



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

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Dear ESREA Members and Associates,

This edition of the newsletter is shaped by a moment of transition and renewal for ESREA. With the constitutive meeting of the newly elected Presidium held in Belgrade at the end of January the Presidium has formally begun its work for the coming three years. We look forward with confidence to this new phase, in which fresh perspectives and continuity will combine to move ESREA forward.

The choice of Belgrade as the meeting location was more than a practical one; it also carried symbolic weight. Many will recall the student protest movement that gained international attention following the tragic collapse of a station roof in Novi Sad in November 2024. While the protests have since become less visible in international news coverage, they have by no means disappeared. Students in Serbia continue to demonstrate with remarkable persistence against corruption and authoritarian tendencies, despite growing pressure, repression, and public discrediting by those in power.

In a global media landscape crowded with crises and troubling developments, it is perhaps unsurprising, but nonetheless regrettable, that these protests now receive little attention beyond the region. Against this backdrop, the Presidium's visit to Belgrade offered an important opportunity: to speak directly with student representatives, to gain first-hand insights into the current situation, and to express solidarity through presence and dialogue. For ESREA, whose work is rooted in critical adult education and democratic engagement, this encounter resonated deeply with the values we seek to uphold.

Alongside news from the presidium, this newsletter also includes a report on this year's Lake Como Doctoral School, prepared by Larissa Jögi and Maria N. Gravani—our sincere thanks to both for sharing their perspectives and experiences. As always, you will also find the regular updates on recent publications and upcoming events, highlighting the breadth and vitality of work across the ESREA network.

We wish you an enjoyable and stimulating read

Susanne

A New Presidium for ESREA!

We are delighted to announce the results of the ESREA Presidium elections for the term 2026–2028. The online ballot ran from 31 October 2025, 0:00 CET, to 3 November 2025, 2:30 CET, and we received 42 valid votes – a slight increase from the 39 ballots in 2022 – representing around a quarter of all paid-up ESREA members at that time. Our heartfelt thanks go to everyone who exercised their right to vote and contributed to this important process.

This year, 12 candidates stood for the 12 available Presidium positions, and we are pleased to report that all candidates were elected with strong support, receiving 70 percent or more of the votes. That is a truly powerful endorsement of their vision and dedication.

The new Presidium brings together a dynamic blend of experienced members and fresh voices:

- **Rosanna Barros**, Associate Professor, University of Algarve, Portugal
- **Maria Brown**, Senior Lecturer, University of Malta
- **Fergal Finnegan**, Senior Lecturer, Maynooth University, Ireland
- **Maria N. Gravani**, Associate Professor, Open University of Cyprus
- **Vilhelmiina Harju**, University Lecturer, University of Helsinki, Finland
- **Filiz Keser Aschenberger**, Associate Professor, University for Continuing Education Krems, Austria
- **Maria Kondratjuk**, Professor, Ludwigsburg University of Education, Germany
- **George A. Koulaouzides**, Associate Professor, Hellenic Open University, Greece
- **Katrin Kraus**, Professor, University of Zurich, Switzerland
- **Maja Maksimović**, Associate Professor, University of Belgrade, Serbia
- **Marcella Milana**, Associate Professor, University of Verona, Italy
- **Erik Nylander**, Senior Associate Professor, Linköping University, Sweden

Excitingly, more than half of the Presidium members are newcomers, bringing fresh energy and perspectives. At the same time, experienced members such as Rosanna, Fergal, Maria Gravani, Maja, and Marcella will be able to provide continuity and guidance. Geographically, the Presidium continues to represent a broad spectrum of European regions, reflecting the diversity and inclusivity that are central to ESREA's mission.

We warmly congratulate all elected members and look forward to a productive and inspiring term ahead!

General Assembly 2025

The 2025 ESREA Annual General Assembly took place online on 3 November 2025, with 17 members participating, representing around 10 percent of our paid-up membership. This level of participation is in line with previous years, keeping the General Assembly a small but meaningful forum for discussion and decision-making.

