



EERQI project at a glance Project Identity

Acronym	EERQI
Project full title	European Educational Research Quality Indicators
Contract No.	217549
Funding scheme	Collaborative Projects
Coordinators	
EERQI-Coordinator	Prof. Dr. Ingrid Gogolin Gogolin@erzwiss.uni-hamburg.de
Technical Coordinator	Prof. Stefan Gradmann stefan.gradmann@ibi.hu-berlin.de
Duration	2008 April 01 - 2011 March 31
EU funding	1,49 Mio. €
Overall budget	2,2 Mio. €
EC Scientific Officer	Ms. Louisa Anastopoulou
Website	www.eerqi.eu
Short description	<p>EERQI is funded by the European Commission under the 7th Framework Programme for Research in the Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities Theme (SSH). The goals of the EERQI project are to reinforce and enhance the worldwide visibility and competitiveness of European educational research. More specifically, the project aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● develop new indicators and methodologies to determine quality of educational research publications,● propose a prototype framework for establishing such indicators and methodologies,● make this framework operational on a multilingual basis (starting

with English, German, French and Swedish),

- produce a search and query engine for resource harvesting and text analysis,
- test transferability of the EERQI indicators into other fields in social sciences and the humanities,
- develop a sustainability plan for quality assessment of European educational research publications.

Universities and Information Centres:

University of Hamburg, Institute for International Comparative and Multicultural Education, (Germany) www.ingrid-gogolin.eu

Humboldt University, Berlin School of Library and Information Science, (Germany) www.ibi.hu-berlin.de

Eindhoven School of Education (The Netherlands) www.esoe.nl

ITS, Radboud University (The Netherlands) www.its-nijmegen.nl

Dept. of Child and Youth Education, Special Education and Counselling, Umeå University (Sweden) www.educ.umu.se

Lund University, University Libraries (Sweden) www.lu.se

German Institute for International Educational Research (Germany), www.dipf.de

Institut de Recherche et de Documentation Pédagogique (Switzerland), www.irdp.ch

Research Associations:

European Educational Research Association (EERA), www.eera.eu

European Association for Learning and Instruction (EARLI), www.earli.org

British Educational Research Association (BERA), www.bera.ac.uk

Swiss Society for Research in Education (SSRE/SGBF), www.sgbf.ch

Technical Partners:

Institute for Science Networking Oldenburg GmbH (ISN), (Germany),
www.isn-oldenburg.de

XEROX SAS, Xerox Research Centre Europe (XRCE) Grenoble, (France),
<http://xrce.xerox.com>

Regional Computing Centre for Lower Saxony (RRZN) of Leibniz
University Hanover, (Germany), www.rrzn.uni-hannover.de

Publishers:

Routledge, Taylor & Francis Publishing, (United Kingdom)
www.informa.com

Symposium Publishing, (United Kingdom), www.symposium-journals.co.uk

VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften, (Germany), www.vs-verlag.de

Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, (United Kingdom),
www.blackwellpublishing.com

Cooperating Partners:

Institut National de Recherche Pédagogique (France), www.inrp.fr

Waxmann Verlag (Germany), www.waxmann.com

Barbara Budrich Verlag (Germany), www.budrich-verlag.de

**Aims and
objectives**

Traditional methods of assessing research quality of scientific publications have depended heavily on ranking methods according to citation frequency and journal impact factors. Both are based on methodologies which do not reflect adequate coverage of European scientific publications. Hence, if European science or institutions are exposed to these evaluation methods, not only individual researchers, institutions are ignored, but also complete subject domains, and even language areas are disadvantaged, as they are not

– or only sparsely – included in the traditional instruments. The initiators of the EERQI project, as well as numerous researchers and evaluation bodies within the European Union, recognize the need to remedy the inadequacies of this situation. The EERQI-project will provide a prototype framework for adjusting research quality indicators and methodologies to the European context. The prototype framework relies on research about how quality and relevance in research publications can be determined. This includes the use of new technological possibilities provided by natural language processing tools for content analysis and for text mining of digitally-available scientific documents. By carrying out contextual content analysis, the traditional merely quantitative indicators based on citation counts and ranking will be complemented by content-based quality indicators and might inform evaluation processes. The EERQI project brings together researchers in the field of educational research as pilot for such an endeavour. Education research is in itself multi-disciplinary, as it covers the whole range of methodologies used in Social Sciences and Humanities. Hence, the project offers the possibility of a resource which can be applied widely across these disciplines.

