

Minutes for the steering committee meeting of ESREA – European society for research on the education of adults

When: September 3 13.00 – September 4 at 12.00, 2013

Where: „Seminargebäude am Hegelplatz“, Humboldt University Berlin at Dorotheenstraße 24 in room 1.501.

Participants: Barbara Merrill (United Kingdom), Henning Salling Olesen (Denmark), Emilio Lucio-Villegas (Spain), Wolfgang Jütte (Germany), Bernhard Schmidt-Hertha (Germany), Ewa Kurantowicz (Poland), Laura Formenti (Italy), Kristiina Brunila (Finland), Paula Guimarães (Portugal), Larissa Jogi (Estonia), Jean Michel Baudoin (Switzerland) and Georgios Zarifis (Greece). Secretary: Sofia Nyström (Sweden)

1. Election of the chair for the meeting
 - Henning was elected to chair the meeting
2. Election of the secretary for the meeting
 - Sofia was elected to be the secretary of the meeting
3. Election of someone to check the minutes
 - Emilio Lucio-Villegas was elected to check the minutes.
4. Approval of the agenda
 - The agenda was approved.
5. Approval of the minutes from the last meeting
 - The minutes were approved.
6. Absence from the meeting
 - We are very pleased to see that all members of the whole Steering Committee are present.
7. Provisional financial account of ESREA September 2013
 - The provisional financial account was presented and approved.
 - For the next presentation of the provisional financial account the SC wants a list with present number of members (institutional/individual/Phd), how many new members that has joined in ESREA activities and, if it is possible, a presentation of those institutions and individual members that has chosen to leave ESREA.
8. Update on the ESREA 2013 triennial conference
 - The secretary presents the conference organiser's rapport. The SC is very pleased with the very good number of participants and papers. The participants come from 33 different countries and there are a substantial number of participants from Germany. This was one of the goals behind having the triennial conference in Berlin. The SC is also very pleased with the how the organiser group has planned and organise the conference and wish them a inspiring and stimulating conference.
 - Thirteen bursaries will be paid by ESREA in the form of free accommodation at Humboldt University guesthouse.

- The scientific committee has found a winner for the PhD award and this will be presented during the conference dinner.
- Gert Biesta and Kathy Nicoll will present their research on the History of ESREA during the conference. The SC hopes to generate a discussion about the ESREA and where the organisation is going.

9. The ESREA journal

- The members of editorial team of RELA present a report. They are pleased that the numbers of visits to the journal website are now over 1000/month and the journal has become indexed. The editorial team has changed work organisation in order to reduce response times to submissions. Now they have a team that is responsible for one whole issue/theme and hopefully this will make the communication with the reviewers and writers effective. Discussion of the numbers of submitted papers to each issue, the refusal rate and the invitation of people to write in the journal. Next issue will come the 1st of October.
- The SC discussed the relationship between the triennial conference and RELA. The editorial team stress that they are very happy to receive papers that have been rewritten after the conference but these papers are going to be evaluated and reviewed as standard procedure. The SC will be "on look out" for good papers during the conference and encourage the participants to rewrite their papers.
- Discussion of the language policy in RELA. SC expressed a need to evaluate if RELA has succeeded. The language of the journal is English but it has to be reflected if RELA by doing this exclude some countries. In the evaluation it is important to consider the issues of who are the writers, the readers, the reviewers and where are they from. Other issues are how is the access? How is topics/themes chosen? This is important since research concerns varies between countries.
- Discussion of the proposal to pay of ESREA funds the travel expenses for the LiU member of the editorial team in recognition of the great contribution LiU makes for RELA. The decision was postponed to the next meeting and the issue will be discussed in the RELA editorial team. It was discussed to increase the ESREA financial contribution to the work of the editorial team, among others to cover the previous cost. This discussion was also postponed.