During the meeting, Secretary Susanne Lattke presented the Management Report, reviewing the Society's activities and financial situation from November 2024 to September 2025. The report showed that ESREA continues to maintain substantial reserves, although there was a slight decrease this year due to increased spending on scholarships and two BRILL book publications. All financial transactions were clearly documented and fully traceable.

Auditor Bernhard Schmidt-Hertha confirmed that the funds are well accounted for, the accounts and transactions are accurate, and all expenditures were in line with the Society's statutes. His report affirmed that ESREA remains financially sound while continuing to invest in key initiatives.

Following the presentation, the General Assembly unanimously discharged the Board, and the results of the Presidium elections were announced. There were no additional items requiring resolutions at this year's meeting.

Constitutive Presidium Meeting in Belgrade

The newly elected ESREA Presidium held its constitutive meeting on 29–30 January 2026 in Belgrade. It was the first opportunity for the new team to come together in person and begin shaping the work for the 2026–2028 term.

The new members were warmly welcomed, and time was devoted to getting to know one another and building a shared understanding of priorities and ways of working.

Substantively, the Presidium discussed upcoming tasks and distributed responsibilities among its members. Several small working groups were established, focusing on key areas such as outreach and visibility, cooperation with partner organizations, and support for early career researchers. Further topics for the new term include strengthening ESREA’s social media presence and continuing the development of an ESREA archive.

During the meeting, key leadership roles were also confirmed. Marcella Milana and Fergal Finnegan were re-elected as Chair and Vice-Chair with a clear vote of confidence. The ESREA Secretariat will continue to be hosted by German Institute for Adult Education (DIE) and led by Susanne Lattke. Following the decision of former Treasurer Steffi Robak not to stand again, Maria Kondratjuk was elected as her successor.

Beyond organizational matters, the meeting offered a powerful and memorable highlight. Members of the Presidium met with students from the University of Belgrade, who spoke about the ongoing student protest movement in Serbia. The visit included an exhibition created by the students themselves at the Faculty of Philosophy, documenting the protests and their motivations. For many participants, this encounter made recent social and political history tangible in a very immediate and moving way.

Our sincere thanks go to the colleagues in Belgrade for their generous hospitality and excellent organization, and to all Presidium members who are taking on responsibilities for the Society. We wish the new team every success for the coming term and look forward to working together in the years ahead.



Constitutive Meeting of the newly elected ESREA-Presidium in Belgrade.
(Picture provided by Rosanna Barros)

ESREA Events

REFLECTION ON THE WEEK AT LAKE COMO DOCTORAL SCHOOL, 1–5 September 2025

In early September, we had the pleasure of participating in the Doctoral School titled “Transitions in Aging: An interdisciplinary framework for research” held between 1-5 September in Lake Como School of Advanced Studies”. It was led by Professor Laura Formenti and hosted by the University of Milano-Bicocca in collaboration with Age-It (→ <https://ageit.eu/wp/>), ESREA (→ <https://esrea.org/>), LHBN, ELOA, ReNadeT Networks, the Italian University Network for Lifelong Learning (RUIAP, → <https://www.ruiap.it/>) and Foundation of Alessandro VOLTA.



The Doctoral school brought together students, early career and experienced researchers from different fields in an effort to develop new ideas about longevity as a feature of the contemporary society by mobilizing interdisciplinary dialogue. It was a truly relational, emotional and dialogical space; a setting where open discussion, creative reflection, and deep listening took place, shaped by the rich experience and interdisciplinary knowledge of all participants.



During the session “Education and Training”, we shared perspectives from various ESREA Research Networks, including insights from our network Adult Educators, Trainers and their Professional Development (→ <https://renadet.weebly.com/>) Together with doctoral students, we discussed a meaningful theme: what does it mean to belong to an academic network as a young researcher and what are the benefits of it? Our experience has underlined how collaboration among ESREA networks can be deeply enriching.



