

NW01 meeting August 20th 2026, Tampere

ECER 2026, Tampere, Finland

Network 01 – Professional Learning and Development

The NW01 meeting agenda included updates on the Network, the review and programming processes, year-round communication and networking, the first NW01 Spring School, and a discussion on publishing, AI, and participants' interests.

1. Welcome and introduction by the convenor team

The convenor team for 2026 was presented: Mihaela Mitescu Manea, Stefan Zehetmeier, Hannu Heikkinen, Ken Jones (Honorary Member), Giorgio Ostinelli, Sally Windsor, Sofia Eleftheriadou (ERG liaison), Maurizio Gentile, and Hasmik Kyureghyan.

2. Submitting, reviewing, programming and communicating – Updates

Information was presented on the NW01 review process for ECER 2026. The meeting materials reported 168 contributions (129 general-call and 39 special-call contributions), including 10 posters and 4 workshops, with 145 papers and 9 symposia. The average acceptance rate was 82.2%.

The review process for the next cycle was outlined. Reviewers are to be assigned in January 2027, with reviews to be completed by 1 March 2027 and an expected workload of 6–8 reviews per reviewer. Participants were invited to indicate their willingness to review using the form/QR code provided during the meeting.

The review criteria were also presented. The proposed format retained “Coherence in Argumentation and Methodology” and “Awareness of Previous Work and Own Contributions”, while proposing “Thematic relevance for NW01: Professional Learning and Development” in place of “European Perspective”.

3. Programming

Stefan Zehetmeier presented the programming process. The programming process was revisited as a complex task involving the distribution of papers into sessions, publication of a pre-final programme, and responses to last-minute changes. It was also highlighted as an opportunity to learn about the research projects represented across the Network.

4. Communication & Networking year-round

The meeting highlighted the importance of communication and networking in NW01 throughout the year. Participants were reminded of the NW01 Newsletter and the Network's LinkedIn group as existing communication channels. The question of how these established forms of communication might be complemented by other ways of connecting members was taken up again in the final discussion.

5. The first edition of the NW01 Spring School: Timișoara, Romania, April 2026

An update was provided on the first NW01 Spring School, held on 21–23 April 2026 at the West University of Timișoara, Romania. The theme was “Academic Writing and Research in an Era of AI – Concerns and Opportunities for Professional Learning in Education in Europe”. Eighteen emerging researchers participated, coming from Romania, Portugal, Serbia, Scotland, the Czech Republic, Turkey, and Canada. Mark Carver (University of St Andrews), Fiona King (Dublin City University), Sally Windsor (University of Gothenburg and EERA NW01 Convenor), and Velibor Mladenovici

(West University of Timișoara) were named as contributors to the Spring School. The themes explored there provided a starting point for the open discussion during the Business Meeting.

6. Discussion: Publishing & AI – moving forward; communication and dissemination in NW01

Ken Jones facilitated an open discussion that continued the conversation initiated at the Spring School. Mihaela Mitescu Manea introduced the discussion by noting that readership and writing habits change over time and invited participants to consider the ethical concerns involved and how NW01 might engage with this topic.

Ken Jones drew attention to the notion of “network” and asked whether established ways of communicating are sufficient, how members can connect more effectively, and how existing channels such as the NW01 Newsletter could be extended or complemented. The EERA Blog was mentioned as a possible basis for further communication. At the same time, questions were raised about what can and cannot appropriately be communicated and about the ethical issues involved.

In recalling the Spring School discussions, Mihaela Mitescu Manea highlighted several themes: maintaining human-to-human communication; ensuring that AI does not replace human communication; being transparent about the use of AI; and giving particular attention to dissemination. Phil Poekert invited participants to indicate whether they felt more concerned or more optimistic about AI; it was noted in the room that younger participants tended to be more concerned.

A participant asked about the connection between extending the newsletter and the use of AI. Dissemination was identified as a possible area in which members might feel relatively safe engaging with the topic. Other possibilities for strengthening Network communication were discussed, including monthly online meetings, LinkedIn, the TIME network, and Spring/Summer School seminars. Monthly online meetings were seen as potentially useful only to a limited extent, and the possible financial implications of seminars were also acknowledged.

The discussion also included reservations about the suitability of LinkedIn for sharing uncertainty and discussing open questions. This raised a wider issue concerning the kinds of spaces that might enable NW01 members to exchange ideas openly while maintaining trust and attention to ethical considerations.

Sally Windsor extended an open invitation to all Network members to share ideas and possible opportunities for developing these forms of communication and exchange. Members were encouraged to inform the convenor team and the wider Network, and relevant opportunities would be communicated through the Newsletter.

The time available for discussion was limited. The notes indicate that the topics of network communication and the use of AI became closely intertwined and that not all discussion prompts could be explored in depth. These themes therefore remain open for further discussion within NW01.

7. Key interests of participants and future follow-up

Participants were invited to consider how NW01 could better meet their interests and what issues the Network might follow up in future activities. The discussion pointed particularly to continued engagement with academic writing and AI, ethical and transparent uses of AI, dissemination, human-to-human scholarly communication, and suitable spaces for sharing ideas, questions, and uncertainty within the Network.

8. Looking ahead

Participants were invited to meet again at ECER 2027 in Debrecen, Hungary, scheduled for 30 August–3 September 2027.

There were 25 participants in attendance at the Network 01 Business Meeting.