European Society for Research in Adult Development
Annual General Meeting Minutes
24th August 2026

Attending: Clare Mehta (President), Teresa Sgaramella (Vice President), Nick Shannon (Treasurer), Megan Wright (Secretary), Marc Lucas, Olga Hypponen, Salla Ahola, Valentina Lucia La Rosa, Deborah Bailey-Rodriguez, Ana Freitzhand, Igor Shiyan, Jen Oullette-Schramm, Gözde Açıker

1. After starting the meeting and conducting introductions, Clare Mehta presented the annual report and plan

a) As of May 2026, there were 986 ESRAD members.
b) ESRAD membership is free.
c) Board members whose 2-year tenure ends in 2026 are: Salla Ahola.
d) Additional ESRAD roles added in 2025/2026:
    i) Communications and Website Manager (Valentina Lucia La Rosa)
    ii) Communications Administrator (Kübra Özdoğan)
    iii) Newsletter Manager (Ezgi Cenk)
    iv) Student assistants (Erin Collins & Shivani Choudry)
    v) Honorary President (Oliver Robinson)
e) ESRAD rule change following the last AGM allowing for 9 executive board members and 4 vice members. Exact wording: The president and a minimum of two (2) and maximum of eight (8) other members and zero (0) to four (4) vice-members of the executive board, are elected in the General Meeting. At least one of the Executive Board members, must have Finnish citizenship.
f) On 11-13th June 2025, there was an ESRAD online conference featuring 30 sessions over 3 days with 79 attendees. Keynote speakers were Jeffrey Arnett, Oliver Robinson, and Theo Dawson.
g) On 15th April 2026 there was an ESRAD webinar on complexity leadership by Aiden Thornton, with 53 attendees.
h) On the 18th June 2026, the ESRAD summer symposium took place online on Global Transitions to and during Adulthood. The day involved an interview with Jeffrey Arnett, a screening of the "Namibia Up" documentary and follow-up interview with its producer, Amber Thalmayer, a talk from Oliver Robinson, and a researcher and practitioner panel. There were 43 attendees.
i) ESRAD has had an enhanced social media presence over the past year, maintaining a Facebook group, creating a LinkedIn profile, and an Instagram account.
j) The Small Grant scheme ran in 2026 offering two grants of €1000. 47 applications were received (up from 17 in 2024) and two grants were awarded.
k) The ESRAD Newsletter was developed in 2026, so far two newsletters have been distributed to members.
l) There are two active special interest groups: the Dialectical Thinking SIG and the Wisdom SIG.

m) Action plan for June 2026 to June 2027: aiming for ESRAD to be the leading adult development organisation in the world in (a) membership numbers/international research/diversity of membership, (b) event quality, and (c) opportunities for networking and research dissemination. This aim will be pursued over the next 12 months by way of the following proximal aims:
   i) Membership numbers will be reviewed by sending out a brief questionnaire. The MailChimp database will also be audited to remove any duplicate subscriptions.
   ii) We plan to host two webinars over the next 12 months from world-renowned speakers. There is potential to charge a small fee for webinars.
   iii) Continue to produce and develop the ESRAD newsletter.
   iv) Plan for the next ESRAD conference, anticipating to hold this potentially in-person in summer 2027.
   v) Member communication and social media strategy - review communications, continue to improve website and build presence on social media.
   vi) Run small grants scheme in 2027 provisionally, depending on profits and available finances.
   vii) Continue to discuss developing a new logo for ESRAD.
   viii) A subcommittee for the ESRAD journal has been formed with the aim of submitting a proposal to a selection of publishers in 2027.
   ix) Clare added that she was also concerned to provide for the eventual succession of a new President by documenting the duties and schedule of activities.

2. Nick Shannon presented the 2025 Accounts and current financial picture
   a) 2025 net profit: €1,806
      a. Revenue from online conference = €4,439
      b. Total 2025 revenue = €2,530
   b) 2026 to date deficit = €2,464
      i. Summer Symposium revenue €785. Only 25 people paid for the symposium (€30 per ticket), less than expected. May need to consider how future events are priced, timed, and promoted.
      ii. Expenditures included small grants (€2,000), webmaster and communications honorarium (€600) zoom and website costs (€315) business address (€300) and other costs related to the summer symposium (€70)
   c) Cash assets €12,854, net assets €10,425
   d) Nick stated that if funds were required to underwrite an in-person conference next year, it would be unlikely that we could afford to fund another small grant scheme at the same time.

3. Auditor's report and comments
   a) Valentina and Titus reviewed the financial statements for the year end 31 December 2025, the annual report from June 2025-2026, and the action plan from June 2026-2027. They perceived the documents to give a correct statement of the financial and operational situation of ESRAD.

4. Board appointments/re-appointments/resignations
    a) Finnish Board member - Salla agreed to continue for a further 2 year term (2026-2028). We should think about recruiting other Finnish people to the board who can fill this role. Olga has the possibility to act in this role.
    b) Gözde Açıker expressed interest in becoming a board member.
    c) In summary, as of August 2026, the ESRAD board members are:
    Full members; Clare Mehta, Teresa Sgaramella, Nick Shannon, Megan Wright, Marc Lucas, Hazal Güçlü, Olga Hypponen, Katja Hleb, Salla Ahola.
    Vice members: Natalia Waechter, Jeffrey Arnett, Ana Fritzhand and Deborah Bailey-Rodriguez.

5. Elect examiners of the minutes and auditors for 2027
    a) Olga Hypponen and Nick Shannon volunteered to examine the minutes.
    b) Valentina Lucia La Rosa volunteered to act as auditor for next year's accounts and annual report. Clare and Nick undertook to find a second auditor.

6. Any other business
    a) Conference - discussion about the 2027 conference and whether it should be held in person, online, or hybrid.
        a. Nick indicated that it can be hard to make money running an in-person conference. However, it was noted that it would be beneficial to network and share research in person.
        b. Clare shared her concerns about resources for organising the conference and expressed her desire that there are enough people to commit to organising one.
    b) ESRAD Journal - Marc informed the meeting that a final proposal for the ESRAD journal had been submitted to Hogrefe publishers that day.
        a. Teresa requested that the journal proposal and any supporting documents would be circulated ahead of the next board meeting so that the matter could be given proper discussion by the board prior to any decision.