

# Minutes of the EERA Council Meeting in Gothenburg

**Tuesday, 9. September 2008, 17:00 – 19:00**

Present: Herbert Altrichter (ÖFEB), Matthis Behrens (SSRE), David Bridges (BERA), Bénédicte Gendron (AECSE), Francesca Gobbo (SIPED), Ingrid Gogolin (President), Ian Grosvenor (Secretary General Elect), Biörn Hasselgren (LOC 2008), Jeremy Hoad (BERA), Michael Holmqvist (LOC 2008), Marit Honerod Hoveid (Convenor of Convenors), Wim Jochems (Treasurer), Martin Lawn (EERJ), Lisbeth Lundahl (Secretary General), Lejf Moos (NERA), Ian Menter (SERA), Paul Standish (Senior Mentor, PGN) Angelika Wegscheider (EERA-Office), Tanja Werkl (LOC Vienna)

Minutes: Angelika Wegscheider

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

Two Council Members asked to be excused – Peter van Petegem and the Slovak Association.

## **2. Confirmation of minutes of Council Meeting in June**

Minutes were confirmed

## **3. Matters arising from minutes of Council Meeting in June [not elsewhere on the agenda]**

One misspell on Page 9 AIDPE instead of AIDIPE  
No new topics were put onto the agenda.

Short reports on Action Sheets of last Minutes.

- contacts with EENEE (European Expert Network on Economics of Education) have been established, they might be interested for the time after 2009
- it was suggest not to agree to the offer of joining the editorial board of the International Journal of Instruction

Contact to BEI

Contacts have been re-established, NW 12 wants to highlight possible ways for cooperation.

Jeremy Hoad reported that BEI will have discussion on 21 October to establish new ideas on how to work in future. He offered he could report back on this to EERA.

#### **4. ECER 2008**

Report LOC

As the conference attracted more people than expected, a new venue for the keynote presentations and the Town Reception needed to be found. Delegates will be guided to the new venues by conference helpers. Most of the report was postponed to Saturday. Council thanked the Local Organizers for excellent preparation.

#### **5. Presidential Report**

##### 5.1 EERQI

The funding had been received and will be transferred to the partners.

The website has also been set up, it is accessible but still needs revision. Jeremy Hoad offered to review it, which was appreciated.

A flyer has been produced and was included in the conference bags.

During the EERQI open session a longer presentation on the possibilities of semantic analysis will be given.

Jeremy Hoad thanked Ingrid Gogolin for all the efforts in getting the project started.

David Bridges asked Council Members/National Associations for engagement in the project. Ingrid Gogolin will send out letters of invitations to build up a board of critical friends in order to include more perspectives.

Lisbeth Lundahl remarked that the discussion around EERQI is very useful as it augments the awareness for quality issues.

It was also reported the ISI Thompson has recently included two European Journals on Educational Research in their databases.

##### 5.2 W-ERA

Leif Moos reported on an informal meeting amongst colleagues involved in the W-ERA discussions. Meanwhile there seems to be sincere agreement on mission statement and also some consensus on structures. Up to the November Meeting in Singapore a three years development plan will be established which needs to be discussed and approved then, before it will be brought back and voted on by the participating associations.

Ian Menter reviewed the process since the June EERA Council Meeting where EERA decided to take up act actions in a task force, as minutes of the last W-ERA meeting were still not issued. He highlighted the importance for quicker procedures after the Singapore meeting as.

It was suggested to find some position on the role of EERA and the member associations in the W-ERA discussions. Some EERA members would like to act independently, others would like to be represented by/through EERA.

#### **6. Pre-conference/ Postgraduate Network**

Paul Standish reported on high numbers of participants and good quality of presentations.

He also informed Council that he needed to step back from his duties as Senior Mentor and offered first reflections on how the Postgraduate Network could or should be supported in future.

He pointed out that the Postgraduate Network needs to function differently from other Networks, as membership is more fluid there. He suggested establishing more and stronger formal links between the Postgraduate Network and the EERA Council. For facilitating contact between Senior Mentor and Convenors of PGN, he suggested it would be helpful if one convenors could be found within the University of the Senior Mentor. Links between Convenor and Mentor should be formalized somehow. Paul Standish offered to draft a paper reflecting on his experiences and hand it in to Council.

