project, to whose database now also EARLI will contribute to.

3.1.2 Exculpation

Council exculpated Marit Honerød Hoveid unanimously.

3.2 Secretary General

3.2.1 Report 2024 – 2025

Lucian Ciolan reported on his work as secretary general, which includes developing and monitoring the EERA regulations and work with the EERA office. In the annual review with staff new ways to introduce AI were discussed this year. He represented EERA in various national conferences and was also linked to the Academic Writing Workshops - some of which needed to be rescheduled. Nevertheless, there are still requests and the offer seems still to be an important one. Lucian just like Marit emphasised the importance of building stronger connections and encouraged the national associations to think about inviting someone from Council to their national conferences, as keynote speakers, for example.

3.2.2 Exculpation

Council exculpated Lucian Ciolan unanimously.

3.3 Treasurer

Exculpation

Postponed to January meeting as the figures of 2024 had not yet been audited.

3.3.1 Confirmation of Auditor for 2025

The Auditor needs to be approved/confirmed by Council. It is suggested to again appoint Wirtschaftsprüfer Ebner Stolz as auditor for EERA.
This was approved.

3.3.2 Budget report 2025 outlook 2025, and budget 2026

Due to the, in comparison to the previous year, lower participant numbers in Nicosia 2024 and higher expenses, the result for the year 2024 is negative. Special conditions in 2024, like the EERA anniversary plus the topic modelling project added to costs of 2024. While all projects envisioned for 2025 can be realised, also 2025 will probably show a minus. The numbers of 2024 have been discussed with the council appointed group of budget checkers during ECER 2025 and have been found consistent.

Budget 2026

Andreas Hadjar suggested a budget for 2026 taking into account the loss for 2024 and the assumed outcome for 2025. He also indicated that if EERA carries on producing losses the budgeting would need to be more conservative again and steps to either raise income (ie fees) or to lower costs would then need to be taken for budget for 2027 and onwards. He will bring this up in 2026, when the budget for 2027 needs to be decided.

Council approved of the budget suggestion.

ECER 2025

4.

4.1 Review of ECER 2025

In her introduction Marit Hoveid apologised to BERA because ECER was planned at the same time as the BERA conference.

Feedback was then given by Angelika Wegscheider, Daniela Preis and Fabio Dovigo. All in all, ECER went very well, some negative comments came regarding the distances between conference buildings and the usability of the app. Many people reported that the volunteers were very friendly and helpful. The sessions with the student protesters were very well received. It was positive that people from countries that are usually under-represented could attend this year. Dragica Pavlovic Babic thanked Council for their patience and help. She mentioned that the 'speech to text' offered in most rooms was a good thing and that all staff and volunteers enjoyed having the ECER participants there.

4.2 Emerging Researchers' Group/ERC 2025 - Report from ERG Link Convenor

457 participants from 60 countries enjoyed 230 ERC presentations. The Walking Tour on Sunday was a great success, as were the Welcome New Participants and other sessions for which pre-registration was required. The social and the workshops were also very well received. Interviews with participants were done for a new video for the website. The feedback in general was very positive, good organisation, diverse session formats and networking options were mentioned. Areas of improvement: more networking and mobility needs. Wishes from survey: how to stay in touch and how to publish, diamond open access. Lisa Bugno thanked the co-convenors as well as the senior mentor for their contributions.

Maria Pacheco Figueiredo asked if their national associations could be informed about bursary winners from Portugal.

Following up an idea born at the summer school, ERG and Exec started to develop the possibility of creating a journal for Emerging Researchers, to support the large cohort of ERG researchers. Council members did like the idea, but some were concerned if that could lead to

a segregation if they are separated from EERJ. The answer was it is very difficult to publish with EERJ for many ERG researchers. Studia Paedagogica already have an emerging researchers' section that has been used for papers in the best paper competition. As these discussions are on a very early-stage, various aspects of setting up an EERA-ERG journal will be explored and brought back to council for a decision. Ineke Pit ten-Cate praised Lisa and the co-convenors for the great job they have done with preparing and conducting ERC 2025.

Upcoming ECERs

5.1 ECER 2026: Tampere

5. The city can easily be reached from Helsinki Airport, 1,5 h by train, and there are boats from Stockholm and Estonia to Helsinki too. Hotels have been booked. Exec and Office will visit Tampere in November for the next steps in the conference preparations.

5.2 ECER 2027: Debrecen, Hungary

Erika Juhasz presented the venue of 2027. Debrecen is Hungary's second largest city and has the country's largest university with 32.000 students. The campus has four buildings around University Square that would be used for ECER. Debrecen has an airport, but Budapest is also a good alternative. Currently the budget and the contract are being worked on.

5.2.1 Electing scientific committee – (President, SG, NW link convenor, ERG link convenor, EERJ, LOC and two reps from Council)

In addition to the above-mentioned ex officio members of the committee, Yasar Kondakci, Carmen Carmona, Sebastien Akira Alix and Joana Madalinska Michalak volunteered to join.

