

Network 28 meeting at ECER 2026

August 20th 2026. 12:30-13:15

Meeting minutes

1. Eszter Neumann showed the main statistics of the submissions to the statistics

86 submissions, 17 withdrawn, 69 accepted

1. 1 poster
2. **16 symposia**
3. 52 papers

+ 2 Tuesday morning ws:

Using drama based research methods to explore how we can build a radically inclusive university (Eszter Neumann, Leyla Safta-Zecheria, Roberta Ricucci)

Knowing and Acting with Young People: A Study Visit to Kölvi Youth Work Centre in Tampere (Ofir Sheffer)



2. Eszter Neumann asked for feedback from the participants on network sessions in the conference and the general organization of the conference

- There were many options and parallel sessions, including within the Research Network, and the quality of the sessions was not always consistent. There were also quite a few cancellations and changes to the schedule. It would be better to have fewer presentations in the conference
- It would be good to organize seminars between conferences to help participants develop stronger, more coherent presentations and raise the overall level of presentations for the next conference. There is clearly extensive use of AI in submissions and presentations, and there was a sense that the quality was quite uneven.
- The conference app was updated several times a day, and it was not always clear how to use it. At times, the main program was updated while the daily program was not. We spent quite a lot of time searching for and locating rooms and venues.
- The overall organization was very good. I realize how much work goes into an event of this scale, and I noticed that there were many people on site who were available to help participants find rooms and locations when needed. The app was also better this year than last year.
- Using a relatively small number of buildings simultaneously made it easier to navigate the conference. The welcome reception on Tuesday, however, was very crowded and noisy, which made it difficult to find people and orient ourselves.
- I would be happy to help organize an informal community gathering relatively early in the conference, perhaps a “community beer” at the end of one of the first days. This could be a simple, informal opportunity to meet and recognize members of the community within the much larger conference. It does not need to be a formal dinner; simply meeting for a beer at the end of the day could work very well.

3. NW 28 Elections

Eszter Neumann announced that the convenors elected Jitka Wirthova by consensus as the new link-convenor. Eszter Neumann will step down and continue her work as a co-convenor.

Jitka Wirthova introduced herself.

Mathias Decuypere and Jitka Wirthova nominated Antti Saari as a new co-convenor. Antti briefly introduced himself. The network meeting elected Antti Saari as a new network convenor in full anonymity.

4. Plans for the future, getting involved

- We discussed possible webinar series and plans between conferences
- Participants signed up to be reviewers and to work on the network special call
- EERA blog

5. Brainstorming on the network special call for ECER 2027

- AI inequalities
- place as relevant for the topic of conferences - each year, the conference is in a different town, country = different social contexts and relations - this can be the topic of the call too
- the ways **how to be critical, criticality in education**, how to position a critical paradigm now in education research
- The topic of the call should be broad, horizontal, involving also different types and formats of presentation, discussion, and collaboration

- What does it mean Europe in edu research - beyond the "European countries" view
 - shared futures, microutopias
 - **deschooling, learning communities**, education beyond belonging, also in different formats, e.g., ignite talks
 - **geopolitical tensions**, what education is for, what education is
 - new impetus to Europeanisation studies, more localised approach
 - process of AI-sation - bring only outcome-oriented practices
 - textbooks as sites of educatio
6. Invitation to the network dinner