Support and Guidelines for submitting a paper to ECER - NW04

Network 4 – Inclusive Education

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Before you start…

Before you start your submission, please carefully read the ECER instructions and the "Formats of presentations" page. These guidelines refer to paper submission, but you can opt for alternative formats of presentation (Symposium, Panel, Poster…).

The inclusive education network regularly launches a special call in addition to the general conference call. You can find information about the call here.

Check out all the sections needed for a submission and please note that there is a word limit for each section of your contribution. For example, the length of the "Proposal information" cannot exceed 600 words.

On the ECER website, you can find interesting examples of successful contributions submitted to our network in previous conferences (e.g. here)

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1. Proposal Information /European Perspective

This section will provide an overview of your proposal. Information might

differ according to the topic and approach you selected for your study.

Consequently, there is not a standardised format you must follow.

However, the section should include at least:

- A summary of the theoretical background of the study;

- The aim(s) of the study.

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Summary of the theoretical background

The summary will present the theoretical background of the study. You should

concisely depict the essential literature that inspired your research.

You have one paragraph to help the reader understand:

- What area of inclusive education your investigation addresses;

- What specific question (or questions) emerges from literature*; and

- Why this question is scientifically valuable.

(See next section, "Awareness of previous work")

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The aim(s) of the study

In the second part you should clearly state:

- The aims of your study: what does your investigation add to the existing scientific knowledge? Please be very precise about it, as vague or general statements will undermine your proposal;

- The structure of your study: you will offer an analysis / comparison / correlation etc. concerning the question described. Again, be precise and ensure the evaluators will have all details they need to understand your study.

European perspective

Being ECER an European conference, all proposals should be related to the European context. This could be achieved in many ways:

- Addressing a question that is clearly relevant at the European level (e.g. The role of Erasmus exchange to promote inclusion in Higher Education)

- Making a comparison between two or more countries regarding the same topic (e.g. Teachers' attitude towards inclusion);

- Making explicit why your study, even though carried out at a national level, is of interest to a European audience.

- Making explicit why research carried out in countries outside Europe are relevant for the European context.

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Awareness of previous work

Research work, no matter how innovative, relies on existing corpus of knowledge. Therefore, author(s) should demonstrate awareness of the previous work in the field, for at least two reasons. In this way author(s):

- Demonstrates his/her expertise related to topic.

- Positions his/her research in the framework of existing body of knowledge and shows how the it will contribute to this body in a meaningful way.

Awareness of previous work

This could be achieved in different ways, depending on the focus of your work:

 - Outline the essential ingredients of a theoretical or conceptual framework in which research emerges.

 - Present the topic of the research from diverse perspectives.

 - Describe the most relevant studies using the same methodology.

 - Highlight those research findings that are most relevant to your research.

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2. Methodology or Methods/Research Instruments or Sources Used

This section should summarize the major aspects of methodology, including:

- Sample of participants/data

- Data collection methods

- Data analysis methods

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Methodology or Methods/Research Instruments or Sources Used

Sample of participants/data

•Number of the participants and the criteria for selection of participants should be clearly stated
•If the research includes secondary data analysis, inclusion criteria should be specified.

Data collection methods

•If describing research instruments, structure of the instrument and psychometric properties should be described.
•In the case of tools for qualitative data collection (e.g. interviews, focus group discussions) the key topics should be stated.
•If using existing instruments, authors should be achnowledged.

Data analysis

Specific statistical techniques or qualitative data analysis approaches should be described.

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Methodology or Methods/Research Instruments or Sources Used

What is recommended length of the section?

Up to 400 words.

How do you know when you have enough information on methodology?

Imagine that you are reading someone else's abstract or ask other researcher to read

your abstract - Does methodology section include all key aspects in comprehensible

manner?

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Methodology or Methods/Research Instruments or Sources Used

Do not forget that described research methodology should allow answering to the research questions.

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3. Analysis

- There is no section specifically dedicated to the data analysis but, to increase the quality of your submission, we suggest you include at least a sentence with details about the data analysis in the Methodology/ Methods section.

