

Network 34: Research on Citizenship Education

Minutes of the network meeting held on September 10th, 2025, University of Belgrade

Chaired by Valeria Damiani (Link Convenor) and Ralph Carstens (co-convenor)

Meeting agenda

1. Welcome and network presentation
 2. ECER 2025: review and submissions overview
 3. Network mailing list
 4. Future activities
 5. Looking ahead: ECER 2026
 6. Any other business
- Closure

1. Welcome and network presentation

The meeting started with introductions of the convenors and attendees (approximately 20 colleagues in total, including three co-convenors). The chairs then briefly presented the Network 34, its aims, liaisons and research focus.

Network 34 was envisaged as a platform within EERA for comparative exchange and debate in the field of research on citizenship education. The network is potentially interconnected to some of the existing EERA networks:

- Network 6 (**Open Learning: Media, Environments and Cultures**) => digital citizenship and online activism
- Network 9 (**Assessment, Evaluation, Testing and Measurement**) => secondary analyses of large-scale assessment studies results (such as TIMSS, PIRLS, PISA and especially ICCS),
- Network 23 (**Policy Studies and Politics of Education**) => studies on education policy, including recommendations on citizenship education at the national level and/or in different educational systems
- Network 30 (**Environmental and Sustainability Education Research, ESER**) => research on education for sustainable development and global citizenship education
- Network 32 (**Organizational Education**) => this year especially “ReNEWing Education for Democracy”.

The Network research focus is related to various subfields that include, but are not limited to:

- Educational policies and curriculum
- Professional development for teachers and school principals
- Formal, non-formal and informal learning environments and opportunities
- Teaching, learning and assessment

The audience was then invited to suggest additional sub-themes with a view to build a more comprehensive and clearer taxonomy of themes and topics going forward.

The chairs then presented the network organization and its convenors, thanked Erik Amna (in absentia) for his support for the network initiation, and welcomed the new co-convenor Jetske Strijbos, from Hasselt

University (Belgium). They thanked all reviewers who helped in revising the submissions for ECER 2025 and asked the members whether someone was interested in joining the group of reviewers and gratefully collected some availabilities.

2. ECER 2025 submissions overview

The chairs provided an overview of the submissions to Nw 34 for ECER 2025. The final conference programme for the network included 42 submissions in final programme (out of 60 submissions - 9 rejections and 9 withdrawn contributions). The total number of submissions increased since ECER 2024, with this highlighting the growing interest of researchers in the Network. The submissions included in the ECER 2025 programme encompassed: 32 papers; 3 symposia (one with 4 papers); 3 joint research workshops with Nw 32 (Organisational education); 1 joint session with Nw 20 (Research insights on initial teacher training); and 1 joint symposium, with Nw 9 (Innovations, challenges and insights from ILSAs: civic and citizenship learning outcomes). The increased number of joint sessions and symposia confirms, once again, the multidisciplinary feature of the Network.

3. Network mailing list

Ralph Carstens then introduced NW34 moderated mailing list that is run via the EERA office (currently 70 colleagues are registered in it). To join it is necessary to send a blank message to nw34-subscribe@lists.eera-ecer.de. The mailing list will be used to distribute network updates, conference information etc. and will serve as the main and only network member list.

4. Future activities

Several activities, in which NW34 members could be engaged in, were presented and discussed during the meeting:

- Selection of a new link convenor with Emerging Researchers' Group (ERG). Within EERA, emerging researchers' interests are represented by the ERG. Although the ERG does not work with formal link persons for the networks, other networks had some good experiences with having a clear link with the ERG.
- Organization of a summer school for PhD students to be held at the University of Porto in 2026, addressing quantitative and qualitative research methods for citizenship education research
- Posts for the EERA blog (for networks, national associations, EERA related events)
- Contribution to the EERA's Journal, the European Educational Research Journal (EERJ)
- Networking activities, also for sharing call for proposals (books or special issues) or for building up consortia for project proposals
- The creation of joint events, such as online webinars
- The inclusion of a *keynote* in the Network conference programme for 2026

5. Looking ahead: ECER 2026

The link convenors finally presented information on the next ECER 2026 at the University of Tampere, Finland, with the relevant dates: 17-18 August 2026 - Emerging Researchers' Conference; 9-12 September 2025 - Main Conference. The timeframe for submission (start/end) is: 1 December 2025 to 31 January 2026. All attendees were encouraged to submit and to spread the word about the new network. All further information on the

2026 event will be communicated via the network's mailing list. The network members suggested to create a digital space (document, mindmap etc.) to record topics for paper presentations with a view to coordinate possible thematic symposia composed of related papers and interests.

6. Any other business and closure

No additional points were discussed in the last section and the meeting ended by thanking everybody for contributing to the 2025 conference and network meeting. The convenors of Nw 34, who plan to meet in November 2025, are looking forward to seeing everybody at ECER 2026 in Tampere.

