



WORLD EDUCATION RESEARCH ASSOCIATION International Research Networks (IRNs)

Call for WERA-IRN Proposals

Deadline for Submission: 1 February 2024

[Submission platform: International Research Network \(IRN\) Proposal](#)

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. In order to avoid expenses and 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 promotion of emergent researchers as a contribution to capacity building and the dissemination of results in high-level publications.

A basic task of WERA-IRNs is creation and publication of a comprehensive research synthesis report on the state of knowledge and promising research perspectives in their subject area. The reports serve as cornerstone of an IRN's work and embody 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 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 the WERA book series, *Global Perspectives on Education Research (GPER)*.

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, the 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.
- 3. 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).
- 4. Participant List:** Include a preliminary list of participants in the IRN and scholars whose work would fit the IRN objectives (Name, Affiliation, Position, Address, Email). Include Curriculum Vitae (CVs) as Attachments: one-page CV for conveners and each initial participant that includes key publications, research, experiences relevant to the research topic or to leading/participating in such an International Research Network.

5. **Outreach Plan to Extend Membership:** Describe a process for operating an IRN that would permit other experienced as well as emerging scholars, including graduate students, to join, once an IRN is selected and announced.
6. **Leadership:** Typically, an IRN will have co-conveners with complementary expertise, who are from different countries or regions of the world.
7. **Duration and Timetable:** The duration of an IRN may vary, with a maximum length of three years for the first period of duration. The duration should be specified. Also provide a timetable for initial IRN plans/activities, in particular for the research synthesis report.
8. **Extension of accepted proposals:** An IRN may apply for an extension for a period of up to two years. An application for extension should be submitted to the IRN Committee Chair and the WERA Secretary General no later than three months before the end of the project. The IRN Committee will review the application based on an evaluation of IRN activities and outcomes. The duration of an IRN may be extended only once.

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 (EERA) 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.

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.

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 shall be submitted once a year (submission deadline: 30 April each year).

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 human and financial resources.

SUBMISSIONS AND QUESTIONS

WERA-IRN proposals must be submitted via the following platform: [Submission: International Research Network \(IRN\) Proposal](#). Kindly submit your complete proposal as **one document**.

Please include the surname(s) of the convener(s) in the document subject line and upload in PDF format i.e., “***Surname(s) – WERA-IRN Proposal Title***” (e.g., *Smith, Molefe & Lee – WERA-IRN Proposal 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) 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)

Rocío García Carrión, WERA Secretary General (IRN Co-Chair)

Joanna Madalińska-Michalak, Polish Education Research Association (PERA)

Winnie Wing Mui So, Hong Kong Education Research Association (HKERA)

Stephen McKinney, Scottish Educational Research Association (SERA)