



# Minutes of the EERA Council Meeting in Cádiz

**22 September 2012**

Universidad de Cádiz, Avda. Gómez Ulla, 1, 11003, Cádiz

## Participants:

**Anna Aleksanyan**, Educational Research Armenian Center (ERAC); **Herbert Altrichter**, Österreichische Gesellschaft für Forschung und Entwicklung (OEFEB); **José Bessa de Oliveira**, Centro de Investigação, Difusão e Intervenção Educacional (CIDInE); **David Bosold**, EERA Office; **Monica Brandis** (EERA Office); **Danny Durant** (LOC 2014); **Mustafa Yunus Eryaman**, Turkish Educational Research Association (EAB); **Patrícia Fidalgo**, Emerging Researchers' Group; **Maria Pacheco Figueiredo**, Network Representative on Council; **Francesca Gobbo**, Società Italiana di Pedagogia (SIPED); **Ian Grosvenor**, EERA Secretary General; **Fiona Hallett**, Emerging Researchers' Group; **Tina Hascher**, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Erziehungswissenschaft (DGfE); **George Head**, Scottish Educational Research Association (SERA); **Gunilla Holm**, Finnish Educational Research Association (FERA); **Marit Honerød Hoveid**, EERA Secretary General Elect; **Berit Karseth**, Nordic Educational Research Association (NERA); **Edwin Keiner**, EERJ; **Paulina Korsnakova**, Slovak Educational Research Society (SERS); **Joanna Madalińska-Michalak**, Polskie Towarzystwo Pedagogiczne (PTP); **Raquel-Amaya Martínez González**, Asociación Interuniversitaria de Investigación Pedagógica (AIDIPE); **Lejf Moos**, EERA President; **Antonio García Morilla**, LOC 2012; **Petr Novotný**, 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; **Gregorio Rodríguez Gómez**, LOC 2012; **Theo Wubbels**, EERA Treasurer, Vereniging voor Onderwijs Research (VOR); **Iouri Zagoumenov**, Belarus National Association 'Innovation in Education' (BNA 'IE'), **Pavel Zgaga**, Slovenian Educational Research Association (SLODRE)

Minutes: David Bosold

## 1 Welcome, Apologies, New Participants

The President welcomed all Council members and the representatives of the Local Organising Committee in Cádiz 2012 and London 2014. Apologies were received from: Evelyne Charlier, Şakir Çinkır, Nadine Engels, Brigitte Gruson, Gonzalo Jover Olmeda, Palmira Jucevičienė, Sofia Marques da Silva, Helen Phtiaka, Roland Reichenbach, Huseyin Uzunboylyu, Sinem Vatanartiran.

## 2 Agenda

The agenda was approved. The president announced that 5.2 of the agenda, the exculpation of the Secretary General, would be moved up in the agenda.

## 3 Confirmation of minutes, matters arising from minutes

The minutes of the June meeting in Berlin were confirmed without changes.



## 5 EXEC Reports 2011-2012 (with office bearers exculpation, preponed)

### 5.2 Secretary General

The Secretary General gave his report for 2011-12 and stressed the following aspects of his last term in the office. In the previous year, he had closely monitored the work of the EERA Office, offered support where appropriate to the EERA Office during a period of transition due to personnel changes and, most specifically, worked with the Secretary General elect in terms of giving guidance and induction into the substantive post. Together with the Executive, Network's Representative on Council and the EERA Office he had developed protocols relating to the new EERA Constitution (Bylaws). Moreover, he had continued to work with the Executive and the Network's Representative on Council:

- to develop, monitor and disseminate EERA's strategic objectives;
- to engage in 'blue skies' strategy discussions;
- to promote the profile of EERA as a significant research association in Europe through publications;

Further aspects of his work included the continued commitment to develop efficient and effective working practices of EERA and the ECER and to monitor the work of the EERA Networks (together with the Network's Representative on Council and the EERA Office). In 2011 and 2012, the Secretary General also reported activities to the EERA Council on a regular basis and responded to questions and acted upon requests from EERA Council. He advised the Nominations and Election Committee on the election procedures for the incoming Treasurer in accordance with the new Constitution and corresponding bylaws.

In addition, he supported the LOC in developing the EERA Summer School in Birmingham, held in June 2012 and contributed to discussions in the working group established to develop ideas regarding EERA's anniversary in 2014. Last but not least, the Secretary General secured external funding for the continuation of the History of Education Summer School for Doctoral Students for three more years, successfully worked with the LOC in Lisbon to deliver the 2012 Summer School and secured the University of Hamburg as the LOC for 2013.

