

Minutes

EERA Council Meeting

31 August 2024, Nicosia, Cyprus

Attendees List:

	Name	Association
1	Ana Kozina	The Slovenian Educational Research Association (SLODRE)
2	Andreas Hadjar	EERA Treasurer
3	Angelika Wegscheider	EERA Office
4	Anna Aleksanyan	Educational Research Armenian Society (ERAS)
5	Branislava Baranovic	Croatian Educational Research Association (CERA)
6	Carmen Carmona	Asociación Interuniversitaria de Investigación Pedagógica (AIDIPE)
7	Costas Constantinou	LOC 2024
8	Daniela Preis	EERA Office
9	Dita Nimante	Latvian Association for Research in Education (LARE)
10	Dita Palaščáková	Česká asociace pedagogického výzkumu (ČAPV)
11	Dragica Pavlović Babic	Educational Research Association of Serbia (DIOS)
12	Egle Pranckūnienė	Lithuanian Academic Educational Association (LERA)
13	Erich Svecnik	Österreichische Gesellschaft für Forschung und Entwicklung im Bildungswesen (OEFEB)
14	Fabio Dovigo	EERA Networks' Representative on Council
15	Gonzalo Jover	Sociedad Española de Pedagogía (SEP)
16	Helen Phtiaka	Cyprus Pedagogical Association (CPA)
17	Huseyin Uzunboyulu	Cyprus Educational Sciences Association (KEB-DER)
18	Ineke M. Pit-ten Cate	Luxembourg Educational Research Association (LuxERA)
19	Joanna Madalińska-Michalak	Polskie Towarzystwo Pedagogiczne (PTP)
20	Luca Agostinetto	Società Italiana di Pedagogia (SIPED)
21	Lucian Ion Ciolan	EERA Secretary General - Incoming
22	Marco Rieckmann	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Erziehungswissenschaft (DGfE)
23	Maria Pacheco Figueiredo	EERA Secretary General - Leaving
24	Marit Honerød Hoveid	EERA President
25	Monika Pogatsnik	Hungarian Educational Research Association (HERA)
26	Oksana Zabolotna	Ukrainian Educational Research Association (UERA)
27	Olja Jovanović Milanović	LOC 2025
28	Paulina Korsnakova	Slovak Educational Research Society (SERS)
29	Piety Runhaar	Vereniging voor Onderwijs Research (VOR)
30	Sotiria Grek	European Educationl Research Journal
31	Vafa Gasimova	Azerbaijani Educational Research Association - AzERA (Candidate Member)
32	Zakir Jumakulov	Kazakhstan Educational Research Association
33	Zoe Moody	Swiss Society for Research in Education (SSRE)

1. Apologies and Welcome of New Members

Marit H. Hoveid pointed to the list of apologies available in the shared folder and all attendees introduced themselves.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

Council confirmed the minutes of the 2024 March meeting.

3. Reports and Exculpations

3.1 President

3.1.1 Report 2024

Marit H. Hoveid pointed Council to her written report available in the shared folder. She added that she really enjoyed working with some of the member associations, as it was heartwarming to see the work that is done on that level. Some new partnerships on EU level were established, with the mission to state what educational research is doing across the field.

3.1.2 Exculpation

Council unanimously exculpated her.

3.2 Secretary General

3.2.1 Report 2024

Maria reported on activities in the past year, including the work with the EERA Office, the handover procedure to the incoming Secretary General and work on regulations. She thanked colleagues in Exec for good cooperation and stressed how EERA has shaped her personal and professional love in the past years.

3.2.2 Exculpation

Maria was also exculpated unanimously.

3.3 Treasurer

3.3.1 Report 2024

Andreas Hadjar reported on the current financial situation in relation to the envisaged budget. EERA is well off and can continue to finance additional projects such as network fundings.

3.3.2 Exculpation (postponed to January)

Due to the change in auditor, the normal time frame could not be adhered to. The audit report for 2023 will be available for the January meeting, so that the exculpation is postponed to then.

3.3.3 Confirmation of Auditor for 2024

Andreas Vollmer can no longer act as auditor. He recommended a colleague, and it is suggested to appoint the company Wirtschaftsprüfer Ebner Stolz as the new auditor for EERA. New auditor confirmed.

3.3.4 Budget

Council approved of the updated budget for 2024 and the new budget for 2025.

4. ECER 2024

4.1 Review of ECER 2024

Marit informed Council that one of the network link convenors, Monica Rosén, passed away during ECER after an emergency surgery. She recognised the work Monica had done over the years for ECER and expressed her heartfelt sympathy with the family and her friends and colleagues. She also pointed out how vital it had been to have a well working chain of actions for the case of emergency: a nurse was at campus, emergency called for immediately, some locals accompanied the patient and kept contact to the organisers, contact to the embassy was made swiftly.

LOC Report

Helen Phtiaka was very satisfied with ECER 2024, both with the academic feedback as well as the socialising aspects. She thanked Easyconferences, the professional organisers, for their wonderful work. They were easy to work with and always delivered! The volunteers also did a great job.

