



**International Research Networks (IRNs)  
WORLD EDUCATION RESEARCH ASSOCIATION  
Call for WERA-IRN Proposals, 2016**

Deadline for Submission:  
20 October 2016

**OBJECTIVE OF WERA-IRN**

The World Education Research Association (WERA) invites proposals to establish International Research Networks (IRNs). The purpose of WERA-IRNs is to advance education research worldwide on specific scholarly topics. IRNs are collaborative groups of scholars working on a specific research topic primarily through virtual communication or other channels. IRNs synthesize knowledge, examine the state of research, and stimulate collaborations or otherwise identify promising directions in research areas of worldwide significance.

IRNs are required to produce a substantive report that sets forth the state of knowledge worldwide and promising research directions on the topic of the IRN. All IRNs are expected to prepare such a research synthesis report during the initial phase of their work. Other research activities or initiatives may vary. Also, WERA-IRNs are expected to present their work at WERA symposia or keynote sessions or to meet at a WERA Focal Meeting held in cooperation with a WERA member association.

**KEY FEATURES OF IRNS**

All IRNs advance their research areas of interest through producing a major report on the state of the knowledge and promising research directions. They additionally may pursue other activities and initiatives that contribute to the development of new knowledge, findings, or data that chart directions for future research worldwide. All IRNs include participants (i) from different countries and parts of the world to engender worldwide collaboration, and (ii) students and junior scholars to promote capacity building.

All IRNs have a commitment to wide communication and dissemination beyond any one country or region. IRNs are expected to use WERA dissemination platforms, including the WERA website and WERA Focal Meetings (assuming favorable peer review). It is expected that IRN synthesis reports will be submitted for possible publication in the WERA *Yearbook* and that IRNs will pursue additional forms of dissemination.

## OVERVIEW OF WERA-IRN PROPOSALS

Proposals to establish International Research Networks may be submitted by scholars interested in the formation of a new research group or by scholars from an existing group. Proposals should set forth the following:

- 1. Research Topic and Plan:** Specify the education research topic, the goals of the IRN, the general outline of a plan for researchers with different expertise and backgrounds to work together in primarily virtual spaces (including email, electronic media, conference calls, and so forth) and/or other channels.
- 2. Outcomes Expected from Establishing an IRN:** Specify the plan for preparing a synthesis report on the state of the knowledge and future research directions worldwide. Describe the outcomes expected from other ambitions of the IRN (for example, to undertake new research, collect or examine new data, develop or advance new methods, convene meetings or conferences, or stimulate new collaborations).
- 3. Participant List:** Include a preliminary list of anticipated participants in the IRN or scholars whose work would fit the IRN objectives.
- 4. Outreach Plan to Extend Membership:** Describe a process for operating an IRN that would permit other experienced and emerging scholars, including graduate students, to join, once an IRN is selected and announced.
- 5. Leadership:** Typically an IRN will have a single convener or co-conveners with complementary expertise, who are from different countries or regions of the world.
- 6. Duration and Timetable:** The duration of an IRN may vary, with a maximum length of three years. The duration should be specified. Also provide a timetable for initial IRN plans/activities, in particular for the research synthesis report.

## BENEFITS OF BEING WERA-IRNS

Once IRN proposals have been reviewed and accepted by the International Research Network Committee, the IRNs receive the following benefits:

1. The IRNs are formally designated by WERA as ‘The WERA International Research Networks on [title of IRN].’ This title represents the high status recognized by WERA

to the IRNs as world leading research groups. Members of the WERA-IRN will enjoy the opportunity to work together with international members.

2. The IRN conveners are formally appointed as 'The Convener of the WERA International Research Network on [title of IRN].' These appointments reflect the high recognition and confidence of WERA in conveners' capacity to launch, lead, and manage IRNs to advance education research worldwide on specific scholarly topics.
3. The members and activities of the IRNs will be highly visible, recognized and promoted through the WERA website and the worldwide networks of WERA Member Associations. Through IRNs, active researchers can create a worldwide platform and create numerous opportunities for international collaboration in key research areas.
4. WERA disseminates IRN research synthesis reports on the WERA website or in the WERA *Yearbook* subject to peer review; WERA may also disseminate other reports, papers, and work products subject to peer review through these same mechanisms.
5. IRNs are provided with public space on the WERA website for outreach and dissemination of information. IRNs are also provided with video conference support and web-based communication tools to allow for IRN communication, sharing information, and archiving IRN documents and information.
6. Conveners and members of IRNs enjoy visibility by contributing to symposiums, keynote sessions or presentations at WERA Focal Meetings held annually. WERA Focal Meetings are embedded in international conferences organized by WERA Member Associations.

### **ELIGIBILITY TO CONSTITUTE AN IRN**

IRN members must be individual members of WERA or members of a WERA member association. IRN members who are individual members of a member association of the European Educational Research Association also qualify as eligible IRN members. Individuals are encouraged to become WERA individual members, whether or not it is a requirement of eligibility.

To join WERA as an individual member visit [www.weraonline.org](http://www.weraonline.org)

### **PROPOSAL REVIEW & CRITERIA:**

Proposals will be reviewed within three months of the submission deadline by the WERA International Research Network Committee. The following criteria will guide selection:

1. The world significance of the proposed research topic (in terms of the nature of the research problem, its worldwide perspectives and the state of the body of knowledge, future developments, and so forth).

2. The track record or previous work of the initial composition of the group and its potential to grow internationally and regionally.
3. The feasibility of the plan for interested researchers of diverse expertise working together in primarily virtual space and other conference occasions across countries and regions and stimulating international collaboration in research.
4. The expected outcomes of and impacts from the activities of the WERA-IRN in synthesizing knowledge, critically examining the state of research, stimulating collaborations, identifying promising research directions, and so forth.

**IRN proposal to be submitted to WERA email account: [wera@aera.net](mailto:wera@aera.net)**

**International Research Network (IRN) Committee**

Sari Lindblom-Ylänne, Past President (Chair)

Joanna Madalinska-Michalak, President, Polish Educational Research Association

George Head, Past-President, Scottish Educational Research Association

Dong-Seop Jin, President, Korean Educational Research Association

Theo Wubbels, President, European Educational Research Association

Gonzalo Jover, Vice-President, Spanish Society of Pedagogy