There were no additional questions from Council members. In a unanimous vote, EERA Council exculpated Ian Grosvenor for his office term 2011-2012.

The president thanked the Secretary General for his excellent work during the past three years in office and handed over a present as an expression of the Council and Executive Board's appreciation of Ian Grosvenor's work. The president then also formally welcomed Marit Honerød Hoveid as new Secretary General of EERA.

## 4 ECER Reports 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015

### 4.1 ECER 2012

The representatives of the LOC 2012 gave a brief report on the Cádiz conference. Despite some problems, mainly technical ones related to computer hardware, the LOC was satisfied with ECER 2012. The organising team from Cádiz stressed that they were happy with the conference because it had made a great impact on the educational research community in Europe, particularly Spain. Moreover, the city had also benefited a lot from the attendance of almost 2.500 scholars from around the world.

In the ensuing discussion with Council representatives, some of the organisational difficulties were highlighted. LOC apologised for the inconveniences and suggested that these should be taken into consideration by the LOC of ECER 2013. The most relevant aspects included:



- the possibility to register for the Main Conference on Monday (i.e. one day earlier),
- more signs inside and outside the conference venue with directions to seminar rooms, computer labs, etc.
- to have the registration for both, ERC and Main Conference, in the same place
- to make sure that the keynote is broadcasted live in separate rooms and/or streamed on the internet
- that volunteers receive specific English language training and that they are able to solve technical problems that may occur with regard to the use of video beamers and the use of their own computers by the participants.
- that rooms are not booked for other events and equipped with the necessary infrastructure (computer, beamer, speakers, black/whiteboard, etc.).
- availability of vegetarian food
- the availability of hotel rooms close to the conference venue

An additional point that was put forward by some Council members was the lacking visibility of the conference theme in the programme of some networks. This observation was acknowledged by EERA EXEC, but EXEC stressed that the theme is meant to be visible in the central activities (such as Keynotes, Council invited sessions, EERJ Panel, the three workshops held on 'Horizon 2020') and that networks are independent in putting their programme together. EERA should strive for a good mix of diversity of topics. As a result, it was decided to highlight the conference theme in the next call for papers again and to discuss at the convenors seminar in spring 2013 council invited sessions.

The LOC eventually presented a 2-page 'University Declaration ECER 2012 – Cádiz 1812-2012' on the conference theme. Council members were generally open to support the document but asked for additional language editing and the rephrasing of some parts of the text in particular. Moreover, Council suggested to include intergenerational and multicultural aspects in the text. Council agreed that LOC should draft a new version for EXEC to edit and mail to Council for approval.

#### **4.2 ECER 2013**

The Treasurer passed on the greetings of Sinem Vatanartiran, the 2013 LOC representative, to Council. She sent her apologies for not attending the meeting and said she was looking forward to the next Council meeting that will be hosted by Bahçeşehir University, Istanbul on February 1-2, 2013. Based on a meeting of the EERA President and Treasurer with her during ECER, it was reported that LOC 2013 would pay specific attention to the points for improvement mentioned above. With two airports, numerous hotels in the Taksim square area 5 minutes away from the campus and one large complex in which the conference will take place, the infrastructure in Turkey would be very conducive to hosting such a large event.

#### **4.3 ECER 2014**

Danny Durant, LOC representative, reported on the preparations for ECER 2014 in London. Besides the office manager of BERA, Nick Johnson, BERA representative on Council, Alis Oancea, and ERG representative, Fiona Hallett, a team of three colleagues from the Institute of Education (IOE) – Chris Husbands, Brenda Taggart, Michael Walker would support him in the final negotiations with EERA EXEC and all further conference preparations. The budget would be signed in February 2013, not including the additional budget earmarked for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. With respect to the venue, hosting ECER in London in 2014 would however not only allow to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of EERA. With BERA celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the same year (and ECER returning to England after 19 years), the conference would provide a great opportunity to highlight the cooperation between EERA and its member organisations. Tina Hascher added that DGfE would have its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2014. Against this background, the EERA anniversary group will contact all



Council members whether additional EERA membership organisations will have a significant jubilee celebration of their associations in 2014.