What to Learn about hosting an ECER, according to Helen:

You need a vision (ECER as an enormous party), you need to start early with getting the colleagues on board and promote it within the university despite the big challenge. And it is essential to find a good professional team for the logistics.

Costas Constantinou pointed out the smooth collaboration with the EERA Office and thanked Helen for her more than decade-long persistence to bring ECER to Cyprus.

Some Numbers

Angelika Wegscheider gave an overview of the different bookings around ECER: 6800 bus tickets, 4200 lunches, 350 gala dinners were bought, and four families made use of the childcare option, with two to three places taken each day.

Lucian Ciolan reported on the participation numbers: ECER had 2325 participants in total with the following top five countries: 263 from Germany, 222 UK, 188 Norway, 83 Kazakhstan, 76 Australia. Unfortunately, participation numbers from Turkey were really low this year, as most Turkish researchers were refused a visa for Cyprus, as well as for researchers from Azerbaijan – visas were an issue.

NW Feedback

Fabio Dovigo reported that the networks' opinion about ECER 2024, both from the NW meeting and the post-conference survey, was very positive. There were a few criticisms, mostly regarding the general logistics: having accommodation in three different cities, the campus not being well connected to town and the lack of catering options on campus was mentioned as having been a challenge.

Husseyin Uzunboylu thanked the colleagues who brought the conference to Cyprus.

5. Emerging Researchers' Group/ERC 2024

5.1 Report of ERG Link Convenor

Both Lisa Bugno and Mhairi Beaton were unable to travel to ECER, but four co-convenors took on the organisation of ERC and did well. They will also provide an ERC report in writing later.

Marit H. Hoveid summed up that it was a well working group, and it is fun to chair ERC sessions, as you can actively support the capacity building and networking for young researchers. On behalf of Lisa, she asked Council to consider volunteering as reviewers, mentors and so on. It is really worth it.

Anna Aleksanyan raised the issue that most Armenian proposals were rejected, because supervision is so different in Armenia. She asked what could be done about it. Some suggestions were organising a Summer School or a workshop on how to submit. The Academic Writing Workshop could also cover conference submission, maybe organised online. And the EERJ Academic Writing Online workshop could also help. Anna should contact Lisa Bugno to see if she has ideas to improve the situation. The colleagues from Kazakhstan had a similar issue last year when submitting to EERJ. They were in contact with Exec and EERJ and have asked to get more specific reasons for rejection, in order to learn. There is also an idea for doing an online workshop on how to submit to EERJ. EERJ and the working group on doing writing workshops are encouraged to respond to this.

5.2 ECER 2025: Belgrade

ECER next year will take place from 8 to 12 September, with the venue, the university of Belgrade, being in the heart of the city. It is easy to reach, easy to commute between the buildings, and there are many hotels in walking distance. For the Thursday payable Social Event, the Botanical Gardens are reserved. One concern is accessibility (old buildings), but the colleagues are aware and already working on possible solutions.

According to Lucian Ciolan, Belgrade is a beautiful city with vibrant life, well connected to all bigger airports and decent hotel rates. It is a very safe place and ECER will be a great opportunity to overcome prejudices and discover educational research in the region.

5.3 ECER 2026: Tampere

5.3.1 Confirm Theme

Council discussed the suggested theme and came up with some suggestions, especially regarding the sub-header and the complexity of the text. The working group will suggest a new draft for the January Council Meeting, and then start looking for possible keynotes.

5.3.2 Timeline for Scientific Committee – finding keynotes

After the January meeting, when the theme is finalised, the working group will look into possible keynote speakers and will come up with a list for the March meeting.

5.4 ECER 2027: Kyrenia pencilled in

Exec informed Council that due to the political situation (according to UN wording, Kyrenia is in occupied territory), concerns came up regarding legal and logistical aspects: no embassies, universities might not be funding travels etc. Some network link convenors have indicated they would not attend a conference in Kyrenia and EERA needs to find answers to the concerns raised. EERA as the organising association has responsibility for the participants and needs to carefully evaluate the situation with regards to potential problems that could arise. It was decided to take some more time to do research on challenges and restraints and how to respond to those. Networks and EERA member associations are asked to inquire in their universities/ministries about restrictions for going to Kyrenia. The colleagues in Kyrenia are asked to give more details on some of the challenges linked to the conference there (diplomatic support, transport from Larnaca airport, status of hotels). The final decision whether ECER can take place in Kyrenia is postponed to the January online meeting.

5.5 ECER 2028: Salamanca

The colleagues from Salamanca are ready to start working, and EERA Office will contact them regarding the next steps, namely developing a budget.

6. EERA Activities

6.1 Summer School

6.1.1 Report Porto 2024

Lucian briefly reported on the 3rd edition of the EERA Summer School in Porto. LOC thanked EERA for their trust, and EERA thanked LOC for their commitment and willingness to do three instead of two years.

6.1.2 Chemnitz as Venue for 2025 and 2026

First information on 2025 is on the website. The Call for the next Summer School will go out in November, please spread in your community.

