

# Minutes, EERA Council Meeting, June 2008, Berlin

**Saturday 14 June 2008, 11:00 – 17:00**

**Sunday 15 June 2008, 09:00 – 13:00**

**Meeting Venue: EERA Office,  
Freie Universität Berlin, Arnimallee 12, 14195 Berlin.**

## **Members Present:**

Present: Herbert Altrichter (ÖFEB), Matthis Behrens (SSRE), David Bridges (BERA), Paul Conway (ESAI), Ingrid Gogolin (President), Ian Grosvenor (Convenors' Representative), Michael Holmquist (LOC 2008), Stefan Hopmann (Vienna, LOC 2009), Marith Honeröd Hoveid (Convenors' Representative elect), Wim Jochems (Treasurer), Martin Lawn (EERJ Editor), Raquel-Almaya Martinez Gonzalez (AIDPE), Ian Menter (SERA), Leif Moos (NERA), Daniela Schwämmlein (EERA-Office), Paulius Skiecevicius (PGN), Rudolf Tippelt (DGfE), Angelika Wegscheider (EERA-Office), Tanja Werkl (Vienna, LOC 2009)

## **1. Apologies for absence and welcome to new members**

Lisbeth Lundahl, Bénédicte Gendron and Joana Duarte asked to be excused. Raquel Almaya Martinez Gonzales and Hebert Altrichter were welcomed as new council members. Paulius Skiecevicius was introduced representing the PGN; Tanja Werkl was introduced as member of LOC 2009, Yvonne Rosendahl, Daniela Schwämmlein were introduced as new staff of DGfE and EERA respectively.

## **2. Confirmation of minutes of Council Meeting in January**

Minutes of last council meeting were confirmed. It was asked to not only send them out after the meeting itself but also as part of the agenda of the upcoming council meeting.

## **3. Matters arising from minutes of Council Meeting in January [not elsewhere on the agenda]**

None

## **4. Presidential Report**

### **4.1 Contact with European Expert Network on Economics of Education (EENEE)**

Ingrid Gogolin reported that as the Economics of Education Network was closed last year it might be positive to invite EENEE to cooperate with EERA. First contacts have shown that this might be valuable for both partners, as EENEE is only financed until the end of 2009 (EU funding). It was agreed to further develop the idea. Ingrid Gogolin, Rudolf Tippelt and Matthis Behrens offered to contact L. Woeßmann and Stefan Wolters.

### **4.3 Contact with "Educational Research and Evaluation"**

The Journal contacted EERA as for ECER2007 there was an agreement to offer reduced rates to ECER delegates and they wanted to promote it for ECER 2008 as well.

However Council asked for developing a general approach towards promotional requests from publishers. David Bridges offered to draft a proposal and the topic was postponed to Sunday.

#### 4.3 Invitation to editorial board of "International Journal of Instruction"

Ingrid Gogolin received an invitation to the editorial board of the newly founded "International Journal of Instruction". She passed this on to Wim Jochems, who volunteered to take a look at the journal and/or find somebody whom this invitation could be transferred to.

Council asked to be cautious with such requests, as they might just get too numerous.

## **5. ECER 2008**

### 5.1 Report of LOC

Mikael Holmquist reported on proceedings in Göteborg;

Both houses will have coffee areas and PC rooms; house B will host the majority of the sessions. One keynote presentation will be needed to be broadcasted to a second room, therefore two video pictures will be provided (one on the speaker, one on his/her Power point presentation)

WLAN access will be provided via a code on the delegate badges; copy cards will be sold at low prices.

It was agreed that certificates of attendance/presentation should be issued via conftool-system.

### Reception

Tuesday: Small Council/Convenors reception after council/convenors meeting

Thursday: Reception in place which could open up as bar later, idea was welcomed.

The Vice chancellor of University will come and welcome delegates (Second speaker, EERA first)

Friday: Small invited reception up to 20 people; Council + LOC

### Rooms booked on Saturday

LOC has arranged 6 – 8 rooms for Saturday which can be used for the Council meeting, but also for Network meetings, if needed.

### 5.2 Book Exhibition

There will be 12 exhibitors, all located in house B.

### 5.3 Review Process

Deadlines for reviewing and informing authors could more or less be met (2 networks took longer).

