



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

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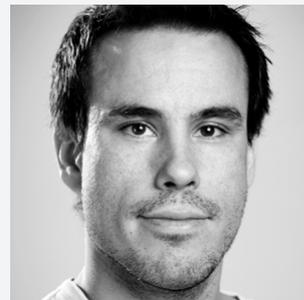
1. *Address by the Chair*

Dear ESREA members and friends,

2022 is nearing the end and so does this term for the ESREA presidium. The 3-year term has been quite different from previously, as it coincided with the Covid-19 pandemic. All our lives changed drastically and for an academic organisation whose activity to a large extent consists of people meeting each other conversing, this posed a huge challenge. However, the ESREA network conveners have illustrated great innovative skills and engagement by finding different ways to meet online and continue the academic conversations. And finally, a few months ago, we could all once again meet at the triennial conference that this year took place in Milan. The conference was a huge success, to a large extent due to the fantastic organisation by the local organizers. This is what ESREA is really about, the commitment of colleagues across Europe and beyond to organize activities for us and others with the aim of developing high quality research on the education and learning of adults. On behalf of the presidium, I would like to thank you all for your commitment!

This year is also a personal marker in my own engagement in ESREA. In 2007 I entered ESREA in the capacity as secretary. The secretariat had just moved from Leiden university in The Netherlands to Linköping University in Sweden - where it stayed until 2018. For 6 years I held the capacity as secretary before passing it on to other colleagues at Linköping University. In 2014 I was elected as member of the steering committee and for the last 3 years I have held the capacity as chair of ESREA. During this time, I also had the opportunity, together with colleagues in ESREA and at Linköping university, to work on the task to launch an academic journal - RELA - a journal that has now been operating for 12 years.

These 16 years of engagement in ESREA have been an important part of my academic work - and provided me with many opportunities to meet and converse with colleagues across Europe and beyond. These conversations (may it be orally or in written words) have been of high importance for my own personal journey in academia and I will definitely continue my engagement in ESREA for many more years. However, in different capacities.



Andreas Fejes
Chair of ESREA
Professor of adult education research
Linköping University

2. A new ESREA Presidium for 2023 to 2025

The three-year term of the current presidium members will end on December 31, 2022. We thank all ESREA members who participated in the written election ballot between October 10 and November 9, 2022 and elected a new presidium. The newly elected members are (in alphabetical order):

- ❖ **Per Andersson** (Professor at Linköping University, Sweden)
- ❖ **Rosanna Barros** (Assistant Professor at University of Algarve, Portugal)
- ❖ **Fergal Finnegan** (Associate Professor and Coordinator of the PhD programme at Maynooth University, Ireland)
- ❖ **Laura Formenti** (Professor at University of Milano Bicocca, Italy)
- ❖ **Maria N. Gravani** (Associate Professor at Open University of Cyprus)
- ❖ **Joanna Ostrouch-Kamińska** (Associate Professor at University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Poland)
- ❖ **Martin Kopecký** (Associate Professor at Charles University, Prague)
- ❖ **Maja Maksimović** (Assistant Professor at University of Belgrade, Serbia)
- ❖ **Barbara Merrill** (Professor Emeritus at University of Warwick, United Kingdom)
- ❖ **Marcella Milana** (Associate Professor at University of Verona, Italy)
- ❖ **Steffi Robak** (Professor at Leibniz University of Hanover Germany)
- ❖ **Päivi Siivonen** (Associate Professor at University of Turku, Finland)

We welcome them all and are very confident that the new presidium will continue to work with the same spirit of communion as the previous one, building on the legacy of ESREA as open and democratic Society, and it will successfully represent ESREA within the international community.

As you notice, the composition of the presidium has changed, although not in geographical terms. It's time to say goodbye to those presidium members who decided to resign and leave space for newcomers in the governance of the Society. ESREA has benefitted greatly from the dedication, ideas, and hard work of Bernd Käßplinger, Jyri Manninen, Cristina Viera, and, last but not least, of Andreas Fejes.

3. ESREA General Assembly Meeting

The annual General Assembly 2022 was held online on November 9, 2.00 pm to 2.30 pm (CET). The Secretary, Alexandra Ioannidou, presented the Management Report and reported on the activities of the Society. The Treasurer, Bernd Käßplinger, presented revenues and expenditures of ESREA from November 2021 to October 2022, which can be comprehensibly traced to the receipts with the bank account detail documents. The Auditor, Bernhard Schmidt-Hertha, presented his written report and stated that the financial report and the financial statements regarding revenues and expenditures comply with the aims of the Society and generally accepted accounting principles, and are free from misstatement. The General Assembly, thereupon, unanimously decided to discharge the Board. The results of presidium elections were announced, and the new members were welcomed.

4. The 2022 ESREA Survey- A brief summary

As one of several activities to commemorate ESREA's 30th anniversary in February–March 2022 the society conducted an online survey among its members and friends to shed light on their experiences, opinions and needs. Members were invited (on a voluntary basis) to reflect on the organisation's past, present, and anticipated future, and make concrete suggestions that the Presidium may implement in the years to come.

