

ESREA

Minutes of the ESREA Steering Committee meeting, Munich, 28-29 October 2005

Department of Education, University of Munich, Leopoldstrasse, Munich

Present:

Michal Bron (Sweden), Antonio Fragaoso (Portugal), Larissa Jogi (Estonia), Ewa Kurantowicz (Poland), Barbara Merrill (United Kingdom), Edmee Ollagnier (Switzerland), Henning Salling Olesen (Denmark), Rudolph Tippelt (Germany), Ristonno Rinnesto (Finland), Linden West (United Kingdom), Barry Hake (Netherlands).

Absent:

Apologies from Paula Guimaeres (Portugal) with clear reasons.

1. Henning welcomed the members of the SC and thanked Rudi Tippelt for kindly hosting this meeting in Munich.

2. the agenda as proposed by the Secretariat was unanimously agreed with two additions. Agenda point 7 would be a discussion of a co-opted member, and European libraries and archives would be dealt with under any other business.

3. the minutes of the previous meeting held in Rome, 6-7 March 2005 were approved with minor changes. SC members requested the early availability of the minutes of meetings and access for ESREA members via the ESREA website.

4. ESREA Research Networks

4a. Learning and Working-life:

Henning reported that a meeting of the network took place at Lower Silesian University College, Wroclaw in October 2005. There were 20 participants and 12 papers were presented. Action: a list of participants will be sent to the ESREA Secretariat.

4b. Active Citizenship:

Michal reported upon meeting held in Tallinn, Estonia, 15-17 September 2005. There were 26 participants, including PhD students, from many disciplinary backgrounds. 16 papers were presented. The next meeting will take place in Braga, Portugal in June 2007. Action: a list of participants will be sent to the ESREA Secretariat.

5c. Life-history and Biographical Research:

Linden reported that an Italian non-English language publication with selected papers will be one result of the meeting held at Angihari, Italy, in March 2005. The next conference will be held at the University of Volos, Greece, in March 2006 in co-operation with the Greek

research society and the local history society. The first announcement of the conference theme - transitions -has been circulated via the ESREA e-mail server and placed on the website.

Linden reported that interest in the network is strengthening in the southern and eastern countries but is weakening in some northern countries especially in Germany. He also indicated the need to reflect on the format and processes of meetings of the network, in order to enable a more continuous discussion among the recurrent core participants.

5d. Older Learners:

Henning and **Barry** reported upon their discussions with **Tarja Tikkanen** (Finland/Norway) as to her potential future role as convenor of this network. The mission statement prepared by Tarja was agreed and she was given the green light to proceed in arranging a restart meeting sometime during 2006. The text will be submitted and placed on the website.

5e. Migration, Ethnicity, Racism and Xenophobia:

The mission statement submitted by **John Grayson**, Northern College, England, was discussed and accepted by the SC. It will be disseminated and added to the website.

5f. Cross-cultural Historical Influences in European Adult Education:

Barry reported that he is negotiating a restart for this network with **Francoise Laot**, Paris and **Anja Heikkinen**, Tampere. It is intended to hold a network meeting in Paris in June 2006.

5g. Gender Issues:

Edmee reported on the recent meeting in Geneva, 14-16 October, 2005. There were 14 participants at this meeting.

5h. Access:

Barbara reported that the title of this network has been modified, a new text has been prepared and **Etienne Bourgeois** is keen to again become an active member in this network as co-convenor as previously was the case. A meeting of this network is envisaged in 2006.

Barry agreed to suggest possible locations outside of the United Kingdom.

5i: Community-based Adult Learning for Development

The committee approved the text prepared by **Antonio Fragoso**, **Emilio Lucio-Vargas** and **Ewa Kurantowicz**. It is the intention to hold a first meeting in Faro in 2006. Barry will edit the text before it is disseminated via the ESREA e-mail server and the website.

