

Progress Report for the WERA International Committee
Education in an age of Extremism

Introduction

The IRN Education in an Age of Extremism is now in its second term. The proposed timetable for Year 1 is shown below:

Year 1	May-August	Sept - Dec	Jan-April
	*LG	*LG	*LG
	**NE (1.1)	**NE (1.2)	**NE (1.3)
	+RT 1	+RT2	+RT3
			+DC
	^^WERA Focal Meeting		

Timetable for Year 1

Leadership Group (LG)

In line with the timetable, the Leadership Group has engaged regularly. Indeed, Prof Hazel Bryan and Dr Lynn Revell travelled to Slovenia to work with Prof Janez Krek and Prof Janez Vogrinc to ensure the IRN has a firm foundation. In addition to the meeting in Slovenia, the Leadership Group has Skyped on a regular basis - at least once every three weeks or so in the first term.

The Leadership Group crafted an Introductory Letter, which has been sent to potential network members, setting out the aims of the project and the work that we invite members to undertake with us. This has proven to be most helpful.

Network Engagement (NE)

Network engagement is developing. Prof Hermann Apps from the University of Duisburg has extended an invitation to join a German Education Research Association (GERA) conference in March 2018 and Prof Hazel Bryan will be delivering a keynote on education and extremism.

In England, two new members have joined the network, Adeela Shafi (Senior Lecturer at the University of Gloucestershire) and James Lewis (PhD student in extremism and secondary education at the University of Lancaster).

Prof Hazel Bryan and Dr Lynn Revell have been undertaking research with French and Algerian trainee teachers in Boulogne but engagement in France is proving challenging. Network engagement with other countries is far less problematic.

Research Tools (RT)

Prof Janez Krek is working on a literature review in order to identify the Research Themes, which will inform the development of the Research Tools. This is taking place this term and will be complete by December 2017. This is a new development, in addition to the plans set out in the timetable. It was decided in discussion in Slovenia that this additional piece of work would provide informed Research Tools.

Conclusion

The IRN has made a good start. Network Engagement is buoyant in some countries (Italy) and challenging in others (France). The Leadership Group continues to make contact with colleagues across our networks to build the group. It is clear that research is taking place in this new multi-disciplinary area and the Leadership Group is confident that it is aware of much of this work.

*Professor Dr Hazel Bryan
University of Gloucestershire
19th November, 2017*