ICSEI International Congress for School Effectiveness and Improvement

EVIDENCE INFORMED CHANGE NETWORK

NEWSLETTER • OCTOBER 2026

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NEW COORDINATION TEAM FOR THE ICSEI EICN

THANK YOU, KRISTIN AND LUCAS

We would like to start by thanking **Kristin Vanlommel** and **Lucas Silva Didier** once again for their commitment to the Evidence-Informed Change Network and for everything they have contributed to building and sustaining our community.

As co-coordinator and early career representative, respectively, Kristin and Lucas helped steer our network – formerly known as the Data Use Network – into a new era with a renewed focus on how evidence can meaningfully inform educational change. We are very grateful for the time, ideas and energy they have both invested in the EICN!

EVELYN JOINS JANA

We are pleased to introduce the new coordinator team. **Evelyn Goffin** joins **Jana Groß Ophoff** as co-coordinator of the EICN!

Evelyn is based in Belgium. She completed her joint PhD on the use of school performance feedback at the University of Antwerp and KU Leuven in 2023. She currently works at KU Leuven, where she coordinates a large-scale national assessment of attainment targets in Flemish early childhood education.

Evelyn is interested in how educational professionals make sense of diverse sources of information in their decision making, and how information providers and users can (better) connect. Over the past years, she was involved in the WERA IRN on research-informed educational practice, as well as in the international committee of the AERA's Division H.

We hope to strengthen the EICN as a space for exchange, collaboration and community: not only at the annual ICSEI congress, but throughout the year. We are particularly keen to create more opportunities for members to share their work, connect with colleagues working on similar questions, and bring new ideas and initiatives to the network. - Jana & Evelyn

VACANCY: EARLY CAREER REPRESENTATIVE

We are looking for an early career representative to join the EICN coordination team.

- The **early career representative** helps bring the perspectives and interests of emerging researchers into the network and can contribute to shaping EICN activities and communication.
- This position is open to graduate students and other junior scholars who identify as early career researchers.
- It is a voluntary role with a modest time commitment, offering an opportunity to become more closely involved in the network and connect with colleagues across the international ICSEI community.

Are you interested, or do you know someone who might be?

- Spread the word,
- get in touch with us so we can tell you more about the role,
- or better yet, **apply immediately via this form: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/mZ61EpJZ91**.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- Molenberghs, G., Van Gasse, R., Goffin, E., De Maeyer, S., & Vanhoof, J. (2026). How comparing school performance data can support sensemaking for school development: a Delphi study. *Research Papers in Education*. https://doi.org/10.1080/02671522.2026.2667761

How can comparisons of school performance data support meaningful school development rather than simply ranking schools? Drawing on a Delphi study with 18 stakeholders, this paper explores how carefully selected benchmarks, contextual information, and long-term trends can help school leaders make sense of performance data while highlighting potential pitfalls in their interpretation.

- Rojas-Bravo, J., Carrasco, D., & Schildkamp, K. (2026). Teachers' Pedagogical Practices: Primary Predictors of Instructional Data Use in Chile. *School Effectiveness and School Improvement*. https://doi.org/10.1080/09243453.2026.2663174

What matters most for teachers' use of data: organizational support or their own pedagogical practices? Drawing on longitudinal survey data from Chilean primary schools, this study finds that evaluation practices and instructional clarity are stronger predictors of instructional data use than organizational factors, highlighting the importance of embedding data use in everyday teaching.

- Rojas-Bravo, J., García-González, F., & Pincheira-Martínez, C. (2025). Interpretive Leadership: How School Principals Use Data in Everyday Leadership Practice. *Leadership and Policy in Schools*. https://doi.org/10.1080/15700763.2025.2559818

What does evidence use actually look like in the everyday work of school principals? Through shadowing ten Chilean principals, this study reveals how school leaders navigate competing demands by combining formal data with informal knowledge, personal experience, and political considerations, challenging linear conceptions of evidence-informed leadership.

- van den Boom-Muilenburg, S. N., & Vanlommel, K. (2026). The KINoS framework: social capital as the key enabler driving sustainable educational change through knowledge creation and diffusion. *Journal of Professional Capital and Community*. https://doi.org/10.1108/JPCC-04-2025-0042

Why do some educational innovations take root and spread while others fade away? Introducing the KINoS framework, this conceptual paper positions social capital, including professional relationships, trust, and shared understanding, as a crucial enabler of knowledge creation and diffusion, offering a fresh perspective on how educational change can become sustainable.