A total of 46 respondents participated in the survey, of which 43 were ESREA members (32 individual members, including 5 Ph.D. students, and 11 institutional members' representatives) and 3 were ESREA friends. The response rate corresponds to approximately 23% of the ESREA membership at the time. The data was analysed using descriptive statistical methods and thematic open coding.

A question on how people learnt about ESREA yielded relatively diverse answers: the respondents typically mentioned their personal contacts (supervisors, colleagues etc.), followed by attendance to an ESREA conference or via the ESREA media (website or newsletter).

The results of the survey also support the assumption that most members of the different networks take a relatively keen interest in the activities of one or more other networks.

Perceived membership benefits can be linked to individuals but also, to some extent, to national communities of adult education scholars. Specifically, the perceived strength of influence on national situations proved highly variable, ranging from weak to very strong influence.

Members often use ESREA-related publications for their teaching and research activities, including the Brill book series, the RELA journal, and networks' publications. Several respondents appreciated the effort to develop a European dimension in research. Furthermore, ESREA proved as a valuable networking platform for research and other projects. As for values, a repeatedly emphasised theme that emerged from the analysis of open questions, the respondents mentioned the ways trust, listening and critical dialogue experienced as ESREA members contribute to mutual learning and professional growth. In other words, there was a frequent motif of appreciation in getting together in a safe and supporting atmosphere, both in general and as early career researchers.

The topic of plurality was equally emphasised and appreciated when it came to research topics and approaches taken.

The question on future development yielded two basic types of answers. The first appreciated perceived strengths of the organisation's life, while the second comprised diverse recommendations to strengthen communication (also within and between networks), to develop cooperation with policy makers and practitioners, or to make better use of social media.

It is hard to judge to what extent the recent coronavirus crisis shaped the answers collected. It may have both contributed to a kind of online fatigue and underlined some aspects of the role in our lives played by the values of sharing and dialogue.

At the ESREA Triennial Conference in Milan in September 2022, the main survey results were summarised in a presentation entitled "Who we are and why we joined the Society". Indeed, identity and sources of a sense of community seem to be the central questions that simultaneously suggest answers and thus serve to inspire ESREA's orientation in the years to come.

Like most ESREA's activities, running the survey was a collective project. We are especially grateful to Leonie Ziehm and Alexandra Ioannidou for the technical organization, Bernd Käßlinger and Andreas Fejes for the development of the survey questionnaire, and Barbara Merrill for proof-reading it.

Martin Kopecký and Marcella Milana

5. News from European Research Area

Revision of the European Charter for Researchers

The EU Commission is currently developing a European Framework for Research Careers on behalf of the European Council. In the context of the [relaunch of the European Research Area](#), the aim is to bring together in one overarching framework several existing and new activities, including the online platform [Euraxess](#), measures to support a balanced circulation of talent in the EU and the Competence Framework for Researchers (see below).

Originally adopted in 2005 by the European Commission, the Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers outline the rights and obligations of researchers and their research institutions. They were intended to improve and standardise employment and working conditions for researchers in Europe and to make the EU an attractive and open labour market for researchers. After almost twenty years, the document has now been updated to include new developments in the research system. Among other things, elements relating to open science and working conditions, to gender balance, to research integrity as well as updated modalities of research assessment have now been included. The new Charter and Code are to be adopted in 2023 as part of the European Framework for Research Careers in the form of Council Conclusions. They would hence still not be legally binding for EU Member States, but the accompanying political commitment would have a much higher impact than before. Under Horizon Europe, institutions are already obliged to implement the principles set down in the Charter and Code in funded projects (Grant Agreement, Art. 18). In a similar vein, having a Gender Equality Plan, committing to integrity in research as well as Open Science have become mandatory for participation in the EU Research Framework Programme.

[Draft of the updated Charter and Code](#)

Competence Framework for Researchers

One of the central aims of the European Research Area (ERA), in particular Policy Action 4, "Research careers, talent circulation and mobility", is to make research careers in the EU more attractive by improving the working conditions for researchers and providing appropriate tools to support research careers. The competence framework for research careers "[ResearchComp](#)" - published in September 2022 - is one of these tools. It identifies 38 competences in seven areas that can be considered essential for a successful research career both within and outside academia. In addition to the classic competences of scientific work (research activity, analytical thinking, scientific writing, publishing research results, etc.), the acquisition of third-party funding, the implementation of research projects and research data management are also listed. In addition, an important focus is on transferable skills such as self-organisation, teamwork, but also knowledge transfer and science communication into society.

ResearchComp was developed by the think tank IDEA consult with the involvement of the scientific community, including the Leibniz Association, EARTO, CESAER, LERU but also individual researchers. Based on the competence catalogue, research institutions should offer appropriate training opportunities for their researchers. The ResearchComp is also intended to bring about a standardisation of the competences expected of researchers in the European Research Area and, thus, facilitate their mobility within the EU. However, according to the EU Commission, the competence framework is a reference framework, and it is not normative. The ResearchComp will be regularly updated to consider the dynamics of the research system and the labour market.