5.2.2 Changes to General Regulations: Finding Theme and selection of keynotes.

Marit presented changes to the current Regulation for selecting keynotes. These changes aim at giving LOC some more strength in the decision process by letting them decide on two speakers. The rest of the 6 +1 speakers will be worked on in the way which was applied up until now by the Scientific Committee.

Between Aug/Sept meeting two years prior to ECER and January meeting, the theme should be prepared. It is then discussed in Council and finalised by March. Between January and March, the keynote speaker suggestions are put together in a ranked list and decided at March Council meeting. LOC should get the right to decide on two keynote speakers, the four others and ERC keynote speaker are suggested by Scientific Committee and decided by Council. LOC should offer three suggestions, so that there is one back up. After confirmation in Council in the March council meeting, the four suggestions from the Scientific Committee list and the two from LOC are invited by EERA office.

Council welcomed these changes.

6. This should be fixed in the General Regulations/Standard Operational Procedures.

5.3 ECER 2028: Salamanca

Salamanca will be worked on after ECER 2025. Currently rooms are selected.

Elections and Rotation Plans for EERA Officers

6.1 Rotation plan for EERA executives, NW representative on Council, ERG link convenor and Senior Mentor

EERA Executives (President, Secretary General, Treasurer and the Network Representative on Council) used to be elected in a rolling model, one each year. During Covid, the term of the

president has been extended per one year. This now leads to the fact that 2 exec members are currently elected and/or introduced into their roles in the same year. In order to go back to the original model, Exec suggested to also extend the terms of the other exec members. This raised some discussions in council. Concerns were expressed about not following principles stated in the regulations. Exec argued that the rotation principle is actually stated in the EERA Constitution and that alternatives like asking current members to step down earlier or cutting the terms of coming members were extensively discussed by Exec but seen as less functional options. Some members asked for more time and more details before making a decision. Others said that the term extension was a practical way of “repairing” the problematic current situation and to go back to the original standards and rules in the constitution. It was then suggested that a vote should be made: postpone and rediscuss the matter, or agree to the suggestion now. The Result: 16 pro extension of officers’ terms (Exec proposal), 3 against, 4 abstentions.

So, the terms of the current treasurer, secretary general and network representative will each be extended a year. After that the normal rotation plan should be in place, one officer of Exec leaving each year.

6.2 Electing the Emerging Researchers’ Senior Mentor

In the March 2025 Council Meeting EERA council appointed Ineke Pit-Ten Cate as an interim Senior Mentor for the Emerging Researchers’ Group as the elected Senior Mentor had had to step back for personal reasons. In order to follow EERA procedures, a formal nomination process and election was started after the said meeting.

During the nomination process, Ineke Pit-ten Cate was formally nominated.

The term will officially start with the election in the Council Meeting in September (in the absence of an experienced role model) without the usual shadowing year) and will end after a four-year mandate in August/September 2029. A new Senior Mentor will then be elected in the spring Council meeting 2028 for starting shadow period from September 2028 to September 2029.

Formal vote: unanimous vote for Ineke Pit-ten Cate.

7.

EERA Activities [information]

7.1 Summer School

7.1.1 Report Chemnitz 2025

There were 56 students, which is less than usual, due to the timing in June. The feedback was very positive.

7.1.2 Chemnitz as Venue for 2026

The new theme will be on comparative education, and the date is 15 to 19 June. Council was asked to spread the invitation once they receive it from us.

7.2 Summer School 2027 – 2028

The venue for 2027/28 will be Vilnius, Lithuania, with a good mixture of local and international tutors. Budget is agreed and the contract ready for signatures.

7.3 Academic Writing Workshops

This is an offer for the national associations, the workshops are often combined with the national conference, and all costs (travel of tutors and coffee breaks for all participants) are covered by EERA. This year there were workshops in Luxemburg and Kosovo. In Luxemburg it was offered in combination with another workshop, so that ETC could be gained. It was a great

success. In Kosovo it was also well received, and was seen as a good opportunity to increase the connection with EERA.

Communication and Social Media

8.1 Blog – Report

8. Before ECER an invitation was sent to participants inviting them to send in blog posts. This was a good idea, but the plan is to do it earlier next year. Council is asked to advertise the blog in their own associations. The invitation to contribute to the blog was also made during the Network's opening meeting at the conference.

Publications

9.1 OA Access in our Publications – how do we pursue it?

9. 9.1.1 EERJ article in EERJ – OA? Need to pay APC

The president and SG held a meeting with Sage during ECER, which was reported from. Sage has a large number of universities and associations it collaborates with, and though their agreement many researchers will have the opportunity to publish OA. This means EERJ operates with both OA and articles readers need to pay for – if they do not have institutional access. All EERA members should have access to EERJ – but member lists need to be communicated to SAGE. Exec will look into ways this can be enhanced. EERA will further pursue the possibilities of making EERJ a diamond OA journal, but for the time being we might have to settle with some intermediary solution.

9.2 EERJ – Report

Kirsten Sivesind reported on the last EERJ editions as well as planned special editions etc. A new led editorial has been published and there will a new format of publication called “Collection of articles”.