We have found the doctoral school as a valuable opportunity to strengthen connections and envision future cooperation across ESREA networks and different thematic areas. Such dialogical space amongst networks not only broadens perspectives but also strengthens ESREA's collective and academic capacity to support emerging researchers and to advance the research and field of adult education and lifelong learning in Europe and beyond.

We have greatly valued participation in the doctoral school and the opportunity to engage with participants and key presenters, to jointly reflect on the questions that guide their work and identities as scholars.



Laura Formenti's statement at the opening day of the Doctoral School: "We are shaping each other" captured the essence of the week at Lake Como school.

*Larissa Jögi and Maria N. Gravani,
Co-conveners of the ESREA network Adult Educators, Trainers and their Professional Development.*

© All photographs by the participants.

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. 17 No. 1 (2026): Adult learning in, and for, social change: Revolutionary transformations and everyday empowerment

→ <https://doi.org/10.3384/rela.2000-7426.2026171>

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

RELA Calls for papers

There are currently no thematic calls open. Open papers may be submitted any time, see the call:

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

Keep checking: All upcoming calls will be made available at → <https://rela.ep.liu.se/cfp>

Call for Co-Editor – Studies in the Education of Adults

*A new Co-Editor is being sought for the journal
Studies in the Education of Adults.*

*The appointed Co-Editor will join the editorial team and
collaborate with Sharon Clancy (University of Nottingham)
and George K. Zarifis (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki).*

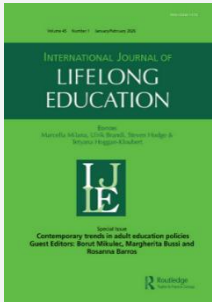


Colleagues who may be interested in the role can find full details here:

https://think.taylorandfrancis.com/editor_recruitment/co-editor-needed-for-studies-in-the-education-of-adults/

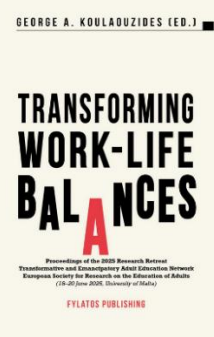
Publications from the Networks

Network “Policy Studies in Adult Education”



Mikulec, B., Bussi, M. & Barros, R. (Eds.) (2026).
Special Issue: Contemporary trends in adult education policies.
International Journal of Lifelong Learning, 45 (1).
→ DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/02601370.2026.2604979>

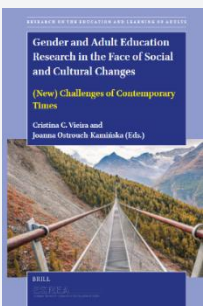
Network “Transformative and Emancipatory Adult Education (TEAE)”



Koulaouzides, G. (ed.) (2026). *Transforming Work-Life Balances*. *Proceedings of the 2025 Research Retreat Transformative and Emancipatory Adult Education Network European Society for Research on the Education of Adults (18–20 June 2025, University of Malta)*. Fylatos Publishing
Open Access.
Download → [https://fylatos-com.translate.goog/shop/transforming-work-life-balances/? x tr sl=el& x tr tl=en& x tr hl=el& x tr pto=wapp](https://fylatos-com.translate.goog/shop/transforming-work-life-balances/?x_tr_sl=el&x_tr_tl=en&x_tr_hl=el&x_tr_pto=wapp)

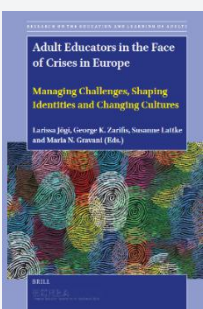
ESREA Book Series – Publications

Network “Gender and Adult Learning”



Vieira, C. C., & Ostrowska-Kamińska, J. (Eds.) (2026).
Gender and adult education research in the face of social and cultural changes. (New) Challenges of contemporary times. Brill.
Open Access.
Download → <https://brill.com/display/title/73504>

