Network 16, ICT in Education and Training, Network Meeting

11th September 2025

Attendance: ~20 participants

Agenda

1 NW16 submissions and acceptance

2 Network 16 presentations

3 Your impressions

4 Link convenorship

5 ECER 2026

6 Time schedule

7 Any Other Business?

1. NW16 submissions and acceptance

During the meeting, data was presented indicating that 123 proposals were submitted to Network 16, with an acceptance rate of 72.36% and a rejection rate of 27.64%.

A warm thank you was extended to all reviewers and chairpersons for their time and commitment.

The number of cancellations was low, and overall participation was strong. It was noted that many presenters were attending ECER for the first time, especially colleagues from

Eastern Europe and Central Asia (notably Turkey and Russia). There were noticeably fewer of the network's long-standing participants, though it remains unclear whether this reflects a renewal of the network or a temporary fluctuation.
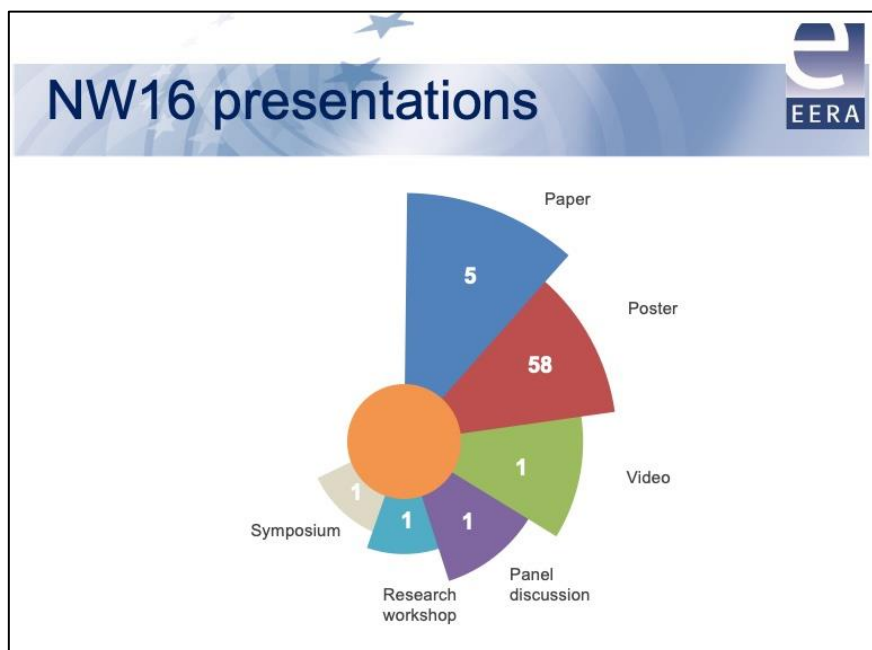
Several reviewers reported being assigned a particularly high number of submissions (up to 18), a number well above the average seen in other networks. While this reflects the high level of engagement within NW16, it raises questions of equity and sustainability for future review cycles.

It was agreed that we will need many reviewers for 2026 and will reach out via the network mailing list to collect expressions of interest.

Reviewers also noted that the quality of proposals was uneven, with some lacking basic academic referencing or theoretical framing. For instance, a submission described NGO activities in non-European countries without a clear research question or scientific underpinning. Ethical concerns were also raised in a small number of submissions, especially from certain regions, due to significant mismatches with EERA's ethical standards.

2. Network 16 presentations

The conference hosted a diverse and substantial range of contributions, distributed as follows:

3. Your Impressions, Local Organisation

The conference organisation in Belgrade was widely praised. The venue, equipment, and on-site support were excellent, and the local team was consistently helpful and welcoming.

Feedback on social events such as the welcome reception was more mixed.

While the ambiance was warm and much appreciated, some participants reported confusion or lack of clarity in the logistical arrangements.

4. Link Convenorship

The 2025 convenorship team included: Cornelia Connolly, Philippe Gabriel, Stefanie Hillen, Ruth Wood, Ed Smeets, and Karl Steffens.

5. ECER 2026

Participants were reminded that the next ECER conference will take place in Tampere, Finland, from 17 August 2026.

Suggestions were invited for future joint symposia, special calls, and network development ideas. Anyone interested in helping organise symposia or acting as reviewer/co-convenor for 2026 is invited to contact the convenors.

6. Time Schedule and Reviewing (General EERA Calendar)

Time schedule	
December-January	Submission of proposals
February-March	Reviewing; first round
April	Results sent out
April	Reviewing of redirected proposals
End of April	2nd round of results sent out
End of May	Draft programme finished
End of June	Presentation times announced

We will need many reviewers for 2026 and will reach out via the network mailing list to collect expressions of interest.

7. Any other business

The final discussion addressed the relevance of updating the mission statement of Network 16, in light of ongoing transformations in the field of digital education. Participants emphasized the importance of ensuring that the network continues to reflect and promote research not only on school-based digital education, but also on:

a. Adult learning, lifelong learning, and vocational education and training (VET)

b. The professional development of educators andtrainers, including digital competencies for teaching and mentoring

c. The use of ICT in non-formal and workplace-based learning environments

In addition, several emerging thematic priorities were highlighted as deserving more explicit visibility within the network's scope:

d. The rise and impact of generative AI in teaching, learning, and certification

e. The increasing platformisation of education and related data governance challenges

f. North–South dynamics and global inequalities in access to educational technologies

g. The growing importance of critical digital literacy, including the ability to:

    i. Use AI tools ethically and transparently

    ii. Detect manipulation and resist algorithmic bias

    iii. Identify and disinformation in educational settings

These priorities suggest that Network 16 is well positioned to become a space for broader, more inclusive reflection on digitalisation across diverse educational sectors and contexts. The group agreed to continue this conversation and to explore a possible revision of the network's description in the coming months.