

Minutes of the EERA Council Meeting

26 – 27 August 2023, Glasgow

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	Celine Healy	Educational Studies Association of Ireland (ESAI)
6	Daniela Preis	EERA Office
7	Dita Nimante	University of Latvia (Candidate Member)
8	Dragica Pavlović Babić	Educational Research Association of Serbia (DIOS)
9	Luca Agostinetti	Società Italiana di Pedagogia (SIPED)
10	Hanno van Keulen	Vereniging voor Onderwijs Research (VOR)
11	Erich Svecnik	Österreichische Gesellschaft für Forschung und Entwicklung im Bildungswesen (OEFEb)
12	Fabio Dovigo	EERA Networks' Representative on Council Elect
13	Helen Phtiaka	Cyprus Pedagogical Association (CPA)
14	Ineke M. Pit-ten Cate	Luxembourg Educational Research Association (LuxERA)
15	Joanna Madalińska-Michalak	Polskie Towarzystwo Pedagogiczne (PTP)
16	Joe O'Hara	EERA President
17	John Benedicto Krejsler	Nordic Educational Research Association (NERA)
18	Nazipa Ayubayeva	Kazakhstan Educational Research Association (KERA)
19	Karmen Trasberg	Estonian Academic Research Association (EAPS)
20	Liudmila Rupšienė	Lithuanian Academic Educational Association (LERA)
21	Oksana Zabolotna	Ukrainian Educational Research Association (UERA)
22	Lucian Ion Ciolan	Romanian Educational Research Association (ARCE)
23	Marco Rieckmann	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Erziehungswissenschaft (DGfE)
24	Maria Pacheco Figueiredo	EERA Secretary General
25	Marit Honerod Hoveid	EERA President Elect
26	Mhairi Beaton	British Educational Research Association (BERA)
27	Paulina Korsnakova	Slovak Educational Research Society (SERS)
28	Petra Grell	EERA Networks' Representative on Council
29	Saneeya Qureshi	Emerging Researchers' Group
30	Lisa Bugno	Emerging Researchers' Group
31	Sébastien Akira Alix	Association des Enseignants et Chercheurs en Sciences de l'Éducation (AECSE)
32	Stephen McKinney	Scottish Educational Research Association (SERA)
33	Zoe Moody	Swiss Society for Research in Education (SSRE)

1. Apologies and Welcome of New Members

Joe O'Hara informed Council of the members who had sent their apologies:

Name	Association
Anna Aleksanyan	Educational Research Armenian Society (ERAS)
Carmen Carmona	Asociación Interuniversitaria de Investigación Pedagógica (AIDIPE)
Eric Mangez	Association des chercheurs belges francophones en éducation (ABCéduc)
Gonzalo Jover	Sociedad Española de Pedagogía (SEP)
Jana Poláčková Vašátková	Česká asociace pedagogického výzkumu (ČAPV)
Monika Pogatsnik	Hungarian Educational Research Association (HERA)
Nihat Gurel Kahveci	Turkish Educational Research Association (EAB)
Paolo Landri	European Educationl Research Journal
Sofia Marques da Silva	Sociedade Portuguesa de Ciências da Educação (SPCE)
Sotiria Grek	European Educationl Research Journal
Wouter Schelfhout	Vlaams Forum Onderwijsonderzoek (VFO)

He also welcomed attendees who were at their first meeting or replaced a regular council member:

Name	Association	Role
Luca Agostinetti	Società Italiana di Pedagogia (SIPED)	new representative
Hanno van Keulen	Vereniging voor Onderwijs Research (VOR)	replacement
Nazipa Ayubayeva	Kazakhstan Educational Research Association (KERA)	replacement
Lisa Bugno	Emerging Researchers' Group	new representative

Nazipa Ayubayeva was given the opportunity to inform about the current challenges for educational research in Kazakhstan and about KERA.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

Council confirmed the minutes of the March 2023 meeting.

3. Reports and Exculpations

3.1 President

3.1.1 Report 2023

Joe O'Hara referred to the written report which had been sent out before.

