

01-2018

Editorial.

It's an exciting time for EOE. This year saw the publication of an EOE inspired book charting the changes in outdoor learning in Europe over the last twenty years.

Our 17th Conference hosted by CŠOD Bohinj, Slovenia on "The Mediation of Experiences by Technology in the Outdoors" in September was a resounding success. It demonstrated the diversity of our organisation in terms of age, background and interests. More countries were represented than in previous conferences and the membership has rapidly increased as a result.

We are all aware of troubled times in Europe and even bigger threats to our planet. It is heartening to be part of a co-operative, creative and caring European community who freely share ideas and who work together to give opportunities for others to enjoy and learn from experiences in the outdoors.

Geoff Cooper



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Trends for EOE- Chris Loynes.

Chris Loynes, the ex- chair, summarised the growth of interest and membership of EOE over the last year and put this into the wider context of global issues and their impact on our lives. He remarked,

“The recent conference in Slovenia has set some healthy new trends in motion, in particular engaging with new youth work organisations and practitioners, new universities and participants from underrepresented countries in southern and eastern Europe. Supporting countries that are new to Outdoor Education as they seek to introduce it will continue a tradition of collaboration. Building a bridge with the relevant bureaucrats and politicians in the EU would be an excellent step as OE rises up the agenda for social and environmental reasons. Indeed, our work becomes more political as what we stand for in Europe is challenged by new political trends. Good luck to the new board!”



Changes to EOE Board.

Four influential and long-standing members of EOE’s Board stood down this year- Peter Becker, Jochem Schirp, Barbara Humberstone and Jari Kujala. They have made an enormous contribution to our organisation since its establishment in 1996. Their work is celebrated in the wealth of publications, conferences and initiatives they have created and been involved in over the years.

Barbara Humberstone offers her thoughts for the future, “after 22 years, the vision for EOE is to continue to celebrate cultural diversity caringly, insightfully and vibrantly, acting informed through social and environmental justice. Continue with more exciting partnerships across Europe and more sharing, uplifting energies in meetings and conferences.”

Jochem Schirp reminds us of the origins of EOE and the close links we have had with Youth Work in Europe. He says, “using the link below you will find a publication dealing with the History of Youth Work in Europe. This can be helpful for networking and developing this item for the future of EOE.”

<https://pjpeu.coe.int/en/web/youth-partnership/the-history-of-youth-work-in-europe-volume-1>

The New Board

The new Board consists of 8 members appointed at the 2018 Conference in Slovenia:

Irena Kokalj (Slovenia) Chair

Chris Loynes (UK) Vice Chair

Martin Lindner (Germany) Treasurer

Tanja Liimatainen (Finland)

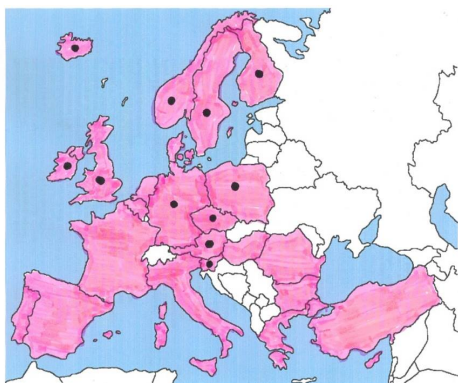
Tomás Aylward (Ireland)

Geoff Cooper (UK)

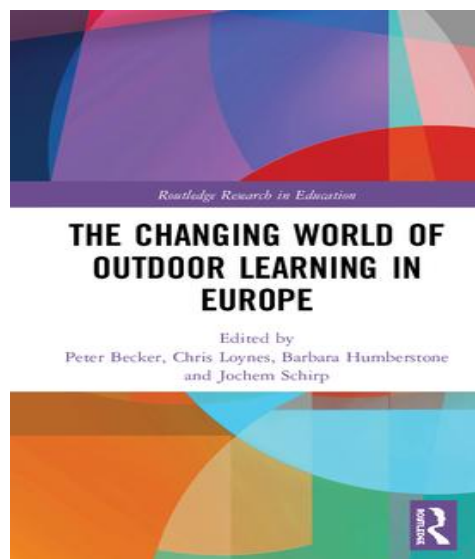
Sibylle Roth (Germany)

Richard Irvine (UK).

There is more information about the members on the website, www.eoe-network.eu which has recently been updated thanks to Martin Lindner.



