EERA Network Seminar 2021 Minutes

07 May 2021 – via Zoom

Dropbox: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/xxjgkd1yxsdga7h/AAAMz_TmmwK7_Ekbx9liknnCa?dl=0

First name	Last name	Network / Role
Ken	Jones	NW 01. Professional Learning and Development
Christof	Nägele	NW 02. Vocational Education and Training (VETNET)
Nienke	Nieveen	NW 03. Curriculum Innovation
Fabio	Dovigo	NW 04. Inclusive Education
Michelle	Proyer	NW 04. Inclusive Education
Michael	Jopling	NW 05. Children and Youth at Risk and Urban Education
Klaus	Rummler	NW 06. Open Learning: Media. Environments and Cultures
Lisa	Rosen	NW 07. Social Justice and Intercultural Education
Monica	Carlsson	NW 08. Health and Wellbeing Education
Martin	Goy	NW 09. Assessment, Evaluation, Testing and Measurement
Susann	Hofbauer	NW 10. Teacher Education Research
Ineta	Luka	NW 11. Educational Improvement and Quality Assurance
Christoph	Schindler	NW 12. LISnet - Libraries and Information Science Network
Ian	Munday	NW 13. Philosophy of Education
Laurence	Lasselle	NW 14. Communities, Families, and Schooling in Educational Research
Kathrin	Otrel-Cass	NW 15. Research on Partnerships in Education
Iveta	Kestere	NW 17. Histories of Education
Rachel	Sandford	NW 18. Research in Sports Pedagogy
Camilla	Kirketerp Nielsen	NW 19. Ethnography
Carmen	Carmona Rodriguez	NW 20. Research in Innovative Intercultural Learning Environments
Roberta	Ricucci	NW 20. Research in Innovative Intercultural Learning Environments
Christine	Teelken	NW 22. Research in Higher Education
Mariana	Gaio Alves	NW 22. Research in Higher Education
Pete	Kelly	NW 23. Policy Studies and Politics of Education
Laura	Tuohilampi	NW 24. 24. Mathematics Education Research
Ann	Quennerstedt	NW 25. Research on Children's Rights in Education
Antonios	Kafa	NW 26. Educational Leadership
Florence	Ligozat	NW 27. Didactics - Learning and Teaching
Eszter	Neumann	NW 28. Sociologies of Education
Judit	Onsès	NW 29. Research on Arts Education
Elsa	Lee	NW 30. Environmental and Sustainability Education Research, ESER
Irina	Usanova	NW 31. Led - NW on Language and Education
Michael	Göhlich	NW 32. Organizational Education
Branislava	Baranovic	NW 33. Gender and Education
Saneeya	Qureshi	Emerging Researchers' Group
Joe	O'Hara	EERA President
Maria	Pacheco Figueiredo	EERA Secretary General
Petra	Grell	Networks' Representative on Council
Angelika	Wegscheider	EERA Office
Doretta	Dow	EERA Office
Apologies: Ed Smeets (NW 16. ICT in Education and Training)		

1. Welcome and Introductions

Networks' Representative on Council, Petra Grell, began by welcoming all to the meeting and invited everyone to introduce themselves. Many people spoke of being happy to be able to come together and interact in this seminar in this format while at the same time very much looking forward to meeting in person again.

2. Report: Recent Developments and Activities

2.1 President, EXEC and Council

Please see President Joe O' Hara's powerpoint here:
https://www.dropbox.com/s/csj7gj896gj49hc/JOH%20NW%20Meeting%20May.pdf?dl=0