10. Book series with Sense.

Emilio presents that we have three books that are in the pipeline to be published during 2013-2014. These are:

- Adult Education Policy and the European Union: Theoretical and methodological issues. Edited By Marcella Milana and John Holford
- Learning Across Generations in Europe. Research, Policy and Practice in Older Adult Education. Edited by Bernhard Schmidt-Hertha, Sabina Jelenc Krašovec and Marvin Formosa
- Researching & Transforming Adult Learning & Communities – The Local/Global Context. Edited By Rob Evans, Ewa Kurantowicz and Emilio Lucio-Villegas

There was a discussion of how we can get more book proposals. The SC asks the secretary to send out the call for books in order to encourage the networks to think about the possibility to make edited books based on a selection of papers from conferences or in relation to issues concerning the network.

11. Evaluation so far of the work of the SC with reference to work program

The SC discusses what has been done and what is left undone in relation to the intentions laid out in the action plan 2011-2013.

1. The clarification of the mission and context of ESREA:

- ESREA funding of the research project will provide a basis for this discussion
- Organisational level: we thought that we could make a stronger relation between SC, the research networks, and editorial boards of the book series and RELA. The meeting between the SC and network meeting did not work out as planned due to technical problems. This is something that the new SC can continue working with. The SC recommends to the new SC to appoint a member who is delegated the responsibility to organize communication between SC and network convenors.
- It is a good action plan but it is missing a reference to the website. Here the SC want to encourage the new SC to continue working to create a more flexible website so the networks have a better platform to make visible their activities.
- The SC expresses a need to have more statistical numbers so the context of ESREA can be made viable. They want to know who are our members, concerning what kind of membership they have, what countries are represented, what regions. This is important in order to get an overview of the members. Furthermore the SC also discussed that it would be good to have more knowledge about the participants in the different research networks. Here the SC raise questions concerning the network participants, where are they from?
- It would be interesting to compare the picture of the whole ESREA with the network. Is it a similar picture or do the networks have different participants. The SC would like the new SC to make a survey to hand out to the network convenors in order to get more information about the work and the participants within the networks. (It is above). This could enable a more of a working relationship can be formed between the SC and the networks.
- The establishing of RELA and the new contract with SENSE Publishers has been one step in clarifying the mission of ESREA as a research organisation.

2. The outreach and recruitment activities:

- Emphasise the need for the SC to try to have meetings with the network in order to establish more of a working relationship.
- The SC discuss the outreach activities that they have performed as members- for example contacts with the Balkan colleagues by co-organizing the EDUworld conference in Romania, the Latin America Association of Social Pedagogy in Spain. The discussion also concerned how ESREA can be linked to other networks for example CASAE.
- SC stress the importance that the future SC has a close relationship with the networks since their work cultivate the traditions within ESREA. It is through the networks that many participants learning to know each other and it is the arena for training of young researchers. These network stands for much of the continuity by their annual and biannual conferences.

3. The main operational modi of ESREA, such as research networks and conferences:

- During this period new networks were created, such as the Interrogating transformative processes in learning: An international exchange, and Working life and learning were "reborn".
- The SC raises if it could be more meetings over the networks in order to combine and exchange ideas?
- There is also work to be done in order to recruit new members from the networks.