5j: Bursaries for PhD students attending network meeting

Michal reported on the failure of the Secretariat to respond to an application by a Swedish PhD student for a bursary to attend the Tallinn meeting. This led to a discussion of a revised procedure for the allocation of such bursaries. It was agreed that the convenors of networks will in future submit the names of candidates for bursaries rather the individuals themselves. A maximum of €2,500 per annum will be made available to the networks with a maximum bursary of €250. Priorities in 2006 will be the meetings already planned for this year, with the following limits:

Life-history up to 4

Access up to 2

Local development up to 2

Cross-cultural up to 1

Migration up to 1

The Swedish PhD student will be granted a bursary to the value of €250.

5k: Warning on un-solicited invitations

Michal reported problems with non EU-nationals seeking invitations from ESREA to attend ESREA meetings in order to get access to the EU. The SC agreed to be attentive with regard to this issue and will warn network convenors.

6. ESREA as an organisation: Continuity and change

This was an open discussion following a strategic introduction by the Chair, referring to closing statement from the 2001-conference (in Wider benefits of Adult learning).

Rudi suggested the organisation of a round-table discussion for ESREA members at the next ESREA conference.

Linden referred to the emphasis on the strengths of ESREA and its positive values. He also pointed to the key role of the ESREA secretariat.

Risto argued that there was a lot of rhetoric in the EU policies on Lifelong learning particularly with regard to higher education. He said that ESREA must be able to say something about the study of adult education in relation to the EU economies.

Barry referred to the State of the Art Study in the mid-1990s when ESREA members contributed country reports to the world-wide UNESCO study. This resulted in two integrative studies of Western European countries and the countries in transformation.

Henning made reference to the need to look at the dynamics of adult education as a profession in relation to the practices involved in working with adults' learning , and to clarify the relation between this/these professions and the research domain..

Larissa raised four related questions: 1) is it possible and useful to organise a forum for members of the ESREA website and who would moderate this?; 2) who defines the objectives of ESREA?; 3) who are the partners of ESREA?; 4) does ESREA have a clear idea of progress?

Linden referred to the tension about the study of adult education in universities throughout Europe.

Antonio argued that the ESREA SC does not have any specific 'project' and that it does not steer in clearly agreed directions.

Henning responded with the argument that inclusiveness acceptance and tolerance is important because the research field is just emerging, and related to very different situations in each region. But that perhaps too little use has been made of ESREA as an organisation and its potential for setting an agenda for the development of the field.

Edmee asked what kinds of compromises confront ESREA with regard to economic issues. She emphasised that ESREA is a forum of resistance and is essentially a critical project.

In this context, **Rudi** pointed to the rise of commercial research organisations in the area of lifelong learning which challenge the traditions of university-based research.

It was agreed to continue the discussion later. Larissa's suggestion should be considered in the meantime. The idea about a round table or similar inclusion of the theme should be passed on to the scientific committee of the 2007/conference

7. Co-opted member of ESREA SC

Barry reported that two of the three candidates for co-option to the ESREA SC that had been nominated in the written procedure had indicated their withdrawal with reasons. This left one candidate among the original three nominated candidates BUT whose paid-up membership of ESREA was in doubt.

The ChairHenning rejected a proposal by Linden to consider new potential candidates during the meeting, referring to the fact that the discussion was based on an already completed written procedure.

It was agreed that **Barry** would contact the remaining candidate with regard to paid-up membership and would report back to the next meeting.

8. ESREA series with Peter Lang Verlag (WHY DOES THIS ITEM APPEAR TWICE?)

Michal said that he had previously felt confident in the production of academic publications but that his experience with Lang was the first with a professional academic publisher. He was confronted with the rules laid down by the publisher. This led to issues of correction of texts into English and type-setting etc.

Risto asked about the contractual agreements with Lang.

Barry replied that the contract had been signed in terms of the standard procedures applied by Lang and agreed to by the ESREA SC.

Barbara argued that there is a need for a more significant ESREA profile than is evident in the first volume (ESREA logo, presentation text).

Barry suggested that this was a question of negotiation with Lang.

Linden indicated that there was a lot of work involved in good academic editing work. This involved important problems with regard to the technical preparation of the manuscripts submitted to Lang according to their criteria. In particular he referred to the standards used for references to the literature and whether these should be APA guidelines. He also argued that ESREA should not only be more clearly identified on the cover of the volumes but that ESREA's identity has to be more prominent in the series as a whole. He suggested that ESREA was not selling itself well with the Lang series.

