



## European Educational Research Association

### **Annual General Assembly 11 September 2008, Göteborg**

**17:15 - 18:45  
K. Härnqvist Hall**

Head of Meeting: Ingrid Gogolin  
Minutes: Angelika Wegscheider

#### **1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

Ingrid Gogolin opened the Annual General Assembly by welcoming everybody and introducing current Council Members. She also introduced delegates who were nominated to vote in the AGA by their respective national associations.

11 Member Associations were represented in the Annual General Assembly:  
AECSE, AIDIPE, BERA, CAPV, DGfE, IERA, NERA, OEFEB, SERA, SSRE and VOR

The following associations were not represented in the AGA as they either did not nominate a voting representative or as their representatives needed to cancel participation (SERS, VFO, ESAI, LERA, SEP, SPCE, ABC-Educ) Two nominees did not participate in the AGA, so two more associations were not represented (EAER, FERA)

#### **2. Confirmation of Minutes of Annual General Assembly 2007**

The minutes of the Annual General Assembly 2007 were approved of unanimously.

#### **3. Further items for the agenda**

No further items were added to the agenda.

#### **4. President's short report**

Ingrid Gogolin started her report with presenting first numbers on ECER 2008. The Pre-Conference welcomed about 230 delegates and hosted 130 presentations, the Main Conference welcomed more than 1500 delegates presenting more than 1300 Papers, Workshops, Roundtables and Symposia.

She also informed the General Assembly that EERQI negotiations had been finished successfully and that the EERQI consortium had taken up work already. The EERQI partners took ECER as an opportunity for internal meetings but also for informing interested colleagues.

Ingrid Gogolin also reported on the current stage of WERA discussions: ECER offered opportunity for meetings to colleagues and associations engaged in the establishment of

further cooperation of educational research associations within a worldwide framework (WERA). Interested colleagues had been informed in a special session during ECER. In cooperation with DGfE (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Erziehungswissenschaft) the fourth EERA/DGfE summer school had successfully taken place in August, Ludwigsfelde, near Berlin. It attracted more international participants than before.

Ingrid Gogolin ended her report by presenting a new candidate member of EERA. TEASA, from Turkey, had after last year's information meeting for delegates from countries not yet represented in EERA applied for membership and was accepted by the EERA Council. She informed the AGA that also during ECER 2008 an information meeting for "new nations" had taken place and that ties to some interested scholars from Eastern European countries have been built up.

## **5. Secretary General's Report**

Lisbeth Lundahl started her report with defining the role of the Secretary General as being responsible to survey and to facilitate the inner work of EERA and to act as main contact for the EERA office.

She reported on the transfer of the EERA office from Glasgow to Berlin, the introduction of the conference management software and the new EERA website.

She informed the AGA that her term of office would end with ECER 2008 and reflected on her time as Secretary General as very exiting years as EERA has undergone important changes during this time. EERA started to reorganize work in a way to enable the association to take up more activities in addition to the annual ECER and as EERA also welcomed some new members.

Ingrid Gogolin expressed her thanks to Lisbeth Lundahl for her efforts and engagement as Secretary General.

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

Wim Jochems reported on the results of the auditing in Scotland, which has still been done in Sterling, although the overviews are given in EURO, as EERA has switched from Sterling to EURO meanwhile. He also pointed out that this switch had been profitable for EERA as the exchange rate from sterling to EURO meanwhile changed from 1.47 to 1.29.

### **Financial structure of EERA**

The treasurer introduced the new financial structure and asked the AGA for agreement on it.

EERA has three different accounts

1. an office account at Sparkasse, managed by office with a maximum of 5000 Euro on it
2. an EERA account at ING Bank, managed by treasurer, with a maximum of 30.000 Euro on it
3. a high interest account at ING Bank, managed by treasurer for all other funds

The AGA approved the financial structure unanimously (11 Votes).

Then the treasurer presented the audited results and the balance for 2007, explaining higher office costs by pointing out that EERA had had two offices from May to end of 2007. He also pointed out that costs linked to EERQI, WERA, Networks activities and Summer School would make up for the Specific Activities.