On logistics and infrastructure, Durant pointed out that even with a further increase in participation numbers (+/- 3.000 delegates), London would be an ideal place for ECER. Five airports in the Greater London Area and the easy accessibility of the conference venue from the terminus of the EuroStar train (St Pancras) would make travel to ECER 2014 convenient. Nearby buildings of the University of London, such as Birkbeck College, would provide the space needed to host 70 to 80 parallel sessions and offer auditoriums for up to 1.000 delegates to follow the central events. Moreover, accommodation could be found for most of the conference attendees in the immediate surroundings of the IOE.

Most importantly, the following dates were announced for ECER 2014: Emerging Researchers' Conference 22-23 September, Main Conference 23-26 September 2014.

#### 4.4 ECER 2015

The President welcomed Tamas Kozma, the President of HERA. Kozma restated that HERA would be interested to host ECER 2015 in Budapest. The organisation is encouraged to forward a formal application for hosting the ECER for Council to decide on in February 2013 and then soon start formal negotiations with EERA and pay particular attention to some budget issues that would need to be clarified before officially signing the contract.

#### 4.5 ECER 2016

José Bessa Oliveira confirmed CIDInE's commitment to hosting ECER 2016 in Portugal. The representative of SPCE had also reiterated the association's intention to organise the conference in Porto in a written statement. Further details on ECER 2016 in Porto will be provided by the two organisations at the next Council meeting in Istanbul.

#### 4.6 ECER 2017

On behalf of the Dutch Educational Research Association, Theo Wubbels reiterated that VOR was interested in hosting ECER 2017. Further details on the prospective location and dates will be provided in the coming year.

### 5 EXEC Reports 2011-2012 (with office bearers exculpation)

#### 5.1 President

The EERA President started off his annual report with a brief report on the outcome of ECER 2012. Regarding the structure of ECER, the President stated that the former sessions with no parallel activities had been abandoned since 2011. Keynotes now run parallel, and the EERJ panel parallels the EERA panel. Due to the growth in participant numbers over the past years, these central events are now no longer single events. Moreover, a record number in joint sessions between networks and additional efforts by EXEC and Council to develop new session formats (such as the three workshops on 'Horizon 2020') had highlighted the potential for greater interdisciplinary and interactive forms of collaboration. These should be intensified in the future.

With respect to ECER 2013, EERA had received the confirmation of the four keynote speakers Morwenna Griffiths, Lene Tanggaard Pedersen, Riel Miller and Hasan Şimşek. The conference theme is "Creativity and Innovation in Educational Research" and it will be held at Bahçeşehir University from 9 to 13 September 2013.



Consultations with London (IOE) for ECER 2014 were ongoing. Together with the treasurer he had concluded the first round of negotiations discussions with the English LOC during ECER in Cádiz. Both sides were now looking forward to signing the contract at the next Council meeting. Against the background of the current Euro crisis and related fluctuations in currency exchange rates, the Treasurer would work out a scheme that would reduce these risks as far as the five instalment payments are concerned. As regards the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, there would be a separate budget for activities which were to be presented in more detail in agenda item 7.2.2.

As regards EERA membership, there had been no attendees seeking advice on how to join EERA in the prospective member session on Wednesday. Against this backdrop, the President reported on his visit to Uman, Ukraine in order to highlight the potential for future EERA member organisations in Central and Eastern Europe and the Balkans. With the new members from Armenia (ERAC) and Cyprus (CPA) joining EERA in 2012, the association had again grown beyond the borders of the European Union. EERA should strive for a proactive approach to attract new members in these areas to reflect its European and inclusive character.

In some parts of Europe, EERA would now however also face the issue of membership applications from countries already represented in Council. EERA had now received the third application from Spain and Turkey and would therefore need to focus on regulative matters how to deal with such requests. One suggestion would be up for discussion and be presented as item 7.1.2.

With respect to supporting young researchers, EERA and some EERA networks had successfully organised summer schools on issues such as Academic Writing, Advanced Research Methods or Curriculum Innovation and Histories of Education. In 2013, the season school on Academic Writing would move from Birmingham to Trondheim and be held under the auspices of NTNU. A call for applications would start soon and is intended to co-finance season schools by EERA networks.

The President further noted that EERA had made inroads in terms of its visibility within and impact on the wider educational field. After the Council decision in June 2012 to continue WERA membership for another three years, EERA had intensified its cooperative efforts by holding the WERA symposium at ECER 2012, planning to attend a focal and council meeting at the AERA-APERA Conference in Sydney in December 2012 and supporting WERA's call for International Research Networks (IRNs). EERA would also lend support to its members to host WERA sessions at conferences of its member organisations.

