

Minutes of the EERA Council Online Meeting

Friday 24 September 10:00 – 16:00 CET (Berlin time)

Attendees:

	Name	Association
1	Ana Kozina	The Slovenian Educational Research Association (SLODRE)
2	Andreas Hadjar	EERA Treasurer elect/Treasurer
3	Angelika Wegscheider	EERA Office
4	Anna Aleksanyan	Educational Research Armenian Society (ERAS)
5	Arcady Margolis	Educational Research Association (RERA)
6	Branislava Baranovic	Croatian Educational Research Association (CERA)
7	Daniela Preis	EERA Office
8	Doris Edelmann	Swiss Society for Research in Education (SSRE)
9	Dragica Pavlović Babic	Educational Research Association of Serbia (DIOS)
10	Eduardo García-Jiménez	Asociación Interuniversitaria de Investigación Pedagógica (AIDIPE)
11	Elisabetta Biffi	Società Italiana di Pedagogia (SIPED)
12	Enda Donlon	Educational Studies Association of Ireland (ESAI)
13	Erich Svecnik	Österreichische Gesellschaft für Forschung und Entwicklung im Bildungswesen (OEFEB)
14	Eva Hultin	Nordic Educational Research Association (NERA)
15	Helen Phtiaka	Cyprus Pedagogical Association (CPA)
16	Herbert Altrichter	EERA Treasurer
17	Ignacio Monge	LOC University of Geneva
18	Ineke M. Pit-ten Cate	Luxembourg Educational Research Association (LuxERA)
19	Iouri Zagoumenov	Belarus National Association “Innovations in Education” (IE)
20	Jana Poláčková Vašátková	Česká asociace pedagogického výzkumu (ČAPV)
21	Joe O'Hara	EERA President
22	Julianna Mrazik	Hungarian Educational Research Association (HERA)
23	Karmen Trasberg	Estonian Academic Research Association (EAPS)
24	Liudmila Rupšienė	Lithuanian Academic Educational Association (LERA)
25	Lucian Ion Ciolan	Romanian Educational Research Association (ARCE)
26	Marco Rieckmann	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Erziehungswissenschaft (DGfE)
27	Maria Pacheco Figueiredo	EERA Secretary General
28	Mhairi Beaton	British Educational Research Association (BERA)
29	Milosh M. Raykov	Malta Educational Research Association (MERA)
30	Nihat Gurel Kahveci	Turkish Educational Research Association (EAB)
31	Paolo Landri	European Educational Research Journal
32	Paulina Korsnakova	Slovak Educational Research Society (SERS)
33	Petra Grell	EERA Networks' Representative on Council
34	Satu Perälä-Littunen	Finnish Educational Research Association (FERA)
35	Sébastien Akira Alix	Association des Enseignants et Chercheurs en Sciences de l'Education (AECSE)
36	Stephen McKinney	Scottish Educational Research Association (SERA)
37	Wilfried Admiraal	Vereniging voor Onderwijs Research (VOR)

1. Brief Intro/Soundcheck

Council members introduced themselves briefly.

2. Apologies and Welcome of New Members

Joe O'Hara forwarded the apologies of Sofia Marques da Silva, Sotiria Grek, Gonzalo Jover and Saneeya Qureshi. Joe also informed Council of the passing of two important persons for EERA and ECER, Kadir Beycioğlu (the EERA Council representative of EARDA) and Tjeerd Plomp (co-organiser of the first ECER and founding member of EERA). He also expressed his condolences to their families and friends.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

Council confirmed the minutes of the last meeting.

4. Reports and Exculpations

4.1 President

Joe gave a short report and was exculpated by Council.

4.2 Secretary General

Maria Pacheco Figueiredo was also exculpated by Council.

4.3 Treasurer Report 2020

After giving his financial report for 2020, Herbert Altrichter was also exculpated. With this report Herbert Altrichter's term of office as treasurer ended. Joe O'Hara thanked Herbert Altrichter not only for his long term contribution to EERA as a treasurer, but also for his engagement in multiple EERA activities like amongst others bringing the conference and the summer school to Austria and supporting the development of a new publication strategy for EERA.

4.3.1 Confirmation of Auditor for 2021

Andreas Vollmer was confirmed by Council as auditor of EERA for the annual report of 2021.

5. ECER 2021

5.1 Review Online Experience

Ignacio Monge reported that LOC is very happy with the outcome of the online conference. He emphasised the very friendly and efficient collaboration with the three partners, very calm in stressful moments. The situation about ERC moderators was unfortunate, however, as LOC had listed several volunteers and only some of them could take their role due to misunderstanding in the communication process.

Joe thanked LOC for their great work. Petra Grell passed on thanks from networks' link convenors. For them the online format worked well despite some minor hiccups. Branislava Baranovic, who is also link convenor of network 33, reported that all in her network were very satisfied, especially thanks to the technical assistants.

