

Network 8 Meeting

September 11th, Belgrade

Chair: Catriona O'Toole (Link Convenor)

Welcome and Orientation

Catriona welcomed approximately 15 attendees and provided an overview of the Network 8 programme at ECER. This year's programme featured 44 papers, one symposium, one workshop, and one poster presentation. Submissions were of high quality, with a diverse range of topics and countries represented.

It was noted that only three convenors were able to attend in person this year, which was unusual given the network's strong history of convenor representation. This was due to factors such as illness and scheduling clashes (e.g., with BERA). Members who volunteered to chair sessions and actively participated in Network 8 activities were warmly thanked.

Partnership with *Health Education*

Catriona highlighted Network 8's long-standing partnership with the journal *Health Education* and introduced Professor Gurbinder Lalli (Editor-in-Chief) and Danielle Crowe (Commissioning Editor), both in attendance.

Gurbinder and Danielle outlined the journal's aims and scope, typical timelines from submission to publication, and current journal metrics. Gurbinder emphasised the journal's inclusive approach and encouraged submissions from emerging researchers, while Danielle reflected on several successful Network 8-linked special issues and invited members to consider proposing further special issue themes in the future.

Opportunity for Emerging Researcher

The group discussed the agreed Expression of Interest (Eoi) process for an emerging researcher to join the Network 8 co-convenor group. The call for applications will be shared with all Network 8 conference delegates and circulated via the listserv. Members meeting the EERA definition of "emerging researcher" were encouraged to apply.

Reflections on ECER 2025

Attendees noted that the Network 8 programme was engaging, with papers of consistently high quality. Some confusion arose on Wednesday morning due to incorrect room directions, resulting in low attendance at the start of two parallel sessions. However, these were successfully combined into a single well-attended and stimulating session.

It was also observed that most Network 8 sessions were scheduled in a room advertised as being on the 2nd floor but actually located on the 3rd level, which may

have affected attendance. While the room was warm and without air conditioning, it was a pleasant space that supported dialogue and discussion.

Overall, sessions attracted 15–20 participants, a mix of established and early career researchers. The smaller group sizes encouraged good discussion, and attendees reported a warm and welcoming atmosphere throughout the programme.

Network 8 Dinner

Interest in a Thursday evening dinner was confirmed, with details shared via the conference app. Eight members attended, and the dinner was enjoyed by all. Members expressed enthusiasm for continuing engagement with Network 8 and looked forward to meeting again at ECER 2026 in Tampere, Finland.