In Europe, EERA had partnered with other organisations by continuing to work within ISE (Initiative for Science in Europe) and by establishing EASSH (European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities). The main target of the work within these organisations were directed at the rewriting of the current drafts of the sixth societal challenge of 'Horizon 2020' and a greater share of the overall FP 8 budget. These efforts had been sidelined with Council and Convenors working on the texts of the three societal challenges on inclusive, innovative and reflective societies.

Talks with the current president of EARLI had furthermore led to plans for a shared event for emerging researchers. More details would be put forward under 7.1.3.

To augment the visibility of EERA in the field, EXEC had published its fourth contribution in the Public Service Review. The association had now also a revamped website featuring news via RSS feed and regular tweets. The documentation of ECERs on the web would in addition soon stretch over the period from 1997 to 2012 after the British Education Index data has been integrated into the overall ECER database at [www.eera-ecer.de](http://www.eera-ecer.de).

With respect to Council, the President repeated that the Council meetings in June were primarily devoted to initiate strategic decisions and discussions. The process of drafting EERA's regulations (bylaws) had now been almost completed which would allow for more time to discuss the strategic



posture of EERA. The idea to integrate national/country-specific debates in these discussions had been made possible by the members' reports. In 2012, there had been reports by AECSE (France), HERA (Hungary), SPCE (Portugal), SLODRE (Slovenia), SSRE (Switzerland) and CERA (Czech Republic).

Council unanimously accepted the report and exculpated the President.

## **5.2 Secretary General (see above)**

## **5.3 Treasurer**

The Treasurer presented the results and balance sheet for 2011 and circulated copies of the auditor's report.

He announced a slight deficit of 20.000 EUR for the past year that was lower than planned mainly due to unforeseen higher income because of the higher number of participants in the Berlin conference

In a unanimous vote Council members accepted the report and exculpated the Treasurer.

After the Treasurer's exculpation, the President welcomed Herbert Altrichter as Treasurer Elect. He will succeed Theo Wubbels in September 2013.

## **6 Other Reports**

### **6.1 Network Representative on Council**

Maria Figueiredo gave a report on the latest developments of EERA networks. Network 03 had changed its name from "Curriculum Innovation by Schools and Teachers" to "Curriculum Innovation" to become more inclusive. In 2012 EERA had also received three applications for new networks, namely for a network on (1) "European Research on Practices and Tacit Dimensions of Education", (2) "Educational Linguistics and Literacy Research" and (3) "Arts Education". (1) had been rejected, (2) was undergoing revision and (3) had been accepted and successfully held a Council-invited symposium in Cádiz. During ECER 2012 further talks had started with researchers interested in establishing a network on "Environmental and Sustainability Education".

The three most recently established networks, NW 08 on "Research in Health Education", NW 18 on "Research in Sports Pedagogy" and NW 28 on "Sociologies of Education", had all received a relevant number of proposals and had managed to deliver well-attended ECER programs.

Besides the very much appreciated Council invited EERA Season School in Birmingham, some networks also had successfully held season schools. NW 09 had held a Season School on "Methods for Causal Inference from Observational Data - Advanced Methods in Educational Research" in Gothenburg in spring, NW 03 had organised a Season School in Porto on "Strengthening the Value of Curriculum Research for Curriculum Policies and Practices" this summer. NW 17 had concluded another Season School on "Histories of Education" for postgraduate students in Lisbon without EERA funds, but still in affiliation with EERA. In addition, NW 07 (Social Justice) and NW 19 (Ethnography) had held a one day seminar on "Space, place and social justice in education" in Manchester in July. Regarding the outcome of the Convenors Meeting in Cádiz, the Network Representative on Council highlighted several issues.

In the overall evaluation of ECER 2012, convenors highlighted the growing quality of the papers presented: a growth in numbers was therefore accompanied with a growth in quality. It was also acknowledged a diversification of participation: in terms of formats (more symposia, roundtables, joint sessions between networks, central events) and in terms of nationality of the participants. Analysing the difficulties encountered by some networks (ICT, signs, poster session, etc.), convenors offered to engage with the setting up of a detailed list of requirements for the session rooms for future ECERs.



