

Network Meeting Minutes

ECER 2026, Tampere, Finland

Date	Thursday 20 August 2026
Time	12:15 – 13:15
Venue	Room K113, Linna Building, Tampere University
Chair	Majella Dempsey
Minutes taken by	Majella Dempsey
Present	Approximately 30 attendees (attendance was not formally recorded)

Agenda

1. Welcome and reflections on ECER 2026
 - a. Reviewing
 - b. Chairing
 - c. Papers
 - d. Workshop
2. Announcements
3. Capacity-building activities
 - a. Online seminars
4. Publication opportunities
5. Any other business
6. Closure

1. Welcome and reflections on ECER 2026

ECER 2026 was a great success for the Curriculum Network (NW3). Attendance at all sessions exceeded that of previous years, reflecting growing interest in curriculum scholarship. The rooms and facilities were excellent, there were ample coffee stations, and movement between venues was easy and well signposted. All logistical aspects (transport, social events and the flow of sessions within the university) worked seamlessly, and the overall experience was highly positive.

1a. Reviewing

- Reviewer feedback was constructive and focused on highlighting the most pertinent curriculum features of each paper.
- The process ran smoothly and contributed to the overall quality of presentations.

1b. Chairing

- Feedback on chairing was unanimously positive, with no issues reported.

1c. Papers and posters

- 51 papers, 1 workshop and 8 posters were presented.
- A highlight was the presentation by Professor Mark Priestley and Professor Gert Biesta on the second edition of their book *Teacher Agency: An Ecological Approach*.
- Papers and posters were of a very high standard.
- Sessions were generally well aligned under coherent themes, with only minor adjustments required.

1d. Workshop

- The workshop was a major success and received unanimous support for inclusion in future conferences.

Symposia

- NW3 did not host any symposia this year. Symposia are very valuable for a deep dive into a particular research area, so the network needs to plan for them.
- Majella Dempsey and Nienke Nieveen took part in a joint NW3 and NW22 symposium, *Higher Education Curriculum in the Crossroads: Contemporary Trends, Tensions, and Dynamics*, organised by Mariana Gaio Alves (NW22). The network will explore taking part in further joint symposia with other networks.
- Possible topics for ECER 2027 were discussed at the meeting: Curriculum making, STEAM curriculum, Curriculum innovation and development – a comparative study across six countries, curriculum leadership.

2. Announcements

Call for new co-convenors

A call for expressions of interest from prospective co-convenors will be circulated through the NW3 mailing list later this year. The following information was shared at the meeting.

- **What is expected of a co-convenor:**
 - Reviewing abstracts
 - Chairing sessions at the conference
 - Being a beacon for the network: encouraging PhD students and colleagues to attend and get involved
- **Selection criteria:**
 - A spread of countries
 - One early career researcher
 - Curriculum interest and scholarship

ECER blog

Participants were encouraged to submit posts to the ECER blog: <https://blog.eera-ecer.de/>

NW3 mailing list

Participants are encouraged to join the NW3 mailing list for updates: <https://eera-ecer.de/networks/3-curriculum>

ECER 2027

Venue	University of Debrecen, Hungary
Dates	Emerging Researchers' Conference: 30–31 August 2027 Main conference: 31 August – 3 September 2027
Theme	<i>Learning Communities and Shared Futures in Education</i>

3. Capacity-building activities

3a. Online seminars

To strengthen the visibility of curriculum research, NW3 will organise three online seminars in 2026/27. Co-convenor Sinem Hizli Alkan will lead on these seminars, and further details and dates will be announced via the NW3 mailing list and the EERA website.

Maintaining momentum

There was a strong discussion on carrying the success of ECER 2026 into ECER 2027 and beyond, with a focus on generating new ideas and disseminating research collaboratively.

4. Publication opportunities

Publication opportunities were discussed; no specific items were raised.

5. Any other business

It was noted that more curriculum scholars from Australia and New Zealand attended this year than in previous years. These connections need to be sustained and developed, as the variety of presentations brought rich insights to the network.

6. Closure

The chair thanked all presenters, chairs, reviewers and participants for their contributions to ECER 2026. Their engagement and scholarship continue to strengthen the Curriculum Network and its impact across Europe.

Summary of actions

Action	Lead	Timeline
Organise three online seminars and circulate dates	Sinem Hizli Alkan	2026/27
Circulate call for expressions of interest for new co-convenors	NW3 Lead	Later in 2026
Develop symposium proposals for ECER 2027	NW3 convenors and members	Before the ECER 2027 call for proposals closes
Explore joint symposia with other EERA networks	NW3 convenors	ECER 2027
Submit posts to the ECER blog	All members	Ongoing
Sustain and develop links with curriculum scholars in Australia and New Zealand	NW3 convenors	Ongoing