



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR
THE EDUCATION OF ADULTS

ACTIVITY REPORT

2017

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1 Highlights



EAEA Year of Adult Education: Over 100 events participated in the campaign for more visibility and recognition for adult education in Europe.



Interest Group on Lifelong Learning gathered twice this year to discuss inclusiveness in education and the role of education in promoting citizens' rights.



Annual Conference on Engaging new Learners: record-breaking 120 participants. 28 June, Girona (Spain)



18 adult educators from 12 countries participated in **EAEA Younger Staff Training**



EAEA statement: Put the Plus into Erasmus+



implOED
– Implementing Outreach, Empowerment, Diversity Conference in Helsinki, 17 November



EAEA statement: Adult education needs ESF funding

Country reports: Adult Education in Europe 2017: a civil society view published



January February March April May June July August September October November December

EC Working Group on Citizenship
Brussels (BE), 6–7 February



EAEA Response:
EAEA proposal on Key Competences
– Response to the European Commission's Consultation

EAEA statement:
EAEA on the Future of Erasmus+



General Assembly & Annual Conference
27 June, Girona (Spain)



Award ceremony
27 June, Girona (Spain)



Grundtvig Award Brochure published



EAEA response:
Social inclusion means considering all age groups in education

Conference: What Future for Adult Education?
6–7 December, Brussels

Policy Debate
on Adult Education and Refugees and Migrants,
6 December, Brussels



EAEA response:
The European Pillar of Social Rights and the European Education Area

2

INFLUENCING PUBLIC POLICY

“The campaign for the EAEA Year of Adult Education in Europe boosted the visibility of adult education at the European and national levels.”

2 Influencing public policy

EAEA continues to be the main voice of civil society in non-formal adult education. In this capacity, we work with European and national bodies and stakeholders in order to represent the interest of our members and to promote adult learning.

The campaign for the EAEA Year of Adult Education boosted the visibility of adult education at the European and national levels. It opened doors to new partnerships across sectors, with other civil society organisations as well as a heightened self-confidence within the EAEA membership and the adult education community. Over 100 events in 27 countries and 65 organisations in Europe took part in the campaign and demonstrated the variety and power of adult learning.

The events of the year were based on the EAEA Manifesto for Adult Learning in the 21st Century and spotlighted to (potential) learners but also to policy-makers. Another key theme of 2017 was “Adult Education and Refugees/Migrants”, and “Engaging new Learners”. EAEA focused also on the Paris Declaration on promoting citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education and its role for adult education.

Building bridges for inclusion in adult education

EAEA aims at increasing participation in adult education, in particular by raising awareness for the wider benefits of learning, promoting excellence and effectiveness in policy-making and policy implementation. This is done through civil society proposals, the promotion of new methods for engaging new learners, and innovation through partnerships and international work.

In 2017, EAEA cooperated with different levels in the European Commission, European Parliament and other European bodies. Committed to its approach that centres around effective communication between the different levels, EAEA ensured the information transfer on policy

implementation processes from the local and national to the European level. Members of the Executive Board and staff represented the EAEA members in meetings and conferences at the European level and linked them with the relevant policy-makers. EAEA was particularly active in monitoring public policy, with a strong emphasis on the New Skills Agenda, particularly Upskilling Pathways, and the implementation of the European Agenda for Adult Learning and the Paris Declaration. EAEA involved its membership in a number of consultations online as well as in physical meetings.

Based on the feedback provided by the members and other stakeholders, EAEA developed its policy strategies, prepared background papers and published statements and responses on a variety of topics: from the Key



Le Huy Lam from SEAMEO Centre for Lifelong Learning in Vietnam with EAEA Manifesto.

Competences to the future of Erasmus+ and the European Social Fund (ESF) to social inclusion and the European Pillar of Social Rights and the European Education Area. While policy-makers at European and national level were the final targets of EAEA's policy work, it was through the members at national level that EAEA could exert impact. The members widely used EAEA's products and work in their own policy work at national, regional and local level.