The Poster Exhibition, according to link convenors, had been placed in a too narrow and small environment that had neither been conducive to discussions about the posters during the General Poster Session nor attracted a lot of visitors due to its location in a peripheral building. For ECER 2013 in Istanbul, particular attention should hence be paid to the location of the Poster Exhibition. Besides the venue, there had been problems with the low turnout of nominations for the best poster of each network since some networks had not handed in their best poster on time. Moreover, some posters had been taken off well before the end of the conference (removed text for previous sentence). The Council Jury for the Best Poster Award had hence not been able to select the best poster from all shortlisted ones.

A member of the Jury urged Council to form a working group before the next Convenors meeting to improve the selection process. The convenors and EERA Office suggested that authors should be informed before the conference that they were expected to leave their posters in the exhibition area until Thursday evening. In addition, they should provide for pdfs/digital copies of their posters in order to speed up the selection process for link convenors. The latter should then send their short list via email instead of handing in a paper at the EERA help desk.

Based on last years' conversations and collaborations promoted by the Convenors Seminar and faced with the changing landscape of educational research, Convenors agreed to discuss the network structure and the relationship of their respective networks to other networks at the next meeting in Berlin in April 2013. A working group will be formed that would develop scenarios for the future network structure. These scenarios would then be used as the point of departure for the discussions. The President did welcome the intention of Convenors to start discussions on the restructuring and possible merging of networks

Council gratefully acknowledged the report by the Network Representative on Council.

## **6.2 Representative of the Emerging Researchers' Group**

Fiona Hallett reported on the Emerging Researchers' Conference in Cádiz that had now doubled its participation rate in comparison to 2009. There had been almost 300 participants with 190 papers and 15 posters in 2012. 19 of them had received a bursary to attend the ERC. The introduction of a 50 EUR fee had actually not resulted in a drop in participation rates and hence can be kept. As compensation, lunch vouchers would continue to be distributed at the registration desk.

With respect to the 2012 ERC, the location in a different building had caused a number of problems for the participants. One idea that should be considered would be to also have an EERA help desk for the ERC.

Fiona also reported that 19 senior researchers from Council and the Networks had chaired sessions as mentors. Still, the number of sessions had been too high to have a mentor (chair) in each session. She would therefore appreciate if there were volunteers on Council willing to chair a session at next year's ECER.

The Representative of the ERG then introduced Patrícia Fidalgo as her successor. Patrícia's first project will be a virtual edition of all shortlisted best papers for the EERJ. In 2012 alone, there have been 19 submissions for the Best Paper Award out of which 14 are currently under revision.

The Council members thanked the two representatives of the ERG for their report.

## **6.3 EERA Office**

David presented some key figures on ECER 2012. There had been a number of late withdrawals and no shows at both, the ERC and Main Conference. Out of 297 registered participants of the ERC only 249 had arrived. The ratio for the Main Conference had been 2.452 registered participants vs. 2.208 arrivals. Only a small fraction of those who did not attend ECER would however be eligible for reimbursement



of the conference fee (i.e. because of illness). There would hence be no negative impact on the EERA budget. In order to improve the conference experience of attendees, the EERA Office had started to draft a detailed check-list together with the LOC of ECER 2013. This should reduce the number of problems that would need to be addressed on spot during the conference.

David also explained that the online programme importer was now up and running. Numerous adjustments had to be made in July and August to transfer the Conftool data (ECER conference database) onto the EERA website database (ECER online programme). These problems should however not recur in 2013.

The conference app that had been introduced for the first time in 2012 had been used by approximately 20 to 25 % of participants (based on download figures). Talks with the developer in Poznan, Poland would be held in late 2012, early 2013 to improve the app for ECER 2013.

Council thanked the office for the report.

#### **6.4 Representative of the EERJ Editorial Board**

Edwin Keiner gave an overview of EERJ activities in the past year. With more than 20.000 downloads EERJ had seen the highest access rates since the establishment of the journal. Free access had now been granted to 38 institutions in 30 developing countries.

In terms of its editorial board the biggest shift had been Martin Lawn's decision to step down as editor in the coming 12-18 months.

Future plans for the EERJ would include the general increase from four to five or six issues per year. One possibility could be a special issue per year only featuring articles by Emerging Researchers. In addition, the amount of issues under guest editorship of convenors/certain networks should increase. As regards 2013, there shall also be a proposal on how to develop the EERJ Round Table format.

The Council members thanked Edwin Keiner for his report.

