

EMERGING FIELD GROUPS



POLICY PAPER

2019

TABLE of contents

3

What are
EFGs ?

4

Founding
an
EFG

5

Criteria
+
Evaluation

7

EFG
Funding

8

EFG
Timeline

9

EFG
Support

The EFG initiative is proudly supported by the Jacobs Foundation

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WHAT ARE EFGs ?

The EARLI Executive Committee is proud to support a second round of **Emerging Field Group funding**, aimed to support researchers active in innovative and exciting fields.

An Emerging Field Group (EFG) consists of a small group of international researchers working in the field of learning and instruction active within a **new, emerging field of research**.

EARLI offers these researchers the opportunity to work together during a short but intense period of time to explore the possibilities in their shared field of interest.

The Emerging Field Groups allow for EARLI to position itself as an innovative association, actively stimulating the evolution of educational research into new and exciting directions.

Where the SIGs represent the esta-

blished fields of research, the EFGs allow for **exploratory, innovative and risk-taking approaches**.

Therefore, EARLI deliberately shapes its EFG Policy as an **open policy**, allowing for the EFG members to present innovative and risk-taking research, methodologies or tools which have not been pre-defined.

Being part of an Emerging Field Group allows its participants to focus on innovative and new fields of research, with an emphasis on **exploration and process** rather than a definitive product.

As such, the Emerging Field Group is less concerned about actual output and more concerned about process.

EARLI offers the EFG the space and time to explore its ideas while remaining flexible in its undertakings.

FOUNDING an EFG

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An EFG can be founded by a group of EARLI members with the intention to work closely together during a short, fixed period of time. Each EFG runs for two years, with the possibility to extend this with another two years, through the process of re-application.

Non-EARLI members can also be invited to take part in the EFG during its initial two years. Should the EFG's activity be renewed for a second term, all EFG participants are asked to join the EARLI community by becoming an EARLI member. EFGs are also required to include **junior researchers** in their team, either PhD students or researchers who obtained their PhD within the last 3 years.

The main criterion for the founding of an EFG is its **topic**. The EFG should demonstrate that it concerns itself with innovative research, new methodologies, risk-taking approaches, new theoretical concepts, multidisciplinary efforts, etc.

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The initiative to found an EFG can be taken up by an EARLI member. Each EFG selects one (or more) EFG coordinators who will function as the main contact person(s) and EFG facilitator(s). This role can only be taken up by an EARLI member (see further).

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The call for EFGs will be disseminated amongst EARLI members once every other year in January. The next call will be launched at the beginning of 2020.

Initially, each EFG will run for two years, following the application approval by the Committee. However, should the EFG be productive and participants wish to do so, they can extend their activities for another two years. In order to be granted extension, the EFG will need to re-apply, indicating why the extension is necessary. As such, an EFG has a **maximum running time of four years**.

Following the call sent out to EARLI members, each prospective EFG can send an application to the EARLI Office. In this application, the prospective EFG will be asked to demonstrate in which way they meet the various EFG criteria. Each EFG also offers a description of which actions they plan to undertake, preferably including a timeline, a clear and detailed budget and a video.

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Each application will be evaluated by an **international committee**, who will decide which EFG(s) are accepted.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1

The EFG is led by an **EFG facilitator** who acts as a liaison between the EFG and EARLI. This facilitator is the main contact person for the EFG.

Only EARLI members can take up the role of EFG facilitator, though non-EARLI members can be included amongst the EFG participants, during the first two years.

The EFG can be led by one or two facilitators, as long as there is a clear contact person for EARLI. This facilitator remains responsible for the EFG throughout the running time of the EFG (max. of four years).

The EFG facilitator is mainly responsible for ensuring that the group progresses in developing the field and safeguards the innovative / risk-taking approach.

2

The EFG should consist of at least 5 different **EFG participants**. There is no defined maximum.

The group of researchers represents an international, primarily European profile active within an emerging field of research and at different higher education institutes.

It is possible to include non-EARLI members in the EFG during the first cycle (2 years). Should the EFG wish to extend its activities for another 2 years, all participants will be asked to join the EARLI community by becoming a member.

3

The EFG membership includes **Junior Researchers**, for whom the relevance of being a part of the EFG is clearly described in the application.

Involvement of researchers from a **low GDP, European country (as per the World Bank, GDP per capita)** is highly recommended, if relevant for the activity.