ECER 2008 will have about 1220 presentations, 165 of them in the Pre-Conference, 1055 in the Main Conference (single Symposia Papers not included). Numbers of submissions in different networks vary a lot: 5 networks with less than 20 submissions (NW12, NW 25, NW 20, NW 6, Nw15); four networks with more than 100 submissions (NW 22, NW 27, NW 10, NW 21 (PGN));

It was pointed out that the high submission numbers for the PGN are seen as a big success of the network and the Pre-Conference which started with about 20 presentations.

### 5.4 Pre-Conference

Paulius Skiecevicius, co-convenor in network 21, thanked all who helped to review in network 21. He reported that the winner of the Best Paper Award and the winners of the two Scholarships for Postgraduates from Eastern European Countries could be selected and informed in good time. There have been enough submissions for the Mock Viva.

### 5.5 AGA Agenda

The AGA Agenda was drafted and will be sent out to the Member Associations who will need to nominate one person as representative. Voting cards will be issued.

## **6. Recruitment of new Secretary General**

Wim Jochems and Ingrid Gogolin presented the proposal for Ian Grosvenor as the New Secretary General. There was general agreement that Ian Grosvenor was an excellent candidate as he had been acting as convenor for a couple of years and as he will continue to be convenors' representative until September 2008. Council agreed with 11 pro and one technical abstention that Ian Grosvenor should be suggested as Secretary General to the Annual General Assembly, which formally needs to vote on him.

However, there were also requests to keep the processes regarding office bearers as transparent as possible. If possible candidates have been mentioned already at previous meetings, council asked to be informed also about discussions between office bearers and those candidates, even if they stepped back from candidature.

Ingrid Gogolin reminded the council on the principles adopted in Berlin and Ghent that always two office bearers should suggest the third function. It was agreed that the principles should be re-considered at the next Council Meeting.

## **7. ECER 2009**

Stefan Hopmann reported on the planning for ECER 2009.

### Date:

- 25 – 26 September Pre-conference (Friday – Saturday!);
- 28 – 30 September Main Conference (Monday – Wednesday).
- Sunday: Council Meeting; thematic walks

### Theme

The local organizers are based within the department of Educational Philosophy and therefore propose a conference theme dealing with bridging theory and research; e.g. "Theory and Evidence". Council suggested to also refer to the various European traditions by maybe adding "in European Educational Research" or similar. After re-discussing this in a meeting in Austria, the LOC will send a proposal to the Council who will decide by Email discussion.

### Grants

There might be travel grants for New Researchers and delegates from low GDP countries.

### Venue

Two University buildings are reserved (within 5 minutes walking distance, 75% of all sessions in Main Building, 25% in Law building) Wlan is offered all over the campus; there will be PC rooms and coffee areas in both buildings

### Deadlines for 2009:

Should follow 2008 deadlines: Call for Papers November; submission time ends: 31 January, reviews results out until End of March; registration opens: April. The Call for Papers needs to inform delegates that they should arrange for accommodation early!

### Promotional Material

Website and Leaflet should be prepared until ECER 2008.

#### Council Meeting:

Will be held on Sunday afternoon and Thursday morning.

Herbert Altrichter presented the idea of having an "Austrian event" for colleagues from the Austrian member association and the general public on Sunday. The idea was welcomed.

### **8. Treasurer's report on financial situation**

Wim Jochems reported that EERA was having three different accounts – two of them in the Netherlands and operated by the treasurer, one in Germany, operated by the EERA office and controlled by the treasurer. As a rule of thumb not more than 5,000.00 Euros are to be at the Office account. Regarding the other two accounts, the treasurer regularly transfers incomes from the general account to the high interest account.

The treasurer has not yet received the final, audited figures re 2007, to be audited in Scotland. He expects a negative result because of additional costs in 2007 (costs of closure of the Glasgow office and costs of the start of the Berlin office), but the balance of EERA (end 2007) will probably be about € 220,000.00 or slightly higher, depending on some posts still to be finalised.

Wim Jochems suggested that EERA should decide on how to best invest/spend surpluses if the balance outlines 250,000.00 Euros after auditing is finished. This would follow legal requirements of charity laws in Germany and at the same time too much savings also raise ideological questions, he argued, as EERA is not a bank. The office will inform about the amount the German law accepts for charity organisations. Depending on that the treasurer will make a proposal to the council.

Council remembered that the situation had been quite different a couple of years ago and thanked Wim Jochems for his careful work as treasurer.

### **9. EERA Office**

#### Website

The new EERA website was presented and some features explained, like the news section, the Postgraduate Members Profiles etc. Council Members were invited to send small descriptions on their associations.