It was agreed that the Postgraduate Networks needs to function differently from other networks and that one Member of Council should take over the role as Senior

Mentor. Ian Grosvenor also supported the idea that the PGN should have more support from other convenors.

Ingrid Gogolin expressed her thank to Paul Standish as he had been involved in the PGN since the start of it and therefore was one the major forces to get it as big and successful as it is now.

## **7. Network Convenors Report**

### **7.1. First Convenors Meeting**

Ian Grosvenor reported that the Convenors Meeting discussed redirections and reviewing procedures. It was agreed that proposals should only be redirected once; they should only be redirected to the second choice network nominated by the submitter.

Redirections need to have some minimum comments to help the receiving network. Furthermore, some standard remarks for giving feedback, especially with regard to rejected papers, will be drafted. Also templates for Network Descriptors and Annual Reports will be drafted. (Marit, Ian, Angelika)

Convenors were hesitating about the new option of uploading full papers without a sound quality control to the ECER Programme database (review of full papers), especially if this is all under the name of EERA. Weak papers might corrupt good reputation of the conference and EERA.

Martin Lawn said that while BEI was doing this, the procedures where accepted without a second review as well.

### **7.2 New Network**

A new proposal for a Network on Mathematics Education Research was handed in according to the procedures developed lately and presented at the website.

The proposal was discussed and it was argued that there was already one big Association focusing on Mathematics Education Research, but that the proposers would like to connect with mainstream research as well. Marit had asked the prospective convenors why they did not choose Science Education but only Mathematics Education as their focus. They had argued they were afraid they might then become too big. Ian Grosvenor and Marit Hoveid both suggested accepting the new network. Council followed this decision.

### **7.3 New Name for Network 9**

Network 9, "Student Assessment" suggested a new name: Assessment, Evaluation, Testing and Measurement". The new name was approved of by the Council.

## **8. ECER 2009**

Postponed to Saturday

## **9. Treasurer's report on financial situation**

Wim Jochems reported on the results of the auditing in Scotland, which had still been done in Sterling, although the overviews are given in EURO, as EERA has switched form Sterling to EURO meanwhile. (The switch was profitable as exchange rate sterling / euro changed from 1.47 to 1.29).

The treasurer introduced the new financial structure and asked the Council for agreement on it. There are three different accounts for EERA at the moment.

- an office account at Sparkasse, managed by office: < € 5000
- an EERA account at ING, managed by treasurer: < € 30.000
- a high interest account at ING, managed by treasurer: rest of money

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 Annual Assembly that Council Members and (Link) Convenors should be exempt from fees for the conference and that fees should generally be reduced (by 35 Euro for all categories).

In addition networks will again be invited to hand in proposals for projects to be funded by the EERA council.

While the Council welcomed the reduction of fees in general it was also asked how the money could be invested to promote the European Research Space. Wim Jochems pointed out that at the current stage money was not the problem, but good ideas. Although networks had been invited to apply for funding, only two of them did, one of them the Postgraduate Network. The proposed budget for 2009 would foresee 20.000 Euro for specific activities and 14.000 for network activities. But good ideas and sound proposals need to be developed for it.

Martin Lawn reflected on times where EERA lacked financial powers and welcomed the new situation which offered the opportunity to get back to some of the key issues of EERA, such as helping Eastern and Southern European Countries to build up national research association. Also Lejf Moos supported the idea to reserve some money in order to support newly founded associations/associations in founding procedures. Wim Jochems invited both of them to hand in a proposal for this. Finally Wim Jochems reminded Council that a new auditor has to be appointed and asked for being allowed to suggest a name to the General Assembly.