The European Commission, particularly the adult education unit in Directorate-General for Employment (DG EMPL) and the unit for citizenship in Directorate-General for Employment (DG EAC), sees EAEA as a strong partner when it comes to working with civil society on adult learning. In 2017, EAEA regularly met with the European Commission and was invited by the European Commission to present its expertise in adult education on several occasions, attesting a very close collaboration. In 2017, EAEA was also part of the Working Group on Adult Education as well as the Working Group on Citizenship, with the EAEA President and the EAEA Secretary-General as the main delegates.

Strengthened cooperation

EAEA strengthened its cooperation and fostered networking with other civil society partners and stakeholders at the European, national and regional level, including European NGOs, European institutions, social partners, ministries etc. Through building tight-knit partnerships, EAEA implements a cross-sectoral approach in its work. This helps to achieve common objectives in a coordinated way as well as to increase permeability and transferability. Furthermore, it allows to build internal capacities among the members of the EAEA network.

In 2017, this led to an increased exchange of experiences and good practice, particularly around the topics of refugee inclusion and outreach to new learners. Members of staff and of the Executive Board were active in several working groups of European platforms and networks, notably on the topics of Erasmus+, migration, the European Pillar for Social Rights, citizenship education, and digital skills. EAEA contributed to these working groups as well as other initiatives through oral and written input and achieved a wider awareness about adult education among organisations of other sectors and educational fields.

EAEA strengthened the ties with its networks both in Europe and globally. The collaboration with the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) was intensified through EAEA's work on the regional report of the CONFINTA VI mid-term outcomes. In the report, EAEA gave an overview

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EAEA strengthened the ties with its networks both in Europe and globally.

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of the developments in adult education in recent years, drawing on the knowledge and experiences of its extensive member network. The report can be downloaded at <https://bit.ly/2gQpGOB>. Furthermore, EAEA developed recommendations for the implementation of CONFITEA VI, thus for improved adult education policies and strategies worldwide. EAEA also took part in the CONFITEA VI Mid-Term Review 2017 conference in Suwon, South Korea, in October 2017.

Due to an increased need for providing more data on adult education in Europe, EAEA linked up with ESREA, the European Society for Research on the Education of Adults. A future cooperation is expected to deliver research insight in current and future challenges in the field of adult education, to provide practical recommendations building on the experience of EAEA members and to build closer ties between the communities of researchers and adult educators.

EAEA was an active member in CONCORD Europe and the SDG Watch Europe in 2017, contributing to the work of these platforms on lifelong learning and development, and raising awareness of these issues within the networks. EAEA also participated in consultations of the multi stakeholder group on Development Education and Awareness Raising by DG DEVCO of the European Commission.

The President of EAEA, Per Paludan Hansen, served as a member of the Editorial Board of the journal Adult Education and Development. The Director of DVV International, Christoph Jost, was nominated by EAEA as a candidate for the CCNGO group of the UNESCO, and was successfully elected as the European representative.



Statements and opinions



IN 2017, EAEA CONTRIBUTED TO EU POLICIES WITH THE FOLLOWING PAPERS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESPONSES:

- **EAEA Response:** EAEA proposal on Key Competences – Response to the European Commission’s Consultation, April 2017
- **EAEA statement:** EAEA on the Future of Erasmus+, April 2017
- **EAEA response:** Social inclusion means considering all age groups in education, July 2017
- **EAEA statement:** Put the Plus into Erasmus+ [infographic] (EN, PT), September 2017
- **EAEA statement:** Adult education needs ESF funding (EN, FR), November 2017
- **EAEA response:** The European Pillar of Social Rights and the European Education Area, December 2017

For its key advocacy activities, EAEA prepares statements, responses and policy papers, based on the discussions with the Board, the members and the wider network. To discuss any issues directly with European policy-makers, EAEA sends letters and proposes meetings.