### **7 Matters for discussion/decision from EXEC and others**

#### **7.1 President**

##### *7.1.1 Strategies*

The three Council-invited sessions on 'Horizon 2020' organised as a result of the June meeting – with Peter Gray (NW 10), Paul Smeyers (NW 13) and Palle Rasmussen (NW 23) – had been a success. The group would continue to work on 'Horizon 2020' but also apply for a grant under the FP7 after a talk with the EC representative Monica Menapace. The BERA representative said that her organisation would support such efforts to reach out.

With respect to the broader EERA strategy, the President thanked for the fruitful discussions during the June meeting and presented a summary of the reports of the three working groups. The ideas put forward by Council members could be clustered along the following lines:

- Visibility and relations to the outer world (European and global dimension), both academically and politically
- ECER and the role of networks (structure of networks)
- Emerging Researchers' Group (additional efforts to support young researchers)
- Relationship between EERA and its member organisations
- Council and EERA EXEC (respective role and tasks)

Due to time constraints these issues were not discussed in details. An in-depth debate on the issues listed above will take place at the next Council meeting.



### 7.1.2 *New Members*

Following the third membership application from Turkey and Spain, Leif Moos reported on the June meeting with the lawyer who had drafted the EERA constitution. In the meeting, procedures to limit the amount of member associations from the same countries were discussed. As a result, the following text was proposed (see below). It would (a) be in line with the constitution, could (b) be added as part of the bylaws and would (c) technically freeze the current number of members from countries represented in council (including those from countries with two associations on Council). It would, however, still allow for the inclusion of Educational research organisations from countries currently not represented in EERA.

Proposal:

*"To ensure and strengthen further ability to work and effectiveness of the European Educational Research Association (EERA) e.V.,*

*To support and encourage cooperation between member organisations, non-member organisations and other individuals on a national level,*

*To transform EERA e.V. in the medium term into a European association of national organisations for general educational research,*

*The General Assembly ("Council") has agreed upon the following principles concerning membership and admission of further members according to § 4 paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Constitution:*

- 1. A national, regional or supra-regional organisation for general educational research will, until a further decision is taken, not be admitted as a new member of EERA e.V., if another national, regional or supra-regional organisation has already been admitted as a member from the country of domicile stated by the applicant organisation*
- 2. National and regional organisations for general educational research that are already members of EERA e.V. are invited to network on a national level with other national or regional organisations from their countries of domicile, whether these organisations are members or not. They are obliged to work toward joint membership under the umbrella of a national organisation for general educational research.*
- 3. National, regional or supra-regional organisations for general educational research from countries with no existing national, regional or supra-regional organisation that is a member of EERA e.V., are invited to apply for membership.*
- 4. The membership status of organisations that are already a member of EERA e.V. will not be affected by this decision. For candidate members § 4 paragraph 1 sentences 3 and 4 of the Constitution is applied."*

The proposal was adopted with 11 yes votes, 0 votes against and 2 abstentions.

### 7.1.3 *EERA-EARLI Collaboration*

There has been no continuation of talks with EARLI on the joint organisation of a conference for young researchers. While the cornerstones of the event were clear – approx. 250 young researchers, event to be held in Nicosia, Cyprus in early 2014 – EERA EXEC still sees the need for further discussions with their EARLI counterparts as regards the inclusion of senior researchers, the budget and overall theme. In order to represent EERA in its entirety, the steering committee now also includes Patricia Fidalgo of the ERG and the Network Representative on Council, Maria



Figueiredo. Together with the President and the Treasurer the group has started to draft a mission statement for the event. The next talks with EARLI will be held in November 2012. EXEC will keep Council informed about all future developments.

## 7.2 Secretary General

### 7.2.1 General Regulations/Bylaws (see Annex)

The Secretary General briefly commented on the comprehensive list of bylaws that Council members had received before the meeting. All bylaws had previously been discussed and approved by Council members. The complete document would serve as a guideline for the internal working procedures of EERA and make the work of the EERA Office and the Executive Board more transparent. As a living document it would remain subject to revisions and additions. It was agreed that the General Regulation will be placed on the EERA website.

The bylaws were unanimously accepted by Council.

