



Minutes of the EERA Council Meeting in Berlin

22 - 23 June 2012

Gesellschaft für Erdkunde, Arno-Holz-Straße 14, 12165 Berlin

Participants:

Anna Aleksanyan, Educational Research Armenian Center (ERAC); **David Bosold**, EERA Office; **Mustafa Yunus Eryaman**, Turkish Educational Research Association (EAB); **Patrícia Fidalgo**, Emerging Researchers' Group; **Maria Pacheco Figueiredo**, Network Representative on Council; **Ian Grosvenor**, EERA Secretary General; **Brigitte Gruson**, Association des Enseignants et Chercheurs en Sciences de l'Education (AECSE); **Fiona Hallett**, Emerging Researchers' Group; **Tina Hascher**, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Erziehungswissenschaft (DGfE); **Marit Honerød Hoveid**, EERA Secretary General Elect; **Edwin Keiner**, EERJ; **John Krejsler**, Nordic Educational Research Association (NERA); **Katharina Maag Merki**, Swiss Society for Research in Education (SSRE); **Sofia Marques da Silva**, Sociedade Portuguesa de Ciências da Educação (SPCE); **Raquel-Amaya Martínez González**, Asociación Interuniversitaria de Investigación Pedagógica (AIDIPE); **Joanna Michalak**, Polskie Towarzystwo Pedagogiczne (PTP); **Leif Moos**, EERA President; **Petr Novotny**, Czech Educational Research Association (CERA); **Alis Oancea**, British Educational Research Association (BERA); **Joe O'Hara**, Educational Studies Association of Ireland (ESAI); **Gyöngyvér Pataki**, Hungarian Educational Research Association (HERA); **Daniela Preis**, EERA Administrative Assistant; **Antonio García Morilla** (LOC 2012); **Huseyin Uzunboylu**, Cyprus Educational Sciences Association (KEB-DER); **Sinem Vatanartiran** (LOC 2013), **Theo Wubbels**, EERA Treasurer, Vereniging voor Onderwijs Research (VOR); **Pavel Zgaga**, Slovenian Educational Research Association (SLODRE)

Minutes: David Bosold, Daniela Preis

1 Welcome, Apologies, New Participants

The President welcomed all Council members and the representatives of the Local Organising Committee in Cádiz 2012 and Istanbul 2013. Representative of new Armenian association welcomed: Anna Aleksanyan. New representative from BERA welcomed: Alis Oancea.

Apologies were received from: Herbert Altrichter, Ross Deuchar, Şakir Çinkır, Ana Paula Cabral, Francesca Gobbo, Gunilla Holm, Palmira Juceviciene, Inger Kraav, Gonzalo Jover Olmeda and Paulina Korsnakova.

2 Minutes & Other Matters Arising from Minutes

The minutes were approved without further changes.

3 Agenda

The agenda was approved without further changes.

4 ECER 2012

The President reported that the two Presidents of AIDIPE and SEP, the two Spanish member organisations, will hold brief speeches at the opening ceremony in order to highlight their cooperation between their associations and the host university in Cádiz. As in previous years, ECER 2012 will see a number of Council invited sessions with, among others, a WERA symposium and three workshops on Horizon 2020.

The LOC representative for ECER 2012 reported on the current state of the organisation. The reception will be held in the garden between the sea side and the main conference building; the social event will take place in the city's castle. Conference attendees will receive an additional background information leaflet on the 200th anniversary of the Spanish constitution (Bicentenario de la Constitución de 1812). In terms of further preparations, 80 volunteers have been trained so far. As regards accommodation, attendees are advised to book their rooms soon as hotel capacity is limited in the Cádiz area.

The EERA office presented estimates on the number of attendees and presentations for ECER 2012. Figures have again increased by more than 20 per cent compared to 2011. A total of 2.700 participants will be expected to present close to 1.700 papers and 120 posters. In addition, nearly 200 symposia, round tables and workshops will be held in Cádiz. EERA office also announced that the Waxmann Poster Prize will be awarded during the social event on Thursday evening, 20 September 2012.

