



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

In this newsletter

1. Dear ESREA Members and Associates
2. News from Presidium and Secretariat
3. People in ESREA
4. ESREA's partnerships: Enhancing links and dialogue between research and practice
5. ESREA Events
6. Developments in EU Research Policy
7. Save the Date: Forthcoming Events
8. Publications
9. How to become a member of ESREA
10. Forthcoming newsletters

Dear ESREA Members and Associates,

“Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall.” – F. Scott Fitzgerald

Indeed, the air is starting to cool, and I hope this motto perfectly reflects your current state of mind. For our American friends, life may truly feel like it's beginning anew after next week's presidential elections. How that will unfold remains to be seen, but let's hope for the best.

Less nerve-wracking, yet equally engaging, are the activities within our community. Just a few days ago, the ADCAL network held its conference on "Thinking Against the Grain: Critical Pedagogy, Popular Education, and Revolution." We will share insights from this event in our next newsletter. In this issue, you will find a brief article about the doctoral school for our young researchers that took place in Aalborg this August. Additionally, we have updates on upcoming events, new publications, and news from the presidium, from our partner organisations, and about EU research policies.

And last but not least: Don't forget the upcoming General Assembly. This year it will take place online on 25 November from 2-3 p.m. The invitations have already been sent out and all members are cordially invited to attend.

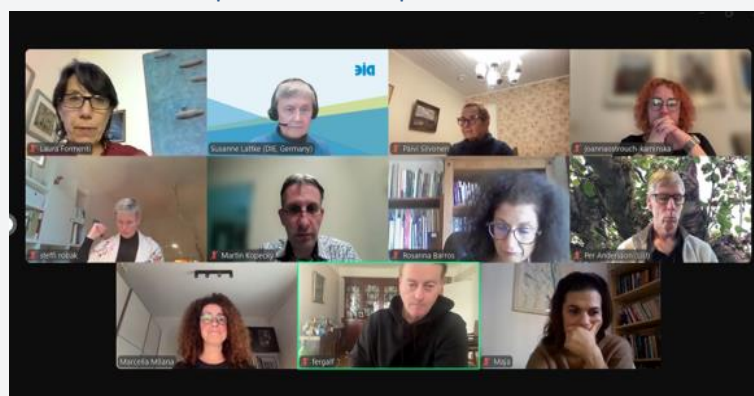
I wish you an enjoyable read

Susanne

News from Presidium and Secretariat

Presidium Meeting

On 21 October, the presidium held another online meeting, to discuss strategic and management issues of the society. Preparations for the Triennial 2025 were again one focus of discussion. Furthermore, a revival of ESREA's social media activities and the possible development of an ESREA archive were discussed. We hope to report more on these in later



newsletters. Regarding the management of the association, an updated version of the guidelines for network convenors was adopted and a decision was taken to terminate the membership of members who are several years in arrears with their membership fee payments.

The next Presidium meeting will be held again online on 4 Februar 2025.

People in ESREA

Maja Maksimovic joins RELA Editorial Group



Maja Maksimovic, Convenor of the Network on Active Democratic Citizenship and Adult Learning (ADCAL) and member of the ESREA Presidium, has been appointed as co-editor of the RELA Journal. She succeeds Danny Wildemeersch and Henning Salling Olesen, who decided last year to withdraw from the editorial team and to serve as consulting editors of RELA only.

We would like to thank Danny and Henning for their many years of service and wish the new editor every success in her new role.

ESREA partnerships: Enhancing links and dialogue between research and practice

Online Exchange Meeting between ESREA and DVVI

On 3 September 11 June 2024, ESREA and DVV International held a first online meeting as a new format of exchange between the two organisations - ESREA as a research network and DVVI as an agency working on adult education and development. The meeting was attended by 12 representatives and members of ESREA and five representatives from DVV International. Two topics of mutual interest had been selected as the thematic focus of the meeting, namely: Recognition of Prior Learning, and Community Learning and Community Learning Centres. After an initial presentation of the DVVI activities in these two areas, the participants discussed possible options for co-operation.



