

15 March, 2021

Dear ARLE members,

The next ARLE conference 2022

The Covid-19 pandemic continues to create a lot of problems around the world. This includes the work of the ARLE community and for us as a board.

Looking ahead towards the next ARLE conference planned to take place in June 2022, the plan was, until recently, that Larissa McLean and colleagues at the University of Melbourne were to host the conference. Regrettably, due to continuing uncertainties related to the vaccination programmes and restraints on entering Australia within the near future combined with a general impression that people are reluctant to travel overseas, we have had to decide, in agreement with the Melbourne team, to postpone a ARLE conference taking place in Australia.

Moving the conference to Europe and making it hybrid

Instead, we now aim at relocating the 2022 ARLE conference to a university in Europe. In addition, we will organize the conference as a hybrid conference. This implies that the conference will be both physical and online. The physical conference will take place for three days, as normal. As a complementary, an online special limited programme for online participation will also be set up. The specific format will be presented later. A hybrid conference will offer participation for colleagues from the East, the West, the North and the South not being able to attend due to covid-19 restrictions or other concerns.

The reason we aim at locating the conference in Europe is that a majority of ARLE members are in Europe and therefore won't have to travel for a long distance. Furthermore, we hope and expect that the vaccination programmes have been implemented in Europe at that time. It is important for us as a community to make it possible for as many people as possible to be able to participate physically. The conference is a crucial event for generating not only new knowledge and sustaining the ARLE community. It is also an important event for generating an economic surplus that helps financing our organization as such.

Current status of venue in 2022

Currently, we are in dialogue with two potential candidates in Europe. We hope and expect to announce the host by mid-April and send out the call for the conference end of April or beginning of May.

Kind regards,

on behalf of the ARLE Board,

Nikolaj Elf, chair