

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

When: September 4, 2014. 13.00 – September 5 12.00

Where: SPCE headquarters in Porto city. The headquarter is located at: SPCE - Rua João de Deus, nº 38.

Participants: Barbara Merrill (United Kingdom), Karin Filander (Finland), Andreas Fejes (Sweden), Henning Salling Olesen (Denmark), Emilio Lucio-Villegas (Spain), Laura Formenti (Italy), Jean Michel Baudoin (Switzerland), Adrianna Nizińska (Poland) and Rosanna Barros (Portugal). Secretary: Sofia Nyström (Sweden)

1. Election of the chair for the meeting
 - Laura 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
 - Barbara 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 after some changes suggested by Marcella.
6. Absence from the meeting
 - Marcella Milana (Denmark), Aiga von Hippel (Germany), and Georgios Zarifis (Greece) sends their best regards.
7. Provisional financial account for ESREA September 2014
 - The provisional financial account for 2014 was approved.
8. Information and discussion about the project “History of ESREA”
 - There was a discussion about the points of strength and the limits of the report, its validity and meaning, and its use. There is a general agreement about the importance and usefulness of this first attempt to build awareness of the history of ESREA, its beginnings and evolution, in relation to the wider context. The report is very rich in information and provides a good basis for further study. It offers one history, and many associates of ESREA could enrich it further with their own stories and comments. The SC agreed to thank the authors for their work and emphasise that they have put in much time for little funding.

- To facilitate knowledge of ESREA and a reflexive debate, the report will be published on the website after small editorial changes (after discussion, it was decided that a thorough editing/proofreading would be too expensive and not worthwhile) accompanied by an introduction written by the chair and secretary outlining the background of the project. It will also emphasise how this report can be used and the possibility to add other stories/perspectives.
- The SC also discussed how this report can be used. It suggested that the report can be used in some form at the next triennial conference 2016.

9. ESREA action plan 2014-2016

The SC thanked Emilio and Karin for their effort in preparing a draft action plan for ESREA. The SC decided that this document would serve as a background to a shorter version of an action plan, which specifies the actions that will be taken in relation to each area. The secretary will be responsible to write up the short action plan based on the discussion and then Emilio and Karin will develop their draft.

During 2014-2016 the Steering Committee has identified the following areas as strategic:

- outreach and recruitment activities
- role of research networks and conferences
- cooperation with national associations
- training of young researchers and building of research capacity

The final decision about ESREA action plan 2014-2016 will be taken at the SC meeting in February.

10. Discussion about the ESREA statutes

- The SC decided to suggest to the annual meeting a change in ESREA's statutes under "Art. 3. The steering committee, item a) to appoint from among its elected members the Chairperson of the society". The suggested changes are to add the following: a) appoint from among its elected members the Chairperson of the society. *The same person can only be appointed chairperson for a maximum of six years, i.e. two periods.*

11. Discussion about the ESREA secretariat

- Andreas describes in what ways Linköping University supports ESREA secretariat as well as RELA. Linköping offers to hold the secretariat for three more years, but after that period it would be good to think about rotating the location of the secretariat.
- The SC expresses its gratitude toward the founding and support given by Linköping University and is happy to grant Linköping the task for three more years.

12. Discussion about ESREA summer school.

- Henning reported on the exploration that Marcella, Georgios and him have done concerning the possibilities to start an ESREA summer school. There is a possibility to apply for an ERASMUS plus funding under the condition that ESREA is able to identify and sustain a consortium among its member institutions, willing to collaborate and apply. However, Henning stressed the difficulties of such an application, which

demands a lot of work and gives no guarantee of an outcome. Henning suggested an alternative possibility: ESREA could give economic support and sponsorship to institutions and activities that are already ongoing, e.g. the summer school arranged in Roskilde, Graduate School of Lifelong Learning.

- Laura shared her triennial experience in an Intensive Programme Erasmus (2012-2014) involving 5 universities, as a valuable experience of collaboration among institutions; this is a highly desirable feature for a summer school sustained by ESREA; a summer school “of ESREA” needs to celebrate diversity and a plurality of methods/paradigms/models of research, as well as a geographic and linguistic distribution;
- Karin told about her experience in the summer school organized for some years by members of ESREA (Henning was among the organizers, along with other founders of ESREA): it was a very valuable learning environment.
- The SC proposed two suggestions:
 1. Sustain the building of a consortium of institutions (five or six universities) that can collaborate and take the responsibility to apply for an EU-grant. Laura took the task to pursue this possibility.
 2. Support existing summer schools through bursaries: identify activities that are intended to support doctoral students training and criteria to offer bursaries to students who want to participate. A document will be drafted, to be circulated within ESREA, to inform the organisers of summer schools that the SC can give this support. Henning will draft the document.