5 ECER 2013

The Treasurer reported that budget talks for ECER 2013 had been concluded and that next year's conference would be held at Bahçeşehir University (BAU) in Istanbul. Sinem Vatanartıran, LOC 2013 representative from Istanbul, subsequently gave a presentation on BAU, an aspiring Turkish university of some 12.000 students and 900 staff members.

The central university building that will be used as the venue for ECER 2013 will offer participants easy and fast access to all seminar and lecture halls. In addition, ferry boat, tram and bus lines will allow for convenient transfers from the surrounding hotels to the campus located on the shores of the Bosphorus.

Several ideas have already been developed as far as the social events are concerned, one being a boat tour for the attendees of the Emerging Researchers' Conference. A final decision will be taken in January 2013 when Council will convene at BAU in Istanbul.

More information can be obtained at <www.bahcesehir.edu.tr/index/index>.

5.1 Theme and Keynote Speakers

The theme for ECER 2013 – Creativity and Innovation in Educational Research – had already been approved in Cádiz in January 2012. Due to the new venue of ECER 2013, the list of keynote speakers was slightly changed. The following invitees have accepted: Hasan Şimşek, Morwenna Griffiths, Lene Tanggard Pedersen and Riel Miller. Further details will be provided in January at the Council Meeting in Istanbul.

5.2 New Low-GDP Country List

The Treasurer presented the updated list of low-GDP countries based on the most recent World Bank statistics (years 2008-2010). All countries falling below an annual per capita income of 25.000 US-\$ are listed as low-GDP countries. This will lead to the following changes from 2013 onwards: Iceland and Cyprus will no longer be listed as low-GDP countries whereas Portugal will be listed as a low-GDP country. The list was approved unanimously.

6 ECER 2014 and ECERs 2015, 2016 and 2017

The exact theme for ECER 2014 in London will still be discussed but it will be along the lines of educational research, evidence and knowledge production. The overall direction was welcomed by Council members. In the ensuing discussion it was noted that the controversial discussions regarding knowledge production were a fruitful point of departure for prospective conference contributions. In addition, the topic would complement earlier findings that have previously been published in two EERJ issues.

Finally, a suggestion was made to include creation in the title in order to make the theme broader. The London LOC will present a proposal at the January Council meeting (submitted to Office Mid-December).

6.1 ECER 2014 Report by LOC London

The presentation of the ECER 2014 Report was postponed and will now be given in Cádiz at the September Council Meeting.

6.2 EERA Anniversary Committee Report

Edwin Keiner presented a list of ideas for the 20th anniversary celebrations in London in 2014. It includes the following suggestions, some of them resulting from input by link convenors collected during the network meeting in March 2012:

- a special and printed EERJ copy that reflects the state of European educational research and highlights the developments in various European countries.
- a second round of a survey that was conducted ten years ago with findings of the state and self-understanding of Europe's educational research community.
- anthology as a compilation of 'state-of-the-art' research
- an EERA exhibition with pictures and posters looking at EERA's past that could also be displayed online
- invitation of political stakeholders to allow for a policy dialogue
- special sessions on grand challenges in education and Educational Research
- video trailer/impression video on the work of EERA and Educational Research (not identical with the existing ECER impression videos)
- attendance of high school students presenting their views on educational challenges

A refined list will with detailed working program and budget be distributed at the Council meeting in Cádiz in September.

6.3 ECERs 2015 onwards

Council acknowledged the efforts by the Hungarian and Portuguese delegates and re-confirmed that ECERs 2015 and 2016 would be held in Budapest and Porto, respectively.

In addition, the idea was raised to hold ECER 2017 in the Netherlands to recognise that the Dutch had organised the first ECER. No formal decision was taken but the idea was warmly welcomed by Council. A formal application will be provided in the coming months.