#### Conftool:

The system had a very good start, for the office it is of great value. Submission, registration and payment work very smoothly. Also reviewing proceeded very well. First results of a questionnaire sent to the Convenors suggest that also convenors and reviewers share the positive impressions. Generally speaking, most convenors welcome the new system and even see more potential in it than it has already shown.

However there are some issues that need to be discussed at the convenors meeting. (e.g. redirecting papers, resubmitting etc.), some convenors suggested a re-wording of certain aspects within the system. The office will go on collecting data which will then be presented at the Convenors' meeting in Göteborg. Important questions to be addressed there: how to handle redirections, when to reject redirections, should redirections include the notes of the previous reviewers etc.

In addition to that the office would like to suggest a two step review process, with a first round of decisions and a second one which will only deal with redirected and resubmitted proposals.

Some member associations were interested in using Conftool for their congresses. Angelika Wegscheider will contact the developer and ask for – maybe reduced – prices.

Discussing the review process within the Conference management System also raised questions on how to strengthen links between the EERA Council and the Networks.

It was suggested that each council member should volunteer to take over some sort of partnership for one or two networks, which would mean attending the Networks business meetings at ECER. The idea was generally welcomed by the Council, but still needs to be approved of by the convenors. Ian Grosvenor will propose this to the Network Convenors on the Tuesday Convenors' meeting at ECER and inform council accordingly.

## **10. WERA**

### Strategic Discussion suggested at January Council

Ingrid Gogolin and Wim Jochems reported on the meeting in New York (end of March), unfortunately there were still no minutes available and Council asked Ingrid Gogolin to send a remark on that to the colleagues of AERA. During the New York meeting the decision on whether or not to construct a W-ERA was taken forward but without taking a final decision.

Different working groups should now prepare and establish a three year development plan to be presented in Singapore. However, due to the missing minutes, the volunteers for each working group are unknown and work has not yet started. Some Council Members (Ingrid Gogolin, Leif Moos, Ian Menter, David Bridges) agreed to take the lead in this discussion and to start collecting ideas even before the minutes of the New York meeting are sent out. Ingrid Gogolin was asked to inform Felice Levine on that.

EERA has offered to reserve space and time to present the process of W-ERA at ECER 2008. Felice Levine and Joan Hermann (president elect) will therefore be at ECER.

It was noted that the process of discussing a W-ERA had positive effects on the relationship of the various European associations, as it brought them closer together. Some Council Members raised the question on the relation of National Associations and EERA with regard to W-ERA. In most cases national associations and EERA act each on their own; on the other hand it might be valuable for some associations (e.g. in case of time clashes of meetings) if EERA could act as a delegate for them. SERA will most probably not be represented in Singapore; also Matthis Behrens doubted whether he would be able to come.

Nevertheless the various European national associations might have different opinions on the project as such. This would especially be true when it comes to discussing how to fund a W-ERA, Wim Jochems pointed out. Together with Rudolf Tippelt he had prepared a paper on financial options for W-ERA, asking what needs to be financed and how funds could be collected. He pointed out that his association would most likely not want to fund a W-ERA office structure and argued that W-ERA should rather focus on common activities adopted by its future member associations. This would also allow applying for funds at national funding agencies, who more or less always subsidize projects, not structures. Others agreed that their associations would probably not want to invest in W-ERA.

Due to the missing minutes, people seemed to have different recollections of what had been discussed and agreed upon in New York. However there was general agreement that installing yet another international conference would not be of value. Strategic meetings and international slots in national conferences were welcomed. The notion of a W-ERA acting as a global political advisory body was unanimously disapproved of. On the other hand questions were raised whether a screening of international bodies like World Bank and their activities and positions concerning education/research would be useful.

Some Council Members also argued that EERA needs to reconsider/redefine its own specific key strategies of strengthening the European Education Research Space and focusing on Eastern European areas. Ian Menter suggested developing a position paper on how to better integrate minorities, as more diversity would be needed within EERA and probably within the national associations as well. He asked for being intercultural not only international. Ingrid Gogolin agreed and answered that one step would be to reflect on that when inviting keynote speakers for the Vienna ECER. It was agreed to develop a position paper for the Göteborg Council meeting and put W-ERA back on the agenda there.

## **11. British Education Index**

Martin Lawn presented downloaded statistics from EERA's databases at BEI. BEI has offered online programmes for ECERs from 1998 onwards. Since then all conference abstracts have therefore been listed in BEI plus a number of full papers which were submitted by authors on a voluntary basis. BEI would in fact be the ECER/EERA Archive, Martin Lawn argued. He pointed out that the cooperation with BEI has never been presented / promoted popular and that EERA should develop ideas on how to deal with it in future.