3.1.2 Exculpation

Council exculpated Joe O'Hara unanimously. Joe O'Hara thanked Council and welcomed Marit Honerød Hoveid as the new EERA president. She and Maria thanked Joe for his work as president in the past five years especially as these were very difficult. Thanks to his continuous work EERA got through the pandemic well, succeeded in doing an online conference and in bringing the conference further east than ever before. They thanked him for his exemplifying leadership in these turbulent times and praised his ability to reach agreements, e.g. when finding a shared position regarding the war in the Ukraine and how to support colleagues there. The huge success of ECER 2023 showed that EERA not only made it through these challenging times but also has grown stronger, with new initiatives like the blog.

3.2 Secretary

3.2.1 Report 2023

Maria Figueiredo referred to the written report which had been sent out before.

3.2.2 Exculpation

Council exculpated Maria Pacheco Figueiredo unanimously.

3.3 Treasurer

3.3.1 Report 2023

Andreas Hadjar reported on the audited figures of 2022 as well as on the planned and actual budget until June 2023.

He asked Council members who are involved in one of the EERA networks to encourage them to apply for a network funding project, as a large portion of the allocated funds were not used in 2022 and will most likely not be used in 2023.

3.3.2 Exculpation

During ECER 2023, a working group met with the treasurer to check the budget. They confirmed that they had a look on the audit report and the budget for 2023. Council then exculpated Andreas Hadjar unanimously.

3.3.3 Confirmation of Auditor for 2023

The Auditor needs to be approved/confirmed by Council. Exec suggest to re-confirm Andreas Vollmer as auditor of EERA. Council confirmed Andreas Vollmer as auditor for the audit report 2023.

3.3.4 Budget

- Budget Outlook 2023
- Budget 2024

Additional to the usual expenses, Andreas Hadjar suggested 30.000 € extra budget for EERA's 30. birthday, to be celebrated at ECER 2024.

Council approved of this.

4. Emerging Researchers' Group/ERC 2023

4.1 Report of ERG Link Convenor

Saneeya Qureshi reported on ERC 2023, with its 512 participants from 59 countries and 361 presentations, all record breaking numbers. The participants fed back that they were happy with the conference and experienced a very supportive and constructive environment. In addition the lunch break events were very well received. Saneeya thanked all Council members who helped with reviewing and mentoring. She especially thanked Satu Perälä-Littunen in her role as Senior Mentor, who nurtured the Emerging Researchers' Group with her input and feedback. She welcomed Mhairi Beaton as the new Senior mentor, and Lisa Bugno as the new ERG Link Convenor.

Marit thanked Saneeya for the invaluable work and energy she put in the Emerging Researchers' Group in the past six years. She remembers when she first met Saneeya at an EERA Summer School in Birmingham and asked her whether she would be interested in working with the ERG. Saneeya herself is, therefore, a wonderful example for the impact the ERG has with its different projects and initiatives.

Lisa Bugno also thanked Saneeya Qureshi for her contribution to the Emerging Researchers' Group and for her support with becoming the new Link Convenor. Lisa informed Council that she and the co-convenors were currently going through the feedback from the survey and that

they will take recommendations into consideration for ERC 2024. She also asked the Council Members for further support for reviewing and chairing/mentoring for ERC 2024.

5. ECER 2023

5.1 Review of ECER 2023

Stephen McKinney gave a report from the perspective of the local organisers. In the contract, the granted number of participants was 1700, which was now almost doubled with the actual total number of participants of 3234. Although this record breaking number was a wonderful surprise, it also caused some problems, especially with regard to session rooms and event venues. It worked out well in the end, but did mean more work with pre-registration etc. Another challenge was the number of volunteers. Many expressed interest and agreed to work at ECER but did then not show up in the end. Fortunately, staff from the School of Education were released from their usual duties and could step in. Tech and WiFi worked well, and the keynotes were well received.

Maybe it would however make sense to ask future ECER participants not to join keynote sessions after 30 minutes, as this really disturbs the presentation. The social events also went well, and the School of Education Open House turned out to be a real party. The staff at the Hunterian Museum reported that 900 ECER participants visited the Museum only on the Tuesday, so the side programme was also well received. The poster and publishers' exhibition also went well. However, said Stephen, we need to keep in mind that the number of people does not only cause logistical issues, but that many people were overwhelmed by the sheer number of participants. Local organisers are now exhausted but happy.