4. Publishing activities:

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- This strategy has been the main strategy to strengthen during the period. During this time the SC has launched a research journal and signed a new contract with SENSE Publishers. These two activities will hopefully make the research within Adult education and learning in Europe more visible.
5. Engaging in the training of young researchers and research capacity building
 - Here the SC and also the networks work with different activities. First, the SC reward three bursaries per conference to PhD students. They also encourage the networks to organise pre-conferences in conjunction with the main conference. This was also the case at the triennial conference in Berlin. During the preconference in Berlin the SC members also participated in Master classes. For each triennial conference the SC also reward a PhD prize for 300 Euros to the most innovating and creative paper.
 - The SC raise the possibility for the future to have a ESREA summer school inspired by the Roskilde Summer School which has been a success but now are out of funding. This is something that the new SC can take into consideration.
 6. Participation in policy formation, lobbying, and liaising with other organizations
 - Here the SC discuss that they wanted to have collaborations with other organisations in the field. For example the SC had an idea that we could have a special event in Berlin together with political organisations, policy makers and so on. This event runs into complications do to the commitments of these individuals since it is hard to maintain a contact and they are not so keen on participating. Furthermore we needs to be clear about what do we want from them.
 - The Policy network are now a strong network within ESREA and maybe the new SC can open a discussion with them how such a dialog could be made possible and how we could proceed.
 - Barbara informs about a report from a European projecton Policy and learning careers
12. Discussion about the election of a new steering committee for 2014-2016
 - The chair and the secretary go through the practical procedures and dates for the upcoming election. The information about the election will be sent out again together with the next newsletter. The deadline for nominating candidates will be October 11
 - The SC emphasise the importance to talk to and encourage people that we know has expressed an interest in being involved in the Steering Committee.
 13. The ESREA website
 - The secretary and Wolfgang inform about the slow progress in getting a test website up and running. There has been problem in finding and signing up for a server. The SC postpone the development of a new website and encourage the new SC to continue to work on developing a more flexible and self manage website.
 - The SC suggests that there should be a person allocated to work with this task. Discuss the issue with links between website and ESREA and network. Someone needs to be responsible for this.
 14. Information from the different networks
 - **Access:** The conference proceedings from the network conference held in Aveiro, Portugal have just been published – the publication was delayed as the person working on it at Aveiro was unable to use a computer for a long while due to an arm injury. The publication is entitled: Merrill, B (eds) (2013) Transitions and Identity in Learning Life, Aveiro, University of Warwick & University of Aveiro. The next

network conference will be held in Linköping 28 – 30 November, 2013.

Andrea Galimberti, Milano Bicocca University has now joined ma as a co-ordinator of the network.

- **ADC:** Short update from the network. It seems like the participants are failing and the network are not so active as it use to be. The SC discusses how the network could be made appealing again.
- **ReNAdET:** The Network organises its third International Conference with the German Institute for Adult Education - Leibniz Centre for Lifelong Learning (DIE) and Bielefeld University in cooperation with the ASEM LLL Research network on "Professionalisation of Adult Teachers and Educators in ASEM countries" and with the Universitätsclub Bonn e.V. The conference will be held in Bonn from 1 to 3 November 2013. The theme of the conference is 'Professionalization of Adult Educators: International and Comparative Perspectives'. 50 papers in plenary sessions, thematic working groups and poster format will be presented from a number of European countries (Ireland, Germany, Ireland, Greece, Finland, Norway, Spain, Portugal etc.), but also from a number of Asian countries like China, India, Pakistan, and the Philippines. There will be one extended plenary at the last day (all Sunday morning). Here, the idea is to have an extended session with inputs which shall stimulate discussion about future (international/comparative) research into professionalization.
- **Working life and Learning:** They are planning the up-coming conference, "Workplace Learning and Development in Times of Globalization and Uncertainty" at Osnabrück University, Germany, March 31—April 2, 2014, chaired by prof. Sandra Bohlinger. Call for papers is ongoing, submission deadline for abstracts is September 16, 2013.
- **History of Adult education and training:** The next meeting will take place within the triennial conference in Berlin and they are organizing a round table session on the topic "Historical Approach Specificities in the Context of Adult Education Research". At this occasion they will discuss the organisation of the next seminar, probably in 2014.
- **Gender:** The last conference of Gender Network was held in 2011 in June in France at the University of Montpellier 3. The participants came not only from Europe, but also from Mexico and Nigeria. This conference was a follow up to the ESREA Gender Network Conference held at Hull University in 2009. In 2012 the last book of network was published: OSTROUCH-KAMIŃSKA Joanna, FONTANINI Christine, GAYNARD Sheila (Eds.) (2012) Considering Gender in Adult Learning and in Academia: (In)Visible Act. Wrocław: Wydawnictwo Naukowe Dolnośląskiej Szkoły Wyższej. The next gender meeting will be held in Portugal in Coimbra in 2013. It is organized in co-operation with the Faculty of Psychology and Sciences of Education of the University of Coimbra (FPCEUC), and The Coimbra's University Centre for 20th Century Interdisciplinary Studies (CEIS20), Portugal. It will take place from Thursday morning **10th** to Saturday **12th** (noon) of **October 2013**, in FPCEUC, and will provide a forum for interdisciplinary discussions on gender and informal learning of adults: Private(s) world(s) - gender and informal learning of adults.
- **Life history:** organizes its conference at the beginning of March each year. Next year it will be in Magdeburg (Germany), March 6-9 (the first call is circulating and Rob Evans is the organiser). Last years' conferences were quite well attended: 70 to 90 participants each, and a good part of them are coming each year. The effort we put in creating a good learning environment is worth! The variety of languages and

