

# **Minutes of the EERA Council Meeting in Berlin**

**Saturday 27 June 2009, 11:00 – 17:00**

**Sunday, 28 June 09 – 12.00**

Present: Herbert Altrichter (ÖFEB, Austria), Matthis Behrens (SSRE; Switzerland), David Bridges (BERA, UK), Ingrid Gogolin (President (only present on Saturday)), Ian Grosvenor (Secretary General), Brigitte Gruson (AECSE, France), Gunilla Holm (FERA, Finland), Marit Honerod Hoveid (Networks Representative on Council), Stefan Hopmann (LOC Vienna), Martin Lawn (EERJ), Yasar Kondakci (EARDA, Turkey), Harm Kuper (FU Berlin), Wim Jochems (Treasurer), Raquel Amaya Martinez Gonzalez (AIDIPE, Spain), Ian Menter (SERA, PGN, Scotland), Joe O'Hara (ESAI, Ireland; only present on Sunday), Lejf Moos (NERA, Denmark et. Al.), Daniela Preis (EERA-Office), Rudolf Tippelt (GERA, Germany), Angelika Wegscheider (EERA-Office), Tanja Werkl (LOC Vienna), Theo Wubbels (VOR, Netherlands),

Minutes: Daniela Preis / Angelika Wegscheider

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

Francesca Gobbo and Yunus Eryaman asked to be excused. Joe O'Hara informed Council that his plane was delayed and he would only be able to arrive late afternoon.

Yasar Kondakci EARDA, Turkey welcomed as a new Council Member.

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

It was suggested that the countries are included in the "Present" list.

Minutes were confirmed.

### **3. Matters arising from last Council Meeting**

BEI: Ian Grosvenor is in touch with them and was expecting a clarifying email to arrive before the council meeting. As it didn't arrive on time, he will prepare a report for the meeting in Vienna, based on the email in question.

Theo Wubbels is willing to be nominated as treasurer candidate. He was informed on the tasks and the council confirmed his nomination.

A small audit will be made before the change of treasurer.

### **4. President's Report**

#### **4.1 New contact person FU**

Harm Kuper was introduced as the new contact person at the FU. He reported on the possibility to organise ECER 2011 in Berlin. The colleagues of his faculty would be willing to support the project, there would be enough rooms available and the possibility of support from the University was already discussed. DGfE is prepared to be a partner. Harm was asked to provide a letter before the September meeting from the Faculty, stating their will to organise ECER 2011.

#### **4.2 EERQI**

It was discovered after the beginning of the project that personal contact is far more important than expected when preparing the proposal. Therefore, workshop 1 was extended to part 3 in Berlin in March and part 4 in September in Vienna. Also the technique is more complicated, as there are so many different formats of publications.

Ingrid Gogolin pointed out once more that it would be very helpful if the council members could help with getting in touch with researchers who could remark on the proposals put forward by the project. It was suggested that a short article informing about the EERQI project is published in the EERJ. Brigitte Gruson said that AECSE could help with criteria for French material.

### **5. Interim Regulations**

As Ingrid Gogolin has accepted to take over the role as an interim President of WERA she had announced to Council that she would step back as EERA president with this Council Meeting.

For the time until the new President is elected, the Secretary General and the Treasurer will take over the President's duties, whereby Secretary General takes over all ECER related issues and the Treasurer takes care of administrative and financial questions. Council agreed to these suggestions.

As Ingrid Gogolin announced she would only be present for the Saturday, the agenda of the meeting was adjusted to enable her to follow the items

- ECER 2009
- Graduate Training
- Constitutional Changes.

Wim Jochems was appointed to lead the second day of the Council Meeting.

## **6. ECER 2009**

Due to the high amount of contributions for this year's ECER, the number of provided rooms had to be raised. Therefore, a third building, the NIG, will be included in the conference venue.

The Book Exhibition will not take place in the Arcades of the Main Building, but in Neuer Festsaal, due to insurance regulations. But the Welcome Ceremony on Monday will be held in the Arcades.

As the Social Events on Tuesday will take place at 6 different places, LOC asked to have at least one Council member at each event, as a representative of EERA. Council Members therefore registered for the events accordingly.

All Council members who are already in Vienna during the Pre-Conference were invited to chair sessions, some already volunteered.

Ingrid Gogolin and Felice Levine will join the Inside EERA session during the Pre-Conference for presenting WERA.

### ÖFEB:

As ÖFEB didn't want to organise an own, parallel conference, there will be one session as well as business meetings on Sunday, and the members were explicitly invited to join ECER the following days.

### New Nations meeting:

Leif Moos and Wim Jochems will take over the responsibilities for the New Nations Meeting. Others council members are also welcome.