Marit thanked Stephen and his team for their great work and for a wonderful ECER 2023. She also thinks decisions need to be made on how to deal with the scale/size of ECERs in future. After ECER in Nicosia we should evaluate if the growth is a trend, and plans to limit the growth should be developed ahead of time.

The feedback from Council was also very positive. For future ECERs they however also found that the growth should be observed in order to be able to stay at universities as this was seen as something contributing to the spirit of ECER.

Maria Pacheco Figueiredo gave a first overview of the feedback from the survey, with the first 300 answers. One conclusion can already be that sustainability has not been advertised enough. While ECER 2023 was very sustainable, as paper free conference etc, people were not aware of it.

Angelika Wegscheider reported on the difficulties connected to the poster prize this year. The link convenors only nominated 9 out of 70 posters. The office will address this issue at the Network Seminar to find out more about the reasons.

During ECER 2023 the EERA Office met an accessibility expert who also had an ECER presentation. She will help develop guidelines for future ECERs on how to make presentations/sessions more accessible.

Fabio Dovigo summed up the feedback from the link convenors: They were enthusiastic regarding ECER 2023, found that the quality of sessions was great and recognised the work that went into it. One issue that was raised again was the diversity of keynote speakers, but Fabio invited them again to influence the list of invitees by suggesting future keynote speakers themselves. Another feedback from them was that the Whova app is not good for screen readers.

Lisa Bugno answered the question how newcomers could find their way round the different EERA Networks that there is the plan to offer something for newcomers similar to a lunchtime event, as this is a less formal way to come to know EERA. The national associations could also spread the information on the variety EERA has to offer, represented by the networks. Magdolna Benke fed back that NW 02 rooms were in a great building, with very clean and well equipped rooms, the staff was great too, and all in all this was one of the best organised conferences with a good programme and she said Thank you to all organisers.

Maria concluded that ECER 2023 was a great success, where vegans were happy, we had a very special event on the Thursday, where the School of Education was taken over by us. The interactive roundtable at the ERC was impressive because people were so honest and the discussions were very deep. Recognition to the EERA Desk: they are important in supporting participants, also in terms of emotional support, which is a big part of the quality of a conference.

Marit also thanked everyone for the collective effort and said that we can be proud of what we achieved.

6. Upcoming ECERs

6.1 ECER 2024: Nicosia

6.1.1 LOC Update

After Helen Phtiaka's general report on Nicosia and the university as ECER 2024 venue, she emphasized that the participants need to make sure to travel to Cyprus via the two airports in the Republic of Cyprus, Larnaca or Paphos, as arriving via the Turkish site would be seen as illegal entry to the country. LOC will let EERA Office have information on visa regulations etc. The plugs and driving on the left are like in the UK.

6.2 ECER 2025: Belgrade

6.2.1 Dates, Budget, Initial Theme

ECER 2025 will take place in the second week of September, starting on the 8th. The university is very old, and 70 rooms have been fixed so far. The scale of this year's ECER does frighten them slightly, not for hotels, that would be no problem, but for the general organisation. It was decided that they would not produce leaflets, but would consider posters to advertise ECER 2025 during ECER 2024. Maybe produce a video, so that a QR code on the posters could guide to the video? They should also consider having a stand at the 2024 exhibition.

6.2.2 Timeline for Scientific Committee

The scientific committee should receive a proposition of the theme by December, and once that is decided, the search for the keynotes can start.

6.3 ECER 2026: Tampere

Angelika reported that they are well ahead of time in their preparations. Final questions on renting laptops were clarified and the contract will be signed after ECER 2023.

6.4 ECER 2027: Kyrenia pencilled in

6.5 ECERs after 2027

There are two expressions of interest from Spain, Santiago de Compostela and Salamanca.

Joanna Madalinska Michalak said that her association would also be interested in organizing an ECER, most likely in Warsaw, but she will investigate further and come back with more concrete ideas later.

7. EERA Activities [information]

7.1 EERA Summer School

7.1.1 Report 2023

Maria reported that there were 193 applicants, 93 were accepted and 83 participated, 51 from high GDP countries, 28 from low GDP and 4 local. One aim was to make EERA more visible, which was achieved with the secretary general, the ERG link and deputy, EERA Office and some network link convenors being present.