Barry replied that authors are free to choose their referencing systems and do not have to use the APA system.

Rudi referred to the very active international marketing undertaken by Lang as a very positive aspect of the ESREA series which he had initiated together with Barry at the Canterbury meeting of the ESREA SC three years ago. The ESREA SC had agreed to this series and to make a financial contribution to the volumes.

Linden asked whether an index was required for each volume as is the case with the first volume. This is also a question of the generation of an index dependent upon the software used to prepare the manuscript.

Michal replied that standard indexing software is available.

Barry indicated that the compilation of indexes is the responsibility of the authors, is not required by Lang, but is a standard procedure in high quality academic publications.

Ewa was invited to explain how these problems had been solved with reference to her volume of papers from the ESREA research conference in Wroclaw in 2004. She indicated that the APA system of references had been adopted BUT that the most important contribution to the quality of her volume was very high quality of the correction work involved in turning non-native English texts into good English. In this she had succeeded with the expertise of Daniel who was hired to do this job. This cost €1400, but the result can be seen.

Rudi pointed out that good English-language texts are dependent on the quality of the work of the corrector and not the editor. This has to be paid for and it is not cheap.

Edmee referred to the issue of correction from other languages into English.

Rudi and **Barry** argued that this essentially is a question of hiring a multi-lingual corrector who understands grammar and syntax in more than one language. An English-native speaker without knowledge of other languages is unable to produce a fluent text embracing the full flavour of the original language.

In conclusion, **Rudi** argued for more clarity for authors in terms of the quality to which they have to aspire and accept. It was agreed to make money available for correction at the same level as had been the costs for the first volume.

9. ESREA European Conference 2007

Barry provided information on the bid by Seville in the absence of a bid from Riga. A draft text on the theme of 'Literacies' has been received from Seville but a budget has yet been submitted.

Antonio pointed out that the team in Seville is committed, and **Rudi** argued that Emilio is indeed very committed and this is a big plus for ESREA.

Antonio provided further information on the members of the local organising committee which also includes two other universities in the region.

Linden referred to the high level of conference fees. **Barry** indicated that there is as yet no budget and therefore there is no idea of the costs to determine the level of fees.

Henning remarked that he was pleased to have ESREA 2007 in Seville, but the theme proposed requires further elaboration. This must eventually be continued in the scientific committee clarification.

Larissa also pointed out the need to modify and broaden the theme as proposed by Seville. She also indicated the need to involve students in the local organisation.

Linden argued the need for a detailed discussion about the theme and sub-themes as proposed.

Henning asked whether the 2007 conference can be related to the new network on regional development and also pointed to the need for a clear European dimension.

Antonio explained the proposed theme in terms of the competencies people in everyday life place themselves in modernisation processes.

Linden referred to peoples' competencies to enable them to name the world.

When asked by **Henning** whether he was part of the organising team, **Antonio** replied in the negative but that he is supporting the local committee in Seville.

It was agreed to move ahead with the Seville team who would be invited to develop the conference theme and to provide a budget. **Barry** was given approval to develop this and he would travel to Seville to talk with the local team.

Henning, Ewa and **Rudi** were appointed as members of the conference Scientific Committee, together with local representatives as appointed by the organizing team..

10. Accessibility of locations for ESREA meetings

Michal referred to the costs of attending ESREA meetings and that these should be held at easy-to-reach central locations. He pointed out that the next meeting of the Life-history network in Volos was not easy to reach.

Linden pointed out the need to link ESREA network activities with SC meetings.

A discussion about the location of the next SC meeting indicated that it could not be combined with the Volos network meeting for practical reasons.

Rudi and **Barry** proposed the Humboldt University in Berlin as a suitable central location.

Wiltrud Gieseke will be asked to host the SC meeting in early April.

The second meeting in 2006 will be held on 29/30/31 October at a location yet to be determined.

11. ESREA series with Peter Lang Verlag

Following the publication of the first volume in this series, **Linden** confirmed that the second volume on life-history and biographical research was well advanced.