6.1.3 New Venue

Lithuania expressed interest in being the next host.

6.2 Academic Writing Workshops

The academic writing workshop in Riga was a great success, with 26 participants from the three Baltic countries. A big thank you to Stephen McKinney and Celine Healy for their work, it was really inspiring and encouraging.

In pipeline: SIPED in combination with Italian national congress, OeFEB has been postponed to next year, Switzerland postponed, but new dates not yet fixed, March 2025 Luxemburg.

EERA Office comment for local organisers: please send official request to the EERA Office, so that costs can be covered.

7. Communication and Social Media

7.1 Blog

Council was invited to look at the blog posts on 30 years of EERA as they are well written and fun to read. In addition, the blog board would welcome receiving blog posts from the national associations on the situation of educational research in their countries, what topics are burning etc.

8. Publications

8.1 EERJ – Report

According to Sotiria Grek the past year was very successful, with three general issues and several special issues. Also, the impact factor of the journal has improved. The editorial board elected new editors, and Council approved.

Christian Ydesen and Kirsten Sivesind will take over from Paolo Landri and Sotiria Grek in January 2025.

Marit Hoveid thanked the leaving editors for their invaluable contributions in the last year and congratulated them for their great work.

8.2 Book Series

Springer fed back that the series is doing well. Two books per year are planned. Springer suggested to offer the books as Open Access: the authors would no longer be remunerated, but based on experience, there would be ten times more downloads and twice as many citations. This is an issue to discuss at a later stage, it would allow more inclusivity, as for many researchers access to the books is difficult.

Anna Aleksanyan would like to use the EERA Session (Navigating Education through War and Conflict) she has organised as basis for a book proposal, but without a full set of chapters, as she would also like to combine it with an open call. She was advised by Marit to contact Jani Ursin, the lead editor as well as Springer, as they will be able to help.

9. Report and Outlook Networks

9.1 Network Seminar

Fabio Dovigo reported that during the network seminar in May, Accessibility had been addressed: a universal design template for presentations has been developed. The topic was also raised again during the Tuesday Workshops.

Anna Aleksanyan said that no network directly covered the topic Conflict and asked how this could be changed. Fabio Dovigo suggested to look into options where to include it and be in touch with the respective networks.

Marit H. Hoveid recommended to also use the EduTopics tool to explore if there are any suitable networks today. <https://dipf-lis.shinyapps.io/EduTopicsECER/>

10. Open Access/Open Science – report from EERA workshops

Marit H. Hoveid pointed to the report in the shared folder and asked Council to share what they would hope to get from EERA.

It would be helpful for the associations to know the official EERA position, as this would help for own argumentation.

11. EERA Members

11.1 Russia

During ECER a meeting took place with colleagues from Russia and the Exec, where colleagues thanked EERA for the possibility to attend ECER and to stay in touch despite the current situation.

11.2 Kosovo

At another meeting during ECER, the different groups from Kosovo explained their positions regarding an EERA membership. The communication was somewhat difficult due to language. The outcome of the meeting was that EERA recommended them to slow down and re-start the process, including all parties. At ECER a project by the University of Graz and three universities in Kosovo was introduced which could be used as platform to move forward. There is little available research funding for education in Kosovo, so developing strategies for support and capacity building is pivotal.

12. EERA External Partnerships

12.1 ISE

In contrast to EASSH, all sciences are represented in ISE, which makes it especially important for EERA to be there too, in order to enhance visibility of educational research. EERA was asked to consider raising the contribution. It was agreed to voluntarily increase from 2400 € to 3000 €, only for this year, and to re-evaluate for next year.

12.2 WERA

Joe O'Hara is the incoming WERA president. The AERA secretary is stepping down, and it is not sure if, under the new leadership, they will continue to support WERA as much as they have done. It may be that the financial situation of WERA will considerably change. Marit H. Hoveid will take part in the WERA Focal Meeting at the BERA conference.

12.3 EASSH

EASSH was doing an online presentation on current developments.

13. Online Presentation - Development/push for SSH research in next EU Horizon program

13.1 Online Meeting with EASSH Director Gabi Lombardi

After the presentation, a few questions were raised:

- Membership: if associations would like to become members themselves, they should send an expression of interest to Gabi Lombardo, and then the EASSH board decides.
- They only have a small office with four people working part time on the newsletter etc.
- How can the national associations contribute? Check the announcements, as it is important to have a united voice and coherent narrative. They can start the convincing process of the importance of social sciences on a national level already.
- What work does EASSH do to equalize the importance of different disciplines?
They look closely at what the commission does. When they see bottlenecks or the like, they ask to re-balance.

13.2 Short Discussion in Council

No notes on reports from smaller groups.

Working group: Anna Aleksanyan, Costas Constantinou, Branislava Baranovic, Piety Runhaar

14. Upcoming Meetings

2025

17 January, 12:00 -15:00: Online Council Meeting

14 - 15 March, Friday 9:00 – 17:00, Saturday 9:00 – 13:00: Council Meeting in Berlin, Hotel Rossi

13 September, 9:00 – 17:00: Council in Belgrade