To whom EERQI may concern

The EERQI results:

- will be presented to the scientific community for verification: to the educational research societies, to experts in the field and to representatives of the respective research funding, promoting and evaluation bodies at regional, national and European level.
- will inform quality assessment of research publications in the Social Science and Humanities, with education research as a starting point.
- will contribute significantly in this vein to policy development and well informed policy decisions as well as to decisions on research funding and assessment of institutional effectiveness.
- will contribute to the European Research Area and have the capacity to raise the worldwide visibility of European research.

Beneficiaries of the EERQI-Project are:

- Policy makers
- Universities throughout Europe and beyond
- Students
- Research Institutions, Academies of the Sciences, Learned Societies
- Publishers throughout Europe and beyond
- Research Funding and Research Evaluation Bodies
- The European Science Foundation
- ERA, ERA-Net
- Other projects, organizations & decision-makers involved in research evaluation and relevance assessment which is based on scholarly

publications.

Methodology

The activities in the project are divided into phases:

Phase 1: A proof of concept specifications will be listed and built. Testing methods to the aggregated relevant documents are developed. A search and query engine is being evolved. The electronic content is being collected, converted and stored. An overview regarding the type and scope of meta data and full text formats available as well as of server requirements is being made. Traditional indicators are revisited and new indicators are suggested.

Phase 2: Testing phase. New indicators and methodologies agreed upon in the first phase are tested on a continuously expanding content base. Work on the search and query engine is specified with integration of multi-lingual thesauri and refined to accommodate activities in the third phase like duplicating the process on a smaller scale and with a limited test bed within other exemplary fields of Social Sciences and Humanities. The activities will continuously be accompanied by the verification of indicators and methodologies by the scientific community. Representatives of national research funding agencies and other relevant stakeholders will be involved in this process. The results of the project will continuously be presented to the scientific community as well as to other relevant public, including policy makers on local, national and international level.

Phase 3: Transfer phase. The prototype framework will be applied to other fields in the Social Sciences and Humanities. A sustainability plan will be developed. A Final Conference will present all results to the broader public.

Activities and ongoing services

Publicity, publications and networking:

Project portal/ website, project presentations at conferences, publications. Networking activities in research communities, involvement of new cooperation partners, such as publishers, national and international learned societies, research institutes, documentation centres and libraries.

Technical development:

Configuration of data and presentation server. Development of content base and first data analysis, including a compiled surrogate layer which contains a “clean” version of raw data. Development of prototype search and query engine. First semantic analysis on 4 documents and detection of semantic criteria by automatic analysis.

Capacity building:

Involvement of new researchers; cooperative support for dissertations in the area of the project.

Deliverables

- No.1 Prototype search and query engine
- No.2 Prototype research quality indicators
- No.3 Text analysis methodology
- No.4 Sustainability plan

Relationship to other EC projects

- No.5 Project portal
- No.6 Project reports (2 interim annual reports, 1 final project report)
- No.7 Policy briefs reflecting project progress (every 6 months)
- No.8 Project brochure (in different European languages)
- No.9 Guidelines for transfer of EERQI prototype framework to other areas of Social Sciences and Humanities
- No.10 Final report to present and disseminate EERQI results

The EERQI project contributes to the strategic efforts delineated in the project *Impact Assessment Studies* (SSH-2007-8.5).

There is also a close connection to the METRIS project *Monitoring European Trends in Research in the Socio-economic sciences and humanities* (SSH-2007-8.7).

Moreover the results of the EERQI project could provide an important prototypical impetus which would be extended in context of the *ERA-NET* and *ERANET Plus* (SSH-2007-8.6).