



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

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Dear ESREA Members and Associates,

Quite a lot has happened since the last newsletter. Not only the ESREA General Assembly and another Presidium meeting have taken place, but also several ESREA networking events. This newsletter will provide you with more information about these events. Among other things, this time there is a detailed report by Larissa Jögi on the first joint conference of the ELOA and RENADET networks last November in Tallin. Also, in the meantime, two interesting new issues of RELA have been published and are well worth a read. Have a look.

But it's not just about looking back. Major events cast their shadows long in advance, in this case the ESREA Triennial Conference of which the key dates have now been fixed: the next Triennial will take place from 24-27 September 2025 in Prague and will be hosted by Charles University. Save this date in your diary!

Finally, ESREA is strongly expanding its collaborative relationships with other partners in the field of adult education. Various activities have already been organised together with EAEA and DVV International to implement the Memoranda of Understanding signed last year. You can find more details on this and much more in this newsletter. I wish you all a good read!

Yours,
Susanne Lattke
ESREA Secretary

News from Presidium and Secretariat

The **Presidium** held an **online meeting** on 6 February, to discuss strategic and management issues of the society. Areas of in-depth discussion included in particular cooperation links with other associations, and issues of communication, both internal and external, including the use of social media.

On 2 February, members from the Presidium organised an **online-meeting with the network convenors** to share experiences and discuss current issues. One topic of concern was the underuse of bursaries which has been noted in the last year. As the fostering of early career researchers is a core element of ESREA's mission, this issue will require more attention in the future. All organisers of ESREA network events are therefore encouraged to inform their participants even more proactively about the scholarship offers in future. However, convenors also noted that many PhD students can benefit from institutional support and are therefore not necessarily dependent on ESREA conference scholarships. In any case, it seemed necessary to convenors to intensify direct contact with the younger generation of PhD students in order to learn more their actual needs and preferences.

All these issues will be treated in greater depth at the **next presidium meeting** which will take place as a face to face meeting **on 2/3 May in Linköping**, hosted by the University of Linköping.

And there was this too ...

The **ESREA General Assembly 2023** was held on 22 November 2023 as a hybrid event in Bonn and online. It was attended by 14 participants. Members accepted the ESREA Management Report and the Auditor's Report for 2023. The ESREA board was discharged. The members formally decided that future General Assemblies may take place as full online events to facilitate participation.

All ESREA members are requested to pay their **annual membership fee** at the beginning of the year. A reminder to pay membership fees was sent out in January. Special invoices are issued upon request by the secretariat. If you need such an invoice, please contact the secretariat at: esrea_sec@die-bonn.de.

People in ESREA

New convenors in the PSAE network

The ESREA-Network on Policy Studies in Adult Education (PSAE) has two new convenors. For different reasons, John Holford and Pepka Boyadjieva had wished to step down from this position. As of 1 December 2023, they have been replaced by Borut Mikulec from the university of Ljubljana (Slovenia), and Margherita Bussi from the Université Catholique de Louvain (Belgium).



We would like to thank Pepka and John for their services and wish Margheritha and Borut every success in their work!

Mourning the loss of Srabani Maitra



It was with great dismay that we learnt of the death of Srabani Maitra, Convenor of the Migration, Transnationalism and Racisms Network, who passed away on December, 10th. Srabani was supposed to take a leading role in an online-discussion event on adult learning and migration planned for 7 December. This should have been the first joint event co-organised by EAEA and ESREA, resulting from the new cooperation between the two associations. Her illness prevented Srabani from taking part. We feel her untimely death as a painful loss and will always honour Srabani's memory. Our thoughts are with Srabani's family, friends, and colleagues!

ESREA partnerships: Enhancing links and dialogue between research and practice

Various activities have taken place as a follow-up to the the two Memoranda of Understanding, signed with DVV International and the and the **European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA)**. An article on this new cooperation agreement has been published by EAEA at <https://eaea.org/2023/11/27/connecting-research-policy-and-practice-a-new-collaboration-brings-eaea-and-esrea-closer-together/>

With **DVV International**, ESREA is currently setting up a broader framework for cooperation. Research topics that are of interest to DVV International include in particular, though not exclusively, Community Education, and Recognition, Validation and Accreditation. To encourage cooperation on these topics, a call was circulated to ESREA associates in January, inviting them to express their interest in cooperation if they would like to share existing research with DVV International partners and offices, and/or if they are interested in conducting research in the partner countries of DVV International all over the world. The feedback received is currently being analysed and followe-up.

On 15 February, a webinar was organised for university partners in project countries of DVV International. The webinar which was attended by some 40 participants included a general introduction to ESREA and its work by Chair Marcella Milana as well as a discussion session on research topics of interest to the participants.