Both **Michal** and **Linden** referred to the heavy task of the editors of volumes and in particular the correction of texts into good English.

Ewa and **Barry** argued that a well-qualified corrector was needed as had proved successful with the Wroclaw conference book, but this costs money.

After some discussion it was agreed that €600 would be made available for each volume to pay for correction work (Fine, my memory was vaguer, see above, but please eit the two sections together).

Michal pointed to the need to develop a publication plan for the series.

Henning referred to his own proposal for a volume devoted to Lifelong Learning Accross Cultures and Institutional Regimes.

This led **Michal** and **Barbara** to ask whether the volumes should be related to active ESREA networks rather than ad hoc proposals such as Henning's.

Risto asked how stable the networks are as a basis for as series of publications.

Linden argued the need for a pro forma to be used for the submission of proposals for volumes. This was agreed upon.

The following provisional publication plan was agreed:

2006 – Life-history and Biography

2006 – Learning and Working-Life

2007 – Access, pro forma needed

2007 – Henning's proposal, pro forma needed

2008 – Gender, pro forma needed

12. Finances

12a. Provisional financial statement 2005

Barry presented the provisional financial statement for 2005 based upon the most recent figures from the Finance Department at Leiden University.

He pointed out that income from membership fees for 2005 could be regarded as reasonable but that a reminder has been sent to members whose fees have not yet been received.

With regard to expenditure, **Linden** asked why the travel costs of the secretariat to date amounted to €900. **Henning** pointed out that the financial plan for 2005, as approved by the SC in 2004, had allocated €1500 for the travel costs of the Secretariat. The actual travel costs are less than was originally budgeted.

Linden asked why the travel costs for the Secretariat for Munich were as high as €600 which would bring the total travel costs to the budgeted €1500.

Barry explained that the €600 referred to by Linden involved €200 for his own costs and €400 for the costs of the dinner provided for the SC members.

Linden expressed surprise that the SC dinners cost an average of €400.

Henning pointed out that itthis had been agreed by the SC itself some years ago to spend one shared dinner on the SC at each meeting. Considering that all other costs for travel, accommodation and meals were paid by members themselves or there home institutions this seemed reasonable.

After some discussion, it was agreed to retain the payment of a dinner for SC members as a recognitionmark of their endeavours on behalf of ESREA.

It was also agreed that the Secretariat will provide a break-down of the membership figures as soon as possible after the end of the financial year 2005.

12b. Financial projection 2006

Henning put forward a financial projection of expenditures in 2006. This is as follows:

Travel costs Secretariat	1500,--
SC dinners	900,--

PhD bursaries	2500,--
Peter Lang books	2500,--
Technical assistance	
correction work Lang	1200,--
Website design	<u>1000,--</u>
	9600,--

This was unanimously agreed.

13. New location ESREA secretariat in 2007

The document prepared by Barry was welcomed as a good indication of the requirements which a new location would have to meet.

It was agreed that a search committee should be appointed to co-ordinate the identification of potential new locations. The members of this search committee will be: Henning, Linden and Edmee. Henning will compile a provisional list of potential locations but he will welcome suggestions from the SC and the current Secretariat.

The Secretariat will prepare a revised text calling for 'expressions of interest' which will be disseminated to all ESREA members.

Further discussion focussed on two questions:

Should the ESREA Secretariat be located at the same location as the Chair of ESREA? This was not found to be necessary given good communications between the Chair and the Secretariat.

Should ESREA appoint a Treasurer in addition to the financial responsibilities of the ESREA Secretariat? Henning pointed out that this would not involve the transfer of the financial management of ESREA activities from the institution hosting the Secretariat. The role of the ESREA Treasurer would be to survey the financial operation and to submit an annual report to the SC to the effect that the Secretariat has provided a convincing record of incomes and expenditures based upon the accounting system of the host institution. The ESREA Treasurer would be an elected member of the ESREA SC.

This proposal was accepted by 9 members with 2 abstentions. The position of ESREA Treasurer will be implemented at the transfer of the Secretariat to a new location.

14. Closure

The Chair closed the meeting and invited the SC members to a dinner paid for by ESREA.