The map above shows European countries with individual and organisational members in EOE (Croatia to be added for 2018). The black dots are countries that have hosted conferences in the past and forthcoming conferences: Ireland (2019) and Norway (2020)



The Changing world of Outdoor Learning in Europe

Edited by Peter Becker, Barbara Humberstone, Chris Loynes and Jochem Schirp

Published by Routledge in 2018

The latest publication from the EOE Network is now available from Routledge - the first book to discuss the various forms of Outdoor Learning across Europe and set them in the socio-political contexts of the last 20 years. It is written and edited by members of the EOE Network and is a rich source of thought and ideas. It makes a strong call for the social and environmental benefits of Outdoor Learning. In addition, it explores the deep relationship between forms of outdoor learning practice, wider human nature relations and the diversity of cultural contexts over place and time.

<https://www.routledge.com/The-Changing-World-of-Outdoor-Learning-in-Europe/Becker-Humberstone-Loynes-Schirp/p/book/9781138047662>

Conference matters

Tributes to 17th EOE conference in ČŠOD Bohinj.

Graham French, a delegate from Wales commented: "It's been fantastic to connect with people from across Europe and beyond. Catching up with friends and making new ones, talking projects and trips, ideas and memories. The range of presentations on offer was astounding and the opportunity to not just rub shoulders with, but get to know, some of the titans of the field was brilliant. People whose work I've read and cited so often, keen to discuss their work and ideas and who are open to debate; the real essence of the professional discourse but on such a personal level. And of course they then capture your attempts at Slovenian dancing and splash them all over social media!"



A delegate from Canada said, "I haven't ever experienced a conference like this where I felt part of such a big supportive family. Well done Irena and the Slovenian team."

A final comment goes to Irena Kokalj, the conference organiser and new Chair of EOE:

"Slovenia is just a spot on a map of the world and so it was an honour and pleasure to organise the 17th EOE conference in ČŠOD Bohinj. I believe that it was a combination of excellent experts and great nature that resulted in this inspiring conference. But this wouldn't be possible without you who participated at this great event. Thank you all for coming and sharing your ideas, expertise and good will."

Proceedings 16th EOE Conference 2017

"Outdoor Atmospheres and Narratives: Connecting young people to the world". Held in Plymouth/UK in cooperation with University of St Mark and St. John.

Mark Leather, one of the organisers, writes: "These abstracts demonstrate and explore some of the theoretical underpinnings of current theory and practice of experiential outdoor education throughout Europe, and beyond, and provide stimulation for new ideas, methods and theories."

See the electronic conference proceedings: [E-Book 16th European Conference](#)

A Student's View of EOE 2018

After meeting many of the EOE network at the 2017 Marjon conference in Plymouth I knew I needed to go to Slovenia in 2018. When I found out my presentation had been accepted for this year's EOE conference I was a certainly a little daunted! Being an undergraduate student at Marjon University and my degree not being outdoor education but speech and language therapy, I was unsure what I had to offer would be engaging and relevant to the diverse range of sharp minds I had met the summer before.

Looking back at my experiences and conversations by Lake Bohinj, the engaged attendees of my presentation and the stimulating discussion afterwards, I cannot recommend EOE strongly enough as a place to test your ideas in a supportive yet challenging environment. If you are a student considering getting involved with the EOE network, do not hesitate in reaching out.

Thank you EOE. See you in Ireland!

Stuart Watson.



Partnerships through EOE.

Over the years many partnerships between organisations, often arising as a result of friendships and interests between individuals, have been established through EOE. The Masters programme, TEOS, reported in this Newsletter is an excellent example of a co-operation between three universities.

It's great to report on a recent collaboration between Marjon University, Plymouth and Iceland on the theme of Place Based Outdoor Learning. I believe the impetus for this originated at the EOE Conference in Sweden.

2019 EOE Conference in Eire.

Tomas Aylward has sent through some details to whet our appetites:



Next September, the Institute of Technology Tralee (ITTralee) has the pleasure of hosting the 2019 European conference for EOE. ITTralee is a higher education college in County Kerry on the Atlantic coast of the Southwest of Ireland. Tralee is on the iconic "Wild Atlantic Way" tourist route which spans the Irish west coast from Donegal to West Cork. The event will be held from 25-27th September 2019. We are hosting the event in ITTralee along with our colleagues from the UNESCO Chair research office at ITTralee at our new €16 million sports building.

The theme of the conference will be "**Diversity and Inclusion in Outdoor and Experiential Learning**".

The sub themes will include:

Inclusion of people with disabilities and their families in OEL/ OE;

Inclusion of people underrepresented or socially excluded in OEL/OE;

Inter-generational inclusion & inclusion across the lifespan in OEL/OE.

