

## EMESER Report for the 1st year (04/24-03/25)

The IRN “Emotions in Environmental and Sustainability Education Research (EMESER)” started its work in April 2024. It aims to synthesize the state of research on emotions in the context of education for sustainable development and environmental education.

In the network's first year, the basis for continuous cooperation was created. A mailing list and a [website](#) were set up. This is where we share information about our key activities and publications from our members, as well as details of current events. The network currently has 46 members from 16 different countries. However, the number of interested researchers is continuously increasing, especially due to the hosting of our symposium (see below). To present our network activities we participated in the IRN convener meetings in Manchester (September 2024).

In addition, 7 digital meetings took place during the reporting period, each with around 20 participants. The focus of the first network meetings was, on the one hand, to prepare the symposium as one of the first key activities (see below). On the other hand, we discussed the content and formal structure for the special issue and the synthesis report, on which we will focus in the next 2 years. We were able to win over the renowned journal in our field *Environmental Education Research* for the special issue.

For the symposium, we developed a call for presentations and invited submissions in various networks. The anonymized abstracts were reviewed by a small group (conveners and volunteers from the network) according to predefined criteria. In total, we were able to accept 24 of the 30 submitted abstracts. In total we had a number of registered participants of 87 on Thursday and of 73 on Friday.

The symposium took place on April 10 and 11, 2025 as a two-day online symposium. It was framed by two excellent keynote speeches by Prof. Dr. Maria Ojala (*Critical emotional awareness: On the importance of combining psychological emotional theories and critical approaches when taking account of emotions in ESE*) and Prof. Dr. Michalinos Zemybals (*Fugitive Pedagogies of Dread for Radical Futurity. Affective, Ontological and Political Implications*). Afterwards, we had room for a total of 24 paper presentations and 1 workshop. The book of abstracts can be downloaded [here](#). The small and non-standardized evaluation at the end of the symposium yielded overwhelmingly positive feedback and encouraged us to consider further events of this kind, for which we already received suggestions from participants.

Overall, we are largely on schedule with our activities as originally planned (see below). In the next few weeks, we would like to prepare a separate call for the special issue and distribute it explicitly to the participants and other networks. The review process will most likely become even stricter in this process because we can only accept a small number of papers in the special issue. We are further developing the shape and format of the synthesis report and will engage members of the network in a number of design moments in our next network sessions.

04-06 2024	07-09 2024	10-12 2024	01-03 2025	04-06 2025	07-09 2025	10-12 2025	01-03 2026	04-06 2026	07-09 2026	10-12 2026	01-03.202 7
Network formation		Digital symposium									
				Invited Special Issue for network members and selected colleagues							
							Research Application				
							Design of materials for educators				
Preparation of synthesis report											
Communication of the network activities											