

Network 11 Meeting Minutes – ECER 2026

Network 11: Educational Improvement and Quality Assurance

Date: 20 August 2026

Place: Lapland Hotels, Tampere, Finland

Conference: European Conference on Educational Research (ECER 2026), 18–21 August 2026

Meeting Chair: Prof. Ineta Lūka, Network 11 Link Convenor

Minute Taker: Assoc. Prof. Valērija Drozdova

1. Meeting Attendees

1. **Ineta Lūka** — Turība University, Latvia
2. **Mudassir Arafat** — Turība University, Latvia
3. **Jana Poláková Vašátková** — Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic
4. **Loreta Chodzkienė** — Vilnius University, Lithuania
5. **María del Mar Román García** — UNED, Spain
6. **Paula Martínez Enríquez** — UNED, Spain
7. **Shivaun O'Brien** — Dublin City University, Ireland
8. **Blanca Berral Ortiz** — UNED, Spain
9. **Nijolė Burkšaitienė** — Vilnius University / Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania
10. **Adiela Ruiz Cabezas** — UNED, Spain
11. **Sanita Baranova** — University of Latvia, Latvia
12. **Daiga Kalniņa** — University of Latvia, Latvia
13. **Valērija Drozdova** — Turība University, Latvia
14. **Buratin Khampirat** — Suranaree University of Technology, Thailand
15. **Dita Nimante** – University of Latvia, Latvia

2. Review of Network 11 Activities, September 2025–August 2026

Prof. Ineta Lūka presented an overview of Network 11 activities undertaken between September 2025 and August 2026.

The presentation covered:

- reporting on ECER 2025;
- Network communication;
- Network activities;
- dissemination of information about ECER 2026;
- reviewing for ECER 2026;
- preparation for ECER 2026;
- ensuring the smooth running of ECER 2026;
- future perspectives of Network 11.

3. ECER 2025

The main outcomes of ECER 2025 in Belgrade were reviewed. A total of **46 submissions were presented** at ECER 2025.

The ECER 2025 reviewing process involved **25 reviewers** and **46 submitters**.

Network activities undertaken during the year included:

- the Network 11 meeting during ECER 2025 in Belgrade;
- nomination activity connected with the ECER 2025 Best Paper Award, involving **Karina Spridzane and Zanda Rubene** from Latvia;
- an open lecture by **Assoc. Prof. Valērija Drozdova**, Turība University, entitled “*Digitalization in English for Specific Purposes (ESP) in the University Setting: Theoretical Perspectives and the Turība University Example*”, held on 16 January 2026;
- a contribution to the EERA Blog by **Paula Martínez Enríquez**, UNED, on Early Childhood Education, published on 18 February 2026.

The structure and communication of Network 11 were also presented. Network 11 has a Link Convenor and 11 co-convenors, with 10 co-convenors reported as active.

The two honorary Network 11 members are:

- **Prof. Samuel Gento;**
- **Dr Heidi Flavian.**

Regular communication between the Link Convenor and the convenor team was maintained by e-mail throughout the year.

4. ECER 2026 Submissions and Network Growth

A considerable increase in contributions to Network 11 was reported for ECER 2026, particularly in relation to posters.

The Network 11 mailing list is available through: nw11-subscribe@lists.eera-ecer.de

Personal and professional communication channels were used to disseminate information about ECER 2026. No special promotional campaign was organised during the year apart from promotion connected with ECER 2025 in Belgrade.

The presentation reported:

- **97 contributions submitted in the first round** on the general overview slide;
- **8 incoming contributions during the second round.**

A later detailed comparison table recorded **97 first-round contributions** and **8 second-round contributions**, giving **105 contributions in total**.

According to the detailed comparison:

- 74 first-round contributions were accepted;
- 21 were rejected;
- 2 were redirected;
- 3 second-round contributions were accepted;
- 5 were rejected.

The detailed table reported a **23.42% rejection rate for ECER 2026**, compared with **9.86% for ECER 2025**.

Network 11 could be identified as a **large EERA network**.

5. Reviewing Process for ECER 2026

The reviewing process for ECER 2026 was presented and discussed.

For ECER 2026:

- **27 reviewers** participated;
- three new reviewers joined;
- one experienced reviewer was no longer involved;
- reviewers completed approximately **8–9 reviews each**;
- **210 reviews and 22 meta-reviews** were completed, giving a total of **232 review actions**.