New Projects of ESREA Members

Horizon project on Lifelong learning, skills strategies and skills mismatch (Skills2Capabilities)



Members of ESREA Pepka Boyadjieva and Petya Ilieva-Trichkova (as a leader of the Bulgarian team) have started work on a new project on lifelong learning, skills strategies and skills mismatch. Skills2Capabilities (2023-2025) is a multi-national collaborative project funded by the Horizon Europe programme for research and innovation (Grant agreement № 101094758) and coordinated by Professor Jörg Markowitsch, 3s Research & Consulting, Vienna, Austria. The nine

partners' organisations, including six universities, two public and one private research organization, encompass a geographically and institutionally well-balanced variety of organisations that are well-anchored and experienced in research on skills mismatch. The consortium includes researchers from a variety of different traditions and disciplines and is equipped for pushing the boundaries of scientific know-how on skills mismatch while simultaneously leveraging these insights for policy-makers and practitioners.

The ambition of project is to enable policymakers to better understand, measure and reduce skills mismatches thereby supporting the diffusion and adoption of innovation, the digital and green transitions, inclusive economic growth as well as individual well-being. By looking at skills supply, demand and mismatch in differing labour market regimes it is possible to assess the extent to which systems which are more oriented towards developing individuals' capabilities are better able to satisfy the skill needs of economy and society. The project will also explore the extent to which skills mismatch is associated with individual well-being and how the relationship between skills mismatch and individual subjective well-being is embedded in different socio-economic contexts. Academically, the study will make a significant contribution by producing empirical and practical knowledge of comparative, quantitative and qualitative nature. This will enrich the current scientific debate in the field. It will do so by innovating, testing and enriching classical theories on human capital and capabilities and by providing new empirical research on how skills supply can better meet skills demand by avoiding the pitfalls of purely demand or supply led skills systems.

More information about the project at <https://www.skills2capabilities.eu/>

News from the EU

Shortly before Christmas, the European research ministers reached a political agreement on the **joint recommendations for improving research careers**.

The recommendation is primarily aimed at retaining talented researchers in the EU and at the same time positioning Europe as an attractive centre for global research talent. It differentiates the concept of researcher and enables the diversity of research professions in Europe to be adequately taken into account. Specifically, the recommendation aims to:

- 1) improve the working conditions of researchers to counter precarious employment and ensure a good work-life balance;
- 2) promote comprehensive social protection measures, especially for researchers at the beginning of their careers;
- 3) promote interdisciplinary careers, entrepreneurship and innovation, recognising the importance of different career paths; and
- 4) reduce persistent inequalities in research careers and market challenges.

The recommendations can be accessed at:

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CONSIL:ST_15135_2023_REV_1&qid=1707920243841

The **European Charter for Researchers** from 2005 was also updated in 2023. All organisations that employ researchers or provide funding for researchers are encouraged to sign up to the new European Charter for Researchers. The new Charter now contains four pillars and 20 key principles (including gender equality, ethics and research integrity, open science, diversity, research assessment).

The European Charter for Researchers can be accessed at: <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/charter/european-charter>

In addition, the recently developed **European Competence Framework for Researchers (ResearchComp)** is intended to help researchers specifically to assess and develop their overarching skills. It also aims to support higher education institutions and training providers in adapting their offer to researchers and employers so that they can become aware of the broad range of competences of researchers.

https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/jobs-research/researchcomp-european-competence-framework-researchers_en

Awards and Honours

Great honour for PSAE-Convenor Pepka Boyadjieva

In November 2023, Pepka Boyadjieva, Professor at Institute for the Study of Societies and Knowledge, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Co-Convenor of the ESREA Network on "Policy studies in Adult Education", has been awarded the "Marin Drinov" badge of honor on a ribbon, the highest distinction of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, in recognition of her outstanding achievements in the field of sociology of education. It is anything but commonplace for a scientist from the field of adult education to receive such a prestigious national honour - we are all the more delighted for Pepka and congratulate her warmly on this great success!

Info: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/petya-ilieva-trichkova-6a940b3b_huge-congratulations-to-professor-pepka-boyadjieva-activity-7125799170786873345-1SOx?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_android

International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame - Call for nominations

The International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame recognizes individuals who have significantly contributed to the field. Nominations are open to all, with members and non-members eligible to nominate candidates. The eligibility criteria emphasize eminence in the profession, honor or distinction, and contributions to the heritage of adult and continuing education. The 2024 Induction will take place in November 2024, in Florence, Italy. Nominators are encouraged to attend the ceremony or arrange for a representative to introduce the nominee. Nominations should include a thorough narrative addressing specific evaluation factors, such as contributions to the field, notable achievements, and impact on a national or international scale. Supporting documentation, such as resumes or curriculum vitae, should be included at the end of the Nomination Form. For electronic submissions, these documents can be inserted directly into the email or provided as separate files. In the case of hard copy submissions, the documents should be attached to the Nomination Form.