3

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS



3 Conferences and events

General Assembly

The EAEA General Assembly took place on 27 June 2017 in Girona, Spain and was hosted by EAEA member ACEFIR. 2017 was an election year: the members elected the new Executive Board for the next 2-year term. 14 candidates applied for the 12 open positions by introducing themselves and their work to the EAEA members. 8 Board members, including the EAEA President Per Paludan Hansen, were re-elected, and 4 new Board members were elected into the Board.

Katarina Popović, Secretary-General of the International Council for Adult Education, presented updates on the CONFITEA VI mid-term review and discussed the work at the international level with the EAEA General Assembly. Later, the participants split up for the strategic discussion of the association: in workshops, they exchanged on the potential future orientation of EAEA and the role of the European Social Fund for adult education.



EAEA President Per Paludan Hansen opening EAEA General Assembly.

EAEA Grundtvig Award

The theme for the Grundtvig Award in 2017 was 'Engaging New Learners'. The call for successful projects attracted a lot of interest, with a record-breaking number - almost 50 - of applications. The representatives of the winning projects participated in the Grundtvig Award Ceremony and Annual Conference on 27 of June in Girona, Spain.

Each of the winners received a piece of art from Girona: miniature versions of letter sculptures in the centre of Girona, which were handed over by the mayor of Girona Marta Madrenas I Mir during a ceremony in the Municipal Theatre of Girona.



EAEA General Assembly 2017 was held in Girona and was hosted by ACEFIR.

WINNERS

National projects: Letters for Life

Coordinator: Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra, Portugal

Focus: Fostering social inclusion through literacy workshops.

European projects: Second Chance

Coordinator: CFA Jacint Verdaguer, Spain

Focus: Collaborative learning in prisons.

International projects: Ndarugu Community Learning Centre

Coordinator: Ndarugu Community Learning Centre, Kenya

Focus: Encouraging learners to continue studying after basic literacy skills through courses and community life.



Letters for Life (above) and Ndarugu Community Learning Centre (below) accepting their awards.



Second Chance project partners receiving the award.

The results of the winning projects were promoted during the marketplace at the conference, attended by over 120 participants. The best practices in engaging new learners were also promoted through an article series presenting the nominees, published on EAEA website and social media. All projects were included in the Grundtvig Award brochure, published in September 2017.

Annual Conference on Engaging New Learners

The interest in the EAEA Annual Conference held on 28 June in Girona on Engaging New Learners exceeded the initial expectations, with over 120 participants attending. The participants discussed the potential impact of Upskilling Pathways. Paul Holdsworth, a member of the Adult Education Unit of the European Commission, explained how it can be used as a framework that engages new learners through tailor-made learning opportunities. Christina Omideyi from OK Foundation in the UK emphasised the importance of finding what motivates people to engage new learners through her own learner story.

During an interactive session, all participants looked at the challenges that adult education providers face in engaging new learners. To explore the possible solutions in detail, the participants then broke into four workshops according to different target groups: low-skilled adults, young adults, SMEs and migrants.

A fish-bowl session at the end brought together the results of the discussions. The conference ended with a performance from a choir made up of refugees and migrants in Girona.



EAEA Annual Conference focused on engaging new learners.

EAEA Younger Staff Training

Offered annually since 2011, the Younger Staff Training is EAEA flagship capacity-building activity. In 2017, the programme was slightly redesigned, with a different theme for each day and an increased number of interactive workshops as opposed to input sessions.

The training took place on 19–22 September in Brussels and focused on policy and advocacy, communication methods as well as outreach and diversity in adult education. The trainers and speakers included Martina Ni-Cheallaigh from the Adult Education Unit of the European Commission, Belgian adult educators Silvia Terrenzio and Ghislain de Bondt, as well as EAEA staff.

With 18 participants representing 12 countries, the daily discussions on “Adult education in my country” were particularly fruitful and engaging, showing the diversity in adult education policy, practice and structure across Europe. They also had an opportunity to design communication strategies for their adult education events and campaigns, compare how adult education policies are consulted in their countries and to discuss barriers to participation in their national contexts.

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The most important result gained through EAEA Younger Staff Training is that we got introduced to the European initiatives in adult education, policy and advocacy. It equips us with knowledge and skills to support changes in our countries to promote development of relevant LLL system and its internal part adult education.

