

# EARLI Association News, Spring 2013

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From August 26th until August 31st, the EARLI conference will land in Munich, Germany. In this issue, we will introduce you to the conference venue as well announce you some other developments from the last couple of months. Besides describing the EARLI 2013 conference, we will unveil our latest initiatives to strengthen our research community; namely the European Centre for Innovative Research (E-CIR) and our new flagship journal Frontline Learning Research (FLR). After this we will give the stage to our little sister, EAPRIL, which is proud to reflect on a successful conference in 2012 and happy to announce its upcoming conference this year.

## **1. EARLI 2013 conference: TUM in Munich, Germany.**

The main campus of the Technische Universität München (TUM) located on the Arcisstrasse 21 will be the venue of the highly anticipated EARLI 2013 conference, which will start off with the JURE Pre-Conference running from Monday August 26th until Tuesday August 27th after which the EARLI 2013 conference will start.

The location of the venue will allow for a maximum of approximately five minute walks between conference rooms. Moreover, the venue is centrally located in the Maxvorstadt borough of the Bavarian capital which is known for its many nice restaurants, coffee shops and many historical and cultural buildings. Easily accessible by train due to the connection with Munich's central railway station, the conference venue benefits from good public transportation connections.

The high number of very interesting submissions that have been accepted – 711 Individual Papers, 192 Symposia, 29 Invited Symposia, 158 Posters, 35 Round Tables and 11 ICT Demonstrations - will allow us to organise an interesting conference from a scientific perspective. This would not have been possible without the participation and dedication of our reviewers, whom we would like to thank once more for their input. A first version of the programme will be made available online on our conference website from June 1st onwards.

We have carefully selected a total of 11 very interesting keynote speakers: Irene-Anna Diakidoy, Jan Elen, Beate van der Heijden, Lucy Henry, Charles Hulme, Mareike Kunter, James Pellegrino, Alexander Renkl, Tina Seidel, Marcel Veenman and Fritz Staub. If these names do not ring a bell or if you would to familiarise yourself with their research beforehand, be sure to check out the videos that they have recorded on our conference website! <http://www.earli2013.org/programme/keynote-speakers/>

During the 2013 EARLI conference, full catering (coffee, lunch, coffee) will be available for all registered participants on site and free of charge. Besides, wireless LAN-access will be provided as well as several computer rooms equipped with printers. As a special service, provided by the TUM family services, for participants willing to attend the conference with children, we will offer an on-site child care service for kids between one and twelve years of age.

This could allow you to enjoy the rich and exciting social programme we have devised for our conference participants, during which they can meet up and exchange thoughts, ideas and laughs with other participants. The first highlight will be the Opening Reception on Tuesday evening where all participants are invited to enjoy a drink, meet new friends and enjoy a warm summer night. Being world-renowned for (among other things) its beers, Munich offers a myriad of very nice places where you can enjoy this local product among other drinks. A second social focal point is the gala dinner, which will take place in the Löwenbräukeller, located in the very heart of Munich and about 1 km. from the conference venue. It offers both a wonderful, festive atmosphere and a genuine glimpse into Bavarian culture. We warmly invite you to take part in this great evening. Tickets can be purchased while registering for the conference, which you can do here: <http://www.earli2013.org/submission-registration/online-registration/>

More information on the various social events can be found here:  
<http://www.earli2013.org/social-events/>

In order to accommodate people flying or railing in to Munich, we have negotiated special conditions with the German airline company Lufthansa as well as with the German national railway company the Deutsche Bahn. Both mobility partners will offer discount rates for booking your trip to the EARLI 2013 conference. More information on these offers can be found on the conference website;

Taking this into consideration, you really do not have any excuse not to attend the EARLI 2013 Conference. We hope to welcome you in great numbers!

## **2. E-CIR**

A new successful new initiative has been launched by EARLI's Executive Committee (EC) in the beginning of 2013. The EARLI European Centre for Innovative Research (E-CIR) aims at further stimulating innovative research among EARLI members and strengthening our community by fostering existing and forging new research contacts. The goal of the E-CIR is to perform joint research on one specific innovative theme

An open call was sent out to the membership and we received a total of eight applications, of which two have been awarded with the E-CIR funding. More information on these projects can be found shortly on the EARLI website (<http://www.earli.org/E-CIR>). The funding includes the accommodation costs for up to ten participants, provision of meeting facilities and lunches at the EARLI office, to have a two-day meeting twice a year for a period of four years.

## **3. Frontline Learning Research**

The Executive Committee of EARLI (EC) is very proud to present its newest and third official EARLI journal to the scientific community, Frontline Learning Research (FLR), which will be launched in May 2013. FLR will provide immediate open access to its

content by means of an Open Journal Systems (OJS) platform. Moreover, a relatively quick review procedure is aimed for. Depending on the length of the manuscript, the editorial team aims to provide authors with a decision within 3 weeks.

FLR aims to publish articles on issues and trends that are at the frontline of educational research. More specifically, innovative and risk-taking research in the learning and educational sciences is encouraged. Also multidisciplinary research that draws from cognitive, philosophical, sociological, psychological and pedagogical theoretical paradigms is highly-valued. As such, an outlet is provided for in-depth and more extensive studies, including articles involving a thoroughly elaborated theoretical framework, extensive qualitative data, or complex analytical techniques. In this respect, FRL also gives its authors the chance to include dynamic data material in their manuscript, such as video's, photo's, audio fragments, or other dynamic metadata. Although both regular and more extensive articles on emerging theoretical, methodological and empirical approaches are welcomed, FLR particularly wishes to publish also short articles.