## **7. Graduate Training**

### **Virtual Graduate School:**

Leif Moos opened the discussion with questioning whether it was at all a good time and occasion to decide on a proposal of this scope. Others raised concerns whether enough is known about PhDs needs in order to start working on this project. The idea was put forward to employ someone who could do research on this question before a proposal for a virtual graduate training is developed.

Council decided that the proposal regarding a virtual graduate school could not be approved. Thus, Ingrid withdrew the proposal.

Council expressed the opinion that a re-drafted proposal should be seen in the context of the Postgraduate network and Summer Schools and that EERA should develop a master plan for PhD Training.

With this objective a new working group was established, including Leif Moos, Rudolf Tippelt, Ian Menter, and Joana Duarte will be asked to join in. Marit Honerod Hoveid, Ian Grosvenor and Angelika Wegscheider will be informed on by putting them CC to email correspondences.

## **NW 17 Summer School**

The example of the Network 17 Summer School was seen as to be interesting for other networks. The Summer School will take place in two successive years. It had been agreed in earlier meetings that EERA will fund the summer school with 5.000 Euro per year; for 2010 the budget has now been augmented to 6000 Euro. Summer School will be advertised on the EERA website, the application deadline will be on 31 December 2009, the results published by February. Office will be involved in collecting the application, and sending them to NW 17 after the application deadline is over.

## **DGfE Summer School**

Leif Moos and Rudi Tippelt reported that their EERA-DGfE joint planning of the DGfE Summer School 2009 had not been realized. Therefore the Summer School will not be as international as expected. Moreover, as it had to change the venue, only 85 instead of 110 students can participate. Rudolf Tippelt and Leif Moos will try to strengthen the international aspect next year, where the Summer School can be bigger again.

## **8. Constitutional Changes**

Following a council decision of last Meeting a wording for a constitutional change was suggested. The background is that whenever a new office bearer is elected by AGA and at all other constitutional requirements, "Vereinsregister" need to be officially informed. This can only be done by someone who is allowed to legally represent EERA (=Office Bearer, not office Staff) and needs to be done via a notary ("Notar"). If no bearer of the German citizenship is an office bearer, this has to be done from outside Germany in the German Embassy.

To facilitate the process it had been suggested to introduce one German Resident as an additional office bearer into the EERA constitution who would be able to organize this process whenever necessary. DGFE had agreed to take over this responsibility. A lawyer had suggested the according new wording for the Constitution. This caused considerable discussions and Council agreed at one point to postpone the discussion to the second day of the meeting.

After rethinking all possible effects of introducing a fourth (and always German) Office Bearer Council decided that the Constitution should not be changed and that one of the Office Bearers will need to travel to the embassy in order to register the new office bearer team in the "Vereinsregister".

The EERA Office will find out how this will best be organised.

Leif Moos, Ian Grosvenor and Rudolf Tippelt. will form a working group to work on constitutional changes.

## **9. Networks Issues**

### **9.1 Network Seminar**

Marit Hoveid and Ian Grosvenor reported on the Network Seminar in Berlin. All networks sent one or two (bigger networks) representatives, only the postgraduate network couldn't send anyone. All participants were happy with the event, as it was very productive.

The following results/topics arose from the meeting:

- The networks emerged organically, therefore the structure and distinctions of the different networks can be hard to understand for outsiders.
- The presentation of networks, e.g. on the EERA Website, can differ from how they see themselves.
- The question was discussed if the PGN should really be seen as a normal network or if it was possible that the other networks join in and take responsibilities, according to their field of research. Plans for the ways of cooperation need to be developed.
- There seems to be a gap between Council and Networks, it would be nice if the distance could get narrower in future, for example if the Council members worked with the networks more closely, as Convenors, or Chairs of Sessions etc. This would enable both groups to know more about the work of the other and to get better background views. In future, Council meetings and Network meetings could overlap to allow a closer contact.
- As Council seems to be invisible during ECER, it could be a good idea to have badges in a different colour for council members.

Convenors have highly welcomed the network seminar and Council concluded that the initiative should be carried on in the following year. In order to give convenors the chances to get to know the place of conference before, Ian Grosvenor and Marit Hoveid will evaluate the possibility of having the seminar directly before or after the Council Meeting in January in Helsinki.

### **9.2 Review for Council of EERA Network Activity**

Ian Grosvenor informed council that the review of network activities he and Marit Hoveid had presented for this Council Meeting will – in the light of the Network Convenors Meeting – need further reflection. Amendments will be made in order to cover the results and new insights of the Seminar (e.g. ways to establish database of ECER related publications by contacting presenters and / or changing the submission form). Also the proposal of Network 16 (research project database) could be a good example for other networks. It was agreed that more details should be available in September and that Council will then discuss this issue in more depth.