Reviewers were thanked for their work and for providing coherent and well-structured reviews. Participants were also encouraged to consider becoming reviewers in future years in order to expand the Network's reviewer pool and strengthen members' academic participation in Network 11.

Review Criteria

Review Criteria were discussed

The meeting discussed the higher rejection rate compared with the previous year. It was noted that the reviewing process had become more rigorous as a result of the decision made at Belgrade meeting in 2025, and that maintaining the quality of accepted contributions was important.

6. ECER 2026 Contributions by Format

The following submission figures were presented.

Papers: 69 paper submissions: 54 accepted; 13 rejected; 2 redirected.

Posters: 27 poster submissions: 18 accepted; 9 rejected.

Ignite Talks: 4 Ignite Talk submissions: 2 accepted; 2 rejected.

The Ignite Talk format was discussed as a short presentation format.

Other Formats

The presentation also reported:

- **1 video submission** — accepted;
- **1 research workshop** — rejected;
- **1 panel discussion** — rejected;
- **2 symposia** — accepted.

The two accepted symposia formed part of the ECER 2026 programme.

7. International Representation

Network 11 continued to attract contributions from a wide range of countries.

Among the accepted paper contributions, the largest numbers included:

- Kazakhstan — 7;
- Latvia — 7;
- Spain — 5;
- Australia — 5;
- China — 4;
- Lithuania — 2;
- Turkey — 2;
- Austria — 2;
- Chile — 2;
- Thailand and Latvia — 2;
- United Kingdom — 2.

Further countries represented included the United Arab Emirates, Belgium, Brazil, Czechia, Finland, Germany, Israel, Norway, Serbia, Thailand and Turkey, among others.

For posters, the presentation reported:

- Kazakhstan — 11 accepted;
- Latvia — 3 accepted;
- Portugal — 2 accepted;
- Romania — 1 accepted;
- Slovenia — 1 accepted.

A total of **18 posters were accepted** during the submission process.

8. ECER 2026 in Numbers

The meeting was informed of the overall growth of ECER.

For ECER 2026:

- **4,409 submissions** were received, representing an increase of 1,496 compared with the stated baseline of 2,913 submissions per conference;
- **1,061 PhD students** were among the participants;
- the most represented countries included Kazakhstan, Finland, Germany, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Norway and Spain.

The increase in PhD student participation was noted as particularly significant.

Network 11 Programme

Network 11 filled **all 14 sessions allocated to the Network:**

- 12 sessions had four presentations;
- 2 sessions had three presentations.

The conference programme listed **16 posters**, and a commission for their evaluation was created, although this year the best poster award competition was not held.

This figure reflects the conference programme stage, whereas 18 posters had initially been accepted during the submission process.

Twelve Network 12 members served as session chairs for paper sessions:

- Valērija Drozdova;
- Ieva Rudzinska;
- Ineta Lūka;
- Nijolė Burkšaitienė;
- Loreta Chodzkienė;
- Buratin Khampirat;
- Tamara Pigozne;
- Paula Martínez Enríquez;
- Mudassir Arafat;
- Daiga Kalniņa;
- Arturs Medveckis;
- Jana Poláková Vašťatková.

The two symposia also had designated chairs and discussants.

9. Discussion on Posters and Conference Formats

The meeting discussed several questions concerning the future organisation of ECER contribution formats.

The main discussion topics included:

- the role of posters;
- whether shorter conference formats should be developed;
- rejection rates;
- other possible contribution formats;
- whether there should be a limit on presentations per participant or per Network;
- recruitment of additional reviewers.

Particular attention was given to posters and cases in which accepted presenters did not attend the conference.

Daiga Kalniņa stated that participants whose posters are accepted should be expected to present them. Possible ways of responding to unexplained non-attendance were discussed. Participants also considered preventative measures rather than relying only on sanctions. One suggestion was to contact presenters approximately **one week before the conference** and ask them to confirm their attendance.

Nijolė Burkšaitienė suggested that an automated reminder or confirmation process could be useful.

The possibility of using email or SMS notifications for attendance confirmation was discussed. No formal decision concerning sanctions for non-attendance was recorded.

10. IT and Programme Management

Participants discussed difficulties connected with withdrawals, late programme changes and the amount of manual administrative work required to update the programme.

