

ESREA

Minutes of the ESREA Steering Committee meeting, Rome, 6-7 March 2005

6 March 2005 – Centro Ricerche Affari Sociali (CRAS), Corso Vittorio Emanuele II 269

7 March 2005 – Università degli studi Roma III, via di Castro Pretoria 20

Present:

Michal Bron (Sweden), Antonio Fragoso (Portugal), Paula Guimaraes (Portugal); Larissa Jogi (Estonia), Ewa Kurantowicz (Poland), Barbara Merrill (United Kingdom), Henning Salling Olesen (Denmark), Rudolph Tippelt (Germany), Risto Rinne (Finland), Linden West (United Kingdom), Barry Hake (Netherlands). Prof Aureliana Alberici paid a short visit to the meeting on the 7th of March.

Absent:

Apologies from Edmee Ollagnier (Switzerland).

1. The current chairperson (Henning) welcomed the re-elected members of the SC and in particular the newly elected members of the ESREA SC. He also expressed thanks to the University of Rome 3 and the CRAS for hosting the meeting.
2. An introduction round followed during which the SC members introduced themselves and their motivation to be active in ESREA.
3. The secretary took the chair for the formal constitution of the committee. Henning Salling Olesen and Ewa Kurantowicz were unanimously elected respectively as Chair and vice-chair of the ESREA Steering Committee for the period 2005-2008. Henning Salling Olesen took the chair for the meeting.
4. the **agenda** proposed by the Secretariat was unanimously agreed. The **minutes** of the previous meeting held in Wroclaw, 15-16 September 2004 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.

4a. Co-option of a 12th ad hoc member of the steering committee.

Criteria for the co-option were discussed, on the basis of the Secretariat notes and a number of concrete suggestions. It was agreed that the implementation of criteria was closely inter-related with possible concrete candidates. It was agreed that members should circulate their view on criteria with or without concrete suggestions for candidates for co-option. The chair should seek to formulate a theme for an electronic vote on the question, or in case of great disagreement postpone the question to next SC meeting.

5. ESREA Research Networks

5a. Working-life and Learning:

A meeting of the network took place at Northern College (UK) in November 2004. The next meeting will take place in Wroclaw 18-20 October 2005 with the theme 'Working-life and democracy'.

5b. Active Citizenship:

Michal Bron reported the failure of the location of the next meeting as announced in Moscow. However, he was able to announce a new location for the net meeting in Tallinn, Estonia, 15-17 September 2005. (As agreed during the meeting, the change of location has been circulated via the ESREA e-mail server and the link to this new location has been added to the ESREA website). He is also reported that the manuscript for the volume in the Peter Lang series has been submitted.

5c. Life-history and Biographical Research:

Linden West reported on the recent meeting at Angihari (Italy) which was held prior to the ESREA SC meeting in Rome. Possible locations for future meetings include Greece and Germany. Progress was reported with regard to the volume of edited papers for inclusion in the ESREA series with Peter Lang Verlag.

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. 'Older Learners' was now seen as an old-fashioned title which should be broadened to include learning in later (working-life) and (non-working) retirement within a life-course perspective. Henning, Barry and Tarja have recently worked together in a CEDEFOP project on older workers, and the intention is to relate the ESREA network to CEDEFOP. This may result in the availability of additional financial resources for the ESREA network. Tarja will prepare a mission statement for this network.

5e. Migration, Ethnicity, Racism and Xenophobia:

Despite the key role of this theme in most European countries it has continued to be difficult to recruit a convenor for this ESREA research network. Michal Bron and Antonio Fragoso volunteered to seek a new convenor.

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

Barry reported that ESREA had definitively withdrawn from the co-organization of the 10th International Conference on the History of Adult Education to be held in Helsinki, September 2005. He is currently negotiating the organization of a seminar with historians in Austria, Germany and Switzerland in 2006 or 2007 which will be devoted to the theme of 'popular philosophers and adult learning' during the Enlightenment period. He also reported that he had a contract with Peter Lang Verlag for a series of re-edited volumes based upon the previous publications of this network with Leeds University Press.

5g. Gender Issues:

The SC was informed that the next meeting will take place in Geneva, 14-16 October 2005. Details will be placed on the ESREA website and circulated via the ESREA e-mail server.

5h. Access:

Barbara reported that the title of this network is no longer considered to be appropriate given the scope of the recent and future work of the network. Barry reported that he had circulated documents to Barbara with reference to Access, Learning Careers and Learning Trajectories which specifically referred to the work of members of the network. These terms might provide a new nomenclature for the network.

Barbara also informed the SC that Etienne Bourgeois was keen to again become an active member in this network, possibly as co-convenor as previously was the case.