Wim Jochems explained that BEI had approached EERA with a new bid for their services. From 2008 onwards BEI would annually claim 10 Pound per delegate for producing the programme database and allowing the upload of full papers. On the other hand EERA has adopted new online systems (Conftool and Typo3) which also allow integrating a programme database within the EERA website, subject to a one time fee only. The programme database could already be prepared for ECER 2008.

Council agreed that EERA should follow the approach to integrate the database into the EERA website and that the upload of papers should also be enabled.

However there would be need for some librarians to test/check the new database. The EERA office will consult Alex Botte, NW 12. The role of convenors in the publication process of full papers will be discussed at the convenor's meeting in Göteborg.

Council argued that while building up a programme database within EERA's website was welcomed, this should be done without disrupting the amicable relationship with BEI. It would especially be important to negotiate what to do with the previous ECER abstracts which are listed within BEI. They might be transferred to EERA or stay with BEI.

## **12. Summer Schools, Research Training in Europe**

### Strategic Discussion suggested at January Council

Rudolf Tippelt reported on DGfE/EERA Summer School in Ludwigsfelde near Berlin, (18 - 22 August). 3 English Courses are planned, two of them already confirmed. Unfortunately both foreseen lecturers for the third course (Qualitative research methods) are unable to contribute to the summer school this year. So a third lecturer is still needed. There are already 10 – 15 applications for the English courses so far. Leif Moos and Paul Conway had handed in a paper suggesting Partnership Summer Schools which would rotate and take place for two years at one place each. EERA member associations should thereby cooperate in organizing the programme, EERA should provide funding.

Council said that DGfE/EERA summer school and partnership summer schools should not be seen as mutually exclusive ideas. It was suggested that EERA should further investigate on how to establish ties with existing programmes. One way could be to offer travel bursaries which allow international participation in existing programmes, so David Bridges. It was also suggested that programmes in sub-disciplines should

be considered, too. In general the idea of EERA contributing to/engaging in Summer Schools was welcomed. Therefore Leif Moos, Paul Conway and Ian Grosvenor volunteered to elaborate the existing ideas and to hand in a paper for the next council meeting.

For any sound decision a budget plan is required. Ingrid Gogolin suggested to contact the Treasurer for some seed money, if needed.

### **13. Proposal for new EERA Member Association**

During ECER 2007 delegates of countries with no EERA member association/no educational research association had been invited to a meeting with Ingrid Gogolin and Bénédicte Gendron who informed them on the benefits of EERA membership and offered assistance in building up new associations. As a result the Turkish Educational Administrators and Supervisors Association (TEASA) applied for membership of the EERA (website <http://www.eyedder.org/>).

As the title suggested that the association is not research orientated, Ingrid Gogolin asked a Turkish speaking scholar to take a look at their website. She confirmed that TEASA is research oriented.

Matthis Behrens argued that more information should be requested, as granting membership to one association in a country without knowing their relation to other associations there might lead to difficulties. He was cautious about how this could position one association in relation to others within one country. Ingrid Gogolin answered that this never had been the approach of EERA and that there are several countries with more than one member association.

Council agreed that TEASA should be invited for accessory membership but that they should also reconsider their (English) title to make clear that they are research oriented.

### **14. EERQI**

#### Strategic Discussion suggested at January Council

Ingrid Gogolin informed the Council that the grant agreement has finally arrived and that EERA will receive about 50.000 Euro. This money will partly be used to support the office's contribution to EERQI and partly for hiring a research assistant for the EERQI project. After the April kick-off meeting in Hamburg, the next meeting within the EERQI consortium is the first workshop, organized by EARLI and taking place in Leuven. She asked council members to send examples of excellent and bad academic work to her, as the semantic laboratories XEROX need them for a first test. They should try to apply concepts of quality (deriving from natural science texts) to texts on educational research.

She also approached Council asking for support in building up an external board of advisors, who would comment on EERQI activities and outcomes. She will draft a letter with which council members can contact colleagues, who might be interested. The Council is invited to be a part of this board as well.

The range of the project is huge, so Ingrid Gogolin and David Bridges. The time span is three years, but the developed quality indicators should not only be applicable to English texts but also to French, German and Swedish texts. Much work will have to be done in parallel. A first prototype has to be finished towards the end of 2008; 2009 will mainly be reserved for testing; at a later stage other social sciences will be invited in order to see how the results could be applied to their fields of research as well.

