Minutes of the Network Meeting – ECER 2026

Network: NW20 – Research in Innovative Intercultural Learning Environments
Conference: ECER 2026, Tampere, Finland
Chair: Carmen Carmona Rodríguez, Link Convenor (2018–2026), University of Valencia, Spain
Date: 20 August 2026
Participants: NW20 members attending the meeting
Minutes prepared by: Carmen Carmona Rodríguez

1. Welcome and ECER 2026 Feedback

Carmen Carmona Rodríguez welcomed the participants and opened the NW20 meeting, acknowledging the contributions of network members to the development of research on innovative intercultural learning environments.

The meeting provided an opportunity to reflect on NW20's participation in ECER 2026, including the scientific contributions, thematic sessions and opportunities for international collaboration.

Members were invited to share their experiences and identify strengths, challenges and potential improvements for future conferences.

2. ECER 2026 Special Call and Future Publications

The meeting addressed the special call entitled *"Innovative Methodologies in Formal and Non-formal Educational Diverse Learning Environments."*

Attention was given to the potential continuation of this initiative beyond ECER 2026, with particular emphasis on opportunities for collaborative academic publications.

The possibility of developing a collective publication within a Springer book series was introduced for consideration.

The proposed follow-up would aim to strengthen international research collaboration, disseminate innovative methodologies and increase the visibility of the scientific contributions developed within NW20.

Points for follow-up:

- Explore the feasibility of a collective academic publication.
- Identify potential contributors and editorial coordinators.
- Consider possible publishers, formats and timelines.

3. ECER 2027: Learning Communities and Shared Futures in Education

The meeting introduced the theme of ECER 2027, *"Learning Communities and Shared Futures in Education."*

Members were encouraged to consider how NW20 could contribute to this overarching theme through research on intercultural learning, educational inclusion, collaborative methodologies and community engagement.

Particular attention was given to the importance of connecting educational research with the experiences and perspectives of learners, educators and communities.

The discussion was intended to stimulate ideas for future contributions and encourage collaborative proposals across institutions and countries.

4. Election of the New NW20 Link Convenor

The meeting included the election of the new NW20 Link Convenor, marking an important moment in the network's leadership transition.

Carmen Carmona Rodríguez, University of Valencia, who had served as Link Convenor from ECER 2018 in Bolzano to ECER 2026 in Tampere, concluded her term after eight years of coordinating and supporting the network's activities, international collaboration and academic development.

Professor Roberta Ricucci, University of Turin (Italy), was elected as the new NW20 Link Convenor.

Roberta Ricucci is Full Professor at the Department of Cultures, Politics and Society, University of Turin. Her academic expertise focuses on the sociology of migration, intercultural relations, religious diversity, integration processes and educational inequalities.

Her research has particularly addressed the experiences of migrant communities, second generations, identity formation, social inclusion and the role of education in increasingly diverse societies. She has extensive experience in international research collaborations and projects exploring migration, cultural diversity and social integration.

Her academic background and research interests are closely connected to the scientific priorities of NW20, particularly the study of intercultural learning environments, diversity, inclusion and the relationship between education and social transformation.

The transition to the new Link Convenor represents an opportunity to ensure continuity while encouraging new perspectives, research initiatives and international collaborations within the network.

Carmen Carmona Rodríguez expressed her appreciation to NW20 colleagues for their collaboration, commitment and contributions throughout her period as Link Convenor, and extended her congratulations and best wishes to Professor Ricucci in her new role.

5. Proposed Special Call for ECER 2027

A possible thematic special call entitled *"Rethinking Methods for Intercultural Learning and Inclusion"* was presented for discussion.

The proposal emphasised innovative and participatory approaches to researching diversity and inclusion in educational settings.

Potential methodological perspectives included participatory action research with communities, narrative inquiry, digital ethnography and co-creation with learners and educational communities.

The proposed call would seek to encourage research that moves beyond conventional approaches by incorporating diverse perspectives and promoting more inclusive and collaborative knowledge production.

6. Collaborative Symposium Proposals

The possibility of organising one or more NW20 symposia for ECER 2027 was raised.

Such initiatives could provide opportunities to bring together researchers from different countries and institutions around shared research interests.

Members were encouraged to consider collaborative symposium proposals addressing innovative methodologies, intercultural learning, diversity, inclusion and educational transformation.

7. NW20 Session Zero

The meeting included a discussion point concerning the preparation of a NW20 Session Zero for the next ECER conference.

This session was presented as an opportunity to encourage networking, welcome participants and facilitate exchanges on emerging research interests and collaborative initiatives.

Members were invited to express their interest in coordinating and submitting a proposal.

8. Network Identity, Continuity and Shared Experiences

The meeting also provided an opportunity to reflect on the identity and development of NW20 over time.

Reference was made to the participatory activity *"I remember…"*, associated with the approach introduced by Hafdis at ECER 2024, as a way of encouraging collective reflection and sharing experiences within the network.

The EERA blog contribution *"Developing an EERA Network Identity: NW20 Through the Years"* was highlighted as a resource documenting the network's history and evolution.

The importance of preserving the network's collective memory, recognising previous contributions and maintaining an inclusive and collaborative research community was emphasised.