Marit acted as international tutor at last year's Summer School and can only recommend this to other Council Members, as it is really rewarding to work with these eager young people. She thanked Maria and the other local organisers for their work. It is crucial for EERA, and although the impact cannot be measured in numbers, it is evident and really important.

According to Ineke Pit-ten-Cate, several students from Luxemburg went to the Summer School and really liked it. The networking for them also worked very well, as they also attended ECER and met other Summer School participants there.

7.1.2 Porto as Venue for 2024

Porto will also host 2024, as Chemnitz would like to host their first Summer School in 2025, when the city is European Capital of Culture. The Summer School will take place in the first week of July. More details will follow.

7.1.3 Chemnitz as Venue for 2025 / 2026: Report

Maria presented the proposal from Chemnitz which had been further developed. Themes and dates were agreed on.

7.1.4 Future Summer Schools

Council is invited to consider hosting the EERA Summer School 2027/2028. In March, it will be addressed again with more details.

7.2 Academic Writing Workshops

There are a number of workshops planned in the near future. They are always given by teams of two and last one full or 1,5 days. It is not only for emerging researchers, also senior members of staff attend. One main part that has always been of great interest to participants is *10 reasons why articles are rejected*. It is good to organise the workshops around the national conference, and the number of participants is not limited, more than two tutors might however be needed if numbers are too high. EERA pays for the travel and accommodation of the tutors as well as for one coffee break. The participants don't need to prepare anything for the workshop, but they will be asked about their background and where they are in the process. It would be possible to travel to a workshop in a different country if the local organisers are fine with it.

Liudmila Rupsiene hosted one workshop in the past, which was very well received and successful. Magdolna Benke can also recommend it based on her experience with the workshop organised in Hungary.

7.3 Supporting Educational Research in Ukraine

Oksana Zabolotna gave an overview of the projects that were funded with a deeper insight into the Summer School on Resilience for the UERA members, organised as one of the projects funded by EERA. The Summer School was a great success, and all participants enjoyed the time they could spend together in a beautiful setting, to learn techniques how to cope with difficult situations and to share their experiences. <https://www.uera.org.ua/en/node/237>

8. Communication and Social Media

8.1 Blog

The Editorial Board reacts to content and tone of the suggested blog posts, but the editing work and communication with authors is done by Lynn Nothegger, the blog editor, who gives professional support and does a really good job. The blog is a gateway to seeing the work of the national associations and networks, as well as EERA. From an inside perspective, the work for it is itself very interesting. Council members should consider joining the editorial board, and the national associations should think of the blog as a way to show who they are, and to introduce their work etc.

9. Publications

9.1 EERJ – Report

Although the official report given by one of the Editors has been postponed to the next meeting, Marit gave a summary of the editorial board meeting she attended during ECER. It was the first meeting for Sotiria and Paolo that could take place in person. According to SAGE, EERJ is in very good place, with six issues in the last year and many applications. The collaboration with the EERA blog is fruitful. Open access brings new challenges.

Sotiria Grek and Paolo Landri will step down as editors in 1,5 years, and according to the General Regulations, a nomination committee needs to be created. Linda Rönnerberg (leading the committee) and Florian Waldow from the editorial board will be part of the committee, Fabio Dovigo (networks) and Joanna Madalinska Michalak from Council.

Nazipa Ayubayeva expressed concerns because a high number of paper applications from Kazakhstan were rejected in the past. She would be interested in getting feedback regarding the reasons for these rejection rates. In general it would be appreciated by Council if an overview of the national backgrounds of applications and rejections could be provided by SAGE. This would help to see if there is an imbalance, and what could be done about it, also with regard to capacity building within the association.

9.2 Book Series

The book series is doing well, with eight books having been published so far. Dennis Beach, the main editor, is stepping down, and Jani Ursin will take over. They will have a transmission period over the next year. While also the editorial board will be renewed. The publisher agreed to go down to one book per year, however finding reviewers is difficult. Council is asked to consider helping out, and also to approach researchers in their communities who may contribute to the general topic of Transdisciplinary Perspectives in Educational Research.

10. Report and Outlook Networks

10.1 Network Seminar

Fabio Dovigo informed Council on the latest developments within the EERA networks as well as the Network Seminar.