Joe began his presentation by showing a graph demonstrating the complexity of EERA. He mentioned that the experience of taking part in 'Reconnecting EERA' in August 2020 and the feedback we received on it was very helpful in the preparation for ECER 2021, online. He thanked the ECER 2021 Local Organisers in Geneva for their innovative approach to this new format and for all their hard work thus far. Joe reported that in spite of the pandemic, EERA continues to do what it has always done: support network projects and continue relationships with WERA/ EASSH/ ISE. New this year was the very successful collaboration with GENE (Global Education Research Network Europe) which resulted in awarding €90,000 Euros funding for various research projects. This collaboration has received very positive feedback and may be developed further in future years. Joe explained that the Book Series emerged from conversations about various possibilities of distributing research. Dennis Beach leads the editorial board. Another new project this year was the launch of the EERA Blog in October 2020 with the purpose of finding new ways for researchers to share their research with non-traditional audiences. The Blog currently has approximately 2,500 hits a month with a new blog post weekly or bi-weekly. Joe showed a map of the 80+ countries where the EERA blogs are being read and remarked how wonderful it is to know that someone from all those places around the world have read something from EERA. The most-read blogs are listed in the Joe's powerpoint (link above) on slide 15 and the results of a survey asking people which topics they are most interested in reading about on slide 16. Joe asked those present to take a look at this information and see if there is anyone in their network who might be interested in writing a blog. Joe reported on the EERA budget that despite the effect the cancellation of ECER 2020 has had on the budget, the situation is good, EERA is still able to support the vitally important network activities and Season Schools. Responding to a question posed about EERA's open access plans, Joe and Petra responded that due to the pandemic, this issue slipped from EERA's focus. It has not, however, been forgotten and the topic will continue to be explored. Klaus Rummler from NW 06. Open Learning: Media, Environments and Cultures offered open access publications from the 2020 conference and is happy to do a reader. Christoph Schindler from NW 12. LISnet - Libraries and Information Science Network also offered his support and is willing to give feedback or be part of a working group on this topic.

*** Grab a coffee and explore Kumo Space ***

During the coffee break participants had the chance to get to know Kumo Space. Many people enjoyed the chance to interact in this virtual space, others prefer alternatives like Wonder or Gather Town. There were questions regarding the capacity of Kumo Space and whether it is a good idea to ask participants to leave the online platform. EERA is still considering if and how to use Kumo Space or a similar platform and will send Link Convenors the decision on this as soon as possible.

Important: Networks are free to set up their own socialising spaces (or to not have any at all).

2.2 Oral report on EERA Office

EERA Office Manager Angelika Wegscheider reported that the Office is functioning well. Most of the work is still done in Home Office, although there is usually someone in the Office once or twice a

week. Office is facing new tasks due to ECER being held online and the changes in the working procedures resulting from that.

2.3 Oral report on ECER 2021 general

Please see the Report on Submissions here:
https://www.dropbox.com/s/bepzswszvino5l2/2021-NWS%20%20ECER%202021%2C%20Submission%20outcomes.pdf?dl=0

As was expected, there were fewer submissions to ECER 2021 than to ECER 2019, Hamburg. The rejection rates dropped, probably due to the fact that many of the submissions were resubmitted after having been accepted to ECER 2020.

The organisation with the Local Organisers in Geneva and their partners from Kuoni is going well and has involved a steep learning curve. There is, as can be imagined, much to be discussed, decided and adapted due to the online format and all involved have to be willing to work together to find solutions as every organisation has its own way of doing things.

There will be 3 leisure activities organised by LOC:

- Fitness: There will be two 45-minute sport sessions in the evenings Thurs. 2. Sep and Tues. 7. Sep
- Cooking: There will be a slideshow cooking session on how to make a local specialty in the evening Wednesday 8. Sep
- Opera streaming: There will be a link to a classical concert Thursday, 9. Sep

2.4 OnAir Conference Platform

2.4.1 Intro to the platform and discussion

An OnAir video for participants was shown to give everyone a general idea of what the platform will look like. It was noted, however, that there will be differences e.g. there will be no gamification and a different format for the General Poster Exhibition. Reactions to the video were varied with several criticisms of the platform. One network asked if it would be possible to host their sessions on a different platform.

Angelika reminded everyone that ECER takes place each year at a different university and each university offers a different kind of setting for the conference. There are always buildings and rooms which are wonderful and very much appreciated and others which pose problems because they are too far away or too dark etc. The situation this year is similar in that the platform the conference partners Kuoni (who work with Events Air/On Air) offer has to be accepted as it is. In the same way that we cannot ask a university to build windows into windowless rooms, we can also not ask the conference platform to change its format to fit our ideas of what would be best.

Secretary General Maria Pacheco Figueiredo added her point of view as someone who has been in every role EERA and ECER have to offer: a participant, a co-convenor, a link convenor, networks' representative on council and now secretary general. She said that the point of EERA is that people from different networks interact with other networks. And that at every ECER there are always a couple of Networks who feel they have the worst rooms. This happens at every venue although Office tries to do the fairest planning possible with the rooms they have to work with. This year the conference platform is our venue and we will have to make the best of it. EERA is proud to host ECER in partnership with different universities around Europe. What makes ECER interesting is meeting new cultures and new research communities. But working with a different university each year means we do not have total control and this is also true this year regarding the conference platform. We are lucky that LOC was working with Kuoni and both were willing and able to switch to a virtual

platform. OnAir has its limitations, but as for every ECER it is the *people* who make the networks and ECER great.

