

RIG Report: Organisational Reform 2024-2025

Overview:

Events Hosted

Date	Where	Format	Title	Speakers
27/2/25	Online	Webinar	A presentation of the Global Education Monitoring Report for 2024 (Joint event with the LPD RIG)	Anna Christina D'Addio Chief Thematic Section, Global Education Monitoring Report – UNESCO
4/7/25	Annual Conference RIG Session	In-Person	'Institutional Reform RIG: Ways Forward'.	Dr Mark Gibson

Feedback

(Feedback from joint RIG event)

Providing brief reading materials in advance would be beneficial for familiarising myself with the session. For instance, yesterday's session on 'Presentation of the Global Education Monitoring Report for 2024, Focusing on Leadership' had a related published report available.

I would like to meet with Research Interest Group members to discuss conducting research related to the Korean case study. During the presentation, I observed notable differences between international cases and the Korean case. Exploring the Korean case can provide valuable insights for improving educational leadership preparation and in-service development in other countries.

There was a relevant subject and the host and discussant did a very good job, as well as the presentation. There was enough time to talk about the presentation afterwards.

I would like to hear about the study of gender, and also to take like four countries that could represent total different arrangements of educational leadership and development to explain how this differences enable and constrain educational outcome. This could be done as a series, Anna can pick four countries, an BELMAS can choose one researcher from that country to make the numbers more colorful.

So professional and interesting event. I was very pleased that I attended. It was informative and made you reflect upon your country's leadership development and education.

Yes, more of that global overview of leadership preparation and development.

Meetings took place across the year, and covered a variety of different research topics:

First meeting We met at the Annual Conference in July 2025 where we discussed with our audience our new focus on ‘Organisational Reform’ and produced a ‘map’ of key themes for the RIG to pursue in the coming years.
Second meeting We met in October 2025 to discuss and formulate a bid for the BELMAS Distinguished Service Award grant of £20k on the topic of leadership and time. Although this bid was unsuccessful on this occasion, the RIG conveners received encouraging feedback, and we intend to re-submit in future rounds. Pursuing research grants is going to be a focus for the group going forwards.
Third meeting In October 2025 we met to discuss a research project focussed on the policy work of Regional Directors appointed by the Department for Education. We subsequently submitted a joint conference proposal and are working on a co-authored paper on this topic. Producing joint co-authored pieces (approx. one a year) is going to be a focus for the group going forwards.

Aims and Objectives for next year (September 2025 – August 2026):

As a RIG we have contributed three book chapters in total to the forthcoming book *Educational Leadership in Turbulent Times* edited by BELMAS members David Gurr, Bernie Moreno, and Lawrie Drysdale to be published by Elgar. We hope to see this published in 2026 and to engage in subsequent promotional activities.

One of the RIG co-conveners Mark Innes (with colleagues) has recently (December 2025) had published an article in the *British Education Research Journal* focussing on qualifications for school leaders. This article has already attracted considerable interest from the magazine *Professional Development Today* and the *University Council for the Education of Teachers*. We intend to host a webinar in 2025 to feature this article, and other related work. Mark is also working on a BELMAS blog about this article.

The RIG Co-conveners have submitted a joint conference abstract to the BELMAS 2026 conference discussing our work on Regional School Directors, and we hope to have produced and published a full paper on this by the end of 2026. We will also hold our annual meeting at the BELMAS Conference in Cardiff in July 2025.

A further objective is to repurpose or resubmit our recent BELMAS Distinguished Service grant bid and / or develop new research proposals as a RIG.