ECER 2015 _Budapest

Minutes of Network23 (Policy Studies and Politics of Education) Meeting

The NW23 annual business meeting took place on Thursday, 10 September 2015 at 12.45-13.45. Attendance was reasonable (35 people).

The following issues were on the agenda:

1. Submission of contributions
2. Reviewing process – results
3. Joint sessions with other networks
4. Presentations, chairing
6. Planning for the academic year 2015-2016
7. Running and development of Networks: Recommendations from EERA Council
8. ECER 2016

Urgent issue agreed to be included in the agenda: The ECER2015 MOOT Initiative on Refugees

**Issue 1 &2: Submissions & reviewing process**

Participants were informed by the chair, Anna Tsatsaroni, about the details on submission, the reviewing process and acceptance of papers.

The NW received in total 153 submissions of which 100 were papers, 4 were posters and 9 were symposia. Two of the symposia were double while two were submitted as joint ones with NW 28. There were no round tables or workshops. Of these submissions 15 were rejected and 12 redirected. In the process, there were withdrawn one symposium, 21 papers and two posters. During the Link-convenors’ meeting, which takes place every year in April in Berlin in order to prepare the annual ECER conference, it was agreed that we will include in our conference programme, as joint events, contributions submitted to other NWs: two symposia (submitted to NW22 and to NW 3 & NW 7, respectively) and one paper session (submitted to NW 13); also that one of our symposia will be presented as joint one with NW26.

The contributions were organised in 32 paper sessions and 12 symposia sessions.

**Issue 3 : Joint sessions**

Joint sessions and the practical problems connected to them were discussed. The chair informed the members on the organisational procedures. One of the participants remarked that the restriction of two submissions may cause problems to presenters. In addition, it was noted that room size was a practical issue that needs
to be taken into concern. The chair stated that the office cannot deal with this easily but some suggestions were to be made to the EERA office concerning room capacity and availability when larger audiences are likely to be attracted.

Issue 4: Presentations and chairing

Chairpersons were invited to comment on the quality of presentations and discussions as well as on attendance in their sessions. Overall, they spoke positively about all three aspects stressing the fact that there were higher attendance rates compared to previous years. The number of papers per session was also discussed. The chair commented that during sessions which ended up with only two papers there was plenty of time for discussion. By contrast, as one of the members pointed out, four papers per session is too much. There was a general agreement that given the time restrictions, three papers—particularly for symposia—is preferable. The issue of hand-outs was also brought up. Some argued that hand-outs should be given as they help participants recall the content of the presentations while others maintained that presenting handouts is not often done due to various practical problems such as heavy work load, the inconvenience of carrying hard copies and the on-going nature of the presented work. The chair also remarked that the EERA office does not seem to encourage the use of handouts any longer.

Issue 5: Network activities during 2014-15

Co-convenor Anne Larson was invited to inform meeting participants about the mailing list running on the EERA NW23 website. Participants were invited to register as members, and the importance of the website as a means facilitating communication was stressed.

Co-convenor Palle Rasmussen gave information on the development of the Special Issue on Policies of “Modernisation” in European Education: Enactments and Consequences, *European Educational Research Journal*. (Guest editors: Palle Rasmussen, Anne Larson, Linda Rönnberg, Anna Tsatsaroni). He remarked that having special issues is positive and that the network worked together this year on examining contributions that could possibly be included in the Special Issue, contacting researchers and finally editing the papers. He suggested that developing a Special Issue for the EERJ or other journals should be one of the goals of the network and that convenors could facilitate the development of such an Issue by examining the contributions. The Chair agreed and added that reviewers and chairpersons could also contribute by identifying papers that could possibly be included. She also pointed out that the network should decide on the topics that best reflect the kind of work and research it is focusing on. This could bring papers together either through symposia or paper sessions and eventually lead to the publication of a special issue. After a query from one of the participants, it was clarified that all contributions should engage with the European dimension of policy making.
**Issue 6: Planning for the academic year 2015-16**

There was a discussion over recruiting reviewers and it was pointed out that in the case of the Special Issue just completed the reviewing was done from two external anonymous reviewers of which only one came from the list of the EERA/NW23 reviewers. Finally, volunteers for acting as reviewers for the Network were invited.

The Chair invited Donald Gillies, Chair of Editorial Board of the *Scottish Educational Review* to inform the members about the journal and the possibility of publishing papers. He encouraged members to submit their work stating that both international papers and European education policy issues are within the scope of the journal.

Nafsika Alexiadou, Co-editor of the *Education Inquiry* journal also invited participants to submit their work. There was a suggestion from the audience to consider collaborations with national local journals so as, each year, to make ECER paper presentations more relevant for and more visible to the hosting country.

Finally, the Chair noted that submissions for funding Season Schools were still possible and therefore initiatives were welcome.

**Issue 7: Running and development of Networks: Recommendations from EERA Council**

The Chair pointed out that the EERA Council recommends networks should become more explicit about the procedures of elections and mandates of convenors and link convenors. She asked members to consider the procedures for selecting convenors and link-convenors and also invited members who may be interested in taking up such a role to volunteer. One participant suggested that a one page document making suggestions on the amount of time that would be appropriate for a person to act as a link convenor or convenor could be circulated on the mailing list. That would give time to people to comment on it and have a basis for the network to have a discussion at the next meeting. The chair proposed that members willing to become involved with the management of the network should think about it and contact the convenors. Another participant suggested that a call for expression of interest should be made and then elections may be considered depending on the number of responses. It was agreed that a call of interest would be circulated on the mailing list.

**Issue 8: ECER 2016**

The Chair reminded participants about the next EERA conference theme: “Leading Education: The Distinct Contributions of Educational Research and Researchers”, to take place in Dublin, 22-26/08/2016. The chair remarked that the possibility for a special call will be considered and put on the mailing list for further discussion. Most members commented that the conference date was rather inconvenient as August is a holiday month.
Issue 9: The Refugees ECER2015 MOOT Initiative

The Chair informed the participants about the MOOT initiative of ECER 2015. The participants engaged in a conversation on the issue and several views were expressed. A round-table was agreed to be organised for the following year on this topic. The Chair finally asked participants to email ideas as “input” for the MOOT (refugeesecer2015@gmail.com).

No other issues were raised at the meeting.

Budapest, 10 September 2015.

The Convenors of EERA NW23

Anna Tsatsaroni (Link-convenor)

Anne Larson

Palle Rasmussen

Linda Rönnberg