### 7.2.2 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary EERA London 2014

Marit presented the ideas of the working group for the 20<sup>th</sup> EERA anniversary in London in 2014. There were a total of 13 proposals out of which the following ones were endorsed:

- Online (and offline) exhibition with videos, pictures and additional documents that serves as a visual history of EERA. The website will feature events along a timeline and will allow users to create their own EERA/ECER experience (working title: "MyECER"). It will also include a virtual map of member associations with their year of accession and feature the history of (particular) networks. The exhibition will be complemented by 3.000 copies of a 20 page booklet in A5 format. The production team includes Ian Grosvenor, Maria Figueiredo, Theo Wubbels and two experienced convenors (tbd). A time frame and budget will follow soon.
- Basic quantitative data about the history and development of ECERs and EERA. The study will be completed by Edwin Keiner using data that has been partly published and/or collected.
- A revitalisation of a so far unpublished survey among convenors from 2004. Edwin Keiner and Maria Figueiredo will circulate the questionnaire among convenors and complete a comparative analysis of the two data sets.
- EERJ will be asked to produce a special issue on EERA and ECERs.
- EERJ intends to publish a hard copy as a commemorative issue. Edwin will be joined by Marit Hoveid (special issue) and Martin Lawn (hard copy), a budget will follow soon.
- Round Table of former EERA Presidents and Secretary Generals (besides the 'regular' EERJ Round Table and EERA Panel) about the importance of ECERs and EERA and their future. The Round Table shall be chaired by Marit Hoveid as the acting Secretary General and include the following four former Officers on the anniversary panel: Ingrid Gogolin, Sverker Lindblad (former Presidents), Martin Lawn, Lisbeth Lundahl (former SGs).
- An invited Council Panel on the future of EERA and the European educational research area (to be complemented by an assessment/evaluation of ECERs by delegates). Lejf Moos will present a list of key stakeholders that should be invited, Edwin and the EERA Office will examine the existing data of ECER evaluations (Ghent 2007, Helsinki 2010, Berlin 2011, Cádiz 2012).
- A collection of jokes, anecdotes and narratives will be compiled as an 'EERA backyard'. An email address (narratives@eera.eu) has been established so that anecdotes can be submitted easily. Marit Hoveid and Gyöngyvér Pataki will also conduct focus group interviews in Istanbul and prepare a working group before ECER 2013. Some anecdotes shall also be included in the virtual (online) history of EERA.
- A Birthday Party shall be organised by the organisers. Further details will have to be discussed with the LOC.



- An international contest among high school students to define/identify the most pressing research question. The idea was welcomed because it would establish links with the younger generation and could also generate greater visibility of EERA. There were however doubts whether the selection by social media could be too biased by excluding the voices of underprivileged students (e.g. Roma) and whether the competition could grow too big to remain manageable. The problem of a selection bias could be solved by contacting NGOs and charities.

The further development of the respective proposals and budget figures shall be presented to Council at the next meeting in Istanbul.

### 7.3 Treasurer

#### 7.3.1 Budget 2013 and update 2012

Due to the high number of ECER participants in Cádiz, the EERA budget in 2012 will most likely see a 40.000 EUR surplus this year instead of a planned deficit. Despite a conservative estimation of next year's ECER participation rate (2.400 attendees) higher expenses for network activities and season schools are thus foreseen in the 2013 budget. The treasurer suggested to earmark 30.000 EUR for Network funding and 35.000 EUR for season schools next year. In total, it is expected that EERA will generate an income of 603.500 EUR that will be compared by expenses of 653.450 EUR.

The budget was unanimously approved. The call for applications for network funding and season schools can therefore be sent out. Deadlines are 15 November 2012, 15 January 2013 and 30 April 2013.

#### 7.3.2 Support to Council Representatives

As a first addendum to the bylaws the Treasurer presented new regulations on the reimbursement procedures for EERA Council members. On top of the current payment scheme for ECERs (high-GDP countries, low-GDP countries) there would be a new category of very-low GDP countries defined as countries with a per capita income of less than 5.000 US-Dollars/year. This regulation would make it easier for representatives of the respective countries to attend Council meetings in the future.

The second addendum to the bylaws referred to the list of low-GDP countries. These would be defined as those countries with a per capita income of less than 25.000 US-Dollars/ year.

The draft reads as follows (new parts of bylaws are in *italics*):

*ECER fees are differentiated between participants from member associations and others and between participants from Low-GDP countries and other countries. The list of these low-GDP countries is published on the EERA website.*

*Every year, acting on a proposal from the treasurer, Council decides in September on the threshold for the income per capita (World Bank Data) for a country to be eligible for the status of low-GDP and very low-GDP country. The list of low-GDP countries is published on the EERA website and normally revised in September. The list of very low-GDP countries is published in the minutes of the council meeting<sup>1</sup>.*

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<sup>1</sup> The list of very-low GDP countries currently represented on Council includes: Armenia, Belarus.