Angelika Wegscheider gave some numbers: there were about 15% less participants than in previous years, but the loss seems to be evenly across members/non-members and Low/High GDP. For the 680 sessions in total 80 technical assistants were active, supervised by 13 team leaders; 5 professionals from Kuoni worked full time during ECER on the technical support to participants and team leader organisation. Her fear before and of the online event changed

quickly to awe, when she saw how well the background communication between these groups was organised and fell into place.

Maria stressed that just one year it was fully uncertain what ECER 2021 would be like. Council decided on doing something completely new, and it proved to have been the right decision: it worked out well.

5.2 What to Take on from it?

Maria reported from the participants and link convenors' feedback collected in two surveys. Both groups showed high satisfaction rates with ECER 2021. In the written comments a prevailing theme was that some of the online-elements should be kept for an in-person event as well.

Helen Phtiaka suggested that a hybrid option should seriously be considered. Paolo Landri suggested that an EERJ article on the experiences could be published.

Petra asked to look at diversity in the answers (for some, being at home was better due to child care or the like, others found it distracting to be at home and not out of normal duties during the conference). This diversity should be embraced and taken into consideration.

Branislava mentioned that informal discussion was missed. Kumo was offered, but was it also used? Answer: only very few people were there, in future, fixed meetings should help people to find their way there.

Enda Donlon also emphasized that hybrid events should be considered for sustainability aspects.

Stephen McKinney asked how a hybrid event could be made as interesting, this is a very complex question.

Ana Kozina thinks that face to face should always be prioritised: she just made the experience at their national conference that during the two days of face to face conference, far more could be achieved than at an online event.

Keeping online element/planning hybrid could, according to Petra Grell, also be looked at very differently and new models could be considered: E.g. one year in-person, next year online.

Joe asked Council to set up a working group which should look into two different aspects: the hybrid options for ECER 2022 (how to enrich the in-person conference with online elements and participation options), and the long-term opportunities and needs for hybrid models with view to sustainability, accessibility and flexibility.

Marco Rieckmann, Milosh Raykov, Sébastien Akira Alix, Jana Poláchová Vašátková, Anna Aleksanyan, Mhairi Beaton, Branislava Baranova, Enda Donlon and Stephen McKinney would like to be part of this working group in addition to the ex officio members: Maria, Petra, Angelika and Saneeya.

6. Emerging Researchers' Group/ERC 2021

Satu Perälä-Littunen gave a report on ERC: there were 322 participants from 43 countries, 99 reviewers assessed the 257 submissions, with 221 contributions accepted. There were 40 bursary submissions and 30 were accepted, including those who had won in 2020 and resubmitted. The survey outcome was generally very positive, many found ERC very rewarding and helpful, and it enhanced their confidence. Also the mentoring was seen as very positive. Petra Grell thinks the How to Make the Most out of ECER session is a great format, and also Andreas Hadjar thinks it is a good thing that brings young people into EERA and it should be considered how this could be even enhanced. Also the collaboration with networks could be enhanced, Branislava found, and asked to get information on how to do this. Satu said that they would look into it.

Ignacio also found ERC very helpful for the organisers, two days of rehearsal, in a way, with the same work as for the big event, but only a fraction of the sessions in parallel etc.

7. Upcoming ECERs

7.1 ECER 2022: Yerevan

Anna Aleksanyan showed the flyer as well as the video which can now also be found on the EERA website. She also reported that work has started, and that the collaboration with the EERA Office also started with sharing documents, and will be intensified shortly with a first LOC and EERA Office virtual meeting. Asked for the current Covid-19 regulations in Yerevan, Anna reported that there are no limitations in numbers for events taking place outside. Inside, there are, but with numbers that would not affect us. Masks need to be worn inside, but not outside.

7.2 ECER 2023: Glasgow – Budget and contract in process

Stephen McKinney informed Council that it has been difficult to put a new budget together, but that they are close to finalising it. The theme however has been developed and will be introduced to Council at the next meeting, when the scientific committee will have had a look at it.

7.3 ECER 2024: Nikosia: Dates

Helen Phtiaka stated that only the last two weeks in August are available, as the school year starts on 1 September. The preferred option is the same week as now in Yerevan, i.e. from 19 to 24 August. Work on budget and contract needs to be taken up again.

7.4 ECER 2025: Belgrade pencilled in

The work on the budget and contract needs to start soon.

7.5 ECER 2026: new offer from Finland

A written application from Tampere was received and looks good. One council member reported that EARLI took place there a few years ago, and Tampere was a very good venue, with enough hotels and good infrastructure.

7.6 ECER 2027: Kyrenia pencilled in

8. EERA Activities [information]

8.1 Summer School Report 2021

Satu reported on this year's first online summer school, and on the positive feedback they received. Participants who were accepted to participate in 2020 were offered a place in 2021. That meant that 38 new applicants out of 145 had to be selected. In the end 88 participated, so some of the accepted ones did not attend. The summer school cooperated with a virtual platform that allowed also one-to-one networking which helped people to exchange and connect.

8.2 Porto as Venue for 2022/2023

Maria reported that this is a joint effort of several institutions, currently planned as an in person event. But it will be seen if hybrid is an option. The contract is to be signed. Satu said they had also looked into that option, but found it too complicated.

