A new year full of exciting EARLI events

Dear EARLI members,

On behalf of the EARLI Executive Committee and the EARLI Office I wish you a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. As usual there will be plenty of EARLI activities, but without any doubt the much-awaited main event is the Biannual Conference in Tampere (Finland) in August. The number of submissions was larger than in other previous conferences! This shows that the EARLI Biannual Conference is fully appreciated by our members. The Tampere organisers promise a memorable event, so do not miss it.

General strategy and what we want to achieve

The societal and scientific relevance of supranational research associations is increasing in these times in which we seem to encounter a return to nationalist positions in politics. We are very fortunate to be members of such a vivid community which is held together by a common interest in high-quality educational research, irrespective of interindividual differences in, for example, nationality, faith and religion or sexual orientation. We are very concerned that our US sister organisation AERA seems to be negatively affected by recent political decisions. EARLI strongly supports the Statement by AERA President Vivian L. Gadsden and Executive Director Felice J. Levine on the White House Executive Order on Visas and Immigration (relieved January 30, 2017): “We are dismayed by the Trump administration’s unprecedented executive order that harshly restricts the travel of immigrant and nonimmigrant visitors to the United States. Aside from the shockingly discriminatory and counterproductive nature of the order—specifically, targeting people of Muslim faith and refugees in dire need of help—it also poses grave consequences for the scholarly exchange and collaboration that is at the heart of all science.”

This concern does not only affect our US American colleagues, it concerns all of us worldwide. Recent developments in Europe (for example in the UK, in Germany, in Hungary and in a couple of other countries) show we have to be absolutely determined to put effort into the
development, maintenance and support of an international, European and worldwide, “research identity”.

**Building an international research identity**

All EARLI activities contribute to developing such an international research identity. The 2017 Conference Theme, “Education in the crossroads of economy and politics – Role of research in the advancement of public good”, offers an excellent stage to demonstrate that the European idea is what makes us particularly strong and proud. In Tampere, we will have the opportunity to share this commitment with prominent delegates from politics and business.

The International Programme Committee currently is finalising the scientific programme for the conference – thank you to all who were involved in the review process. The programme will present an updated overview of research conducted within, beyond, and between our 27 Special Interest Groups, it will address new developments derived from our Advanced Study Colloquiums and our EARLI Centres of Innovative Research, and it will offer a stage for a new cohort of young researchers, both in the JURE Conference and in the Main Conference.

Looking forward to meeting all of you in Tampere!

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