

Network meeting

Network 8 Health and Wellbeing Education

Thursday 29th August 12:45-13:30

Agenda

- Submissions 2024
- ECER 30th anniversary - history and evolution of our network
- Thoughts/observations on how the conference is going so far
- Expressions of interest in becoming a co-convenor
- Ideas for research projects, funding applications, special issues, book proposals
- Network Dinner

Matters discussed:

The Network meeting was attended by approximately 15 delegates, including convenors, members and new members. There was a feeling that holding the meeting over lunchtime may have impacted attendance, most paper sessions had far greater attendance figures (25-30 attendees most sessions).

After a brief welcome and introductions, Link Convenor (Catriona O'Toole) provided an overview of submissions to ECER 2024. In summary, we received 64 submissions, 48 of these were accepted (42 papers and 6 posters). 13 submissions were redirected to various other networks, 2 were rejected. In general, it was noted that submissions were of the high quality, covering a diverse range of themes related to health and wellbeing education. We offered a full schedule with two joint sessions. We had a brief discussion on the boundaries/intersections between our network and others, including with Gender Education (in relation to sexuality education topics), Environmental and Sustainability education (in relation to intersections between wellbeing and sustainability education topics) and Higher Education (in relation to teacher education and other higher education programs focusing on health and wellbeing topics).

Marking ECER 30th anniversary co-convenor (Venka Simovska) provided an overview of the history, evolution and potential future directions of Network 8, linked to her EERA blog. There followed a general discussion to gauge reactions to the conference. Members voiced their appreciation and gratitude for the local organisation committee and host university. The facilities were excellent, air conditioning, technology etc worked seamlessly. There was adequate refreshments, teas/coffees/pastries at regular intervals. The volunteers were extremely helpful and attentive. One negative was that the vegetarian pre-paid lunch meal was very poor. Feedback on keynotes was mixed. The lack of diversity of keynote speakers has been raised over previous years and was again discussed by members. It was noted that BERA commissioned a 'State of the Discipline' Report, published in 2023, which highlighted stark underrepresentation of minority ethnic academics working in the discipline of education. It was felt that EERA needs to commission a similar investigation.

As the number of submissions to our network increases, we recognise we would benefit from a larger co-convenor group. We extended an invitation to members to become co-convenors. The

criteria for election to the co-convenor group, along with roles and expectations of convenors were shared. Two new members expressed an interest and we are following up with them.

There followed an invitation to those present to share interests and connect with each other as a starting point for future projects. We noted opportunities for Network funding, and for suggesting special issues in our partner journal, Health Education, with whom convenor, Carole Faucher, is co-editor. The last special issue suggested by members of network 8 (the call was communicated at ECER 2023 in Glasgow) will be published in the next Health Education issue. It is titled, “Social justice, equity, and agency: global challenges linking health, wellbeing and sustainability education” and edited by Monica Carlsson, Irene Torres and Martin Mickelsson.

We ended the meeting by finalising arrangements for meeting socially over dinner on the Thursday evening in Nicosia, which was attended by 10 current and new members.



Health & Wellbeing Education - Network Dinner (Thurs 29th Aug 2024)