## **Saturday 13 September 2008, 09:00 – 12:00**

Present: Herbert Altrichter (ÖFEB), Matthis Behrens (SSRE), David Bridges (BERA), Joana Duarte (PGN), Bénédicte Gendron (AECSE), Francesca Gobbo (SIPED), Ingrid Gogolin (President), Brigitte Gruson (AECSE), Ian Grosvenor (Secretary General), Biörn Hasselgren (LOC 2008), Jeremy Hoad (BERA), Michael Holmqvist (LOC 2008), Stefan Hopmann (LOC Vienna), Marit Honerod Hoveid (Convenor of Convenors), Wim Jochems (Treasurer), Martin Lawn (EERJ), Lisbeth Lundahl (former Secretary General), Lejf Moos (NERA), Ian Menter (SERA), Joe O'Hara (ESAI), Daniela Schwämmlein (EERA Office), Rudolf Tippelt (GERA), Angelika Wegscheider (EERA-Office), Tanja Werkl (LOC Vienna)

Minutes: Daniela Schwämmlein

### **10. Postgraduate Network Report**

Joana Duarte proposed a new convenor for the postgraduate network, Fiona Hallett, which was approved of by the council. Joana would like to create a status of Fellowship, Senior Fellowship for occasional helpers of network 21, which was also approved. This fellowship should be mentioned on the EERA Website. The Council Task Force for the Pre-Conference, created last year, should be increased to 5 Council members, Ingrid Gogolin suggested, and there should be one contact person in the council and one within the convenors. Ian Menter was nominated as Senior Mentor and Council Link Person.

The papers for the Best Paper Award should be received by the end of October, the reviewing should be done by David Bridges, Lisbeth Lundahl, Rudolf Tippelt and Ingrid Gogolin until the January meeting. According to Martin Lawn, EERJ could publish 7 to 8 papers in the planned PGN-sub issue, for this he would like to have a short list of papers beforehand. It was said that it would be good not to have 2 separate review processes.

### **11. Former Secretary General's Report**

Lisbeth Lundahl said that she had already talked about her time as Secretary General at the EERA AGA, but that she had one advice to the new Secretary General, which is that there should be a regular contact between Secretary General and EERA Office, like she had it on a two weeks basis.

### **12. ECER 2009: LOC Vienna Report**

Stefan Hopmann introduced the Website for next year's ECER and explained that the Pre-Conference would take place in the main building, as well as the registration for the Main Conference and that this will already start on Sunday. The Council Meeting will be on Sunday and Thursday morning.

First ideas for keynote speakers were put forward. The LOC suggested Herbert Altrichter, Linz, Tina Hascher, Salzburg, Roland Reichenbach, Basel and Michael

Young, London, Bath. Martin Lawn suggested Stephen Ball, London as keynote speaker.

It was agreed that an email voting/nomination of keynotes should take place.

The Keynotes will take place in the main building, like the majority of all conference sessions.

Stefan Hopmann pointed out once more that hotel booking should be done as soon as possible, as Vienna is crowded with tourists in September. The delegates should also think of unusual options, such as renting a holiday apartment etc. The website will inform on these possibilities as well.

The book exhibition is planned to take place in the arcades around the court of the main building, if it is not too cold and wet. It was discussed whether there should be two prices, for stands with few tables and for larger ones. The preparation of the stands could already be done on Sunday afternoon.

In the participant registration form, the delegates should be asked if they are interested in guided walks on Sunday and in a "Heurigen" evening.

### **13. Reports from second Convenors' Meeting**

Marit Honerod Hoveit reported that some convenors asked for the possibility to have the abstracts in the online programme as pdf files or to have a print view, in order to make the print easier. It would also be good to have pdf files with all abstracts of each network.

The delegates' index in the printed programme should include the times of presentation, chairing etc of each delegate.

A new network entitled "Mathematics Education Research" was founded. For future proceedings the Convenor Meeting should be consulted before a new network is accepted.

The convenors all felt that the quality of the papers increased this year. One network asked for the possibility to have a special form within conftool in which the abstract could be longer than 600 words.

Marit proposed that there should be the possibility to sanction networks which haven't written network reports and haven't participated in the convenors meetings for a longer period. Maybe this could be done by not granting free access to the conference next year.

### **14. LOC Gothenburg Report**

Biörn Hasselgren and Mikael Holmqvist reported that they had only received positive reactions to the conference. When there were problems, they were solved easily and quickly. The LOC Gothenburg is in touch with the LOC Vienna for an exchange of experiences.

### **15. President's and Treasurer's Election**

As next year, Ingrid Gogolin and Wim Jochems will be replaced as President and Treasurer, Ian Grosvenor reported that he had talked to 10 council members and that one name had come up there, which was Lejf Moos. David Bridges said that he had not been asked and that it should be clear who else was not involved. Marit Honerod Hoveid asked for a democratic decision, where all council members get the chance to express their opinion and suggested that a standard procedure should be developed.