4

Considering the innovative and explorative nature of EFGs, the **type of activities** EFGs can host are not strictly determined.

To allow EFGs the freedom to determine their own approaches and activities, they only need to include a plan of action and budget in their application.

Examples of EFG activities can be brainstorming sessions, seminars, video lecture, social media activity, think tank, etc., however this list is non-exhaustive. EFGs are invited and encouraged to propose new, different and non-traditional activities.

EFG EVALUATION

Each application will be evaluated by an **international committee**, consisting of the EARLI President, EARLI President-Elect and EARLI Secretary-Treasurer, a representative of the Jacobs Foundation, a JURE member of EARLI and one or more high-standing European non-academic beneficiaries / stakeholders /societal partners. The final decision will be made by the EARLI Executive Committee. They will assess each eligible application according to the following criteria, with the scope and activities as defining factors. **Please note that members of existing EFGs or topics too closely associated with the existing EFGs will not be considered for this EFG application round.**

- The EFG meets the eligibility criteria as described in the EFG Policy
- The EFG scope is exploratory, innovative and risk-taking
- The EFG activities are clearly outlined and purposeful
- The proposed budget represents value for money, by clearly explaining and justifying expenses
- The EFG undertakes efforts to disseminate its findings, and contributes to the progress of scientific research in learning and instruction

To extend an EFG for a further two years, the group will need to make an **application for extension** in which they outline why the extension is necessary, what goals it will fulfill, and how the extension will continue to sustain the group's endeavors. Should the EFG apply for the additional **€ 5.000** funding, it is also expected to demonstrate what this funding will be used for. The decision for granting re-approval will be made by the EARLI Executive Committee.

EFG FUNDING

The EARLI Executive Committee is committed to provide Emerging Field Groups with funding to support their activities.

The amount of funding an EFG may receive depends on the type of activities the EFG intends to organise, and the thematic focus of the EFG. The maximum amount of funding per EFG is limited to **€ 25.000** for the total running time.

For the first cycle (first two years), a maximum budget of **€ 20.000** is provided per EFG. Should the EFG wish to extend its activities for the next two years, an additional **€ 5.000** can be requested.

This EFG funding is provided through a joint collaboration between EARLI and the **Jacobs Foundation**, dedicated to funding global research on learning and child development, supporting innovative scientists and implementing practical projects in early childhood and rural livelihoods.

The funding received by the EFG can be used to cover a variety of **project-related costs** (travel, accommodation, catering, communication, ...). However, the funding is not to be used for personnel or staff costs, such as wages or stipends.

The funding application should include a clear budget, indicating the costs the EFG intends to cover with the funding.

Following an open call sent out by EARLI Office, each prospective EFG can apply for funding.

The application should at least include the following elements:

The aim and scope of the EFG

The prospective actions or activities (and timeline)

The members of the EFG

A budget

A video (max. 3 mins)

Each application will be evaluated by an **international committee**, consisting of the EARLI President, President-Elect and Secretary-Treasurer, a JURE member, a representative of the Jacobs Foundation and one or more external experts. The final decision will be made by the EC.

Once the funding application has been approved, the EFG facilitator will be notified on the further arrangements.

Each EFG is expected to **document and submit its expenses** (incl. original invoices and receipts) which are covered by the EFG funding. An EFG will also be asked to supply a preliminary interim **report** on its progress, as well as a final report upon completion of the project.

EFG TIMELINE



EFG SUPPORT

EARLI offers support to EFGs in a variety of ways.

First and foremost, an EFG functions as **a laboratory** in which researchers are allowed to experiment with their ideas and methods, without focusing too much on the outcome or result of this process.

Additionally, EARLI offers each EFG **visibility** through its website, social media and conference activities. Should an EFG so wish, an invited symposium slot at the EARLI Conference can be provided.

EFGs are also encouraged to publish their findings in **Frontline Learning Research**, the open access journal of EARLI.

Also, as EARLI represents over 2.000 researchers active all over Europe and beyond, being part of an EFG allows researchers to enter in **critical dialogue with colleagues** and expand their research through fruitful exchange with colleagues. Disseminating a call or invitation to EARLI members about a specific EFG is also part of the support EARLI can offer EFGs.



EARLI Office can be contacted throughout the whole EFG process, from application to the organisation of activities, for questions and practical issues.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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