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While DVVI does not fund research per se, the organisation does have a budget within its projects for inviting experts or commissioning studies, e.g. evaluation studies. Thus, interesting opportunities for cooperation may arise where ESREA members' research interests and DVVI's project interests coincide. It was agreed by both parties to repeat the online exchange format in 2025. In addition, information about current activities and events will be regularly shared in both networks, ESREA and DVVI representatives will be mutually invited to relevant events of their organisations, and where appropriate, joint workshops or other formats may be implemented at major events of either organisation.

Information on DVVI: <https://www.dvv-international.de/en/>

ESREA members interested in cooperation are welcome to contact the ESREA secretariat at esrea-sec@die-bonn.de.

ESREA and EPALE

The central support service of the Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe (EPALE) which is funded by the Europäische Union has approached the ESREA board in summer regarding potential collaboration. While ESREA as an organisation does not wish to enter into contracts with the EU in order to maintain its independence, ESREA encourages and supports its members to participate in EU activities relevant to them. EPALE has therefore approached various ESREA members individually on specific topics.



One activity that emerged from these contacts is a keynote delivered on 16 October by Michel Alhadeff-Jones, co-convenor of the ESREA-Network “Spaces, Times, and the Rhythms of the Education of Adults and its Movements (STREAM)” on occasion of the EPALE Community Conference 2024 - FORWARD. Adult Learning: Igniting Change, Shaping Tomorrow.

The video recording of Michel’s keynote, entitled “It’s all about time”. can be viewed at <https://epale.ec.europa.eu/en/blog/michel-alhadeff-jones-2024-epale-community-conference>.

Link to the conference page: <https://epale.ec.europa.eu/en/blog/epale-community-conference-2024-forward-adult-learning-igniting-change-shaping-tomorrow>

ESREA and ELM

The Online Journal [ELM \(European Lifelong Learning Magazine\)](https://elmmagazine.eu) is inviting ESREA researchers to contribute to its column “I argue”. ELM is a forum for knowledge transfer between research and practice. The new series of columns, “I argue,” features understandable and easily accessible texts of max. 600 words, written by researchers, each presenting a well-argued statement on their research topic.

An example of this colum can be found here: <https://elmmagazine.eu/i-argue-visuals-play-a-crucial-role-in-digital-learning/>.

ELM's current focus topic until the end of December is ‘Policy and Practice’. The ELM editors welcome contributions from ESREA researchers on this topic, but also on any other relevant topic. If you are interested, get in touch!



Contact: Katriina Palo-Närhinen, editor-in-chief, (katriina.palo-narhinen@kvs.fi).

ESREA Events

IPEP Summer School in Aalborg 2024

The IPEP (International Perspectives on Education Policy) Summer School was held in Aalborg on August 18-23, 2024. Attracting participants from more than ten nations the summer school was indeed an international event and went on very successful. ESREA supported this by providing four scholarships for students from abroad.



In continuity with past years' seasonal schools (in Verona and Aalborg), the IPEP 2024 provided the participants with an opportunity to learn about and discuss educational policy and urgent education issues. In addition to the local organizers, professors from Aalborg University, we had professors from the University of Aarhus, Glasgow, and Verona giving lectures. Midweek the students visited the University College of Northern Jutland to do a field study here. The fieldwork was focused on the recent reform of the teacher training programme in Denmark, and based on this the students presented their analyses on the last day of the summer school.

Thus, the IPEP Summer School has given participants a unique opportunity to experience and collaborate on policy ethnographic fieldwork from an international perspective. The photos separately show some sequences from the student presentations. The third photo shows the group of students and the two coordinators, Marcella Milana to the far left and Annette Rasmussen to the far right.



Annette Rasmussen, Aalborg University

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

Developments in EU Research Policy

Report on the Future of EU Competitiveness

In September, the European Commission presented a new report on the future of EU competitiveness, authored by Mario Draghi. Developed in consultation with key stakeholders, the report focuses on challenges and opportunities in research and innovation (R&I), targeting policymakers, researchers, and industry leaders.