2.4.2 Chairpersons and Technical Assistants

Each session at ERC and ECER will have a chairperson and a technical assistant. The technical assistant will be session host and open the session 30 minutes before the session begins. They will check that the chairperson and all presenters are present, that the videos, microphones, screensharing etc are working, will demonstrate how the Q/A works and how to download a clock for time management etc. The technical assistant will be available for technical questions throughout the session and will be in contact with the platform technical support team.

2.4.3 Zoom rooms

Almost all of the sessions will be offered in the Zoom Meeting format with a participant capacity of 300 people and the possibility to use breakout rooms. There will be 17 conference sessions time slots, please use all of these time slots when planning your programme as we want to keep the number of sessions in parallel as low as possible. If a network would like to have the Zoom Webinar format for a special meeting, please let Office know.

2.4.4 Conference platform (OnAir) dates

- 23 – 30 August: time for people to explore the platform
- 30 Aug – 5 September: Keynote videos
- 1 – 3 September: Link convenors view posters and nominate for Poster Award
- 2 – 3 September: ERC
- 6 – 10 September: ECER

2.4.5 Kuoni Helpdesk

From the week of 26 July, ECER participants will have access to the Kuoni Help Desk where they will find lots of useful information and training videos for attendees, presenters, and chairpersons. An FAQ will also be available, along with guidance on how to best use Zoom (video, audio, screensharing etc)

2.4.6 The conference platform (OnAir) will offer two networking socialising possibilities:

- Meeting Point – chat messages and video meet ups with two people (at any time during the conference)
- Chance Encounters – a video meeting with a randomly selected group of 2 - 4 people for 5 minutes (during coffee breaks and lunch)

3. ECER 2021 and Networks

3.1 Information about programme planning

3.1.1 No joint sessions at ECER 2021

Normally, the joint sessions are prepared in advance of the Network Seminar and finalised during it. As this is not possible this year, there will be no joint sessions at ECER 2021.

3.1.2 Programme planning deadline: 25 May

Please have the first draft of the programme finished by 25 May.

3.2 Pre-Conference Workshops

If your network would like to offer a pre-conference workshop during the ERC (Thursday 2 – Friday 3 September), please be in touch with Angelika.

3.3 ECER fees – Discussion

Several link convenors expressed their concern that the ECER fees are too high for an online conference and that they have been contacted by authors who will not participate due to the cost. It was reported that due to the pandemic many universities have had to make so many cuts that they are no longer paying conference fees for their professors and lecturers. Also, many people have lost their jobs due to COVID making it even more important that we communicate clearly about the fees and make at least some gesture of support.

Maria reminded everyone that EERA is a non-profit organisation. EXEC, link convenors, national associations do not gain financially from ECER. The only people who receive money taken in at ECER are the EERA Office employees. The Local Organisers also do not profit financially from hosting an ECER, they receive just enough to cover their costs. EXEC decided to keep the fees to avoid loss for EERA and LOC and to be able to continue to support EERA's capacity-building activities.
Decision: After consultation with Herbert, EXEC decided to extend the Early Bird registration period for another month, till 15 June.

A link convenor emphasised the need for EERA's finances to be transparent i.e. EERA should make clear where the money comes from and where it goes. Maria responded that this information can be found on the EERA website in the General Regulations and the Minutes of the Council Meetings. The budget is presented at the council meeting, the treasurer invites members of Council to go through the budget.
Possible solution: EERA could discuss if link convenors could also be budget checkers.

Petra added that sometimes transparency can add to the complexity and be experienced as slightly overwhelming; that while all the information is available in, for example, the General Regulations, the organisation and thus the Regulations need to be understood even if they are complicated.
Possible solution: Perhaps EERA can create an accessible document which people can easily understand.

3.4 Data privacy

Questions were raised regarding data privacy and there was a discussion on whether or not Kuoni follows GDPR regulations, how to best deal with the issue of screenshots and participants having their cameras on or off. Some felt that it is very important that participants know they are welcome to turn off their camera for whatever reason (poor internet, children on their lap) and others said that while they agree that this is important, it is also important to take into consideration that an online conference is much more interesting and interactive if people have their cameras on. Petra reminded everyone that at ECER we are creating a culture and we want to make it as inclusive as possible while inviting them to keep their cameras on, if appropriate/possible. We want to foster both vivid and safe discussions.