7 Horizon 2020 and the role of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH)

The President briefly highlighted the recent developments in the negotiations of the follow-up for the EU's 7th Framework Programme (2007-2013) entitled Horizon 2020 (running from 2014-2020). After successful lobbying on behalf of SSH stakeholders with EERA taking part, recent drafts have seen a mainstreaming of SSH aspects in the overall programme. The total budget for SSH will be up to 5 billion Euros.

Yet, the problem for Educational Researchers should be seen in the unorganised and loosely structured linkages between the challenges that represent the thematic areas of Horizon 2020.

In order to strengthen further lobbying efforts with contact points and representatives of the European Commission (EC), the European Parliament (EP), the European Council (Consilium) and the Danish and Cypriot EU-Presidency in 2012, three working groups were formed to investigate in how far an educational research perspective could be included in the three dimensions of the current draft texts of "Europe in a changing world", namely (1) inclusive, (2) innovative and (3) reflective societies. These drafts were pp. 76-80 of the EC's document 2011/0402 (CNS), published 30 Nov 2011 for points (1) and (2) and p. 120 of Consilium document 10663/12, published 31 May 2012.

The results of the working groups' comments on the three dimensions of 'Horizon 2020' were presented and subsequently summarised by the Executive Board in EERA's Paper on Horizon 2020 (URL: <www.eera-ecer.de/news/new-eera-paper-on-horizon-2020/>). The paper should be widely disseminated to representatives of European institutions and national ministries and research institutions.

Group discussions on Horizon 2020 also facilitated and kick-started ensuing discussions on the general strategy of/for EERA and its relations with sub-national, national and European stakeholders.

8 EERA-Future, Strategies for one and five years

Working Groups 1 to 3 (WG) discussed strategies with regard to the structure and inner workings of EERA, aspects of visibility and links with other research associations, most particularly national member associations of EERA, plus the outreach to EU bodies and national governments.

WG 1 proposed to stick with the current structure of Emerging Researchers Group (ERG)/Networks (NWs) and ERC/Main Conference but suggested to investigate prospective links between the ERG and Networks. In addition, the induction of young researchers' via the ERG should be strengthened, e.g. by announcing employment opportunities and by supporting participants of the ERC to attend the Main Conference in greater numbers.

As regards Networks, the idea of formal membership within a NW was put forward; there should be a stronger relationship or bond of researchers with the respective network. It was clear, WG 1 stated, that this would again raise the issue of the overall NW structure and whether NWs should focus on stability of their research focus or on a more organic development of their work related to more general trends in educational research. With some of the big NWs still growing (more than 200 paper and poster givers at the Main Conference) there would eventually be the need to re-consider the network structure and how the quality of their work could be improved. Against this background WG 1 proposed to delve into the possibility of a "life beyond ECER" in the form of NW-based smaller conferences and to scrutinise the network structure of other organisations such as EARLI.

With respect to EERA governance and the current organisational structure, WG 1 stressed the importance to keep Council manageable. The overall goal of keeping Council manageable would always be in tension with EERA's commitment to remain inclusive and open for new members and for sustaining its current identity as a European umbrella organisation, WG 1 stated.

WG 2 continued with aspects of visibility and communication that should be reflected in EERA's one and five-year strategy. It suggested intensifying links between national/regional associations and using these ties to make EERA more visible at national conferences and in efforts to influence European policies by getting in touch with national stakeholders. One way forward could be to develop common themes within the educational research community; this would allow for greater collaboration between researchers and policymakers at the national and European (EERA) level.

WG 3 agreed with the Executive Board's assessment that lobbying efforts vis-à-vis the EC should be intensified, but stressed that there should be a more systematic approach to move from a tactical and reactive response to EC proposals to a more proactive relationship. One possibility could include the

re-structuring of NWs in order to make them more political/efficient. Another option could be to create national observatories for closely monitoring and influencing national policies in the educational realm.