### **Result 2007 (audited/unrestricted)**

<u>Income</u>	<u>in €</u>
EERA memberships	9.000
ECER 2007 fees	292.000
interest	6.500
donations	3.000
total income	310.500

<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>in €</u>
ECER Gent costs	101.000
office Glasgow + Berlin	153.000
council	11.000
earmarked posts	21.000
specific activities	13.500
PGN / networks	4.000
total expenditure	303.500

Result 2007 + 7.000

### **Balance EERA (audited figures and unrestricted funds)**

	<u>result</u>	<u>balance</u>	<u>(in €)</u>
2002		100.639	
2003	- 46.493	54.146	
2004	+ 38.155	92.301	
2005	+ 58.625	150.926	
2006	+ 100.655	251.581	
2007	+ 6.819	258.400	

When Matthis Behrens, SERS, highlighted the fact that the 2007 congress produced an income three times higher than its actual costs Wim Jochems pointed out that while the congress also would need to provide the funds for the EERA office and the general EERA activities, it would also hold true that the balance would be too high. He said that he would like to suggest ways to reduce the balance in the next step. Before doing so he asked the AGA to accept the audited figures of 2007. The AGA accepted the figures unanimously with 11 Votes.

### **Estimated budget 2008**

Wim Jochems presented the estimated budget and balance for 2008 and pointed out that the expected balance of about 380.000 Euro would be quite high.

<u>Income</u>	<u>in €</u>
EERA memberships	9.000
ECER 2008 fees	440.000
interest	7.000

<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>in €</u>
ECER Göteborg	160.000
office Berlin	92.000
council	14.000
earmarked posts	22.000

specific activities	33.000
PGN & networks	14.000

### **Estimated Balance 2008**

Estimated result 2008	121.000
Estimated balance end 2008	379.000

He stressed that German taxation and charity law asks for actions if a charity saves too much money. So action needs to be taken in order to reduce the balance in a way which meets EERA's mission statement of promoting educational research.

Wim Jochems said he would like to suggest to the AGA that:

- Council Members and (Link) Convenors should be exempt from fees for the conference
- Fees should generally be reduced (by 35 Euro for all categories).
- In addition, (well performing) networks will again be invited to hand in proposals for projects to be funded by the EERA Council (plan beforehand, limited budget, not for hotel and travel costs)
- Council will again provide funding for PGN activities
- Council will earmark funds for new activities such as Summer School
- Some money will be invested for further upgrading the conference software, registration procedures and online access to papers
- Efforts will be taken to further reduce banking costs by online payment procedures.

AGA first discussed if fees should not be reduced to different extents within the different fee levels but then welcomed the general reduction of conference fees as delegates from lower fee groups would proportionally profit more from the flat decrease.

The Treasurer asked the AGA to vote on the new fee structure. He also pointed out that accepting the new fee structure would not affect other options, like funding for networks. The AGA agreed unanimously (11 Votes) to the suggestion of granting free access to ECER for Council Members and Link Convenors and to the general reduction of fees of 35 Euros.

Concerning the funding for networks some delegates asked how it could be judged if a network was well performing or not and they suggested establishing some formal structure for application for funding and for reporting back to Council.

Petr Novotny, CAPV, asked if National Association could apply for funding in order to invite well known scholars to their conferences. Wim Jochems pointed out that generally EERA would prefer to assist in setting up new structures, but if an association thought that funding for top-scholars would be necessary they should contact the EERA board.

The Treasurer ended his report by presenting the Budget Proposal of 2009 (based on the new fee structure) and including earmarked posts for network activities, summer schools and PGN. If funds will be claimed according to the earmarked post EERA will successfully reduce the balance for 2009, which is inline with German charity law.