### **9.3 New Network Proposal: The Tacit Dimensions of Teaching and Learning**

Marit Hoveid reported that the existing networks received the proposal and were asked to give a comment. 6 Networks answered and 3 were against it, especially network 1 and 27, as they could not clearly see the distinction to their own networks' focus. Marit Honerod Hoveid said that there could be two ways of handling it. Either the network "The Tacit Dimensions of Teaching and Learning" could be given a chance for 3 years or it could be tried to nest it within one of the existing networks with a similar focus, 1 and 27.

From this proposal two questions arose:

1. Whether EERA should have more networks or not. More networks would make the organisation of the conference more difficult, the topics of the different networks and the differences between them would become unclear. It could be interesting already now to ask the networks' convenors to describe other networks. Do they clearly see the focus of their colleagues? The Tacit aspect of the proposal is too narrow for a new network, but as there already is a group of people interested in working together, their commitment should be recognized with other instruments than a new

network. EERA should even think about the possibility to reduce networks, working groups within networks for special topics could be created for a limited time. It was decided that a working group should be fixed by September, including one or two convenors and some council members and that a report should be produced by June 2010.

2. How big ECER should and could become. Already this year, it was complicated to cope with the high amount of oral presentations. It could become difficult to find potential hosts, as many Universities wouldn't have the infrastructure to organise such a large event. One solution could be to upgrade the importance and size of the Poster Sessions, in order to have less oral presentations.

#### **9.4 Network Funding**

##### Application of NW 16

The ICT (NW 16) proposal to develop a network website and knowledge database was seen as interesting, but it was also seen that it should be developed as a prototype for other networks, including the needs and interests of them as well. Council decided to provide funding but also to ask the network to see this as a prototype for other networks. The network should also consider using existing technologies, like the TLRP-software. Jeremy Hoad will be contacted as a link person for this.

##### Application of NW 13

The proposal of Network 13 for an international, tri-lingual conference brought on the questions of whether it is within the ideas of and of interest for EERA. On the one hand, it is interesting as the conference tries to get over language problems by offering translation help. EERA could help people to communicate despite language problems. But on the other hand, it seems to be a closed conference; and EERA should fund open and inclusive events, not support people who already work together. Ian Grosvenor pointed out that the proposal says the conference will be open for listeners. Nevertheless council decided not to fund the project in the existing form as the return for EERA was not too visible.

Marit Hoveid stressed that the first information had been that networks would be invited to hand in all sorts of proposals; the proposal form is quite open and not too explicit on preconditions. The discussion lead to an amendment in the proposal form: A pragmatic test should always be applied to new proposals: what do EERA and/or European Research get back. The application template should be changed accordingly; the point "EERA return" should be added.

It was decided that EERA would offer NW 13 to fund bursaries for PhDs at an amount of 5.000 €.

## **10. President steps back**

As Ingrid Gogolin takes over the post of Interim President of WERA, declared to step back from her position as EERA President.

The Council thanked her for her commitment for more than 4 years and wished her all the best for the WERA endeavour.

## **11. WERA**

Wim Jochems summed up the nomination and elections procedures for the Interims Secretary General and the Interims President of WERA. After a nomination period in May Ingrid Gogolin was elected as President, Felice Levine as Secretary General.

Wim Jochems also gave an overview on the WERA Programme at ECER:

- PreConference: WERA will have short presentation in the "Inside EERA Session" on Saturday.
- Preparation Meeting: Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning with a first WERA Council Meeting
- Saturday evening: Ceremonial Dinner for invited guests, paid by EERA
- Tuesday: Founding Ceremony and Roundtable
- LOC supports preparation of these events, which is appreciated by Council

EERA Council agreed to all of this, afterwards questions arose what would be the first actions of WERA and it was clarified that WERA is still in the founding process and that the interims board is designed to enable the establishment of a first real board and first actions. Again the question of how to support young researchers turned up.

Council Members asked how the work of WERA could best be made transparent to all EERA Members and asked for an open information policy.

When Martin Lawn asked for a clearer vision of the benefits of a WERA, Wim Jochems reflected on how perceptions of global issues changed during the discussions and how the needs of developing countries had come more into focus. Ian Menter pointed out that issues like justice and inclusion, diversity and independency of research were strongly promoted by EERA representatives in the WERA meetings.

Council decided that

- Leif Moos as president elect needed to be granted an observer status in the WERA meetings at ECER in order to include him best in the processes.
- WERA should be a standard issue on the EERA Council Agenda and WERA should follow an open information policy and probably spread discussions papers/agendas before meetings
- EERA should urge that a clear WERA agenda is developed soon

## **12. ECER 2010**

Gunilla Holm presented a first flyer and a list of keynote speakers. She informed council that after some discussions Loc now suggest following Conference Theme: Education and cultural change. The theme was welcomed by Council.

Some adjustments to the flyer/timeline were proposed:

Call for Papers:	November
Submission Deadline:	15 January
First Results:	15 March

Early Bird: 01 May  
Final Registration: 01 July

It was asked to have the EERA website included in the flyer.