The overall question affecting EERA, its member organisations and its NWs would be whether they could and should intensify their efforts in political advocacy. Organisations such as WERA might also be included in such discussions. On a more general level, EERA, its members and NWs should find and promote alternatives to evidence-based policy advice. One way forward might be to make the European dimension of research more explicit through EERA funding for seminars beyond emerging researchers (with a policy-relevant topic) and to develop a network/database of scholars working on various aspects of educational research. With more EU funding and additional conferences, the educational research community might showcase and present its findings in a greater variety of forums while EERA could reduce its dependency on ECER fees as the primary source for supporting additional research activities. Along these lines, further publishing houses could be contacted to increase the percentage of EERA's budget generated by external sponsors.

On a more principled level, the discussions on political advocacy and the growth of the EERA Council could be seen as manifestations of an identity crisis and a democratic deficit. Regarding the former, Council members would now be uncertain whether they were actually scholars or diplomats/quasi-politicians.

Following the wrap-up of the WG presentations the following decisions were taken:

- the relationship between EERA and WERA shall be investigated more closely, especially against the background of national associations withdrawing from WERA
- all groups should further discuss the question of EERA's identity and mission
- all group members should report back whether there are concerns within national member associations on the policy-related aspects of EERA's strategy

The discussion shall be continued in Cádiz in September.

9 Members Report: SLODRE (Slovenia), CERA (Czech Republic), SSRE (Switzerland)

9.1 SLODRE

Pavel gave a presentation on the history of educational research in Slovenia and highlighted the transition from the Communist era of "Pädagogik" to the post-communist "education sciences" after 1990. As a new organisation, founded in 2011, SLODRE would be devoted to a more comprehensive, non-ideological approach to Educational research and would function as an umbrella organisation for the three national universities and the independent Educational Research Institute. The late founding date notwithstanding, Slovenian researchers had established networks with the broader European research community early on which could be seen by the hosting of ECER 1998 in Ljubljana. As regards the state of the discipline, he emphasised the impact of the current Euro crisis on the research infrastructure and community. The current government had not only slashed the budgets for schools and universities in general but would also consider the closure of the ERI. He would keep all Council members informed and ask them for their support if further pressure on the government would be needed.

9.2 CERA

Petr's address mirrored some of Pavel's observation with regards to reforms in Educational research after the fall of the Iron Curtain. CERA had been founded in 1992 in order to initiate and cultivate new avenues of research in the educational field. It now has 200 members and is devoted to broad interdisciplinary research and the creation and intensification of research networks between the nine Czech universities with faculties of education and the national Academy of Science. Money for projects and research would be channelled through the Czech Science Agency (foundational research)

and the Czech Technological Agency (applied research), although on a very low level thus forcing researchers to simultaneously administrate several grants and/or teaching positions at universities in order to make a living.

9.3 SSRE

In her presentation on the Swiss educational research landscape, Katharina pointed to the linguistic divide in the country between mainly French- and German-speaking scholars that had on the one hand allowed for closer cross-border collaboration (with French-speaking scholars cooperating with Belgian, Canadian and French colleagues, German-speaking researchers working together with their Austrian and German counterparts and Italian-speaking academics with their Italian peers). This would be reflected, among others, in the co-organisation of some annual conferences together with other ERAs (e.g. DGfE, ÖFEB, ABC-Éduc, AECSE). As regards the membership structure, the support for doctoral students had resulted in keeping membership figures stable – with currently more than 500 members. Katharina echoed Pavel's and Petr's observation that research funding would also represent the biggest challenge facing SSRE. Since the 1970s there had be no cross-national research programme on educational science.

10 Election of New Treasurer

The election committee of the new treasurer consisting of Brigitte Gruson (AECSE), Sofia Marques da Silva (SPCE) and Petr Novotny (CERA) and the EERA Office presented details of the voting procedure and oversaw the voting process.

The election committee reiterated that all Council members had received the nomination document and name of the sole candidate, Herbert Altrichter, four weeks prior to the meeting as part of the official invitation.

Brigitte Gruson reported that three Council members had authorised other Council members present at the meeting to vote on their behalf. The EERA office had received signed nomination forms by fax from the three absentees. A total of 17 Council members were thus eligible to take part in the election.