Network “Adult Educators, Trainers and their Professional Development” (ReNADET)



Jögi, L., Zarifis, G. K., Lattke, S. & Gravani, M. N. (Eds.) (2026).
Adult Educators in the Face of Crisis in Europe: Managing Challenges, Shaping Identities and Changing Cultures. Brill
Open Access.
Download → <https://brill.com/display/title/73441>

Forthcoming Events

ESREA Network Events

22–24 April 2026

Joint-Conference of the ESREA Networks Education and Learning of Older Adults (ELOA), Life History and Biography, and Adult Educators, Trainers and their Professional Development (ReNAdET)

Title: “Research Diversity in an Ageing Society”

Venue: Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius, Lithuania

→ [Conference website](#)

13–15 May 2026

Conference of the ESREA Network on Policy Studies in Adult Education (PSAE)

Title: “Adult Learning and Education. Widening the Scope for Action”

Venue: University of Hamburg, Germany

→ [Conference website](#)

23–24 September 2026

Conference of the ESREA Network on Active Democratic Citizenship and Adult Learning (ADCAL)

Title: “Learning and practicing active democratic citizenship in the struggle against growing authoritarianism”

Venue: University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

→ [Call for Papers](#) (Deadline for abstract submission: 3 April)

SAVE THE DATE: 14–16 October 2026

Conference of the ESREA Network on Gender and Adult Learning

Title: “Gender and Adult Learning for Democracy, Inclusion and Citizenship”

Venue: University of Huelva, Spain

SAVE THE DATE: 18–20 November 2026

Conference of the ESREA Network on Access, Learning Careers and Identities

Title: “Adult Learning: Future possibilities and spaces for changing identities and transformations”

Venue: University of Linköping, Sweden

Keep checking for updates on ESREA Network events → <https://esrea.org/activities/conferences-seminars/>

ESREA Seasonal Schools

14–18 September 2026

The Klagenfurt Research Retreat (KRR)

Title: “Research on Adult Education and Transformation – Mapping Possibilities and Embracing Complexity.”

Venue: University of Klagenfurt, Austria

Call for Applications: → <https://esrea.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Call-for-applications-KRR-2026.pdf> – application deadline: 18 March 2026

Conference website: → <https://conference3.aau.at/event/241/>

Keep checking for updates on ESREA Seasonal Schools → <https://esrea.org/activities/seasonal-schools/>

How to become a member of ESREA

Membership in ESREA is open to both individual and institutional members. All members get a reduced fee at ESREA activities, information in the field of research on the education of adults through the ESREA mailing list and newsletters. Individual members 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:

Please download the document at → <https://www.esrea.org/about-us/membership/>

Fill in the membership application form and e-mail it to: → esrea_sec@die-bonn.de

Within two weeks at the latest you will receive a confirmation of your membership by e-mail

An invoice for your membership fee will be issued: 50 EUR for individual members, 25 EUR for students and PhD students and 150 EUR 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:

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

About this Newsletter

The ESREA Newsletter is the association's newsletter for ESREA members, published three times a year – in February, June, and October – by the ESREA Secretariat.

It shares news and updates from the ESREA Board and Secretariat, from our networks, and from individual ESREA members – especially when their work has an international angle and might be of interest to others in the community.

We're always looking forward to receiving contributions from ESREA members! These can include (but aren't limited to):

- Events like conferences, doctoral schools, research retreats, or online symposia
- New publications such as edited volumes or special issues
- News about recently completed PhD theses
- Awards and recognition received by members
- Updates on ongoing or recently finished (international) projects

Contributions can be brief or more in-depth, and images are welcome too. We encourage both informative reports and more reflective pieces. Opinion articles on European developments in adult education (research) are also very welcome.

If you would like to contribute, please contact the ESREA Secretariat by e-mail: mailto:esrea_sec@die-bonn.de

Newsletter release schedule

Planned in 2026/2027:
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end of October 2026
end of February 2027

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VAT Number: DE324070933

