ECER 2023 The Value of Diversity in Education and Educational Research

Network for Inclusive Education

Network Meeting, 24 August 2023, Glasgow

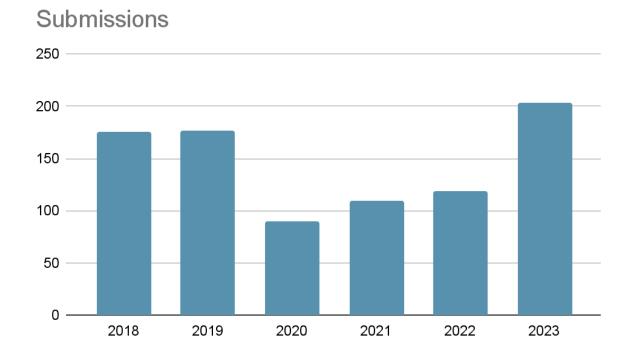
Members of the co-convenors' group

Michelle Proyer, as link convenor of NW 4, introduced the <u>members of the co-convenors</u> group and the roles and responsibilities of the group, which include assigning reviewers for abstracts, organising presentations at sessions, and assigning chairs and rooms for each session.

Michelle announced that Hermína Gunnþórsdóttir and Fabio Dovigio have stepped down from their roles as co-convenors, and acknowledged their contribution to the work of Network 4. As of this conference, Gregor Ross Maxwell of the Arctic University of Norway is officially a member of the co-convenors group. The group is striving to maintain its diversity in terms of the geographic distribution of its members, while also increasing diversity in terms of career stage, therefore, Michelle invited early career researchers to apply for the role of co-convenor. It should be noted that we are not limited to the candidates from Europe. If anyone is interested, he/she should email michelle.proyer@univie.ac.at. Interviews with potential candidates will take place in due course.

Conference Submissions

NW 4 has received very high numbers of submissions which impacts programming and coordination. Michelle provided a summary of the number of submissions over the last five years. In 2023, we received the highest number of submissions in the last five years (251) and had 203 presentations at the conference.



ECER 2024 will be held in Nicosia, Cyprus, and we are planning to announce a special call for the upcoming conference.

Jonathan Rix invited members to act as reviewers and chairs for the upcoming conference. If you are interested in any of these roles, please fill in the <u>survey</u>. This is voluntary engagement that brings fame and recognition **(3)**.

Suggestions for us:

- Listing reviewers of the NW4 on the webpage, but check if they are ok with being listed
- Check with EERA if they could add a question on the conftool platform, so that participants, when signing up, could thick a box if they would like to act as a chair.

European Journal of Inclusive Education

Fabio Dovigo introduced the <u>European Journal of Inclusive Education</u>, the official journal of the Inclusive Education Network, which was launched in 2022. Fabio emphasised that EJIE is a newly established journal, and therefore has no impact factor. However, the editorial board is committed to ensuring rapid publication.

The EJIE is

- open-access;
- peer-reviewed;
- initiated and run by representatives of the research community;
- free of charge
- open for multidisciplinary perspectives on inclusive education
- based on voluntary work of people involved

However, the editorial board is committed to ensuring rapid publication.

The journal is open to special calls, so proposals for special calls are more than welcome. The number of submissions is still quite low, so we encourage researchers to submit their work for publication in EJIE. In addition, in order to speed the time of publication additional reviewers are needed.

NW 4 Events

Olja Jovanović informed participants of the summer school "Inclusive approaches to educational research" which was held in July 2023 in Belgrade, Serbia. The summer school is organised as a collaboration between EERA's NW 4 and the Faculty of Philosophy University of Belgrade, with the support of UNICEF Serbia.

The international and interdisciplinary team of lecturers, moderators, and tutors, 30 participants from 19 countries, and a diverse network of volunteers participated in the summer school. Through three days of the summer school we explored the role of research and researchers in maintaining power asymmetries and how we can move from the exercise of power asymmetry to the transfer of power through research. But we also acknowledged the importance of collaboration, caring, and community for designing and delivering meaningful research. In the future, we intend to continue building a community that nurtures hope, but also to call for action those who have the power to support the agency of this community.

If you are interested to know more about what has been happening during 3 days of summer school, check our <u>Instagram account</u> or <u>summer school website</u>.

The feedback from the participants shows that there is a need for this kind of learning activity. EERA offers participation of funding for network seasonal schools, so if you are interested in hosting one, please let us know.

Channels of Communication

Ines Alves shared information on different channels of communication which are available for the members of network 4.

NW04 runs a mailing list and invites researchers to join. Please feel free to share your events, research outputs, opportunities for collaboration, job openings, etc. However, we might not share profit-oriented information and recurring events. To join the mailing list, send a blank message to nw04-subscribe@lists.eera-ecer.de.

We have also launched our facebook group (https://www.facebook.com/groups/eera.ecer.nw4) and X/Twitter account (@EERA_NW4) for more informal sharing of ideas, opportunities and products.

Feel free to get in touch with ideas: michelle.proyer@univie.ac.at

Feedback, questions, complaints...

In the final session, moderated by Gregor Maxwell, useful suggestions for the next conference are shared:

- Conference Venue Accessibility. Although accessibility is still a major issue, it was
 acknowledged that the staff at the University of Glasgow did an excellent job
 supporting attendees and working around accessibility issues. Jonathan Rix
 mentioned that a list of recommendations to improve accessibility is being prepared
 and will be presented to the EERA Council. Simoni Symeonidou mentioned that the
 buildings at the University of Cyprus are newer and they are working on accessibility
 in collaboration with the associations of students with disabilities, so she expects that
 the next conference will be more accessible.
- Room capacities. Due to the large number of attendees, some rooms were overcrowded. It is suggested that the argument of being the largest EERA network be used to ensure rooms with greater capacity.

Network 04 Social event. Due to the large number of attendees and the cost of restaurants in Glasgow, we did not organise a network social event this year. However, participants attending the meeting shared that they would like to have network social event next year in Nicosia.