Response from Kuoni regarding data privacy: Kuoni has confirmed that they follow the European GDPR regulations ("All personal data is processed in accordance with the applicable data protection laws of the EU General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR)") and that the participants will be informed of this in detail when they create their account on the conference platform.

3.5 ECER 2021 Posters

ECER 2021 will offer a General Poster Exhibition as well as Interactive Poster Sessions and Paper/Poster Sessions. Link Convenors will be asked to view their network's posters at the General Poster Exhibition and to inform Office of their poster nomination(s) by Friday, 3 September at 12:00 noon (CET). Further details will be sent in due time.

*** Dealing with screen fatigue ***

Andrea Diers, physical therapist, yoga and qigong teacher, led a 5-minute session to counterbalance screen fatigue. The feedback was positive and the EERA treasurer, Herbert Altrichter, was contacted to inquire if EERA could provide funding for these short sessions during ECER. Herbert agreed to the idea. The programmes will last approximately five minutes and take place during the coffee breaks 2 – 9 September. During the morning coffee break: Morning Qigong: Energised for the day and during the afternoon coffee break: Lessening Screen Fatigue: Exercises for eyes, necks and shoulders.

4.   Network Activities

4.1 General Information (e.g. updating Networks' websites)

Office has noticed some Networks seem to have outdated information on their page on the EERA website, especially on the page listing co-convenors. Please check and send updates to Office.

4.2 Network Issues

4.2.1 Name Change: What needs to be considered when you have the intention to change the name of the network?

- Discuss among all networks to avoid overlap
- Prepare a paper/proposal
- Decision by the Council
- https://eera-ecer.de/networks/network-procedures/changing-names-and-scopes-of-networks/

4.2.2 Name change arguments and feedback

Two networks have proposed changing their name: NW 03. Curriculum Innovation and NW 12. LISnet - Libraries and Information Science Network.

Nienke Nieveen, link convenor for NW 03, presented the main motivations for the name to be changed to "NW 03. Curriculum". Please view the proposal here: https://www.dropbox.com/s/el67ekyl5kj9yy7/4%20Network%20Issues%20NW%203%20Name%20change%20NW3.pdf?dl=0

Feedback: There was general agreement that the name change makes sense and would have a positive effect on the representation of the network.
Decision: Nienke will submit her proposal to Council

Christoph Schindler, link convenor for NW 12, proposed changing the name to "NW 12. Open Science", his arguments included: (1) The main focus of the Network has shifted towards Open Science and it seemed reasonable in his opinion to follow this process by renaming to address. (2) It could help to bring new researches to the group. Feedback: Petra opened the feedback round by saying that this name change was not only a minor change, but rather quite a major one. Questions were raised concerning whether or not this name change would exclude people from library management and traditional publishing. A suggestion was made that while "Open Science" is well-suited to the Zeitgeist, it would perhaps be good to add "Educational Research" to give it a clear focus. There was discussion around the fact that the term "open science" means different things to different people.
Christoph thanked everyone for their helpful feedback and agrees with much of it. Please view Christoph's summary here:
https://www.dropbox.com/s/z6ewrwws5kijh2h/EERA-NW-Name_Open_Eductional_Science.pdf?dl=0

4.2.3 Network Funding

Reminder: Applications for network funding can be submitted at any time during the year.

5. Reminders, Updates, AOB

Petra began the closing by saying that in spite of these challenging times she really enjoys working with everyone. She asked that we do our best to keep the fantastic EERA spirit and culture alive for the upcoming weird and wonderful ECER.

Joe added that keeping ECER and EERA going always requires an exceptional amount of work, none of which is possible without the support of each element, the networks being a very important one, and that doing it in the middle of a global challenge deserves special mention. We all need to really appreciate how hard everyone has worked to produce research and share it with others at a time when many are stretched to the limit.

Petra added that if the link convenors have any questions or need any assistance they should feel free to send her an email and she will try to respond as soon as possible (and if she does not respond, please feel free to send the email again).

Please note: The Network Seminar 2022 will take place at Wyndham Garden in Berlin, 5 - 6 May.