Nominations should be emailed until **1 May 2024** to Shannon Johansen at ShannonJohansen@ou.edu. For inquiries, contact Shannon Johansen at **405-325-6362** or fax documents to **405-325-7196**. The Nomination Form can be found at: <https://halloffame.outreach.ou.edu/>

EAEA Grundtvig Award 2024

Every year, the European Association for the Education of Adults seeks out adult education projects that stand out for their innovation and excellence. In 2024, EAEA is looking for adult education projects that foster "transforming lives, communities and society". Deadline for submissions is 31 March

More Information at <https://eaea.org/eaea-grundtvig-award-2024/>

Recent ESREA Network Events

Working Life and Learning: Network Conference at Medway Campus, UK, November 2023

The network has been involved in two online conferences in the past but has now had their first face to face conference in November 2023, at the Medway Campus in England, in partnership with the University of Kent Business School and the Emerald Insight journal Work-Applied Management. Numbers could have been better but the quality of the content, discussions and presentations throughout the weekend was of a very high quality with attendees rating the weekend overall 5/5. The weekend consisted of keynote speakers, research paper presentations, panels, round tables and debates. Delegates were from all over the world including India, the US, France and Cyprus. Delegates represented universities, industry, academics and students. It had been a rich learning community focused on the theme: co-creating towards new solutions.



Our membership on our LinkedIn group continues to grow and photos of the events are on the group page. As a
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network, maintaining the continuity, we are excited for the next conference which we plan to host in 2025 in Rennes in partnership with one of the other ESREA networks - watch this space.

Dr. Trevor Gerhardt, network convenor

Conference Page: <https://www.kent.ac.uk/global-lifelong-learning/apprenticeships/higher-and-degree-apprenticeship-conference-2023>

ReNADET & ELOA: First Joint Network Conference, Tallin, Estonia, November 2023

Educating and Learning across the Lifespan. Adult Educators and Older Learners Perspectives - Conference Report



The first joint conference of the ESREA two networks *Research Network for Adult Educators, Trainers and their Professionalisation* (ReNADET) and *Network on Education and Learning of Older Adults* (ELOA), was held in Tallinn, at Tallinn University on 8-10 November 2024.

The main theme of the conference was **“Educating and learning across the lifespan – adult educators and older learners perspectives. Theory, research, practice, and policy”**. This first joint conference aimed to explore, reflect and discuss current issues and questions, perspectives, and possibilities related to the conference main theme in relation to research, policy, and professional practice. In line with the principles of networking, we invited to the conference scholars, research fellows, Ph.D. and postdoc students, experts, and practitioners from the field of adult education and learning and training to discuss different topics of the main theme in an interactive and dialogical format. The conference started with welcoming words from Dr. Tiia Õun, Head of School of Educational Sciences, Tallinn University; Renno Veinthal, Deputy Secretary General, Estonian Ministry of Education and Research; Dr. George Zarifis from ReNADET network and Dr. Bernhard Schmidt-Hertha, from ELOA network and organisers Dr. Larissa Jõgi (ReNADET), Dr. Tiina Tambaum (ELOA).



Lifelong learning is an opportunity for adult educators and all adults to continue learning throughout their lives. One of the main theme of the conference was *learning across the lifecycle*. The focus of the conference was, among other topics, on older learners and the

relationship between adult educators and adult learners, as well as on learner’s well-being and learning support.

During the sessions and creative work-shops the participant discussed how lifelong learning, learning and teaching are understood in research, adult education policy and teaching practice contexts. In addition, the questions of how the adult education and learning fields have been affected by the crises and what support adult educators and adult learners most need were discussed.



The conference brought together academics, researchers and doctoral students from 24 European universities and from 17 countries: Canada and Czechia, Cyprus and Greece, Germany and Hungary, Estonia and Italy, Israel and Lithuania, Norway and Portugal, Sweden and Finland, France, Slovenia and the United Kingdom.



During the three plenary sessions, 11 sessions with presentations and four creative workshops we had 25 presenters and 3 key speakers: *Dr Elen Lotman*, Cinematographer and director, President of the Estonian Society of Cinematographers, Ass. Professor of Baltic Film and Media



School, Tallinn University; *Dr. Halliki Põlda*, Ass. Professor on Lifelong Learning, School of Educational Sciences, Tallinn University and *Hany Hachem*, School of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences, Örebro University, Sweden. The sessions were moderated by 12 moderators: *Maria N. Gravani and Bernhard Schmidt-Hertha*; *Larissa Jõgi and Tiina Tambaum*; *Andrea Annus and Ana Huembes*; *Małgosia Malec Rawinski and Jane Watts*; *Olga Lupanova and António Frago*; *Mareike Kholin and Balázs Németh*.



Pärna (Conference center, Tallinn



Museum and The Self-Help and Advisory Association for Senior Citizens.

