

# Minutes of the EERA Council Meeting 7 – 8 October 2022

## Attendees

	Name	Association
1	Ana Kozina	The Slovenian Educational Research Association (SLODRE)
2	Andreas Hadjar	EERA Treasurer
3	Angelika Wegscheider	EERA Office
4	Celine Healy	Educational Studies Association of Ireland (ESAI)
5	Daniela Preis	EERA Office
6	Dita Nimante	University of Latvia (Candidate Member)
7	Fabio Dovigo	EERA Networks' Representative on Council Elect
8	Gonzalo Jover	Sociedad Española de Pedagogía (SEP)
9	Jana Poláchová Vašátková	Česká asociace pedagogického výzkumu (ČAPV)
10	Joe O'Hara	EERA President
11	John Benedicto Krejsler	Nordic Educational Research Association (NERA)
12	Liudmila Rupšienė	Lithuanian Academic Educational Association (LERA)
13	Liudmyla Zagoruiko	Ukrainian Educational Research Association (UERA)
14	Lucian Ion Ciolan	Romanian Educational Research Association (ARCE)
15	Magdolna Benke	Hungarian Educational Research Association (HERA)
16	Marco Rieckmann	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Erziehungswissenschaft (DGfE)
17	Maria Pacheco Figueiredo	EERA Secretary General
18	Marit Hoveid	EERA President Elect
19	Mhairi Beaton	British Educational Research Association (BERA)
20	Milosh M. Raykov	Malta Educational Research Association (MERA)
21	Paulina Korsnakova	Slovak Educational Research Society (SERS)
22	Petra Grell	EERA Networks' Representative on Council
23	Saneeya Qureshi	Emerging Researchers' Group
24	Satu Perälä-Littunen	Finnish Educational Research Association (FERA)
25	Sébastien Akira Alix	Association des Enseignants et Chercheurs en Sciences de l'Education (AECSE)
26	Sotiria Grek	European Educational Research Journal
27	Stephen McKinney	Scottish Educational Research Association (SERA)
28	Zoe Moody	Swiss Society for Research in Education (SSRE)

## 1. Apologies and Welcome of New Members

Joe O'Hara welcomed two new Council Members, Zoe Moody and Céline Healy and pointed Council to the list of Apologies of the 21 members who informed us in advance of their unavailability.

## 2. Confirmation of Minutes

Council confirmed the minutes unanimously.

## 3. Reports and Exculpations

### 3.1 President

The president was exculpated based on the report provided in paper.

### 3.2 Secretary General 2022

The Secretary General was exculpated based on the report provided in paper.

### 3.3 Treasurer Report 2021

Andreas Hadjar summed up the EERA results of 2021 and informed Council that all projects for 2022 and also in 2023 could be realised as planned, thanks to the positive result for 2021.

### 3.4 Confirmation of Auditor for 2022

Council confirmed Andreas Vollmer as Auditor of EERA.

## 4. Budget

### 4.1 Budget Outlook 2022

The treasurer gave an interim report of 2022 figures. No adaptations were suggested for the remainder of the year.

In March, Andreas will ask for volunteers from Council to act as budget checkers before the Council Meeting in Glasgow.

Joe thanked Andreas for his very effective navigation through very complex times.

### 4.2 Budget 2023

Andreas Hadjar presented the budget for 2023, which was built on an in-person event only and foresaw a well sized conference in Glasgow. It again foresees a considerable amount for network funding and some of the standard budget items were raised due to rising prices. The budget proposal was approved.

## 5. ECER 2022

### 5.1 Review In-person and Online Experience

Anna Aleksanyan reported via Zoom on how LOC 2022 experienced ECER 2022. She feels the conference had and will have a significant impact on educational research in Armenia and encourage greater internationalisation. Therefore ECER 2022 is a significant event for the Armenian research community and YSU. She expressed her thanks to EERA for enabling the in-person meeting in these difficult times. Maria Figueiredo gave insight into the participants' feedback, which underlined the general feeling that the participants were extremely satisfied with the welcome and support at Yerevan State University.

Angelika reported that organising two conferences – the in-person event and the ECER plus online event – was especially complicated as there were far more late changes to the programme than usual.

The technical assistants at the online part were emerging researchers who gained experience thanks to their role, and they were connected to ECER.