cultures of research in the European landscape is well represented in the Network. They also receive people from out of Europe, USA, Brasil, Canada, Australia, South Africa among the others. The Network keeps its major aim of producing publications (there were books, papers, special issues of journals) and fostering research projects and groups. A new book is almost ready for publication, after the 2011 Conference in Odense (DK). Title: Embodied Knowledge. Editors: Horsdal, Formenti and West.

- **Between global and local:** The next Conference of the Network 'Between Global and Local' will take place at the University of Lisbon, Institute of Educación, June 26th, 27th and 28th 2014. The theme is **Local Change, Social actions and adult learning:** Challenges and responses. Call for papers and website are available.
- **Migration:** they are planning the up-coming conference 14-16 May 2014 year at University of Lower Silesia, Wrocław, Poland. Call for papers is ongoing, submission deadline for abstracts is November 15, 2013.
- **Education and learning of older adults.** Have a convener meeting in Vilnius, need to develop the network further. Next conference in Malta
- **Policy studies on adult education:** They are finalizing a second call for proposals for the 2014 conference, and hope to have it ready for circulation by the time of the triennial conference in Berlin. They have a special issue under production for Globalization, Societies and Education, under the title: ADULT AND LIFELONG EDUCATION: GLOBAL, NATIONAL AND LOCAL PERSPECTIVES, expected as in September/October this year, and a paper at the beginning of 2014. They have two additional special issues in the pipe line, expected to be published in 2014, one in European Education, under the title: ADULT EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING IN POST-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, the other in International Journal of Lifelong Education, under the title: ADULT AND LIFELONG EDUCATION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES: POLICY AND PRACTICE. They are putting together the final manuscript for the book: ADULT EDUCATION POLICY AND THE EUROPEAN UNION: THEORETICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES (edited by Marcella Milana and John Holford), to be delivered to Sense by the end of September. In Berlin they have two symposia: 1) BRINGING THE UNESCO INTO EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES ON ADULT EDUCATION, and 2) UNDERSTANDING POLICY MAKING WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION. They also have a symposium at the ECER 2013 conference, 10-13 September, Istanbul (in collaboration with the EERA Network no. 23 Policy Studies and Politics of Education): THEORETICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES ON POLICY-MAKING AND THE EUROPEAN UNION. Further, they have discussed with the executive editor of the International Review of Education, and the editor of Encyclopaideia (a class A Italian-based journal, indexed in EBSCO and Scopus, which publishes also full issues in English) possibilities for hosting special issues based on papers to be presented at the 2014 Network conference.
- **Transformative:** The kick-off meeting took place on 22nd of June at the conference "Transformative Learning meets Bildung" in Freiburg. The next meeting where the next steps (as for example the first network-conference in 2014) will be planned is going to take place during the ESREA-conference in Berlin. For the ESREA-conference in Berlin, they have developed a flyer that will be available at the registration desk. After the Berlin meeting, they are planning to create a mailing list for the network and widely inform people about it via different existing mailing lists.

15. Any other business

- There was no other business.

16. Next meeting

- The Steering Committee suggest that the new Steering Committee should meet on the 6th of February at 12.00 until the 7th of February until 12.00 February in Milano.

17. End of meeting

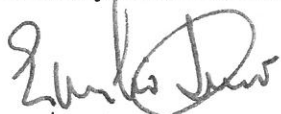
- The meeting ended September 4 at 12.00.



Henning Salling Olesen
Chair of the meeting



Sofia Nyström
Secretary of the meeting



Emilio Lucio-Villegas
Check the minutes