LOC also suggested a number of keynotes for the Main and the Pre-conference. It was agreed that LOC and Council Members (Leif Moos, Martin Lawn, Marit Honerod Hoveid) would form a working group to suggest candidates to Council in September. It was suggested to invite a keynote from southern or eastern Europe and to provide translation facilities. The idea was welcomed in principle.

Loc also asked how to deal with keynote suggestions for the Preconference and she was advised that she should get in touch with Joana Duarte from the PGN-

Loc has already reserved a broad number of conference rooms and has arranged a 3 days travel card for public transport.

### **13. Treasurer's Report**

Wim Jochems reported on the results of the audit 2008. The auditor had advised EERA that payment procedures should be formally approved by Council. Therefore Wim Jochems explained the payment procedures and the respective responsibilities of Treasurer and Office.

EERA now closes all accounts in the Netherlands and will only work with German accounts in future. One account will be managed by the Office Manager (office account), one by the Office Manager after written approval of Treasurer (council account), one only by the Treasurer (high interest account).

Theo Wubbels asked why EERA will only have accounts by Sparkasse as Council wanted to spread money initially to minimise risks. Council was informed that Sparkasse is linked to two different security system and guarantees for all savings.

Council accepted the suggested payment procedures and accounts.

Wim Jochems then pointed out that EERA still was making too much money and he informed council that he would like to suggest reducing fees once more. Council Members were also invited to put forward ideas on which projects to fund for the next Council Meeting.

### **14. Office Report**

Angelika Wegscheider informed Council that Office had been largely occupied with managing submissions and reviewing in the last weeks. Generally, office is running smoothly, although there was also quite a lot of pressure.

Smaller projects in the last weeks/ months had been:

- \* Changes in the website ("programme planner' and a better printing view of the website),
- \* Parts of the conference management system were better adjusted to EERA needs, which also asked for a lot of testing/correspondence with the developer.

- \* The first audit was prepared;
- \* Office was engaged in the networks' meeting in Berlin and in some EERQI working groups.

She pointed out the ECER 2009 attracted 400 proposals more than ECER 2008. Although rejection rate increased this means ECER 2009 will see 200 presentations more than in 2008; amongst them is a large number of symposia. All this would make programme and room planning very complicated. She also pointed out that high submission number out a lot of extra pressure on reviewers/convenors and also to the Local Organizers.

She also reflected on the Network Meeting and the discussion on size of ECER which was started there. A working group of convenors will focus on how to alter /adjust reviewing in order to better allow filtering out weaker proposals.

Council discussed that large submission numbers are also an effect that only presents are refunded by their Universities; maybe promoting Poster Presentations or finding other ways of having more presentations in one slot could be one way of staying within the limits.

For the next council meeting Ian Grosvenor, Marit Hoveid and Angelika Wegscheider were asked to present ideas on how to prevent ECER from growing too big.

## **15. Support new associations**

The proposal of Leif Moos, Martin Lawn and Bénédicté Gendron to offer support in form of a workshop/visit to new associations and/or researchers who are willing to build up a new association was welcomed in principle.

Martin Lawn asked whether associations who do not participate in council meetings would be invited to council meetings and would receive the necessary information. Angelika confirmed that papers, agendas and minutes are sent out to all EERA members.

## **16. EERJ report**

As time was running short Martin Lawn only informed Council that the EERJ roundtable would be on Researcher Mobility in Europe. He asked to have his report and paper on the Agenda for next meeting.

## **17. Next meetings**

Sunday, 27 September	17 – 19 h
Thursday, 01. October	09 – 13 h

January 2010:               **23. – 24.01.2010**

## **18. Agenda for next meeting**

- EERJ report, not as the last issue on the agenda however!
- Ideas on how to keep ECER manageable (number of submissions)
- Council Members terms of Office
- Future conferences

## **19. Miscellaneous**

### **Hosting an ECER**

David Bridges had asked to discuss criteria for hosting an ECER. He asked whether the National Association or the University should put forward the proposal, if it would be possible to use conference facilities outside universities, whether there were preferred dates and if the National and European Conference could be merged.

Wim Jochems pointed out that the contract was always between a Local Organizing Committee within a University, but EERA expects that the National Association would somehow be linked/supportive to the conference.

Renting conference facilities is not out of discussion in principle but would raise costs considerably. Concerning conference dates it was agreed that in years with an EARLI conference, ECER should take place later in September; in other years ECER might be held late in August or early in September as well.

When discussing joint conferences the preferred option is that the National Conference might nest within ECER. Combining different submissions procedure and models of two different conferences into one programme is seen as too difficult.

Office will update the information in how to propose hosting an ECER and send it to Raquel Almaya, David Bridges, Yasar Kondacki and Mustafa Eryman as they all have shown interest in hosting an ECER .