

EERA: Network 25 Research in Children's Rights in Education
Minutes from Network 25 Annual Meeting at the ECER 2021 conference
9th September 2021 (online 9:00-10.30 CEST)

Link convenor: Ann Quennerstedt (hereafter "chair")

Co-convenors:

Zoe Moody

Jenna Gillett-Swan

Ioanna Palaiologou

In attendance

19 persons (including convenors)

1. Welcome and presentation, agenda

The chair welcomed all the delegates and explained the agenda for the meeting. She asked the delegates to introduce themselves prior to the meeting.

2. Submission figures, review results and reviewers

The chair presented figures of the abstract submissions for ECER 2021, in comparison with previous years.

Table: Summary of submission figures

	ECER 2021	ECER 2020 (cancelled)	ECER 2019
SUBMISSIONS	31	32	32
REJECTIONS	7	5	4
REJ. RATE	22.6%	15.5%	12.5%

It was explained that the submission rate for ECER 2021 is in line with with previous years. However, the rejection rate was higher than previous years. The number of abstracts that did not reach sufficient quality or meet network requirements was higher than usual, for example by not providing evidence that empirical projects will be sufficiently progressed to present initial findings at the conference.

It was explained that it has been agreed in previous meetings that is preferable to prioritise quality presentations in the network over the number of presentations.

Finally, it was reported that the network chose not to organise any special calls or joint sessions this year.

The chair thanked those who reviewed the conference abstracts and acknowledged that without their contributions it would not have been possible to achieve the quality and rigour of the presentations.

3. Experiences attending the online ECER 2021

The chair invited meeting attendees to share their experiences/thoughts/reflections of the 2021 ECER conference.

In relation to sessions in network 25:

- High quality of presentations;
- Good attendance in the sessions followed by good quality of discussions;
- Sessions felt very participatory as participants were encouraged to keep their cameras on;
- Meeting attendees liked the shorter presentations requested by the network (15 mins) since it offered good opportunity for discussion;

In relation to the conference in general:

- Due to the online nature of the conference the social element was missed this year. Meeting attendees felt that the informal conversations were limited or missing;
- There were suggestions that the Kuomo spaces should have been highlighted during the seminars and the spaces to be open for only few hours each day as it might have increased chances for encounter.
- It was acknowledged that this format (online) requires a lot of screen time, but overall the meeting attendees felt that it was better to have the conference online rather than not at all;
- Due to different time zones it was challenging for some conference participants to attend all the sessions and they regretted to have missed out;
- The online platform that was used for the conference was praised;
- Possible problems of online conferences of inclusiveness were discussed including in relation to captioning;
- One participant commented that s/he has a hearing impairment and that the online format helped as the volume could be controlled and background noise was eliminated compared to face to face presentations;
- There was a high level of technical support provided throughout the conference and everything went very well.

4. Reporting on Network activities since last conference

The following activities were reported:

- The Network was successful securing EERA network funding and organised a webinar titled "*Wicked problems in children's rights in education*". As a result, a graphic summary, video and EERA blog posts were produced. The webinar can be accessed: <https://eera-ecer.de/networks/25-research-on-childrens-rights-in-education/>
- Publications: a forthcoming book has been produced as part of the EERA book series. Network 25's contribution is entitled "*Children's Rights from*

international educational perspectives” edited by Jenna Gillett-Swan and Nina Thelander (<https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783030808600>)

- A special issue: Children’s rights from a sustainability perspective: The UNCRC in Dialogue with Agenda 2030, *Social Sciences* is underway (https://www.mdpi.com/journal/socsci/special_issues/children_rights_sustainability)
- Twitter: 259 followers, 28% increase after the webinar, 10.5% increase in mailing list subscribers (@Network25EERA)
- Newsletter is produced three times per year and emailed to all members.

5. Thoughts on network activities in the coming year

The following activities were suggested:

- To repeat at future conferences the earlier organised collaboration session, so conference participants can network and develop opportunities to work with others of similar interests and develop international contacts;
- To pursue two key themes that emerged from discussions in this year’s conference: legal issues and participation issues.

6. Elections

The term of office for the convenors finished in 2020 but due to the pandemic crisis and the cancellation of ECER 2020 it was decided to extend the term of office for the existing convenors and elections to take place in 2021.

In the previous meeting (2019) it was decided that the elections would be handled by one member of the network to secure transparency. Rachel Shanks was appointed to administer the elections.

There were five nominations. One nomination for the link convenor position and four for the co-convenor positions. To facilitate the procedure it was proposed to network members before the conference, and to meeting attendees, to elect all nominees for the next four years. No participant objected to the proposal, so it was agreed to elect all five nominees. The convenors of the network for the next four years are:

Link convenor: Ann Quennerstedt

Co-convenors:

Zoe Moody

Jenna Gillett-Swan

Ioanna Palaiologou

Lotem Perry-Hazan (new co-convenor)

7. Other issues

As this conference is attended by international delegates (e.g. Australasia, America), it was suggested that maybe in the future EERA might consider a hybrid format for

the conference as countries may continue having different COVID restrictions preventing travelling.

Possible implications of the female dominance in Network 25 were raised and discussed, for example caring responsibilities and that the pandemic may have adversely impacted the professional work of many network members (e.g. research opportunity, outputs etc) as a result. The person that raised the issue asked whether there was something the network could be doing to help support others in the Network.

Possible collaboration with the human rights education network at WERA was also raised by a meeting attendee and discussed. An upcoming webinar organized by the network was mentioned. Another meeting attendee commented that the WERA network has a different focus than Network 25. The meeting considered the possibility to establish another network at WERA, focusing on children's rights in education. It was decided to investigate further the interest of the WERA network and possible new network, and to return to this issue in coming Network 25 meetings.

8. Closing of the meeting

The chair thanked all participants and informed that if they want to become members all they need to do is to sign up for the network mailing list, available on the network's website.

(<https://eera-ecer.de/networks/25-research-on-childrens-rights-in-education/>)