Paper ballots were subsequently handed out to all Council members authorised to vote. Upon casting the ballots, the EERA office counted the votes and informed the President of the voting result.

Lejf Moos then declared that Herbert Altrichter had been elected new EERA treasurer (16 affirmative votes, 1 vote against and no abstentions).

11 Evaluation and Continued Membership in WERA

The President reported on his experiences within WERA. Notwithstanding WERA's lack of efficient management structures EERA's Executive Board recommended to retain its membership in WERA and to reconsider the question of membership after three years. According to the assessment of the EERA Executive Board, there are at least three reasons for such a decision.

With a number of European Research Associations leaving WERA (e.g. NERA and BERA) there would be an even stronger need for a European representation within WERA. Secondly, many member associations of EERA would expect EERA to be a member of WERA. Moreover, the creation of new programmes such as the IRNs, WERA's International Research Networks, would indicate positive developments within WERA that might be beneficial for the European ER community and its research links with scholars in other parts of the world.

The ensuing discussion focussed on the benefits for European Research Association due to EERA's membership in WERA. The EERA Executive Board was encouraged to intensify the contact with WERA, to investigate options to receive more than one vote for EERA on the WERA Council and to promote focal meetings in European countries (there will be one in Sydney shortly) in order to strengthen the ties between the two organisations. In addition, it was agreed to replace the documentation of the EERQI project on the EERA website with links and further information on WERA.

Council agreed with the proposal of the Executive Board to continue WERA membership during the next term.

12 Networks, EERA Summer School, Collaboration between EERA and EARLI

12.1 New Networks and Name Changes

Maria reported on then results of the Convenor Seminar that was held in Berlin in March 2012. Link convenors there had voted on the accession of new networks and proposals for name changes of existing networks.

The suggestion for a name change of NW 03 was accepted, it now reads: "Curriculum Innovation" (the former addition "by Schools and Teachers" was dropped.

The suggested name change of NW 08 "Research on Health Education" was rejected (The proposal was for the new name "Research on Health and Sustainability Education").

Of the three applications for new EERA networks, the application for a network 29 on "Research on Arts Education" was accepted. It will become the new EERA network 29. The proposal for a network on "Practices and Tacit Dimensions of Education" was rejected. The third application for a network on "Educational Linguistics and Literacy Research" will undergo a second review at the next Convenors' meeting and has been returned for revisions.

12.2 EERA Summer School on Academic Writing

Since the person in charge of EERA's Summer School on Academic Writing will leave the University of Birmingham, EERA was forced to change the venue for the 2013 Summer School that was supposed to be held in Birmingham again. Usually this process is being debated in Council followed by a tender that allows universities to apply for the hosting of the event. Being faced with time pressure to find a suitable venue for next year, Executive Board was to take a decision before reporting back to Council. Following negotiations by Marit Hoveid, the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim agreed to host and co-sponsor the EERA summer school in 2013 and 2014.

12.3 Collaboration between EERA and EARLI

Lejf Moos and Theo Wubbels reported on their meeting and first discussions with EARLI President Jos Beishuizen in which they agreed on a closer link between the two organisations, most specifically with regard to young researchers. First plans were developed for a joint winter school but no agreement has been reached on the exact date and venue. It is supposed to be held in 2014. In order to formalise the negotiations and to include Council in the process a working group was established that will give a brief report at the Council meeting in Cádiz and/or Istanbul. The group will consist of Lejf Moos, Theo Wubbels, Patrícia Fidalgo and Sofia Marques da Silva.