It highlights barriers to innovation, such as regulatory hurdles and limited commercialization of research, particularly in high-tech fields. Key recommendations include simplifying regulations, increasing R&I investment, and better translating research into marketable innovations.

The report calls for reforms in the next EU framework program (FP10), including a focus on fewer priorities, more funding for breakthrough innovations, and transforming the European Innovation Council into an "ARPA-like agency." It also advocates for doubling the FP10 and European Research Council budgets, and launching a new "ERC for Institutions" program to attract top talent.

The report has already influenced the political priorities of the incoming Commission (2024-2029), particularly the planned Clean Industrial Deal.



https://commission.europa.eu/topics/strengthening-european-competitiveness/eu-competitiveness-looking-ahead_en

Report on the Future Role of Open Research Europe

The Directorate-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission has released a report titled "Open Research Europe: Towards a Collective Open Access Publishing Service."

Open Research Europe (ORE) was launched in 2021 as a platform for EU-funded researchers to publish their project results—such as publications, data, and software—free of charge, meeting EU Open Access requirements.

Currently, ORE is operated under a contract with F1000 Research (until 2026), in collaboration with LIBER, the Global Young Academy, and Eurodoc. The report suggests expanding ORE to serve all publicly funded research in Europe, with future management by various research funding bodies on a non-profit basis.



<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/3603e219-6a65-11ef-a8ba-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

Evaluation Report on Horizon Programme

In October, the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation has published an evaluation study on excellent science in Horizon Europe.

The study found, among other things, that:

- Horizon Europe has a positive impact on career prospects, skills development, mobility, recruitment processes and working conditions.
- The involvement of industry remains difficult, but the share of private for-profit entities in the excellence pillar is increasing.
- The success rate of applications has increased compared to the predecessor programme Horizon 2020.
- The EU has the second-highest share of scientific output worldwide, after China. 85% of scientific publications are freely accessible.
- Participation by countries whose R&I performance is below the EU average has increased slightly (widening participation).

- The programme as a whole has become more complex. Applications and project management often involve a considerable administrative burden.



<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/ff876e19-85f2-11ef-a67d-01aa75ed71a1/language-en%20>

Save the Date: Forthcoming Events

ESREA General Assembly 2024

November 25, 2024, 2-3 pm CET

The General Assembly will be held online.

Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84546773374?pwd=vJF8lBgNBWJD1teGIZQBf8NsVmV9br.1>

All ESREA members are warmly invited to attend.

ESREA Network Events

January 15-17, 2025

Network Education and Learning of Older Adults (ELOA): 14th Conference

Title: Learning and aging in organizations: transformation and transitions

Place: University of Upper Alsace, France

[Call for Papers](#)

March 4-7, 2025

Network Life History and Biography (LHB): Research Retreat

Title: Participation, beauty, and meaning. A research retreat on the past, present and future of biographical inquiry

Place: Costa Rainera, Italy

[Call for Papers](#)

March 27-29, 2025

Network Access, Learning Careers and Identities AND Network Working Life and Learning: Joint Network Conference

Title: Learning careers, higher education and workplaces: Supporting transitions in times of complexity.

Place: University Rennes 2, France

[Call for Papers](#)

May 22-23, 2025

Network Migration, Transnationalism and Racisms: 6th Conference

Title: Migration and Anti-Democratic Challenges Today

Place: University of Graz, Austria

[Call for Papers](#)

ESREA Triennial 2025

24-27 September 2025

Title: Dialogue in and through adult education and learning

Date: 24-27 September 2025

Place: Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic.

[Second Call for Papers](#)

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.15 No. 3 (2024): Special Issue on “Sustainability: Place, space and pedagogy in adult learning and education”

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3384/rela.2000-7426.2024153>

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

RELA Calls for papers

Thematic Issue “Quality as a contested terrain in the education and learning of adults”

Extended Submission Deadline: November 30, 2024

See the call [here](#).

Open papers may be submitted any time.

See the call for open papers: <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>

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 2025:

end of February 2025

end of June 2025

end of October 2025

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

Editorial Office

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