



## EARLI STATEMENT

### THREATS TO ACADEMIC FREEDOM

The Board of Directors of the European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction (EARLI) expresses deep concern over the growing threats to academic freedom worldwide. Scholars in many other countries are fighting for their right to freedom of expression, academic freedom, and scientific integrity. These ongoing challenges not only threaten individual researchers but also undermine the global scientific community and, thus potentially undermine research within the EARLI community.

Academic freedom is the foundation of rigorous and independent scholarship. It guarantees the right of researchers to develop their own research topics and teaching agendas, disseminate their findings, and engage in political and societal debates without fear of censorship or political interference. Restrictions on research topics and methodologies compromise scientific integrity, not only within the affected countries but also across the global research ecosystem, leading to the underrepresentation of topics in academic discourse.

Furthermore, threats to academic freedom often go hand in hand with attacks on equity, diversity, and inclusion. Efforts to dismantle diversity programs, limit access to education or research for underrepresented groups, or censor research on gender, ethnicity, minorities, climate change, and public health harm the pursuit of knowledge and innovation.

EARLI strongly believes that the diverse composition of its members, regardless of their background, gender, ethnicity, or any other distinguishing characteristic, contributes to the richness of our activities. EARLI is, therefore, committed to encouraging equity, diversity, and inclusion across our association and our activities, and eliminating discrimination ([Consult our equity, diversity and inclusion policy](#)). As a community, we want to ensure that research within EARLI reflects diverse perspectives, addresses global challenges, and strengthens science.

*Approved by the EARLI Board of Directors  
during its March 2025 meeting.*