### **Budget Proposal 2009**

Income	in €	
EERA memberships	9.000	
ECER 2009 fees	240.000	(fee proposals implemented)

Interests 6.000

<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>in €</u>	
ECER Vienna	130.000	(based on 1000 delegates)
office Berlin	92.000	
council	12.000	
earmarked posts	16.000	
specific activities	20.000	
PGN & networks	14.000	
<b>Estimated result 2009</b>	<b>- 29.000</b>	
<b>estimated balance 2009</b>	<b>350.000</b>	

Wim Jochems also highlighted the necessity to nominate a new auditor. He suggested Andreas Vollmer, a Berlin based Wirtschaftsprüfer with a specialisation on Charities as new auditor for EERA. The AGA accepted this unanimously (11 Votes)

#### **7. Acceptance of Report and Vote on Annual Budget**

The treasurer's report and the Budget proposal were accepted unanimously by the AGA.

#### **8. Exculpation of Council**

After the Report of the Treasurer, Ingrid Gogolin asked for Exculpation of the Council. AGA unanimously agreed to this (11 Votes)

#### **9. Election of New Secretary General**

Ingrid Gogolin presented Ian Grosvenor as council approved candidate for the post of the Secretary General and pointed out that his experience as Convenors and Convenors Representative in Council would make him a perfect candidate for the position. Hid candidature was accepted unanimously by the AGA (11 Votes)

#### **10. EERJ-Report to AGA**

Martin Lawn, Editor of EERJ, reported on a fruitful EERJ Roundtable during ECER 2008 which focused on aspects of European research-focused universities, with speakers from Gothenburg, the European Universities Association and the League of European Research Universities. This session was very well attended.

He stated that EERJ showed a steep rise in download numbers, revealing the wide influence and effects of EERA's Journal; in 2005 about 50,000 downloads were counted, in 2008 some 130,000 are expected! Martin Lawn also reported that a new Essay Review Board consisting of five scholars from France, Germany, Belgium, Portugal and the UK will cover book reviews in future and will focus on significant books, produced in the European national contexts. Together with the Postgraduate Network EERJ is working on ideas for an annual Postgraduate-Journal as sub-issue of EERJ.

Martin Lawn also highlighted possible topics for EERJ issues in 2009: Gender in Higher Education in Europe, the Centre for Research on Lifelong Learning (CRELL) and Teacher Education. He informed the AGA that there might also be a special issue on Europeanization, dealing with the problems of the European Space for Educational Research.

## **11. Network Convenor's Report**

Ian Grosvenor and Marit Hoveid pointed out the importance of the Convenors for EERA and ECER as it would be them who, alongside the Local Organizing Committee, produce each ECER. They also expressed the wish the Council and Convenors need to be more in contact than they are right now and suggested that for ECER 2009 Council Members should visit Network Business Meetings.

They reported that the conference management system worked well and that the convenors meeting had discussed that some templates should now be developed, such as for annual reports, the network descriptors but also for comments to the authors during the review process.

Marit Hoveid also pointed out the necessity to clarify and standardize some processes. As Network Representative on Council she will work on describing the roles of Convenors and on developing clearer descriptions of presentation formats.

And the end of her report she informed the AGA that Network 9 "Student Assessment" had asked to change its name to "Assessment, Evaluation, Testing and Measurement". The new name had been approved of by the Council. She also informed the AGA that Council had accepted a proposal for a new network on Mathematics Education Research for a pilot period.

## **12. Discussion of reports**

The single reports had already been discussed while they were given.

## **13. EERA Developments and Future Activities**

Ingrid Gogolin informed the AGA that two working groups on Council would develop new ideas for Summer Schools and for the Assistance to Development of New Member Associations. She stressed that good ideas on how EERA could develop further activities are most welcome.

## **14. Future ECERs**

ECER 2009 will take place in Vienna with a slightly different time schedule as usual.

Pre-conference: 25 – 25. September 2009 (Friday- Saturday!)

Main Conference: 28 – 30 September 2009 (Monday-Wednesday!)

Stefan Hopmann, Speaker of the Local Organizing Committee, presented the Conference Venue.

## **15. Miscellaneous**

No further issues arose.