Marco Rieckmann suggested that the Hybrid group could also look into that. Of course different solutions would be needed for the different formats, but the same people could think about it.

8.3 Academic Writing Workshops

Jana Poláchová Vašátková reported back on the virtual workshop that took place only a few days prior to the council meeting. It was organised as a pre-conference of a hybrid conference, so many people were travelling and had a bad connection, but the people were still happy with the outcome. In the beginning, there were no questions, due to the fear to speak English with native speakers, online. But once a colleague volunteered with translating, the interaction was given. "Spacial Chat" was a new platform to many, but thanks to Stephen and George being calm and even joking when facing tech problems, it was as good as it could be! Stephen and George were first apprehensive with regard to the online format, but they also thanked Jana and her colleague Vitek for the great cooperation.

Joe was happy to be there for a while, and thanked all parties involved for their willingness to experiment. It is a great means to enhance the connection between EERA and the national associations. He suggests we continue with it until the next official evaluation. Stephen and George are willing to continue.

9. Communication and Social Media

9.1 Blog

A year ago, the EERA Blog started and it succeeded in broadening the reach of EERA. Meanwhile 46 blog posts, from 9 National Associations and 20 networks have attracted 13 000 visitors. Joe invited Member Associations to consider contributing to the Blog, like e.g. the Austrian, Ukrainian and Spanish colleagues had already done.

10. Publications

10.1 EERJ-Report

Paolo reported on good division of work between the editors and co-editors plus an assistant who has been hired. Positive developments: the publication time for online publication was shortened, the citations went up.

Joe commented that for him the need to go online with the conference offered the opportunity to attend the EERJ board meeting, which was really interesting. He saw what very good work is done there, e.g. for the special issue on Covid: quick high-quality work! Thanks a lot to board and editors, EERA can be very happy with their work!

10.2 Book Series

The first book of the series was launched in September, shortly after ECER. An official launch will be planned for ECER 2022. Also, with the first book out, the call for new submissions needs to be reiterated.

11. Report and Outlook Networks

11.1 Networks' Seminar & Network Meeting before ECER

Petra reported that network link convenors met online twice in 2021. In May, plans for ECER 2021 were discussed and just before the start of ECER a final briefing meeting took place. These meetings also debated and welcomed the change in name for one network plus the application of a new network, which now need to be confirmed by council.

11.2 Network Name Changes

New name of network 3 approved by Council

11.3 Overview Funding of Network Activities

There are no further funding applications for 2021. Projects that were initially planned to take place in 2020/2021 have largely been postponed.

11.4 New Network Application: Psychoanalysis & Education

The link convenors endorse the new network, therefore no discussion is indicated. Council approves.

12. EERA Cooperations

12.1 WERA

Joe asked whether anyone from Council plans to go to AERA conference in San Diego next Spring, where the WERA Focal Meeting is “embedded”. They are interested in organising an EERA symposium, which will not go through reviewing. Satu said she plans to go and Joe will talk to her after the meeting.

12.2 GENE

GENE was very happy with EERA’s organisation of the GENE award and would like to continue the cooperation for another 3 years. Andreas was worried about the work load linked to this and suggested that especially the reviewing of projects is taken on by more persons. Satu and Lucian volunteered for this. Council welcomed the ongoing cooperation.

13. General Regulations

NA

14. Budget

14.1 Budget Outlook 2021

Andreas Hadjar gave an overview of the interim numbers of 2021, stating that no adaptations to the budget were needed.

14.2 Budget 2022

Andreas Hadjar presented the budget for 2022, suggesting to plan on the basis of 2000 conference participants plus largely keeping other budget items at the same level as in pre-pandemic years.

After questions from Council, Andreas specifies that Others in expenditures include the EERA blog, GENE award and the like. The network funding does not need to be modified after acceptance of a new network, as it is about projects that need to be handed in and accepted by Exec, and not about general funding for each network. He also confirms that the suggested income is calculated conservatively, as it is not predictable how a hybrid part of ECER will change the income. Nevertheless, with the 2000 assumed participants, we will be on the safe side. And even if in person is again not possible, no real plan B is needed, as we would still survive that, given the good savings situation.

Budget 2022 is approved by Council.

Andreas suggests that in March, budget checkers are appointed, to look on the current figures during ECER.

Joe thanks Andreas for the clear report and says he feels we are in good hands.

15. Elections

15.1 Setting up a Nomination Committee for the President

Maria, Marco Rieckmann and Karmen Trasberg will be the nomination committee. They will send out the process and will ask for nominations. If Council has someone in mind, but would like to get other opinion, the committee is also happy to help. The nominations should come in by February. Any researcher who is member of an EERA member association can be nominated. Joe offers that he can be asked about the role and the work involved etc.

15.2 Networks' Representative on Council

The link convenors do the thinking and nomination. The person needs to have been link convenor for at least two years, and member of an EERA member association. If Council has someone in mind, they should contact a link convenor to make their suggestion.

16. AOB

Upcoming Meetings

25/26 March 2022, Berlin, as in person event