➲ Vanlommel, K., Goffin, E., & Vanhoof, J. (2026). The Triple-D Model for Evidence-Informed Educational Practice: Decisions, Decision-Makers, and Diversity of Evidence. *International Journal of Education Policy and Leadership*. https://doi.org/10.22230/ijepl.2026v22n1a1725

Evidence-informed decision-making in education involves much more than simply applying research findings to practice. The Triple-D model offers a framework centered on the interplay between decisions, decision-makers, and diverse sources of evidence, emphasizing the interpretive nature of evidence use and the competencies needed to navigate complex educational decisions.

Have you recently published something that would be of interest to other EICN members?
Send it our way for inclusion in a future newsletter.

INVITED SESSION AT EARLI SIG 18 IN BRUSSELS

At the EARLI SIG 18 conference in Brussels (9-11 September 2026, https://www.earli.org/events/sig-18-conference-2026), the ICSEI Evidence-Informed Change Network contributed an invited symposium on **Decision-Making in Evidence-Informed School Improvement.**

The symposium brought together three perspectives on how educational stakeholders engage with evidence:

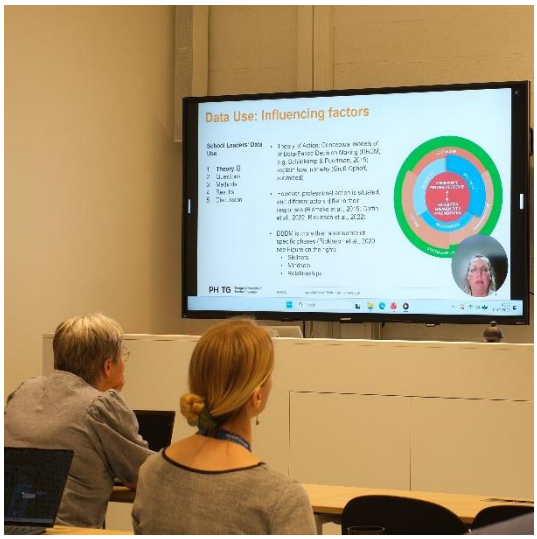
1. the Triple-D model for evidence-informed educational practice
   (work by Kristin Vanlommel, Evelyn Goffin and Jan Vanhoof - presented by Evelyn),
2. the role of school leaders' personal data use in organizational data use
   (work by Jana Groß Ophoff, Pierre Tulowitzki, Jonas Pfurtscheller, Marcus Pietsch and Colin Cramer - presented by Jana),
3. students' active participation in data-informed decision-making
   (work by Kim Schildkamp, Cindy Poortman, Mette Marit Jenssen, Hilde Forfang and Myrthe Lubbers - presented by Cindy and Mette Marit).

With Izaak Dekker as discussant, the session provided an opportunity to reflect on the roles of professional judgement, leadership, and student voice in translating evidence into meaningful educational improvement.

Pictures from the ICSEI invited symposium at EARLI SIG18 - September 2026

From left to right: Evelyn Goffin, Cindy Poortman, Hilde Forfang, Mette Marit Jenssen, Myrthe Lubbers, Kim Schildkamp, and Izaak Dekker. Photo courtesy of Kim Schildkamp.

Additional photos courtesy of the EARLI SIG18 organization:



LOOKING AHEAD TO ICSEI 2027 IN BANFF

The next ICSEI congress will take place in **Banff, Canada, from 4-8 January 2027**.

We are looking forward to seeing many EICN members there and to another opportunity to exchange ideas, reconnect with colleagues and meet new members of the network

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Are you planning to join us in snowy Banff?

Registration info and all practical details are available on the ICSEI 2027 conference website:

https://icsei.org/congress/icsei-2027/

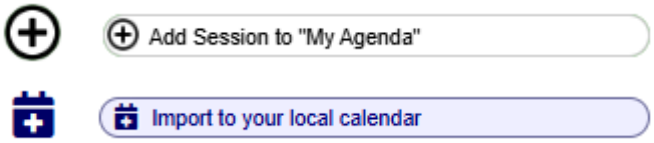
- Registering by **30 October 2026** gets you the **early bird rate** for ICSEI 2027.
- Please note that **presenters** are required to register by 30 October 2026 at the latest!

