

## Network 34: Research on Citizenship Education

### Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> network meeting held on August 29, 2024, University of Nicosia

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

#### Meeting agenda

1. Welcome and Network presentation
  2. ECER 2024: submissions overview
  3. Network mailing list
  4. Future activities
  5. Looking ahead: ECER 2025
  6. Any other business
- Closure

#### 1. Welcome and network presentation

The meeting started with introductions of the convenors and attendees (approximately 22 colleagues in total). The chairs then briefly presented the newly established 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 and is aimed at: 1) fostering dialogue among different viewpoints, research methodologies, and educational systems; 2) bringing new perspectives into the academic discourse and broadening the scope of research in citizenship education.

Within EERA, the network gathers research topics that have been dealt with and scattered in the existing networks, or topics that were not previously represented at EERA, into a specific research space.

Possible interconnections 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.

Outside the EERA, Network 34 possible liaison with other organisations may include:

- Networking European Citizenship Education (NECE)
- The Global Education Network Europe (GENE)
- The Academic Network on Global Education and Learning (ANGEL)
- Children's Identity and Citizenship European Association (CiCea).

The Network research focus is related to various subfields, e.g., democratic, digital, or global citizenship education, as well as theories, research methodologies, and disciplines; to single country and comparative

studies on all levels of education (from pre-primary to higher education), adult learning and children education, non-formal and informal education. Network 34 is open to research using qualitative and participatory as well as quantitative methods including policy and case studies, surveys and assessment, action research, narrative research

Sub-themes 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. The discussion that followed highlighted the need to include other sub-themes such as, theoretical foundations for citizenship education; digital citizenship; social studies and citizenship; citizenship competence, civic identity.

The chairs then presented the network organization and its convenors and thanked all reviewers who helped in revising the submissions for ECER 2024. They also asked the meeting participants whether someone was interested in joining the group of reviewers and collected some availabilities.

## **2. ECER 2024 submissions overview**

The chairs provided an overview of the submissions to Nw 34 for ECER 2024. The final conference programme for the network included 35 contributions (out of 49 submissions - 4 rejections and 10 withdrawn contributions). These encompassed: 31 papers; 3 symposia (one with 4 papers); 1 panel discussion. In addition to this, the network programme included 1 poster.

Two joint paper sessions were also organised in addition: one with Nw 6: “Activism & Democracy in Open Learning”; one with Nw 30: “Global Citizenship Education and Education for Sustainable Development”; and one joint symposium with Nw 9: “Civic and Citizenship Education in Times of Global Challenges”.

Below are some pictures of two NW sessions.





### 3. Network mailing list

Ralph Carstens then introduced NW34 moderated mailing list that is run via the EERA office. To join it is necessary to send a blank message to [nw34-subscribe@lists.eera-ecer.de](mailto: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.
- Posts for the EERA blog (for networks, national associations, EERA related events)
- Contribution to the EERA's Journal, the European Educational Research Journal (EERJ)
- Developing a publication for the Book Series - Transdisciplinary Perspectives in Educational Research (Springer, open access)
- Networking activities, also for sharing call for proposals (books or special issues) or for building up consortia for project proposals
- Development of an online platform with live/recorded discussions
- The creation of joint events
- The inclusion of a *keynote* in the Network conference programme from 2025
- The setting of guidelines for submission, noting some observation from the 2024 submissions, e.g. those not clearly or not at all linked to education.

## 5. Looking ahead: ECER 2025

The link convenors finally presented information on the next ECER 2025 at the University of Belgrade, Serbia, with the relevant dates: 8-9 September 2025 - Emerging Researchers' Conference; 9-12 September 2025 - Main Conference. The timeframe for submission (start/end) is: 1 December 2024 to 31 January 2025. All attendees were encouraged to submit and to spread the word about the new network. All further information on the 2025 event will be communicated via the network's mailing list.

## 6. Any other business and closure

No additional points were discussed in the last section and the meeting ended by thanking everybody for participating in the 2024 network meeting. The convenors of Nw 34, who plan to meet in October 2024, are looking forward to seeing everybody at ECER 2025 in Belgrade.

