

**Minutes of the Network 11 Meeting**  
**Educational Improvement and Quality Assurance**  
**EERA ECER 2025**

11 September 2025

Belgrade, Serbia

University of Serbia

Faculty of Philology, Room 228

**Participants:** Ineta Luka, Valerija Drozdova, Sanita Baranova, Paula Martine-Enriquez, Maria del Mar Roman Garcia, Daiga Kalniņa, Dita Nimante, Ieva Rudzinska, Hala Al Khalifa, Nijole Burkšaitiene, Jana Polachova Vašatkova.

**Chair:** Ineta Luka

**Minutes taken by:** Valerija Drozdova

**Topics:**

The session focused on reviewing the network's activities between September 2024 and August 2025, reflecting on ECER 2024, preparing for ECER 2025, and outlining perspectives for future development.

➤ **Report on ECER 2024**

The Network received thirty-seven submissions for ECER 2024.

Teacher education attracted the largest number of contributions, which also meant that many teachers joined the discussions. Altogether, twenty-two reviewers were involved in the evaluation process, while forty-seven authors submitted their work. The minutes of the previous NW11 meeting and the 2024 Annual Report from Nicosia were made available.

Prof. Luka highlighted that teacher education continues to be the field with the strongest representation.

➤ **Network Communication**

It was stated that Network 11 is currently represented by the Link Convenor and eleven co-convenors, of whom ten are active. Two honorary members, Professor Samuel Gento and Dr. Heidi Flavian, remain affiliated with the Network. Although they are no longer active in the organizational sense, both continue to support the network through reviewing. Regular communication was maintained by the Link Convenor via e-mail.

On 19 February 2025, an online NW meeting was held to discuss requirements for reviewing, exchange knowledge and experiences, and address issues concerning qualitative data.

All current reviewers were also warmly thanked for their contributions.

➤ **Activities of Network 11**

The network was active during ECER 2024 in Nicosia, where it was recognized with the **Best Paper Award** for the second consecutive year. Prof. Luka emphasized that the Board recognized the poster by a researcher from Kazakhstan as the best in 2023, and the one by Sanita Baranova and her team as the best in 2024, which made the work and contribution of the Network special at the ECER conference.

Another important development was the creation of an open database of journals, accessible for both consultation and contributions. Members were reminded that it is important to share information about journals and to announce opportunities for publication. Blogs were also used as a means of communication. Two examples were highlighted: a post by Professor Samuel Gento in May 2024, which reflected on the history of the Network, and a contribution by Dr. Ayman Hefnawi in September 2024, which focused on artificial intelligence and reviewing. Prof. Luka underlined: “*We have two blogs.*”

The Link Convenor also highlighted and thanked Prof. Nijoļe Burkšaitienē for her contribution. She was invited to participate in the decision-making process regarding the best poster in the Network in 2025 in a cooperative manner. Together, they assessed the posters and nominated two of them, both of which fulfilled all the required criteria.

#### ➤ **Dissemination of Information on ECER 2025**

Information about ECER 2025 was widely shared through the official mailing list (nw11-subscribe@lists.eera-ecer.de) and by means of personal channels. In total, sixty-five contributions were submitted in the first round, and a further ten were received later, leading to seventy-five reviewed contributions. Forty-six of these were accepted. Sixteen were eventually presented, while four were withdrawn and three authors did not attend.

#### ➤ **Contributions for ECER 2024 and 2025**

In 2024, fifty-four submissions were received in the first round. Forty-eight were accepted, four rejected, and two redirected after meta-review. In the second round, eight submissions were received, four of which were accepted and four rejected. This meant that a total of sixty-two submissions were received, with fifty-two accepted. Twenty-two reviewers carried out one hundred and thirty-six reviews and three meta-reviews. The rejection rate stood at eight percent.

In 2025, the number of submissions increased to sixty-five in the first round (fifty-six accepted, four rejected, and five redirected), and ten in the second round (seven accepted, three rejected). Altogether, seventy-five contributions were submitted, with sixty-three accepted. The reviewing team expanded to twenty-five reviewers, including three new members. The rejection rate once again remained at eight percent.

Prof. Luka pointed out that, out of seven meta-reviews, one contribution was rejected. She reminded participants that overall rejection rates differ from one Network to another.

While the average across all networks stands at eighteen percent, she suggested that NW11 should apply stricter criteria especially in the case of posters. Everyone agreed with this.

She also emphasized the importance of reviewers informing the convenors in advance if they are unable to complete a review for the redirected contributions, so that the workload can be managed more effectively.