Ingrid Gogolin also reported that she had been contacted by CERN (Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire) which proves that also natural sciences are interested in the project.

David Bridges warned that the developed tools might also be used politically and that the project consortium should always be aware of that.

## **15. ECER-Formats of Presentations**

Martin Lawn reported that Round Tables should originally help countries who find the networking involved in setting up symposia difficult. He summed up prerequisites for handing in a Round Table and questioned whether these prerequisites (especially the need for a European Dimension) were always met. In contrast to Symposia Roundtables have the obligation to promote European dialogue but not to have different countries represented. The pattern of Roundtable proposals in 2008 is, so Martin Lawn, not clear and it is difficult to work out why they are not panels of papers or even why they are not symposia. Therefore he suggested reconsidering the format.

Most Council Members shared the opinion that ECER presentation formats were not too easy to understand or to distinguish from each other. This was either linked to the fact that they seemed to be too similar to each other or simply not well enough explained. Some suggested that Round Tables might be skipped or maybe collided with Workshops, but as any restructuring of presentation formats needs to be discussed at the convenors' meeting, no decision was taken so far. Ian Grosvenor and Marit Hoveid will put the issue on the agenda of the Tuesday Convenors' meeting and inform the Council afterwards.

It was also agreed that the Call for Papers needs to be redrafted (Ingrid Gogolin volunteered to take this over)

## **16 Proposal on European Educational Research Book Critique**

Strategic Discussion suggested at January Council  
Paul Conway

Was taken from Agenda as Paul Conway had to leave early.

## **17 Communications**

### 17.1 EERJ Report

Martin Lawn reported on the EERJ Roundtable which will deal with aspects of European research intensive universities and welcome 3 speakers.

EERJ itself has a new board of researchers from five different countries, who will be responsible for writing reviews in future. So far the review section was mainly focussing on Anglo-Saxon publications. With the new board the scope will be broader.

The Postgraduate Network and EERJ had started discussions on how to integrate PGN papers into EERJ. Martin Lawn suggested including 6 – 8 pre-conference papers into one EERJ issue per year. These papers will need to stand within the mission of the journal. It was suggested that these could be papers that were handed in for the Best Paper Award. The idea of publishing Pre-conference papers was welcomed a lot. However it was mentioned that discussion between EERJ and PGN could have been smoother as e.g. the Senior Mentor did not respond to requests.

### 17.2 Newsletter of Slovak Association

The Slovak Member Association has developed an e-newsletter for their members. They used a lot of basic EERA information for one of their issues, which was seen as a good way of promoting EERA.



### 17.3 Procedures to establish a new network

Ian Grosvenor had drafted a proposal describing procedures on how to establish a new network. They are planned to be published at the website. Following his proposal the Convenors' Representative will have a central role in the process.

1] Any proposal for a new network must have the support of three convenors (=researchers willing to act as convenors if the new network is accepted) from different countries represented on EERA Council.

2] Proposers should initially contact the Convenors' Convenor for advice about preparing a case.

3] If the Convenors' Convenor is in agreement, the proposers should prepare a paper for Council consisting of the names and the contact details of the convenors, a rationale for creating a new network including benefits to EERA, evidence that the proposed network's focus is not currently covered by existing networks, indicative areas of research and network activities.

4] The Convenors' Convenor will present the case to Council for comment and support.

5] If Council approves the proposal the convenors of the new network will present their proposal at the General Assembly for approval.

6] A description of the new network will be placed on the EERA website alongside a call for papers for the next ECER.

Council adopted the principles. They will be put online after some rewording.

## **18 Next Meeting**

During ECER: 9.09.2008 and 13.09.2008

## **19 Miscellaneous**

### 19.1 Suggestion on how to deal with promotional requests from publishers

David Bridges drafted guidelines on how to deal with promotional requests of publishers. As a general rule it was agreed that any promotional activities should be subject to fees. Only exclusions should be EERJ and publications of the host association.

It was also suggested that the EERA website should not be plastered with advertisements. Rudolf Tippelt offered to investigate on pricing policy of the LOC for the DGfE congress in Dresden. The proposal will be redrafted and discussed at the next council meeting.

For the time being it was suggested to reject the proposal of the journal "Educational Research and Evaluation".

### 19.2. Next Conferences

ECER 2010: Turin unfortunately will not be a real option, some suggested Montpellier; also Helsinki and Lithuania were suggested

ECER 2011: GERA/ Berlin

ECER 2012: AIDPE/ Cadiz