

European Society *for* Research *on the* Education of Adults

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Dear ESREA associates,

This is our third and last newsletter in this strange year. 2020 has challenged us in many ways: as individuals, as professionals, as family members, as members of a society. If we learnt something this year, then this:

“No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; [...] any man’s death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind. And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.”
(John Donne)

I wish you a healthy, happy, and thoughtful close to 2020.

Yours,
Alexandra



1. European Research and Education Updates

On November 10, the Council of the EU and the European Parliament agreed a package for EU spending for the period of 2021-2027. This agreement included a €4bn rise from the previous €80.9bn figure for Horizon Europe, the new research framework programme of the EU. However, the agreement still needs to be approved by the governments of the EU countries. The agreement reached foresees linking the access to EU funding to respect for the rule of law. The Hungarian and Polish governments oppose the idea and refuse to approve the EU's long-term budget and recovery package until substantial amendments are made in this respect. Publication of the first work programmes in Horizon Europe is expected for end of March 2021.

[Open Research Europe](#) is the EU's publication and open peer-review platform for research stemming from Horizon 2020 funding. The platform has begun to accept submissions from authors. The publication costs will be covered by the European Commission, making it completely cost-free for authors. At a later stage, it could be opened up to authors that did not receive EU funding.

The European Commission's [Action Plan Digital Education](#) to promote a high-performance digital education ecosystem has been published.

At the end of this year, the [European Agenda for Adult Learning](#), the central policy document on the development of adult learning, comes to an end. The EU Commission is obviously not interested in a follow-up document, at least at present.

For some still seems unimaginable, for the UK prime minister it is "a fantastic moment": The UK leaves the EU. We all feel a profound sense of loss and will miss the British knowledge, pragmatism and humour. But we will still have them in ESREA and this is really fantastic!

2. 2nd Ordinary General Assembly

Between November 17 and 26 the 2nd Ordinary General Assembly of ESREA took place as online ballot. The members of ESREA approved the Management Report of 2020 and discharged the Board on the basis of the auditor's report.

We thank our members for supporting us with their membership also in this year and for their active participation.

3. Call for Tenders to host the ESREA Triennial Conference in 2022

Every third year ESREA organises a research conference somewhere in Europe in cooperation with a hosting institution. This conference is not connected to any specific network, rather it aims to gather all ESREA members and friends for a joint conference. The previous conferences were organised at different locations throughout Europe: from Lisbon (2001) to Linnköping (2010) and from Maynooth (2016) to Belgrade (2019).

There is a [new call for tenders](#) to organise the ESREA's next triennial conference in September 2022. Tenders should be sent to ESREAsecretary@die-bonn.de no later than February 19, 2021. The final decision will be taken by the presidium. We hope that we will be able to have a face-to-face conference in 2022 and meet again as many of you as possible.

4. Announcements – Conferences, Network Meetings and Calls for papers

ESREA Anniversary

ESREA is celebrating its 30 years anniversary in 2021. A task force in the presidium coordinates these activities.

Coronavirus related research

The corona pandemic has major consequences on adult education practice, on institutions and programmes, and last but not least, on adult education professionals.

The German Institute for Adult Education - Leibniz Centre for Lifelong Learning (DIE) has compiled an [overview of current and planned research and consulting activities of DIE in connection with Corona](#).

The Learning and Work Institute in UK published the [2020 Adult Participation in Learning Survey](#) which explores people's experiences of learning since the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic and the national lockdown introduced on 23 March 2020.

AONTAS, the National Adult Learning Organisation of Ireland, also contribute to coronavirus related research with their publication: [Covid-19 Further Education and Training \(fet\) Learner report. Developed as part of the national fet learner forum](#).

Studentship

A fully-funded [UNESCO Chair PhD studentship](#) is being offered by the University of East Anglia for 2021/22 entry (October 2021 start date). Alongside their PhD studies, the UEA UNESCO Chair scholar will be encouraged to engage with and support UNESCO Chair activities in their areas of interest. The deadline for applications is January 18, 2021.

ESREA Conferences

January 21-23, 2021 – Maynooth, Ireland

Conference of the ESREA Network 'Active Democratic Citizenship and Adult Learning'

March 4-7, 2021 – Wroclaw, Poland

Conference of the ESREA Network 'Life History and Biography' on **An Ecology of Life: Discourses, dialogue and diversity in biographical research**

The Annual Conference in 2021 will be **ONLINE** hosted by the University of Lower Silesia.

June 3-6, 2021 – Vancouver, Canada

The conference of the ESREA Network 'Adult Education in Global Times', originally scheduled for 2020, will be held as a virtual conference. ESREA is a partner organisation in this event.

July 15-17, 2021 – Faro, Portugal

Conference of the ESREA Network 'Gender and Adult Education' on **Gender and Adult Education in the era of social and cultural changes: (New) risks and challenges**

September 16-18, 2021 – Sevilla, Spain

Conference of the ESREA Network 'Between Global and Local – Adult Learning and Communities' on **Reconsidering Adult Learning and Communities**

October (exact dates not fixed yet), 2021 - Bologna, Italy

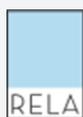
The 11th Conference of the ESREA Network 'Education and Learning of Older Adults' on **Contemporary challenges of inter-generational education in lifelong learning societies**

If circumstances permit, the conference will take place in person, otherwise there will be an online event.

Call for Papers

There is a [call for contributions](#) for the Gender Network Conference on July 15-17, 2021 at the University of Algarve. The deadline is March 15, 2021.

5. RELA



The **European Journal for Research on the Education and Learning of Adults (RELA)** is a refereed academic journal creating a forum for the publication of critical research on adult education and learning. RELA is published on behalf of ESREA and can be found at our webpage: <http://www.esrea.org/publications/rela/>

Call for **open** papers here: http://www.rela.ep.liu.se/documents/Call_for_Open_Papers.pdf

6. Publications

All publications of the ESREA networks can be found at: <http://esrea.org/publications/books-from-the-networks/>

6. How to become a Member of ESREA e. V.

As a member you pay a reduced participation fee for all ESREA events and you will receive regular information on current research on adult education via the ESREA mailing list and the ESREA newsletter. As an individual member you have the right to vote (by online postal ballot) at the annual general meeting.

In the case of institutional membership, the following applies: every single employee of a member institution is entitled to participate in ESREA activities at a reduced fee. However, at the general assembly, each institutional member has only one vote.

If you want to become a member the process is the following:

1. Download the membership application form at: <http://esrea.org/about-us/membership/>
2. Fill in the form and e-mail it to: ESREASecretary@die-bonn.de.
3. If your membership application is approved by the chair you will receive a confirmation by mail within two weeks.
4. We will then issue an invoice for your membership fee: The fee is 50 Euros for individual members, 25 Euros for students and PhD students and 150 Euros for institutional members. **Payment of membership fees can only be made through an international or EU bank transfer to the account indicated below. Cheques are not accepted. Any foreign bank fees are to be borne by the applicants.**

ESREA bank details for payment of membership fee:

Bank: Sparkasse KölnBonn

Account holder: European Society for Research on the Education of Adults (ESREA) e. V.

Account number: 1934820174

IBAN: DE73 3705 0198 1934 8201 74

BIC: COLSDE33XXX

VAT Number: DE324070933

7. Forthcoming Newsletters

Expected publication dates for 2021

- March 2021
- July 2021
- December 2021

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