10.2 New Network Application

The networks agreed on accepting a new network, no. 34, "Research on Citizenship Education", and Council confirmed this decision.

Maria Pacheco Figueiredo thanked Paula Korsnakova for her help with the process. They already organised a symposium during ECER 2023 and will be fully embedded in the application process for ECER 2024.

10.3 Network funding

Network 30 handed in a funding application which was accepted by exec. Nevertheless, most part of the allocated funding is not spent each year. One issue surely is that giving money is not all, such projects also mean a lot of work.

As reply to a question from Council, Maria gave an overview of the EERA networks. They are very different in size and structure, and some that were smaller in previous years could double their numbers for ECER 2023. Some put up new strategies: they changed their names, worked with specific special calls for ECER applications and cooperated with other networks through joint sessions etc. The very large networks struggle with the amount of voluntary work that is needed for reviewing and programme planning. It is interesting to mention that newer networks are all doing well.

11. EERA External Partnerships

11.1 Prospective Activities

Marit held a meeting with Séamus Ó Tuama, the Director, ACE (Adult Continuing Education) Chair, ASEM Lifelong Learning Hub who would like to establish ways of collaborating with EERA. Marit will follow up on this by participating in their meeting in Cork, Ireland in May '24. The objective is to find ways of collaborating to promote educational research.

11.2 ISE

Nothing to report at this stage. Will get back to this in relation to a broader discussion on how EERA can develop its external relations and also fulfil the organisation's strategic goals (see strategy plan).

11.3 WERA

WERA always organises their focal meetings in connection with the conference of one of their members. They approached EERA to find out whether a combined conference could take place in 2026. The local organisers said it would really be difficult to accommodate their wish for logistical reasons. The expected ECER numbers can be handled, with 90 rooms that can be used, but the WERA Focal Meeting would attract considerably more participants. Marit asked the national associations to consider organising a WERA Focal Meeting in combination with their conference, as this would then also cover EERA's commitment to help.

Mhairi Beaton told Council about the combined BERA conference and WERA Focal Meeting 2024. WERA is easy to work with, they adapt easily to suggestions by the local organisers, but one challenge is that no one can tell in advance how many more participants to expect. She will be happy to share experiences with national associations who consider a cooperation.

Maybe we should think about other ways of collaborations, by making them more visible at ECERS even without hosting their Focal Meeting.

11.4 EASSH

Joe will be a member of a working group of EEASSH who are working on how to influence the next Horizon program. Marit will represent EERA in the next meeting which will take place in Brussels 7 - 8 Dec '23.

12. EERA Strategy

Marit explained the work of the working group and how the strategy paper was developed. Council approved of the Strategy.

12.1 Open Access/Open Science

National associations, funding schemes (i.e. EU) and publishers may have different objectives when it comes to Open Access. Open Access (OA) and Open Science (OS) will gradually reshape how educational research is published and made accessible - but what this entails is still in the making. Members of Council are invited to inform Exec./president about challenges they encounter in relation to OA and OS. The next council meeting (March 24) is dedicated to this topic through some presentations and workshops.

12.2 Policy

Marit informed Council about the request from ASEM, see above, and asked Council for ideas on how we could work with them. They are interested in promoting educational research. How can we find creative ways to promote educational research towards politicians? Council Members agreed that a collaboration would be good, but that we need to be careful about balance, and that it is important to keep independence. In accordance with the EERA Strategy we will prioritize this work within and beyond our meetings.

13. New Members

13.1 Latvia

Council approved the full membership of the Latvian association.

13.2 Azerbaijan

Marit will report back in March.

13.3 Kosovo

EERA was asked to approve of a national research association from Kosovo. This was postponed due to Covid. In the meantime, Exec. was made aware of the fact that this association did not seem to be representative for the broader range of educational researchers and universities in Kosovo. Contacts are made, and we will follow this up with the intention of inviting Kosovo to be part of Council as a candidate member.

14. Upcoming Meetings

2024

15 - 16 March, Council Meeting in Berlin, Hotel Rossi
August: Council in Nicosia tbc.

2025

14 – 15 March, Council Meeting in Berlin, Hotel Rossi

Exec will discuss the possibility to only have a one-day meeting after ECER in combination with a digital meeting later in the year. They will report back in March.