A meeting of this network is envisaged in November or December 2005. Barry requested information on possible locations outside of the United Kingdom in order to avoid the over-emphasis in the work of the network by policy issues and assumptions in the UK.

5i: new ESREA networks:

Antonio Fragoso presented a proposal for a new ESREA research network with reference to adult learning and local/regional development. Barry asked for clarification on the relationship between this proposal and the already existing non-ESREA network on Popular Education. Antonio informed the SC that the proposed new network would focus on the contribution of neighbourhood and community initiatives to local and regional regeneration and development. Barry reminded the SC that this was a positive initiative which would develop earlier ESREA involvement in an ESREA network on social mobilization and social movements. There was enthusiasm and general support for the proposal. Antonio was invited to develop the proposal and to make further suggestions for the key themes and title of the network.

6. Evaluation ESREA 2004 Conference in Wroclaw

Here follows a summary of the main points made by Ewa Kurantowicz in her report and other SC members:

- The conference was successful;
- the 125 participants constituted a broadly-based representation of European countries;
- there was a balanced budget including a surplus to finance the printing costs of the volume of selected and edited papers;
- 81 papers were presented at the conference;
- the papers will be published in June 2005 in Wroclaw;

The steering committee contributed to the evaluation with a number of comments:

- (Antonio) discussant system for papers in parallel sessions was effective;
- (Rudi) would like the papers and proceedings available on the web;
- (Antonio) would prefer to have chance to ask questions to plenary speakers;
- (Barry) would prefer more forum responses to plenary speakers
- (Michal) noted a problem of hierarchies within the conference.

7. ESREA 2007

Barry reported that Riga, Thessaloniki and Mugla had indicated interest in the organization of the ESREA European conference in 2007.

Henning indicated that Roskilde was also a potential candidate.

It was agreed that ESREA Secretariat would conduct further exploratory negotiations with Riga and Thessaloniki.

(Mugla has since withdrawn).

8. Finances

The financial report for 2004 and the financial projection for 2005 were approved.

The ESREA Secretariat pointed to the need for much stricter control of payment of membership fees.

Following the experiment with e-mail calls for payment the response has been significantly lower.

Written invoices distributed by normal mail will be reintroduced in 2005.

Points raised by SC members:

- (Linden) whether interest is earned on the balance in the ESREA account. Secretary replied that this was not the case with current accounts in The Netherlands;
- (Linden) more information needed about how to become a members and payment of membership fees. Secretariat indicated that an application form is available on the Website but that information about payment of membership fees needs to be added to the website;
- (Risto) need to consider other methods of raising funds to finance ESREA activities;
- (Linden) proposed that bursaries for Ph.D students should be structural rather than discretionary. Should be a fixed amount per annum. €2,500 was proposed. Secretariat indicated the need to examine this commitment in comparison with previous decisions about this and other financial commitments;
- (Linden) investment of balance in ESREA account for structural activities.

8. Status ESREA in EU programmes

Michal requested more clear information about the status of ESREA in the context of EU programmes such as Socrates (Grundtvig), etc. He reported a negative experience in Sweden.

The Secretariat indicated that ESREA does not have NGO-status as an international organization and that this is a very time-consuming and long procedure. ESREA is subjected to Dutch law and can participate in EU programmes as a Dutch university-based organization.

It is possible to submit a Grundtvig project with ESREA as one of the partners but with a Dutch institutional code.

9. ESREA series of publications with Peter Lang Verlag

Barry reported that the ESREA series contract with Peter Lang Verlag had been recently signed with Lang by Henning Olesen, Rudi Tippelt and himself as the series editors. Contracts with Peter Lang Verlag for each volume will be signed by the volume editors.

The ESREA SC, acting in conjunction with the series editors, will be responsible for the volumes to be included in the ESREA series.

Barry reminded the SC that all agreements and financial arrangements for the series will be dealt by the ESREA secretariat directly with Peter Lang Verlag. Editors of volumes are responsible for editorial work alone and any problems with regard to the series should be referred to the ESREA Secretariat.

With regard to the additional costs involved in the production of the first volume on Active Democratic Citizenship, it was agreed to accept the solution offered by Danny Wildemeersch and Michal Bron, which implies that ESREA pays the normally anticipated subsidy for the publication and Wildemeersch/Bron will finance the rest of the additional costs.

The following publication plan was preliminarily agreed:

- 2005 Active Citizenship
- 2005 Biography
- 2006 Working-life
- 2006 Access

A detailed proposal for the publication on Access should be presented at the next steering committee meeting

10. Location next meeting

Rudi invited the ESREA SC to meet in Munich at the end of October. The weekend 29-30 October was provisionally agreed. [Dates and times to be confirmed later by the Secretariat]

11. Closure