We had experiencing local organising team with 15 members and representatives from several partner organisations: *Larissa Jõgi and Katrin Karu* (School of Educational Sciences); *Tiina Tambaum and Olga Lupanova* (School of Governance, Law and Society); *Sirli Tanilo and Sirli Peda*, *Lydia Kurus*, *Sten Väin and Helen University*); EPALE Estonia, Estonian Open Air

Finally, thank you for the kind support colleagues from the scientific committee: Prof. Bernhard Schmidt-Hertha, ELOA; Prof. George Zarifis, ReNADET; Graça Santos, ELOA; Maria N. Gravani, ReNADET; Sofia Bergano ELOA and Susanne Lattke, ReNADET



We would like to thank all 64 participants and 12 moderators for their impressive and inspiring talks, presentations, discussions, inputs and facilitations! Thank you all for the inspiration, content rich and inspiring discussions during the conference!



Conference page: <https://konverentsikeskus.tlu.ee/en/eill2023>. More photos can be found [here](#).

On behalf of the organisers,
Larissa Jõgi, School of Educational Sciences, Tallinn University, Convenor, ReNADET

Save the Date: Forthcoming Events

ESREA Network Events

January, 2024 – June 2024

Network S.T.R.E.A.M: Research Symposium Series

Title: Spaces and Times of Transitions. Recalibrating the Multiple Scales of Change in Adult Education.

Place: Online

Information and Registration: [ESREA STREAM - Research Symposium Series 2024 \(sunkhronos.org\)](https://sunkhronos.org)

June, 6 – June, 9, 2024

Network Life History and Biography: Network Conference

Title: Telling human stories from the borderlands: adult learning in a natural and artificial world.

Place: Newcastle, United Kingdom

[Information and Call for Papers](#)

October 24-26, 2024

Network Active Democratic Citizenship and Adult Learning (ADCAL): Conference

Title: Thinking against the grain: Critical Pedagogy, Popular Education and Revolution.

Place: Faro, Portugal

[Call for Papers](#)

ESREA Triennial 2025

Date: 24-27 September 2025

Place: Prague, Czech Republic.

More information and Call to follow.

Opportunities for students and early career researchers

***Postponed:* ESREA Doctoral School in Klagenfurt 2024**

The second Second Klagenfurt Research Retreat (KRR) planned for May 2024 unfortunately had to be cancelled. It will be postponed to 2025. The date is yet to be announced.

IPEP Summer School, Aalborg, August 18-23, 2024

Title: VI International Perspectives on Education Policy (IPEP) Summer School

Place: Aalborg University, Denmark

The IPEP Summer School will consider theories and methods relevant across the field of educational policy research. It is designed for PhD students, but also relevant to postdoctoral fellows and researchers of policy in all areas of education.

More information and application: <https://www.kultur.aau.dk/vi-international-perspectives-on-education-policy-ipep-summer-school-august-18-23-2024-aalborg-university-denmark-e99906>

Keep checking <http://esrea.org/activities/conferences-seminars/> for updates on ESRA events.

International events by ESREA members

Feb. – April 2024

Temporalities, Rhythms & Complexity Lab - Research Symposium Series 2024,

Title: “Exploring Rhythmanalysis as a Method”.

Place: Online (Free registration)

Hosted by Dr. Michel Alhadeff-Jones, Dr. Fadia Dakka & Dr. Gaia Del Negro

Programme and registration: <https://www.sunkhronos.org/trc-rss-2024>

Publications

RELA Journal



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.

Recently published:

Vol. 14 No. 3 (2023). “Inclusion, adult education and Social Justice”

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3384/rela.2000-7426.2023143>

Vol. 15 No. 1 (2024): Reflecting back to the past, present and future: The changing nature of research on access, learning careers and identity

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3384/rela.2000-7426.2024151>

All RELA issues can be found at: <https://rela.ep.liu.se/>

RELA Calls for papers

Open papers may be submitted any time. See the call for open papers:

<https://journal.ep.liu.se/RELA/libraryFiles/downloadPublic/19>

Thematic papers: All upcoming calls will be made available at: <https://rela.ep.liu.se/cfp>

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 KoelnBonn

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 newsletters

Planned release dates in 2024:

end of June 2024

end of October 2024

end of February 2025

Contributions to newsletters are requested up to one month before publication.

Editorial Office

Susanne Lattke

esrea_sec@die-bonn.de

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

Heinemannstr. 12-14, 53175 Bonn, Germany

www.esrea.org

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

Vorstand i.S.v. § 26 BGB: Ass. Prof. Marcella Milana PhD, Ass. Prof. Finnegan Fergal, Susanne Lattke

Geschäftsführerin: Susanne Lattke

Schatzmeister: Prof. Dr. Steffi Robak

VAT Number: DE324070933