13. ESREA triennial conference 2016

- The SC discussed the tender for the next triennial conference. The secretary will add to Financial issues “What other funding possibilities are there (local, regional, (research) funding organisations etc.)?” and remove “If not, what support would you need from ESREA”.
- Laura stressed the need to give more visibility to the Research Networks during the triennial conference, since ESREA is based on the life of Networks. A point was added to the tender, in relation to that.
- The tender will then be sent out on an ESREA e-mail list as well as being posted on the website.
- The SC strongly encourages institutions to apply and they will make a decision at the SC meeting in February.

14. The ESREA journal

- Laura and the SC welcome the members of the editorial board of RELA. Participating in the meeting were Wolfgang Jütte, Danny Wildemeersch, António Fragoso, Henning Salling Olesen and Andreas Fejes.
- Andreas and the editorial board updated the SC about the activities in RELA, coming issues and their work on the editorial board.
- Some figures: there is an increase in the download rate. Today RELA has around 2000 individual visitors. Furthermore, the rate of rejected papers is 65% which indicates that there are a good number of incoming papers. This is good in order to ensure the quality of the published papers. RELA has started to be recognized in the field, which also should increase the submission rate. Furthermore, articles from RELA are now starting to be cited.

- Next year, it is five years since RELA started. This should be celebrated! It is also important to reflect: today every third paper has an Anglophone author; a European journal should be able to attract a larger community of contributors. The editorial board needs to work in order to publish papers originally written in different languages. One strategy that has been followed is to make call for papers as open as possible so it can be suitable for different interests.
- The editorial board also emphasizes that they are working on getting RELA indexed in different databases. Now they are waiting for SCOPUS and ERIC. Here it is important to emphasise that it is an open access journal.
- The editorial board wants to target the network convenors and ask for possible ideas for call for papers. There is a gap between a paper that is acceptable for a network conference and the final product that can be sent to RELA. Network convenors and conference organisers should be invited to make a clear point about it. A suggestion is made therefore to organise, in conjunction to the next triennial conference, a meeting between SC, the editorial board of RELA and the network convenors to discuss these issues.
- There was a discussion about the strategy for developing themes. The editorial board stress that they do not invite guest editors but it is discussed and decided by the RELA editorial board. The SC are very pleased with the themes put forward so far but the SC also ask if it possible to be more active in the use of the issues. One suggestion that was discussed was to arrange a panel in the triennial conference to discuss possible issues at stake in Europe in adult education and learning.
- Lastly the Chair and the whole SC express their gratefulness for all the work that is done by the editorial board for RELA.

15. SENSE Book series

- The Editorial group has discussed two book proposals:
 1. Private world(s) – gender and informal learning of adults. Editors: Joanna Ostroch-Kaminska and Cristina C. Vieira. – Accepted with some changes.
 2. Work, Competence development and learning in times of uncertainty. European adult education perspective. Editors: Bohlinger, S., Haake, U., Helms Jorgensen, C., Toivianinen, H. & Wallo, A. – It is a good idea but the proposal needs to be elaborated more. The editorial board encourages them to re-submit.
- Two books are in the pipeline and both will present their first draft in October; the board is pleased with their progress.
- The secretary needs to send out an e-mail to ESREA members about the book series to remind them that this is a free access book, supply the link and to encourage them to go to their libraries and inform them about the first book.
- Emilio raises the question about funding for language editing from ESREA. The SC had a discussion and decided that the printing and the production of the books will be evaluated after the third book.

16. Information from the different networks

- The secretary has received updates from seven networks before the meeting. See the attached file.
- Access: Barbara adds further information that Adrianna Nizińska will also be the convenor for the network. Next conference November 2015.
- Global and local: Emilio adds more information about the network plans to organise a conference in 2015 and then rest in 2016 since it is the year of the triennial conference.

The network is exploring the possibilities to have some co-operation with the policy network

- Transformative: Laura reported on a successful first conference, with good plenaries, presentations and workshops; a reflexive exercise was proposed every day and in the final plenary; a deep critical discussion about the meaning of transformative learning was implemented.

17. Any other business?

The SC discussed our engagements in Eastern Europe. The SC stressed the importance to send invitations around to see if and how someone from the Steering Committee can participate in events or activities. The SC also emphasised the importance of networking and promoting ESREA to increase memberships from countries that are under-represented.

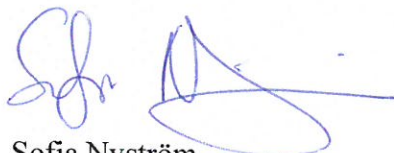
18. Next meeting

- The next Steering Committee meeting will be held in Istanbul, 12-13 February, 2015.
- The second meeting will be 10-11 September 2015 at the institution that will host the next triennial conference.

19. End of meeting



Laura Formenti
Chair of the meeting



Sofia Nyström
Secretary of the meeting

Barbara Merrill
Check the minutes