Ingrid Gogolin explained that the procedure at present is that not all three office bearers are replaced in the same moment, and that the remaining organise the election. David Bridges stressed that all council members should be contacted. Lejf Moos also thinks that the procedure should be more transparent, but pointed out that the council only proposes the candidates and that the election is done by the

EERA AGA. Martin Lawn suggested that the proposal of the council should be sent to all absent members, and that they could confirm or deny the proposal. Ian Grosvenor volunteered to send this email, he also said he would ask everybody to put forward ideas for the new treasurer.

Office bearers need formally to be elected out of the Council Members (elected by AGA). If no candidate can be found within the Council to act as a "Elect" person to one of the leaving office bearers, a willing successor can be co-opted to the Council. When discussing options for the future treasurer it was discussed whether he/she would need to be based in a EURO country. Opinions differed; some suggested that online banking would offer enough flexibility, while Marit Hoveid quoted Wim Jochems, who was absent, that it would be preferable to have treasurer from a EURO based country.

## **16. Summer School**

Lejf Moos and Ian Grosvenor had prepared a proposal about Summer Schools and reported that EERA should follow 3 different strands,

- the cooperation with GERA should be continued.
- there should be partnerships with the national associations in order to have an international Summer School every 2nd year in a different country.
- And there could be network summer schools, shorter than the others and with a focus related to different networks.

Business plans on strand 2 and 3 will be developed until the next council meeting in January.

Rudolf Tippelt reported that this year's Summer School was a great success and that there were 2 English workshops and some international participants, but no-one from the UK. Workshops on quantitative research methods were in more demand than those on qualitative methods. He suggested that the English workshops should be more advertised, and David Bridges asked for an invitation for participation to be sent to all council members, so that they could spread the information in their organisations. Angelika Wegscheider highlighted the importance for early information of international delegates, as their registrations came in very late this year. Ingrid Gogolin informed the council that Brian Hudson had enjoyed this year's Summer School so much that he will be there again next year. And the University of Gothenburg would also like to contribute.

The task force on the Summer School was re-structured; Marit Honerod Hoveid will replace Paul Conway, as Paul Conway has left the EERA Council.

## **17. Upcoming ECERs**

ECER 2011 could take place in Berlin, 2012 in Cadiz and 2013 perhaps in the UK.

For 2010, there are two options, either in Helsinki or in Turin, but Francesca Gobbo explained that there are time problems with the University of Turin, and that the only option would be the week from 30 August to 3 September. Marit suggested to send an email to the convenors asking for their opinion on the timing. Martin Lawn would like the "weaker" associations to be more involved. But Ingrid explained that Helsinki was a compromise in this respect, because the Baltic States had difficulties to find a venue with both enough space and enough helpers. And she said that the decision should be made during the council meeting in January.

## **18. New Associations**

Lejf Moos and Martin Lawn presented their proposal on fostering new associations and suggested that a programme on how EERA could help develop new associations should be established. In January they will present a budget plan.

As Bénédicte Gendron was nominated last year as council member responsible for new associations, she now asked for formalized procedures and tasks. Information should be gathered in order to avoid miscommunication.

A new task force was established including Martin Lawn, Lejf Moos and Bénédicte Gendron. Ian Grosvenor suggested that these roles should be published on the EERA Website. He would also like to have a private space on the website in which only council members would have access to documents and information.

## **19. Dates of next meetings**

9 (Arrival) to 11 January in Vienna

26 (Arrival) to 28 June in Berlin

## **20. Miscellaneous**

- According to Marit Honerod Hoveid, there should be a transparent procedure for decisions on financial support for networks. She will write an email on that topic to the convenors.
- Matthis Behrens was in touch with Stefan Wolters regarding the EENEE Network.
- Every member association should send a 5 lines description on their association to the EERA Office which will be published on the Website.
- Martin Lawn suggested that former presidents should be Life Members of EERA, starting with Sverker Lindblad and all presidents following him.
- The topic Publishers Marketing was postponed to the January Meeting.