

Dear associates,

as you maybe know the Steering Committee of ESREA decided, in the occasion of the 20 years of being a organisation, to give a little grant to fund a research on its history. It is the first time that ESREA makes an effort to build knowledge about itself, and an important occasion to raise awareness about the organisation, its origins, the transformations it went through, and also think about its future.

So, we invite all of you to read the joint report of 2 years' work, by two colleagues of us - Katherine Nicoll and Gert Biesta - who very bravely committed to do this historical research. It was not easy work: as other associations, ESREA was born out of the enthusiasm of a group of very engaged researchers. So, many stories rest within the participants to this adventure (5 of them were interviewed by Nicoll and Biesta). Other stories were hidden in many documents, drafts, old reports and minutes, and more recently in the website. So, much information was lacking, or contradictory; anyway, now a lot of little pieces have been retrieved and re-organized, following an hypothetical sub-division of ESREA's history in 3 phases, and the creation of one story among the many. It is a fascinating story: about ESREA and about twenty years of adult education in Europe.

Isn't it exciting, to understand that we are part of a history? But are there other stories that remain hidden? Will we be able to listen to them, and gain new insights? What still needs to be told, or discussed? By publishing the report in the website, the Steering Committee wants to invite all ESREA associates and friends to participate in this reflexive challenge: who are we, and who could we be? How is adult education evolving? What can ESREA mean, to adult education and research? This report is a starting point and one of the many stories to be told. We need to keep a dialogic space to enrich it with other stories and points of view.

So, please, take care, read it, discuss it in your next conferences and meetings. We will build another reflexive moment during the triennial conference in 2016.

And if you have something to tell, please write.

Your Sincerely  
Laura Formenti, Chair of ESREA