## **5.2 What to Take on From it?**

There was a wide ranging discussion about the conference with many suggestions about what EERA as an association might take from it. Among the most significant points made were:

- It would be good to have an app like Whova again in future, where people can easily communicate before and during the conference. An app to stay in touch in between conferences might be a long term idea for strategies, as it would need to be programmed for us, most likely.  
The duration of ECER and ECER Plus was a challenge for link convenors and for Office, so any future conference should take this into account.
- ECER 2023 is planned as a face to face conference, but Glasgow could adapt if need be.
- Some suggested that a real hybrid conference could be a solution. This would make ECER more inclusive for people who struggle with the travel costs or the organisation of other duties, and would be better for the environment. The counterargument was that organising a hybrid event is really difficult, and at the AERA conference for example, neither in person nor remote participants had a satisfactory experience. Hybrid is not only difficult for technical reasons, but also because no good habits exist. In a few years, this may be different. There also is the general question of how to deal with the digital. We should not see it as a solution for everything. Nevertheless, we need to make sure to include people who cannot travel easily. The general feeling was that presenting and getting feedback works well online, but networking does not work. Instead of offering hybrid sessions or a full online conference part, it would also be good and easier to have smaller online events, e.g. organised by the networks over the year.
- For ECER, EERA will keep on recording the ECER keynotes and have them online each year; maybe keynotes can also be live streamed.

Joe concluded that for the immediate future, the ECER format will not change, unless we are forced to, as ECER is where EERA is embodied and we would lose this with online. However, we should not lose what we learnt, but look into how it can be used, e.g. outside ECER.

## **5.3 Emerging Researchers' Group/ERC 2022**

### **5.3.1 Report of ERG Link Convenor**

Saneeya Qureshi gave a brief overview of ERC 2022 in person and online. 17 bursaries were given out, nine winners travelled to Yerevan, with the others participating online. Whova offered the possibility to the participants to get in touch before the conference and organise trips in groups in advance. The mentoring for both reviewing and session mentors was considered very positive, the impact is great, e.g. people now feel confident to also chair sessions elsewhere. Saneeya thanked Satu, the co-convenors and the senior fellows for their very valuable contribution.

Saneeya will be at the national conference in Romania, to help the emerging researchers there to get engaged with the ERG and EERA.

Joe thanked Saneeya and Satu for their work, noting that it has been fantastic to see the strategic focus of EERA in this area developing and resulting in the emergence of new structures.

## 6. Upcoming ECERs

### 6.1 ECER 2023: Glasgow

Stephen McKinney presented the current state of planning for ECER 2023, e.g. the different options for the social events. The budget is tight and lessens the options. One big change will be that we will not offer a printed programme. There was no leaflet either, but LOC will look into the option to get a video instead. Some more innovations will be considered, such as a guided tour on accessibility. The volunteers will not have ECER T-Shirts but buttons.

Lucian Ciolan said the Universities of Bucharest and Glasgow are both in the CIVIS Alliance and will see to handing in a submission for an EERA Session. Stephen expressed a certain concern that it might be a UK event, as for the British it will be so easy to access. Ana Kozina reported that her colleagues from Slovenia are already now really interested in ECER 2023, so she does not think there is reason to worry. However, to raise the interest even more, Stephen will send the slide show, and or photos and short blurbs to Council, so that they can announce ECER 2023 on their associations' websites.

### 6.2 ECER 2024: Nicosia

#### 6.2.1 LOC Update – Dates, Budget, Initial Theme

The 2024 local organisers joined the meeting via Zoom and reported on their work so far. A budget was handed in. The conference dates were changed and will now be 26.8. to 1.9 and first ideas on the theme were introduced. Maria Figueiredo asked the local organisers to reflect the EERA anniversary in the theme, memory and hope, looking back or looking forward.

#### 6.2.2 Timeline for Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee will start its work. Until March 2023 a text for the theme and a suggestion of keynote speakers is needed for confirmation in council.

### 6.3 ECER 2025: Belgrade Pencilled in

Angelika and Dragica have agreed for a Zoom meeting in order to get the process started

### 6.4 ECER 2026: Tampere Pencilled in

Tampere has provided a workable budget. Final details will be clarified in the beginning of November.

### 6.5 ECER 2027: Kyrenia Pencilled in

## 7. EERA Activities [information]

### 7.1 Summer School Report 2022

Maria Figueiredo gave a report on this year's Summer School in Porto, which was a great success, according to the feedback. The financial report was handed in.

### 7.2 Porto as Venue for 2023

The new theme is Participatory approaches in educational research, and it will take place from 26 to 30 June 2023, at the University of Porto. Council members who are interested can act as

tutor. Please express interest, then the local organisers will officially invite you. Marit Honerod Hoveid reported that she enjoyed it a lot being a tutor in 2022.

### **7.3 Future Venues?**

Chemnitz expressed interest to host the EERA Summer School in 2024 and 2025.

Information on the application process can be found on the EERA Website:

<https://eera-ecer.de/seasonschools/hosting-an-eera-summer-school/>

### **7.4 Academic Writing Workshops**

George Head is no longer part of the team, but Stephen is looking into re-collecting a group of four to five people to be able to offer workshops in future. BERA has offered online workshops which have been well received. A working group will look into what can be offered in future and will feed back to council in March. Members of the working group: Celine Healy, Stephen McKinney, Mhairi Beaton, Lucian Ciolan.