- What did you do/ will you do to the data once collected?
    - Describe procedures
    - Software (if) used

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4. Coherence in Argumentation and Methodology

- The coherence between the different sections is extremely important!

- Do the aims of the study align with the selected theoretical framework(s) and methodology/ies?

- Does the data presented answer the research questions?

- Are the conclusions supported by the findings presented?

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5. Conclusions, Expected Outcomes or Findings

- This section should focus on the presentation of *conclusions* or *findings* derived from (ongoing) analysis of your data. The following questions can guide you in this process:
    - What are the essential results of the method applied?
    - Are your findings similar to others' research in the area (in different European countries)? What are differences identified and where do these stem from?
    - Which conclusion can be drawn from your findings? What impact do these have on further research activities or the field studied in general?

- If your research is ongoing, refer to what can be **expected outcomes** from **initial findings** of your ongoing data analysis or tendencies your research shows. Make sure to show a clear line of argumentation when introducing **expected outcomes**.

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Conclusions, Expected Outcomes or Findings

- Make sure back up your conclusions, findings and/or expected outcomes with a clear and rigorously executed methodological application.

- Explain any methodological challenges faced that could have had an impact on your findings.

- This section can be used to emphasize the relevance to the European context.

- This is also the place where you could point towards next research activities that you are planning or others could follow up on.

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6. References

Adding the list of references is the last step before you submit your proposal to ECER.

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Why are references important?

Please don't underestimate this task. The ECER evaluators can easily spot inaccurate references. This can lead to the immediate rejection of your paper.

Your references must be:

- Accurate
- Complete

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Accuracy

Please ensure that all the sources you cited within the proposal are included in the reference list, and vice versa.

[…] Recent research on inclusive education has challenged this traditional view (Smith, 2020).

References

Smith, J. (2020). *Challenging inclusive education*. Thousands Oaks: Sage.

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Completeness

References must include the following information:

- Surname(s) and initial(s) of the author(s);
- The date of publication;
- The title of the text;
- If it is a paper, the title of the journal and volume number;
- If it is a chapter of an edited book, the book's title and editor(s);
  The place of publication and publisher;
- The first and last page numbers if it is a journal article or a chapter in an edited book.

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Examples

- **Book**

Miles, M. B., Huberman, A. M., & Saldana, J. (2014). *Qualitative Data. Analysis: A Methods Sourcebook*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage

- **Chapter in an edited book**

Weiston-Serdan, T., & Giarmoleo, S. (2014). Vertical integration as a mode of professional production: Teachers' resistance to the business of teaching. In V. Ellis & J. Orchard (Eds.), *Learning teaching from experience: Multiple perspectives, international contexts* (pp. 191–204). London: Bloomsbury.

- **Article**

Tomlinson, S. (2012). The irresistible rise of the SEN industry. *Oxford Review of Education*, *38*(3), 267–286.

- **Source from a website**

EADSNE (European Agency for Development in Special Needs Education) (2018). *European Agency Statistics on Inclusive Education: 2014 dataset cross-country report.* Retrieved from https://www.european-agency.org/resources/publications/european-agency-statistics-inclusive-education-2014-dataset-cross-country.

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Referencing Styles

There are many different citation styles. APA (American Psychological Association) and Chicago are the most common in Education. Please refer to the related websites to get more detailed information and resources.

APA
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/reference_list_basic_rules.html

Chicago
https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

Whatever style you will decide to adopt, it is important you stick with that style the whole way through the references.

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Reference manager software

Reference managers are software that helps you better handle references, as well as citations while writing with your preferred word processor. However, like any software, they require basic training to be used.

Here you can find a useful comparison of the main software currently available.

https://guides.library.utoronto.ca/c.php?g=250610&p=1671260

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A final review

Once you complete writing the references, please review them to ensure that they are accurate and complete.

This is also a good opportunity to have a final look at the entire proposal to ensure that everything is fine before submitting it.

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Good luck with your submission to ECER NW04!

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