At the helm of the journal is editor-in-chief Erno Lehtinen (University of Turku, Finland). Together with his editorial team, which involves Sanne Akkerman (Utrecht University, the Netherlands), Filip Dochy (University of Leuven, Belgium), Nikos Papadouris (University of Cyprus, Cyprus), Jan Vermunt (University of Cambridge, UK), and Inneke Berghmans (EARLI, University of Leuven, Belgium), and EARLI's EC, he is convinced that FLR will herald EARLI into a new era of publishing and will keep EARLI on the forefront of educational research on learning and instruction.

#### **4. Looking back at the 2012 EAPRIL Conference in Jyväskylä, Finland.**

On a breezy and cold November morning about 280 practitioner-researchers, teachers, practitioners and students gathered in Jyväskylä to kick off the 7th EAPRIL Conference. JAMK University of Applied Sciences did an amazing job in hosting the conference. Even snow was foreseen for the delegates that came from all over Europe, as well as from overseas.

A diverse and interactive programme consisting of Present & Discuss sessions (91), Workshops (20), Posters (29), Practice & Research Dialogue sessions (5), Thematic Roundtable sessions (3) and Creative sessions (4) was set up. In addition, three leading figures in the field of learning, training and development were invited to present their ideas to the audience. Dr. Pasi Sahlberg, author of the bestseller 'Finnish Lessons. What Can the World Learn from Educational Change in Finland?', opened the conference with his lecture on what the world has to learn from the Finnish educational system. The EAPRIL delegates returned home, inspired by three lessons, i.e. 'more collaboration, less competition', 'more trust-based responsibility, less test-based accountability', and, finally, 'more evidence-based policies, less experimentation with children'. On the second day, the chair of EAPRIL, Dr. Frank de Jong, presented the most important fundamentals and features of Ecologically and Transdisciplinarily Inspired Research (ETI-research). These principles were presented and illustrated with examples of how practice-based research does or does not match and enrich our research. Finally, Patrick Belpaire, president of the European Training and Development Federation, was the last keynote speaker who was given the floor. Belpaire triggered his audience by wondering whether mapping L&D practice innovations could support the creation of L&D competences in the

field. Could it be a tool to enhance the interaction between L&D practitioner researchers and practitioners in organisations?

For the first time in its history, EAPRIL has awarded the EAPRIL Best Research and Practice Project Award. This award recognises the best project by practitioner researchers in the field of education, learning and instruction, and training and development. EAPRIL was very happy to receive 10 applications of which 8 were represented at the conference in Jyväskylä. The 2012 Award was awarded to Dr. Luc Nijs from Ghent University with his project The Music Paint Machine. An embodied constructivist approach to technology-enhanced instrumental music instruction. Not only the aforementioned activities and initiatives made the 2012 edition a success, also the launch of the EAPRIL Clouds contributed to this as they very well-received by the conference delegates. Comparable to the EARLI SIG's, the EAPRIL Clouds represent thematic platforms that focus on various themes in educational practice being:

- 1 Teacher Education
- 2 Educators' Professional Development
- 3 Instructional Strategies & Learning Environments
- 4 Innovation & Learning Practice
- 5 HRD & Workplace Learning
- 6 ICT, Media & Learning
- 7 Practice-based Research & Inquiry

Each Cloud has its own agenda, aims and objectives within the umbrella of EAPRIL. Cloud coordinators are currently working hard on setting up initiatives that aim to promote the growth of their specialised networks. Each cloud has been given its own subgroup page on the EAPRIL E-platform (<http://www.eaprilplatform.org/>) and on EAPRIL's LinkedIn page page

[http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=2842637&trk=myg\\_ugrp\\_ovr](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=2842637&trk=myg_ugrp_ovr)). These clouds will take a more central part in EAPRIL and its conference activities.

Together with the EAPRIL Office, the Executive Board of EAPRIL looks back at a successful edition, which strengthens our belief that there is a need among practitioner-researchers to meet and share ideas. As such, EAPRIL has all the potential to become an even stronger and larger European network for practitioner-researchers.

#### 5. The upcoming 2013 EAPRIL Conference in Biel/Bienne, Switzerland

The 2013 EAPRIL Conference will be organised from November 27 until 29, 2013 in the largest bilingual city of Switzerland and the world capital of watchmaking, Biel/Bienne. Situated at the foot of the Jura mountains and on the shores of Lac de Bienne, the Haute École Pédagogique (HEP) – BEJUNE is looking forward to welcoming all practitioners and practitioner-researchers in the fields of education, learning and instruction, and training and development. The HEP-BEJUNE is a well-known University of Teacher Education, Research Development and Professional Practice of Teachers, and thus the perfect institute to host the 8th edition of the EAPRIL Conference.

Also this year, plenty of interactive presentation formats will be welcomed, as well as applications for the 2nd EAPRIL Best Research and Practice Project. New this year is that EAPRIL will organise two submission periods, i.e. one before the summer, which

guarantees review results before summer, and one in September. As such, delegates are given the chance to start organising their conference visit and presentation as soon as possible. More information on the submission procedure, deadlines and presentation formats can be found on the 2013 Conference Website <http://www.eapril.org/EAPRIL2013>.

EAPRIL hopes to meet all researchers with a heart for practice at its 8th Conference in beautiful Biel/Bienne, Switzerland!