CONFERENCE AGENDA AVAILABLE

The full ICSEI 2027 Conference Agenda is available through ConfTool: https://www.conftool.com/icsei2027/sessions.php

You can start planning ahead in ConfTool by adding sessions and events to your own Agenda, and you can generate ics-files to import these into your local calendar as well.

Look out for these symbols:



Please note that changes to the schedule are always possible, so be sure to check timings & locations closer to the event!

FIND THE EVIDENCE-INFORMED CHANGE NETWORK AT ICSEI 2027

We are delighted to announce that the ICSEI 2027 conference agenda is jam-packed with interesting Evidence-Informed Change Network sessions.

Overview

For a curated overview of all paper sessions, symposia, roundtables, and innovate sessions of the EICN, visit this ConfTool link:
https://www.conftool.com/icsei2027/index.php?page=browseSessions&search=EIC

and please make sure to check out the mixed-network poster sessions as well:
https://www.conftool.com/icsei2027/index.php?page=browseSessions&search=poster+session

Joint symposium

We are adding a very special collaboration to this year's conference as we have teamed up with colleagues in the Early Childhood Education and Care Network for a joint symposium!

From System Evidence to Local Sensemaking: Evidence-Informed Change in Early Education:
https://www.conftool.com/icsei2027/index.php?page=browseSessions&form_session=863

Network meeting

Our annual EIC Network Meeting is currently scheduled for **Wednesday, 6 January 2027,** from 12:15 pm to 1:15pm in room KC 201:
https://www.conftool.com/icsei2027/index.php?page=browseSessions&form_room=13

All EICN members are warmly invited. The meeting is an opportunity to hear what has been happening across the network, discuss plans for the coming year, and - most importantly - bring forward your own ideas about what the EICN could do for its members.

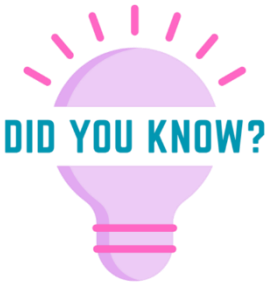
Whether you have been involved with the network for years or are joining us for the first time, we would be delighted to see you there!

*Additionally, we are exploring options to add an **informal get-together** in Banff for our network members. Stay tuned!*

EVIDENCE CHANGES MINDS!

Evidence-informed change sometimes starts with a surprise! In this new EICN Newsletter feature, we'll share curious, unexpected, and occasionally amusing research findings from across disciplines. Along the way, we might even bust a few persistent myths and challenge some widely held assumptions. Just a few sentences to spark curiosity, offer a fresh perspective, and perhaps change your mind!

DID YOU KNOW THAT RELATIONSHIP SATISFACTION DOESN'T NECESSARILY FADE OVER TIME?



Contrary to the popular belief that long-term relationships inevitably lose their spark, longitudinal research suggests that many couples maintain relatively stable levels of relationship satisfaction over time.

Apparently, growing old together doesn't have to mean growing tired of each other!

Karney, B. R., & Bradbury, T. N. (2020). Research on marital satisfaction and stability in the 2010s: Challenging conventional wisdom. *Journal of marriage and family, 82*(1), 100-116.

REACH OUT TO US

We want the network to reflect the interests, work and ideas of its members.

So please get in touch whenever there is something you think the EICN community should know about.

For example, you can send us:

- a recent publication;
- a conference, event or webinar that may interest other members;
- a call for papers, proposals, submissions or collaboration;
- an idea for an EICN activity or initiative;
- news from a project or research group;
- a suggestion for a future Member in the Spotlight feature.

And, of course, if there is something you would like the EICN to do differently - or more of - we would very much like to hear that too.

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This newsletter was sent out directly to all members of the Evidence-Informed Change Network (EICN) of the International Congress for School Effectiveness and Improvement (ICSEI).

Learn more about our network here:
https://icsei.org/network/evidence-informed-change-network/

Do you want to join our community?
Become an ICSEI member and be sure to select the
Evidence-Informed Change Network (EICN) when registering:
https://icsei.org/membership/