### **7.5 Supporting Educational Research in Ukraine**

Joe informed Council that the long-time Council Member and former president of UERA Svitlana Shchudlo, passed away. He pointed out how important her commitment was as co-founder of UERA and he expressed his deepest condolences to her family and to the association, also in the name of Council.

Liudmyla Zagoruiko then reported on the EERA funding and how UERA identified the different projects that will be supported. 10 projects will be funded, and one additional project will have the translation costs covered. These projects come from 11 different regions in Ukraine, of which three suffered badly. There will also be a Summer School on Resilience for UERA members for 30 participants from most damaged regions. UERA will be responsible for the financial administration and control of the projects.

Petra Grell fed back from the networks that they would like to help, if possible. Liudmyla thanked them for their interest and said that individual contacts are important, and that joint projects help a lot. For example, it is not possible for researchers from Ukraine to apply for Erasmus Plus projects, therefore partners from the EU are needed. Fabio Dovigo reported on the workshop on Peace Education that was held during ECER in Yerevan; it was a cross-sectional conversation which was seen as great opportunity. EERA sees this not as single intervention, but as an ongoing support. If more ideas come up, they will be developed. What has been done and will be continued for the time being is the free entries to ECER for people from Ukraine, ECER bursaries for ERC authors from Ukraine and exemption from EERA membership fees for UERA. Liudmyla thanked EERA for this funding project and the other measures, as this really helps people to continue with their research.

## **8. Communication and Social Media**

### **8.1 Blog**

At the moment, there are many articles from emerging researchers, which is great as it shows the vividness of the Emerging Researcher's Group. Joe says it would also be good to get more articles from emerged researchers and the member associations. SEP, UERA and ÖFEB already wrote about their associations' history, for example. Perhaps that could be an option for other associations as well. The council members were asked to consider that, and also to encourage their members to hand in articles. Information can be found here: <https://blog.eera-ecer.de/contributing-to-the-eera-blog/>.

## 9. Publications

### 9.1 EERJ – Report

Sotiria Grek gave her report on the developments of EERJ and the last editorial board meeting. It was decided to expand the editorial board, with a 50/50 gender split. The main key is Europe, and articles should not only show national cases, but offer a broader outlook. It is not yet clear how to reach this Europeanization. Council is asked to promote EERJ in their countries and also to consider reviewing articles. Link to application: <https://journals.sagepub.com/author-instructions/EER>

Joe O'Hara thanked Sotiria, Paolo and the whole editorial board for their great work and looks forward to the new perspective. There are more and more journals but EERJ remains a highly trusted publication. This is very positive.

### 9.2 Book Series

Five books have been published, and the editors are currently looking for new applications. The office will send a promotional flyer to Council members which should then be spread in the associations and at the institutes. The main editor may step down at some point in the medium term and will need to be replaced if the project should be continued.

Joe acknowledged the work of Dennis Beach in particular and the Editorial Board in general.

## 10. Report and Outlook Networks

### 10.1 Networks' Seminar

Petra gave a brief summary of the network seminar in Berlin.

### 10.2 Network Name Changes

#### 10.2.1 NW 12 Name Change

Network 12 proposed a name change from LISnet - Library and Information Science Network to Open Research in Education at the Network Seminar, where the proposal was discussed and accepted. This was approved by Council.

### 10.3 Report on New Network “Psychoanalysis and Education” and how they are Doing

The new network was successful at ECER in person and ECER Plus, with a good number of presentations from different countries as well as a symposium in two parts, one in-person and one online. The nesting within NW 13 worked quite well and was helpful, despite the initial difficulties. It should be considered again when new applications come in.

### 10.4 Overview Funding of Network Activities

In the last six months, no applications came in, but there are some projects being developed. It was decided to forego the deadlines but to have an open call with applications coming in whenever it is suitable for the networks.

## 11. EERA External Partnerships

### 11.1 ISE – GAGO Conference and Manifesto for Early Career Researchers

Joe reported on the Manifesto for Early Career Researchers, which EERA supported. The organizers now asked that this is sent and hopefully approved by the EERA member associations.

It was noted that ISE remains an important community for EERA given that it connects us with a wide range of research organisations, many of who are from outside social science disciplines. At a practical level ISE has significant contacts with policy makers at EU level and allows EERA, along with other research organisations, access this key group of decision makers.

### 11.2 WERA

BERA will host the focal meeting 2024, which will be a week before ECER in Nikosia. EERA continues to engage at all levels of WERA and Joe will attend the WERA Council meeting in November (online).

### 11.3 EASSH

Joe reported EERA remains actively involved with EASSH. While the focus around Horizon Europe has reduced somewhat since the launch of the programme. EASSH remains active in promoting SSH issues within EU structures and brings together communities from across the SSH disciplines to consider issues of mutual interest.