13 New Members

Against the background of further applications by associations from countries that already have representatives on Council, Lejf Moos highlighted the difficulties in reconciling the two goals of (a) being as inclusive as possible while (b) retaining the manageability and efficient working procedures of Council and at the same time encourage national associations to collaborate more closely. He therefore proposed to contact the lawyer who had drafted the EERA constitution to include an additional paragraph on prospective new member associations of countries already represented on Council by at least one Educational Research Association. In such cases of a further association of a country applying for membership, the revised version of the Constitution – or maybe the general

regulations - should stipulate that these associations could only be represented in the form of a joint seat with one of the existing Council member association. In order to be present on Council these associations would need to form a new representative structure. Such a new body would need to have a legal status in the country in which the associations are operating.

With such a move, further associations could join EERA but the number of seats on EERA Council would remain stable. This rule would not apply to associations from countries that are so far not represented on Council.

In the ensuing discussion, this approach was welcomed because it would allow for the manageability of Council and would force associations in countries with more than one ERA to enter into a dialogue with each other.

On the other hand, the current situation would underline that a clearer set of criteria for membership was needed, most specifically with regards to the assessment of whether the prospective new member really was an important or the most important ERA in the respective country.

In order to settle the issue that has kept Council busy for the past years the following propositions were made and accepted by all Council members:

- Leif Moos will contact the lawyer and report back to Council which proposals were made by the attorney to remedy the existing situation
- The discussion shall be continued in September but in a more focussed way, most specifically by (a) investigating the possibilities of making regulations without having to change the constitutions and (b) by proposing ways for more formalised negotiations among national/regional ERAs in any given European country.

14 General Regulations, Bylaws

After a discussion on the exact wording of the paragraph on EERJ's formal link to EERA Council and the election of the journal's editor, the following statement was unanimously accepted by Council members:

"The European Educational Research Journal is an independent, scholarly journal formally linked to the European Educational Research Association and its Council. Its Editorial Board selects the Editor of the EERJ and the EERA Council endorses the choice. The EERJ is the flagship journal of the EERA."

Due to the quantity of new and updated regulations in the bylaws, the Executive Board suggested to postpone the discussion and vote on a number of regulations. Instead, the Board proposed to circulate a revised and abridged version of the bylaws before the September meeting in Cádiz. The voting shall then be done on all bylaws. This proposal was accepted by all Council members.

15 EERJ Report

Edwin Keiner gave a report on the latest development at EERJ. Despite being an online journal only, EERJ had earned a high reputation in the research community and beyond, not least to its rigorous peer-review policy. This was for instance reflected by having been listed in the highest category INT1 of the *European Reference Index for the Humanities* (ERIH) in 2007 and 2011 and being under consideration for an inclusion in the ISI database.

Besides, the content related to EERA/ECER activities (submissions based on EERA papers and keynotes) had remained high with a percentage of 40-50 per cent of all articles published by the journal. The plans to increase the publication output from currently 4 to 6 issues would currently be considered by the editorial board and might be supported by a closer link between the EERJ Board and the EERA

Council and Link Convenors. One idea would be to have one issue per year that is reviewed and edited by Council.

Further discussions on the intensification of the cooperation between EERA Council and EERJ shall be continued in Cádiz and Istanbul.

16 Dates for Next Meetings

22 September 2012, Cádiz

The Cádiz meeting will start on 22 September 10am and will end around 3pm. At the meeting the following member organisations will present their reports: BERA (Alis Oancea), ERAC (Anna Aleksanyan).

1-2 February 2013, Istanbul

The meeting in Istanbul will take place at Bahçeşehir University. Meeting times are as follows: 1 February 2013 from 9am to 5pm and 2 February 2013 from 10am to 4pm. Council members are advised to arrive one day earlier (31 January 2012). More details on hotels will be provided in Cádiz.

17 AOB

BERA reported that it would cease to be a member of WERA. It will continue to be represented by EERA and has decided to increase funding to support educational research activities in low-GDP countries.

The Executive Board urged Council members to be present at the meeting. Council members concurred with the President's proposal to remind those Council members of their representational duties who had not sent an apology for their absence at the meeting.

In addition, Council members suggested reporting back to their associations that a longer presence on EERA Council would be beneficial for the work of member organisations and EERA. As it stands, up to four current Council members may be forced to step down in the coming months to September.