Call for WERA-IRN Proposals

Deadline for Submission: 1 February 2027

Submission platform: WERA-IRN Proposals 2027

INTRODUCTION

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 research topics. IRNs are collaborative groups of scholars working on innovative research perspectives. IRNs synthesize knowledge, examine the state of research, and stimulate collaborations or otherwise identify promising directions in research areas of worldwide significance. To avoid expenses and reduce their carbon footprint, IRNs work primarily through virtual communication.

OBJECTIVES OF WERA-IRNs

IRNs are expected to make a significant contribution to the advancement of education research and research-based knowledge in their subject area. They make a substantial contribution to the advancement of research and research-based knowledge in their field, including the dissemination of results in high-level publications and the promotion of emergent researchers as a contribution to capacity building.

A basic task of WERA-IRNs is the creation and publication of a comprehensive research synthesis on the state of knowledge and promising research directions in their subject area. This synthesis is the cornerstone of an IRN's work and embodies a paramount contribution to the global education research community. IRNs are encouraged to select appropriate academic journals, publishers, or platforms for dissemination. The publication ensures that the collective knowledge synthesized by the IRN becomes a valuable resource for the global education research community, policymakers, and practitioners.

WERA-IRNs are expected to actively engage with WERA activities. This includes presenting their work at WERA symposia or Focal Meetings held in cooperation with WERA member associations. IRNs are required to submit an annual report detailing the progress made during the year and the results achieved. The reports are published on the WERA website.

KEY FEATURES OF WERA-IRNs

All IRNs advance their research areas of interest, produce a research synthesis on the state of the knowledge and promising research directions, and 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 emergent 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 presentations at WERA Focal Meetings (assuming favourable peer review). IRN synthesis reports may be submitted for potential publication in a WERA book series.

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. **Abstract of no more than 150 words:** Set forth the research objective(s) of the IRN, the scope of studies or bodies of knowledge to be considered (from what countries, regions, or cultures), core questions to be examined, and the composition of the IRN (e.g., experienced and emerging scholars, the size of the IRN)**.**

2. **Research Topic and Plan:** Specify the education research topic, the goals of the IRN, and a work plan including information on how you 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/orother channels.

3. **Outcomes Expected from Establishing an IRN:** Specify the plan for preparing a synthesis on the state of the knowledge and future research directions worldwide. Describe as clearly as possible the outcomes expected from the ambitions of the IRN (for example, to undertake new research on…, collect or examine new data about…, share existing data from…, develop, or advance new methods for…, convene meetings or conferences about…, stimulate new collaborations…).

4. **Leadership:** Include the list of at least three co-conveners who will be responsible for the IRN's development and are the IRN's contact persons. Co-convenors have complementary expertise and are from different countries or regions of the world.

5. **Participant List:** Include a preliminary list of further participants in the IRN: scholars whose work fits the IRN objectives (Name, Affiliation, Position, Address, Email). Please note that IRNs are expected to include not only senior, but also early career researchers as their members.

6. **CVs:** Include Curriculum Vitae (CVs) as attachments: one-page CV for conveners and each initial participant. Indicate key publications, research, and experiences relevant to **the research** topic or to leading/participating in an International Research Network.

7. **Outreach Plan to Extend Membership:** Describe a process for operating the IRN that would permit other experienced as well as early career scholars, including graduate students, to join, once an IRN is selected and announced.

8. **Duration, Workplan, and Timetable:** The standard duration of an IRN is three years. However, applicants may request an initial duration of up to four years, depending on the nature and scope of their proposed research activities. The proposed duration should be clearly specified and justified in the work plan, which should include a timetable for the planned IRN activities, particularly the research synthesis.

9. **Extension of accepted proposals:** An IRN may apply for an extension of up to three additional years, regardless of whether its initial duration was three or four years. An application for extension should be submitted to the IRN Committee Chairs and the WERA Secretary General no later than three months before the end of the initial project period. The IRN Committee will review the application based on an evaluation of IRN activities and outcomes. As a general rule, an IRN may be extended only once.

ELIGIBILITY TO CONSTITUTE A WERA-IRN

When submitting an IRN-proposal, IRN co-convenors must be either individual members of WERA or members of a WERA member association or institution. In the case of associations constituted of associations [such as the European Educational Research Association (EERA)], individual members of such member associations are also considered eligible to constitute an IRN. All IRN participants 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.

PROPOSAL REVIEW & CRITERIA

Proposals will be reviewed within four 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 a virtual space and at 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.

Once proposals have been reviewed and accepted by the Committee on International Research Networks, WERA-IRNs will be formally announced, and their work launched under WERA. In addition to selecting WERA-IRNs, the Committee will also advise WERA-IRNs and foster their inclusivity. Reports on the activities of IRNs to WERA must be submitted once a year (report submission deadline: 30 June each year for the duration of the IRN).

WERA-IRNs will be highly recognised by WERA and visible on the WERA website. While IRNs do not receive direct funding, they draw upon and benefit from WERA's programming, its organizational and institutional infrastructure, and its global research and visibility. IRNs are entitled to organise contributions to WERA Focal Meetings. They are invited to contribute to other WERA activities that draw attention to educational research.

SUBMISSIONS AND QUESTIONS

IRN proposals must be submitted via the following platform: *Submission: WERA-IRN Proposals 2027*. Kindly submit your complete proposal as ***one document*** **(i.e., ONE attachment with all components and/or information needed for the proposal collated into a SINGLE document)**. No submissions, documents, or additional information will be accepted through email.

Please include the surname(s) of the convener(s) in the document subject line and upload in **PDF format,** i.e., "***Convener Surname(s) – Proposal Title***" (e.g., *Molefe & Smith – Collaboration*).

Questions to the WERA Committee on International Research Networks (IRNs) can be directed to the IRN Co-Chairs: Ingrid Gogolin (gogolin@uni-hamburg.de), Yuto Kitamura (yuto.kitamura@gmail.com) and Rocío García Carrión (rocio.garcia@deusto.es; wera@aera.net).

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH NETWORK (IRN) COMMITTEE

Ingrid Gogolin, WERA Past President and Appointed Liaison (IRN Co-Chair)
Yuto Kitamura, WERA Vice-President (IRN Co-Chair)
Rocío García Carrión, WERA Secretary General (IRN Co-Chair)
Stephen McKinney, Scottish Educational Research Association (SERA)
Sum Kwing, Hong Kong Education Research Association (HKERA)
Aimie Brennan, Educational Studies Association of Ireland (ESAI)
David Pedder, Emirates College for Advanced Education (ECAE)
Piotr Kostylo, Polish Education Research Association (PERA)