### 11.4 GENE

The GENE funding of 80.000 € was used for 14 projects. In March 2022 an online conference introducing these projects was organized based on the technical solution organized by the EERA Office. GENE would like to continue with the funding, subject to resources being available. It was suggested that one strand of research being Peace Education. The application process would probably start in November, the projects themselves in March.

GENE is organising a Conference in Dublin on November 3 + 4, which will formally launch a Declaration on Global Education. They are offering six fully funded places for EERA members to attend. It was decided that three should come from the networks, three from Council. Ukrainian colleagues might be interested and would be prioritised.

## 12. Elections

### 12.1 Setting up a Nomination Committee for the Secretary General

Maria gave a short description of the post as Secretary General:

- Very close to the EERA Office/Operational Centre
- Focus on structural aspects, not as representative a role as the president
- High investment of time, not only travelling but also working through procedures and details
- Capacity to connect with people, Council, Office, Networks

She suggested that Council looks into the General Regulations in detail. Council was asked for candidates for the nomination committee. The process for the nominations would be that two Council Members write a letter of endorsement and ask the candidate to accept the nomination.

Recommendation: the nominee should know EERA and its structures and the Council well.

**Nomination Committee:**

President, Marco Rieckmann, Paula Korsnakova

## 12.2 Setting up a Nomination Committee for the ERG Senior Mentor

Satu reported that her job as senior mentor had been an easy one, thanks to Saneeya and the co-convenors. As senior mentor she was there to advice when needed.

**Nomination Committee:**

Satu Perälä-Littunen, Maria Pacheco Figueiredo, Gonzalo Jover

## 12.3 Nomination Committee for ERG Convenor

Saneeya described her roles as “the best job in all of EERA”, as interface between the ERG, senior researchers and the EERA Office. The nomination process differs from other posts: A public Call will go out to the National Associations and to the Emerging Researchers’ Group. The applicants send an expression of interest also including their CV etc. The nomination Committee interviews them and makes a suggestion that then has to be confirmed by Council.

**Nomination Committee:**

Saneeya Qureshi, Satu Perälä-Littunen, Fabio Dovigo

# 13. EERA Strategy

## 13.1 Overview of 2019 Strategy

Joe presented an overview of the 2019 strategy and the aims that were set. He said it was time to look into the original plans and to see how and with what to proceed. A lot of things did happen (key ideas), even if they were not explicitly mentioned on the list of aims. Some of the ideas were started but not finalised due to Covid, such as the planned survey amongst national associations. Now, after Covid, it would have to be re-framed, as new important questions arose from the pandemic. Sotiria commented that EERJ is not yet an open access journal, but it is open to authors.

Marit will take on the strategy planning from now on, and suggests that the time frame follows the terms of the presidencies. That means that the new strategy plan would be from 2023 to 2027. A working group for this new strategy plan will be set up, with the key roles from Exec plus volunteers from Council. The group will start working on it in March and will put together a document for the Glasgow meeting. What should EERA focus on? Two aspects make this question hard to answer: EERA is so diverse; and it is hard to think five years ahead, especially in these difficult times.

A wide ranging discussion took place and a number of key themes emerged which will be taken up by the working group.

**Working group:** Marit H. Hoveid, Saneeya Qureshi, Lucian Ciolan, Gonzalo Jover, Fabio Dovigo, Milosh Raykov, Jana Poláčková Vašátková, Liudmyla Zagoruiko

## 13.2 Sustainability

Daniela Preis showed what has been done at ECERs since 2015 to increase sustainability, and showed measures EERA could take if Council decides to put more effort into that topic. She also



showed that sustainability should be understood in a broader way than done until now and referred to the UN Global Development Goals.

In Working Groups, Council discussed the topic and came up with several ideas based on the agreement that sustainability should be top of priorities to reduce our impact.

Joe thanked Daniela for her excellent work in this area in general and for both her presentation and her comprehensive report. He pointed out that EERA has been at the forefront of finding ways to promote a 'Green Agenda' and suggested that work of Daniela and her colleagues in the Office has been central to EERAs development in this critically important area.

### **13.3 Review of Member Associations**

It will be tried to get in touch with the associations where no contact happened in the last few years, trying to create new bonds.

Latvia is planning to apply for a full membership for the March Meeting. Liudmila Rupšienė will help with reviewing the application as she has been a mentor for the associate member.

## **14. AOB**

### **14.1 Upcoming Meetings**

24 - 25 March 2023, Berlin Wyndham Garden Hotel

26 - 27 August 2023, Glasgow, 26 August full day, 27 August half day.

### **14.2 EERA 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2024**

During ECER an EERA Session on the association's history could be organised. The History Page, set up for the 20th anniversary, could be re-lived. The EERA Office will send an email to the national associations asking them to feed in. A working group will be established for all the celebration activities.