*EERA membership fees are differentiated between associations from low GDP countries and other countries. The list of these low-GDP countries is published on the EERA website.*

### ***Travel and accommodation regulations for Associations from low-GDP and very low-GDP countries***

Representatives of Member Associations from low-GDP and *very low-GDP* countries are entitled to the reimbursement of travel expenses if they participate in Council meetings.

Costs will be reimbursed to a maximum of 300 € per meeting for low-GDP and 600 € for *very low-GDP* countries. This can include costs for economy class flights, taxi and public transport as well as costs for up to two nights' accommodation although these must not exceed accommodation costs of the hotel reserved by EERA office. Costs will be reimbursed on presentation of original receipts/invoices and an EERA reimbursement form.

This new regulation will be applicable for the first time for the Council Meeting in *September 2012* and until further notice.

The new regulations were unanimously approved.

#### **7.4 Network Representative on Council**

The Convenors discussed the possibility of free entries for retired link convenors. The idea was rejected by council. Instead, the idea of an honorary membership for network/link convenors was put forward. Since a similar idea has been discussed in BERA, Maria and Alis Oancea will prepare a detailed proposal on the honorary membership of network convenors for the next Council meeting in 2013.

## **8 Members' reports**

### **8.1 British Educational Research Association (BERA)**

Alis Oancea gave a presentation on the work and history of BERA. With 1.700 members and 30 SIGs (special interest groups, equivalent to the EERA networks) the organisation would now cover a wide range of educational issues in its research. Due to the high number of SIGs there would now be a lot of interdisciplinary research with other disciplines. Founded 38 years ago and registered as a charity, it had since become more professional with a permanent office staff of three employees and a governing structure comparable to EERA. The Executive of President, Vice-President and Treasurer responsible for the strategy of BERA and its day-to-day business were elected by the 21 members of the Executive Council. In the past years, the outreach to stakeholders in the policy field and the support of young researchers had become key priorities for BERA.

The latest strategic document in this respect was "Prospects for the Future of Educational Research" that had been released in January 2012

In terms of its outreach capacity, BERA will soon launch its fourth peer-reviewed journal alongside additional information outlets such as its two member newsletter 'Research Intelligence' and 'Insights'.

### **8.2 Educational Research Armenian Center (ERAC)**

Anna Aleksanyan then gave an introduction to the more recent history of ERAC. The organisation's decision to renounce the attribute 'association' had been taken on the grounds of a national decree that bans the use of words already in use by another organisation in the country. Against the background of an already existing 'Armenian Research Association', ERAC was not able to register as the 'Armenian Educational Research Association'. Originating in a series of workshops and seminars across Armenia, ERAC had been founded in 2011 by young educational researchers at Yerevan State



University. Its 33 members have since established links to other researchers and organisations beyond the former Soviet space. Since its inception, the organisation has gradually expanded its activities. In 2012 ERAC held its first conference in Yerevan, initiated two national research projects and is about to launch a journal.

## 9 Next Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held at Bahçeşehir University (BAU), Istanbul from 1 to 2 February 2013. Since the meeting starts at 9am on 1 February, it is recommended that Council members arrive one day earlier (31 January 2013). The Council meeting will end at 2pm on 2 February 2013.

The next Council meeting in Berlin is scheduled for 14-15 June 2013 (Friday and Saturday).

The Council meeting after ECER 2013 will be held at BAU on 14 September 2013.

The Council meeting after ECER 2014 will be held at the IOE, London on 27 September 2014.

## 10 AOB

Tina Hascher (DGfE) and Gunilla Holm (FERA) will give the members' reports in Istanbul in February 2013.

The discussion on the EERA strategy (agenda item 7.1.1, see above) has been postponed until the next meeting.

MaxQDA, a software company specialising in qualitative data analysis and exhibitor at ECER 2011 and ECER 2012, has approached EERA ECEC with regard to the sponsoring of an award. Since there is already an award for the best paper of the ERC (currently paid for by EERA and subsequently published by EERJ), EERA might consider making this award one sponsored by MaxQDA. Based on the current system in place this would not result in extra administrative work.

It was agreed that the idea of a MaxQDA award should be discussed more generally at the next meeting. Ideally, Council should come up with/agree on principles for funding by sponsors that should also include ethical aspects and more general implications for the work of EERA.