### ➤ **Reviewing for ECER 2025**

A total of seventy-five contributions were reviewed in 2025, amounting to one hundred and fifty-seven reviews. Each reviewer handled between four and seven submissions.

The reviewing process revealed some inconsistencies. There were different decisions by reviewers, most often concerning methodology.

Prof. Luka provided a detailed explanation of the results in terms of percentages, showing how the evaluations were distributed across the scoring ranges.

### ➤ **Countries Represented**

Submissions came from a wide geographical spread. Among papers, the strongest representation was from Kazakhstan with fourteen submissions (eleven accepted), followed by Latvia with seven. Other countries included Sweden, Czechia, the UK, Spain, Russia, Germany, Belgium, Austria, Lithuania, and Poland.

Further papers came from the USA, Serbia, Greece, Italy, Turkey, India, and from collaborations across countries such as Turkey with Czechia, Thailand with Latvia, and Bahrain with the UK. Out of forty-six submissions, thirty-five were accepted, while eleven were either rejected or withdrawn.

Poster contributions were led by Kazakhstan with twelve submissions, of which eight were accepted. Latvia submitted two, while Austria, Estonia, Poland, and Romania submitted one each. In total, eighteen posters were received, fourteen of which were accepted and four rejected or withdrawn.

Prof. Luka commented that some authors withdrew even after their papers had been accepted, and in several cases, this could be linked to the political or situational difficulties in their countries. She also observed that countries with less regular participation often registered their contributions at the very last moment.

### ➤ **Reviewing Criteria**

Meeting attendees were informed that the evaluation was based on weighted criteria: coherence in argumentation and methodology (8%), research questions (8%), research methods (8%), analytical or theoretical framework (8%), awareness of previous work and own contributions (34%), and the European perspective (34%).

Questions were raised about how withdrawals and rejections were counted. Prof. Luka clarified that awareness of previous work and the European dimension carried the greatest weight in the process. She also explained that posters have to be evaluated more strictly in order to set a clear standard for comparison.

### ➤ **ECER 2025 in Numbers**

ECER 2025 attracted approximately three thousand submissions, a number similar to ECER 2023 in Glasgow. The overall rejection rate was 13.2 percent. Posters were unusually numerous, with 256 in total compared to an average of around one hundred. Of these, 216 were submitted to ECER (159 accepted) and 40 to ERC (34 accepted).

In terms of presentations, there were 2,360 for ECER and 300 for ERC. Within Network 11, ten sessions were allocated out of fourteen. Twelve sessions were planned, of which ten contained three presentations and two contained two presentations. Two sessions did not feature presentations. In addition, eighteen posters were submitted, and a commission was set up to evaluate them.

Session chairs in 2025 were: Ineta Luka, Mudasir Arafat, Karina Spridzane, Sanita Baranova, Daiga Kalnina, Arturs Medveckis, Valerija Drozdova, Nijoļe Burkšaitienē, Ieva Rudzinska, Buratin Khampirat, Jana Poláchová Vaštátková, and Dita Nimante. The Network Convenor once again thanked all the reviewers, session chairs, presenters, and attendees of the conference for their contributions and assistance, and invited everyone to participate in next year's conference in Tampere.

### ➤ **Future Perspectives**

1. Looking to the future, members considered project funding opportunities. Support is available for summer schools (up to EUR 6,000), seminars or new meetings (EUR 6,000), publications (EUR 3,500), and network-related publications (EUR 1,500). Prof. Luka stressed that such funding could also be used to support PhD students to attend summer schools.
2. The discussion highlighted the need to prepare a project proposal, and it was agreed that co-convenors could work together on collaborative projects, with up to EUR 6,000 of support available. From time to time, new calls will be opened. It was suggested that members of Network 11 could also act as reviewers for ERC. Strengthening the link between PhD students and the network was regarded as a priority.
3. It was further suggested that one or two PhD students should be invited to co-chair sessions. This has already been piloted with success in NW11.
4. The meeting agreed that stricter submission requirements are needed, and the idea was raised of attaching two guiding questions to each reviewed article, which would then be discussed internally as part of the proposal process.

### **Closing**

In closing, Prof. Luka thanked once again all participants for their active involvement, as well as the reviewers and session chairs for their dedication. She noted the achievements of the past year, including recognition for best paper and poster, the creation of the journal database, and the strengthening of blogs. She reaffirmed the need for stricter reviewing standards, greater involvement of PhD students, and further collaboration on projects. Preparations for ECER 2026 in Tampere are already underway.