The organisers are determined to make the event a "low-carbon" conference with a number of initiatives to minimise the impact of the event. There are accommodation options available nearby including a fully serviced "pop-up" campsite in the parkland of our campus. Kerry has more than 10 trains and buses

from Dublin daily. Flights from Europe are possible to Kerry (15Km); Cork (100Km); Shannon (90Km) and Dublin (300Km)

Details will be available on our webpage: <https://www.ittralee.ie/en/eoe2019/> and our email address: EOE2019@ittralee.ie

You can also follow updates on the [EOE network Facebook group](#) or on Twitter with the hashtag #EOE2019

Norway is proposed for EOE 2020

The Department of Physical Education and Friluftsliv at the Norwegian School of Sport Sciences (NSSS) in Oslo has made a proposal to host the EOE 2020 conference

The local organising committee will be led by Head of the department Aage Radmann and Professor Kirsti Pedersen Gurholt, and supported by colleagues. A tentative theme: '**Landscape and Outdoor Practice**' and date in June 2020 has been suggested.



Special Interest Group meetings at EOE Conference, Slovenia.

1. The preschool outdoor education working group

The group met at the EOE 2018 conference to discuss and exchange good practices in the field of outdoor programmes for preschool children. The working group discovered that all organisations present at the meeting regularly carried out some preschool outdoor education activities but they all approached these types of activities in different ways. The main point of contention was the balance between environment driven approaches (aesthetic approaches, free play, self directed learning, peer social dynamics etc.) and programme driven approaches (role of the teacher, stories, artificial tools, predetermined games etc.). The group decided that it was not yet possible to come to a common conclusion on the topic and that it would be beneficial for further analysis of the field to be conducted, followed by projects with the aim to exchange good practices and solidify the concept of preschool outdoor learning.

Zoran Petrov

2. The MA Transcultural European Outdoor Studies degree – a project initiated by members of the EOE HE Compass network.

TEOS, as it is widely known, is concluding its 6th and final cohort of students. They will graduate as this newsletter goes to press. This Erasmus Mundus funded project offering bursaries to students from a wide range of European and other countries, has been highly successful. 108 students from 52 countries have taken the course offered by the University of Cumbria, The Norwegian School of Sport Science and Marburg University. Graduates are now engaged in diverse roles from lynx re-introduction projects (Albania) to mountain guiding (Antarctica); from teaching OE to setting up eco-tourism businesses. A number have joined EOE and have been attending and contributing to our conferences. We wish them all the best of fortune.

There are also legacies of the TEOS model of cooperation and teaching amongst universities. A Masters degree is being developed by the Nordic countries using the same model of students moving to a different country and university each semester. A collaboration between our Norwegian partner and Canada may see a transatlantic collaboration with Canadian visiting scholars to TEOS. There are also some early thoughts about a new collaboration within the Compass network with an eye on the new Erasmus funding priorities to be announced in 2020. Get in touch if this catches your imagination!

Martin Lindner

3. European Network of Outdoor Centres (ENOC)

There were 16 participants representing outdoor centres in Czech Republic, Iceland, Eire, Croatia, Austria, Germany, Slovenia, Bulgaria Singapore, USA and UK.

ENOC was set up at CŠOD Planica in 2013 with the aim of “promoting the value of Outdoor Education Centres for Lifelong Learning across Europe”. This has led to youth exchanges and job shadowing between countries. 5 partner organisations based in Slovenia, Poland, Finland, Germany and UK met at Frajda in Poland to discuss ideas for an Erasmus + EU funded project based on “Aesthetics and Outdoor Learning”. A German application for the project was successful and the “kick-off” meeting was held at bsj Marburg in April 2018.

It was decided to set up a Facebook page to encourage centres to share ideas, good practice and develop joint projects. Job shadowing was suggested as a useful method to develop links between outdoor centres. Join at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/706196373082997/>

Footnote: A Training the Trainers week was held at CŠOD Radenci, Slovenia in October 2018 when 20 outdoor practitioners shared methods and activities designed to encourage feelings, perceptions and understanding through sensory and embodied experiences. An online handbook will be available later in 2019.

Geoff Cooper



4. The EOE Network Policy Group

Although the policy group did not convene at this year’s conference, it is worth reminding members of our current actions.

At a national level, EOE is able to support your campaigns and lobbying on behalf of Outdoor Education. We can provide the EOE logo and a letter of support once we have seen your campaign materials to ensure they are congruent with EOE principles.

The UK national professional body, The Institute for Outdoor Learning, is developing an Outdoor Learning (OL) toolkit which will list the various forms of OL practice together with case studies and the evidence base that supports the approach. This will draw on world-wide research and be available to all.

At a European level we have had less success. Our goal has been to invite the national member in the EU parliament sitting on the youth committee to the relevant EOE conference. So far, we have been unsuccessful. Let’s hope that Ireland, Norway or Germany, our next conference hosts, will have better luck.

In the meantime, we liaise with another European body, Europe Outdoors, on any matters that impact on both our areas of interest such as qualifications and safety regulations.

Chris Loynes