One Council member remarked that there was a discrepancy in accepted articles depending on the national background of the author. From 27 articles from the UK 10 were accepted, whereas none of the 48 articles from Turkey made it in the journal. Would it be possible to check processes for biases and so on? Kisten agreed that it would be good to look into reasons for rejection and into processes. She also pointed out that often articles which are rejected are not within the scope of the journal, do not have a European dimension. She also pointed out that one should position oneself within discussions of the journal when submitting to the journal.

9.3 Book Series

Marit Hoveid reported that there are also ideas to make the EERA books open access, Springer is checking opportunities. A book edited by Anna Aleksanyan is planned to be published open access (based on third party funding), covering perspectives from nine countries. Council will receive more information and is asked to spread this widely then. An invitation to the Link Convenors to contribute to the book series was made during the Network's second meeting at the conference

9.4 Frontier Journals

During ECER Marit met the editor of Frontiers in Education, discussing EERA's decision not to invite them to the ECER Publishers' Exhibition. They disagreed with EERA seeing them as a predatory journal and therefore objecting them presenting at ECER. They argued that they

would work differently from other Frontiers Journals. Several council members could also report on having been approached by Frontiers in pushy way. The topic will be brought up for decision in January again.

Report and Outlook Networks

10.1 Network Seminar

10. Fabio Dovigo reported on the network seminar in May as well as the link convenor meetings that took place during ECER. He spoke about network activities and network funding. We currently have 34 networks, and although we receive requests for new networks regularly, it is getting more and more difficult to accept new ones, as they need to be clearly different from existing ones. Networks also regularly submit proposals for Network Projects, which are usually approved following an assessment. This is a good indicator of the vitality and level of activity within EERA networks.

Membership Reports

11. 11.1 Report from ARCE, Romania

Lucian Ciolan gave an overview of the development of his association, formally founded in 2017 and full member of EERA since 2018. They have about 200 members, which is good as probably there are not more than 400 educational researchers in Romania, colleagues from Moldavia can be associate members without voting rights in ARCE. Lucian stressed that more and more Early Career Researchers from Romania start coming to ECER, which is seen as a good sign. The association co-funds 2 persons to go to ECER each year. The two major gains of the process of setting up the association and making it work is a stronger connection to the international community of research and the raise in quality of papers or ECRs. The field of education research will probably look very different in 10 years from now in Romania, says Lucian. The association does not yet have a permanent office but considers hiring some junior staff member. Instead of an own journal, they publish in special issues in cooperation with other associations.

Marit thanked Lucian and asked for volunteers to present in the next council meeting in January. Yasser Kondakci, (EARDA) opted for this.

11.2 Mentor Associations

11.2.1 Find/elect mentors for candidate members: ASERA (Azerbaijan), Kosovo and Bulgaria?

Bulgaria will be mentored by Lucian Ciolan, ARCE, the Romanian association. AzERA will be mentored by Erich Svechnik, OeFEB, Austria and Kosovo by Mhairi Beaton, BERA, UK:

11.3 Prospective New Members

11.3.1 Georgia

We expect an application from Gorgia to become member of EERA. Exec has proposed they start as candidate member – give their current status. A possible approval can then be made in the January meeting,

Open Access/Open Science – report from EERA workshops

12.1 Ongoing Work

The council meeting was used to further discuss Open Access / Open Research. Therefore, selected colleagues presented their activities.

12. Carmen Carmona gave a short overview of AIDIPE's Open Access journals. NERA's journal also now is fully open access. They had to change publisher and their membership model (beforehand, members were granted access to their journals, new benefits had to be established). Nowadays the members are happy with the new model, and the journals also profited from the change. Commercial publishers warn that small publishers or self publishing lead to less acceptance by authors or tutors and poor quality, but this was not the case for them.

Council brainstormed in groups how EERA could help with developing open access in their associations. Suggestions:

- Develop list of good/relevant practice and of models to get inspired.
- List of existing resources or support opportunities.
- EERA Index of educational research journals
- Offer workshops similar to Academic Writing Workshops.

Exec will provide a report either for the January or March meeting.

EERA External Partnerships

13.

13.1 ISE

See report from president and treasurer on activities

13.2 WERA

WERA holds their focal meetings in combination with a conference organised by one of their members. This year the focal meeting took place with the BERA conference, increasing participant numbers from the normal 1000 – 1200 to 2000 and offering an international addition to the British conference. EERA decided against hosting a focal meeting during another ECER conference, as this would make logistics extremely difficult. However, all EERA members are invited to consider doing this in EERA's stead.

14. 13.3 EASSH

Joe O'Hara has been elected as EASSH president lately. See also presidents report.

15.

Election Committee – president election March 2026.

Lucian Ciolan, Maria Figueiredo and Anna Aleksanyan will serve on the committee.

16.

AOB

KEB-DER's national conference with EERA Council participation will take place 23 – 28 March in Kyrenia. Council is asked to distribute the Call for Papers.

Upcoming Meetings

16 January 2026: 12:00 - 15:00 Online Council Meeting

20 - 21 March 2026: Council Meeting in Berlin, Hotel Rossi, Fr 9:00 – 17:00, Sa 9:00 – 13:00

22 August 2026: Council in Tampere, Finland, 9:00 – 17:00