

**EERA Network 23 Online Annual Business Meeting**  
**1600-1700 CEST, Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

**Welcome**

The network convenors welcomed the thirty-five attendees and wished them well.

**Conference 2020**

Submissions, rejections and withdrawals

The number of submissions increased in all areas from 2019.

There were 121 submitted papers for presentation, 116 were accepted, including 2 redirections, and 7 were rejected. Some borderline submissions received feedback to respond to, although the cancellation of the conference meant they did not have the opportunity to do so.

There were 17 symposia submissions and all were accepted.

As with last year, we now receive far fewer redirections from other networks.

Reviewers

This year there were 27 reviewers.

The success of the conference is down, in large part, to the quality of the reviewers and the chairs. We have a strong group of conscientious reviewers who give their time freely and provide clear, helpful and considered feedback on the many submissions. In normal years, a good number also regularly act as chairs. Many thanks to all.

**Review 2020-21**

We discussed the reasons why the conference had to be cancelled this year, and why the EERA executive had decided not to turn the cancelled conference into an online event. All agreed this was the only sensible option, and were positive about the 'Reconnecting ECER' event of pre-recorded talks from the planned keynote speakers and an online keynote discussion panel.

Many interesting and thought-provoking papers and symposia had been accepted by our network when the decision was made to cancel, and would doubtless have contributed to an exciting programme. But there were too many to reorganise as an online network event. Nor did it seem right to invite just a few to contribute.

Proir to cancellation and continuing an initiative begun last year, in the reviewing process the convenors were more aware of proposals that were poorly expressed because of English language difficulties, but otherwise acceptable, taking this into account when making decisions and offering further support for their authors.

There remains an inequality in where the papers come from, with relatively few from Southern and Eastern Europe. Despite this being our focus for a number of years, this is something on which we will have to continue working.

### **Suggestions for 2020-21**

We returned to the theme of widening participation and discussed how we can involve more people from underrepresented countries including France, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Slovakia. Members from underrepresented countries attending were encouraged to spread this message. One solution could be identifying reviewers and chairs from underrepresented countries. Convenors will think about which countries to approach, and if we could use those already involved in the network or via national organisations.

Given the cancellation of ECER 2020, other developments from last year will be carried over to this year.

### **Further developments**

The EERA Blog will be launched in early Autumn 2020 to disseminate information about EERA and the work undertaken by the various groups' aiming for at least one blog posting from each network and national association within an 18 month cycle.

For ECER 2021, we will invite queries from potential authors before submission, and continue to develop mentoring and support including linking with and contributing to the Emerging Researchers Group (ERG). Xavier Rambla is the network link with the ERG.

### **Final remarks**

No other issues were raised at the meeting. We look forward to seeing you in Geneva in 2021.

The Convenors of EERA NW23: Peter Kelly (link-convenor), Anna Tsatsaroni, Anne Larson, Linda Rönnerberg and Xavier Rambla, 26<sup>th</sup> August 2020