Reform of Research Assessment in the EU

The ResearchComp is closely linked to the [ERA Policy Action 3: "Reform of Research Assessment"](#).

The Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment sets a shared direction for changes in assessment practices for research, researchers and research performing organisations, with the overarching goal to maximise the quality and

impact of research. The Agreement includes the principles, commitments, and timeframe for reforms and lays out the principles for a Coalition of organisations willing to work together in implementing the changes.

According to the Office of the Leibniz Association in Brussels, to this date, 426 organisations had signed the Agreement on the Reform of Research Assessment. A coalition of research organisations was formed to implement the research assessment reform. On 1 December 2022, [CoARA \(Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment\)](#), held its first General Assembly (GA).. Rianne Letschert (NL), President of Maastricht University, was elected Chair of the Steering Board. The European Science Foundation [ESF-CONNECT](#) was elected secretariat of CoARA.

European Commission publishes Staff Working Document on evidence-informed policymaking

The Joint Research Council (JRC) and the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD) published a [working document on evidence-informed policymaking](#) in October 2022. The document argues for the relevance and necessity of scientific evidence in European policymaking in order to adequately manage complexity and strengthen democracy. To this end, so-called "science-for-policy ecosystems" are to be created in the member states, which form interfaces between science and policymaking and thus provide a knowledge transfer between the different cultures, values, languages, and dynamics of the scientific and political communities. The document aims to stimulate national and European debates on evidence-informed policymaking. Further, it provides information on the capacity building of scientists and policymakers, necessary for successful evidence-based policymaking and mentions corresponding support initiatives of the Commission.

6. ESREA News

Two distinguished members of the ESREA community, Dr. Pepka Boyadjieva and Dr. Petya Ilieva-Trichkova, received the **2022 AAACE Cyril O. Houle Award for Outstanding Literature in Adult Education**. This award recognizes persons who have made outstanding contributions to literature in adult education. Pepka Boyadjieva and Petya Ilieva-Trichkova, both of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria, received the award for their book *Adult Education as Empowerment: Re-imagining Lifelong Learning through the Capability Approach, Recognition Theory, and Common Goods Perspective*. We rejoice with them in this distinction!

ESREA New Mailing Address

You may reach us at: esrea_sec@die-bonn.de

7. Forthcoming Events: ESREA Conferences and Network Meetings

May 26-27, 2023

ESREA Active Democratic Citizenship and Adult Learning Research (ADCAL) Network Conference *'Movements for Democracy, Critical Learning and the Limits of What we Know'*

University of Belgrade, Serbia

[Call for Papers](#)

June 22-25, 2023

ESREA's "Life History and Biography Network is planning their meeting/conference in *"Exploring belonging and meaning: Lifescapes – Landscapes – Timescapes"*

Trondheim University, Norway.

More [Information](#)

July 3-7, 2023

12th research seminar of the ESREA Network History of adult education and training in Europe on *'Adult education and learning for social change in the 19th-20th centuries: Ideas, movements, and circulation of knowledge'*

St. Wolfgang, Austria

[Call for Papers](#)

September 7-9, 2023

Conference of the ESREA Network Policy Studies in Adult Education (PSAE) on *'Problematising the futures of adult education: between global, national, regional and local policies actors'*

Lisboa, Portugal.

[Call for Papers](#)

8. RELA



The **European Journal for Research on the Education and Learning of Adults (RELA)** is published on behalf of ESREA. RELA is a refereed academic journal creating a forum for the publication of critical research on adult education and learning.

A new RELA Call for Papers (March 31, 2023), "Reflecting back to the past, present and future: The changing nature of research on access, learning careers and identity" More information: <http://www.esrea.org/publications/rela/>

All RELA issues can be found at: [European Journal for Research on the Education and Learning of Adults \(liu.se\)](#)

9. Book Publications

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

All ESREA Books can be found at: [Book series | ESREA](#)

10. How to become a member of ESREA

Membership in ESREA is open to individual and institutional members. As a member you will get a reduced fee at ESREA activities, information in the field of research on the education of adults through the ESREA mailing list and newsletter. As an individual member you have the right to vote at the general assembly that takes place each year (online through postal ballot). As an institutional member, all employees of your institution are entitled to participate in ESREA activities at a reduced fee. Note that institutional members have only one vote in the general assembly.

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

1. Download the document at: <http://www.esrea.org/about-us/membership/>
2. Fill in the membership application form and e-mail it to: esrea_sec@die-bonn.de
3. Within two weeks at the latest you will receive a confirmation of your membership by e-mail
4. An invoice for your membership fee will be issued: 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. Cheques are not accepted. Any foreign bank fees are to be borne by the applicants.

ESREA Bank details for 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

Forthcoming newsletter is due in March 2023



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Date of Publication: 12.12.2022

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Sitz des Vereins ist Bonn eingetragen beim Amtsgericht Bonn, VR 11467
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