Nijolė Burkšaitienė suggested that a more automated or pre-programmed system could support attendance confirmation and programme management.

Daiga Kalniņa stressed the importance of having a system in which information could be filtered and processed efficiently.

A better IT solution was suggested for further consideration, particularly in relation to:

- confirming presenter attendance;
- identifying withdrawals;

- managing late changes;
- filtering participant information;
- reducing manual administrative work.

11. Number of Contributions per Participant

The meeting discussed whether the number of contributions or presentations allowed per participant should be limited.

The presentation formally identified this as one of the questions for Network discussion: “**A limit of presentations per participant / per NW?**”

During the discussion, it was agreed that **a limit of two contributions/presentations was appropriate.**

Cases involving multiple co-authored contributions were also mentioned during the discussion. No additional rule specifically concerning co-authored contributions was recorded in the meeting notes.

We agreed that by stopping the phase of redirecting papers to other networks could decrease the number of participants.

12. Clarity of Contribution Formats

Participants suggested that the instructions describing the different contribution formats should be clearer.

This was considered particularly relevant in view of the increasing range of formats, including papers, posters, Ignite Talks, videos, workshops, panel discussions and symposia.

Clear information about the requirements and expectations associated with each format was considered important for future submissions.

13. Artificial Intelligence and Submissions

The use of artificial intelligence in academic submissions and posters was discussed.

Concerns were raised about maintaining the originality, quality and academic integrity of submitted work.

The discussion referred to the growing ability of AI tools to generate academic text and visual materials.

No new Network 11 rule or formal policy on the use of AI was recorded during the meeting, but we agreed when reviewing contributions the references must be checked by reviewers, if they are true or false, and accordingly contribution with false references (non-existent sources, different authors, incorrect titles, etc. should be rejected).

14. Reviewer Recruitment and Network Participation

The need to continue recruiting reviewers was discussed.

Network members and conference participants were encouraged to become reviewers and take a more active role in the academic work of Network 11.

Reviewer participation was regarded as one way of strengthening the Network as the volume of submissions increases.

It was also noted during the discussion that reviewers receive a certificate for their reviewing activity.

15. Publication and Network Development Opportunities

Future opportunities for Network 11 members were presented.

These included:

- publication opportunities;
- an **Open Call for Summer Schools for PhD students for 2027–2029**;
- opportunities for Network projects and academic collaboration.

The presentation specified the following forms of Network support:

1. **Summer School** — funding of up to **EUR 6,000**;
2. **seminar or meeting for the development of new plans** — funding of up to **EUR 6,000**;

3. **publication** — funding of up to **EUR 3,500**;
4. **Network-related publications** — funding of up to **EUR 1,500**.

Publication opportunities and possible collaboration with academic journals and publishers were also mentioned during the meeting.

16. Future ECER Conferences

The following future ECER locations were presented:

- **ECER 2027:** Debrecen, Hungary, **30 August–3 September 2027**;
- **ECER 2028:** Salamanca, Spain;
- **ECER 2029:** a location east of Paris, France.

Members were encouraged to continue participating in Network 11 activities between annual ECER conferences.

17. Main Outcomes and Follow-Up Points

The meeting highlighted the following points:

1. Network 11 has experienced considerable growth in the number of contributions.
2. Maintaining a rigorous reviewing process remains important for the academic quality of Network 11 contributions.
3. Additional reviewers should continue to be recruited.
4. Instructions concerning the different contribution formats should be made clearer.
5. During the discussion, **a limit of two contributions/presentations per participant was considered appropriate.**
6. Offering redirection phase could be stopped.
7. Cases involving multiple co-authored contributions were noted, but no separate rule concerning co-authorship was recorded.
8. The future role and organisation of posters should continue to be considered.
9. Ways of reducing late withdrawals and presenter no-shows should be explored, including advance attendance confirmation.
10. Improved IT support for attendance confirmation and programme changes was suggested for further consideration.
11. Members were informed about opportunities for Network projects, Summer Schools and publications.

18. Closing

The contribution of reviewers, convenors, session chairs, discussants and Network 11 members was acknowledged and appreciated.

Members were encouraged to remain actively involved in Network 11 through reviewing, academic activities, publications and future ECER conferences.

Minutes prepared on August 27 by Valerija Drozdova.