– Lika, Georgia, a participant of YST 2017

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EAEA Younger Staff Training participants of 2017 with Gina Ebner.

Policy Debate on Adult Education and Refugees

Part of a series of three events on the future of adult education, the policy debate on adult education and refugees took place on 6 December. The event took stock of the contribution of adult education to the inclusion of refugees by comparing perspectives from transition countries and destination countries. EAEA invited speakers from Serbia and Germany to discuss key challenges and achievements in their countries and presented two videos from Greece and Norway to facilitate exchange of best practices.

The cross-country approach resulted in interesting conclusions, showing that many initiatives for refugees especially in Southern Europe are led by civil society, frequently without governmental support. Policy and practice recommendations from learners' stories collected by EAEA concluded the debate.

The discussions at the event contributed to the last key recommendation and resulted in an outcome article, which reached almost 500 readers on Facebook.

Future of adult education in Europe: celebrating the EAEA Year of Adult Education

EAEA Year of Adult Education in Europe

110
events

27
countries

65
organisations

The event in Brussels brought together almost 50 stakeholders working in adult education at the European, national and local level. 26 representatives of EAEA member organisations attended the events. While not all EAEA members or other stakeholders were able to attend the event, the discussions were widely followed on social media.

A festive reception on 6 December celebrated the achievements of the EAEA Year of Adult Education in Europe (which included in total 110 events in 27 countries) with a small exhibition of pictures from some of the events.

The discussion organised the next day and hosted by Indre Vareikyte at the European Economic and Social Committee focused on key policy messages sent by the participants of the Year, helping to raise awareness of local and national challenges in adult education at the European level. An interactive map showed the geographical reach of the campaign as well as the outcome messages.

European policy updates on Erasmus+ and European Social Fund were presented by representatives of the European Commission: Paul Holdsworth and Martina Ni-Cheallaigh, and Yassen Gyurov representing the Bulgarian presidency. Their implications for the adult education sector were further discussed by the participants. EAEA members and other stakeholders brainstormed on the future scenarios of adult education in Europe during an interactive session.

Raising Visibility

In addition to meetings with policy-makers, EAEA attends other key meetings and events for adult education and lifelong learning. In 2017, EAEA participated in a large number of working groups, conferences and meetings. Some of these events are listed below.

EAEA IN MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- **Input at seminar 'Gender and global citizenship education'**
Dortmund (DE), 12 January
- **GRALE III launch workshop for the countries of East and South East Europe**
Belgrade (RS), 26 January

- **General Assembly of the SDG Watch Europe**
Brussels (BE), 1-2 February
- **EC Working Group on Citizenship**
Brussels (BE), 6-7 February
- **Meeting with German members**
Berlin (DE), 7 February

- **Participation in the European Migration Forum**
Brussels (BE), 1-2 March
- **Star Awards ceremony**
Dublin (IE), 6 March
- **Task force on Social Standards at the Social Platform**
Brussels (BE), 14 March
- **30 years Erasmus'**
Brussels (BE), 21 March
- **Interest Group for Lifelong Learning**
Brussels (BE), 21 March
- **EPALE NSS meeting**
Zagreb (HR), 27-29 March
- **Bridge 47 webinar**
Brussels (BE), 28 March

- **Meeting with Sophia Eriksson (DG EAC)**
Brussels (BE), 7 April
- **Meeting with Heikki Kuutti Uusitalo,**
Special Adviser to the Minister of Education Sanni Grahn-Laasonen
Helsinki (FI), 21 April (member-led)
- **Meeting with representatives of DG DEVCO**
Brussels (BE), 24 April

- **PRALINE conference**
Brussels (BE), 10 May
- **European Movement International Members Council**
Brussels (BE), 12 May
- **SDG Watch meeting**
Brussels (BE), 15 May
- **Preparatory meeting of CONFITEA VI Mid-term review at the UNESCO Institute of Lifelong Learning**
Hamburg (DE), 16-17 May

January	February	March	April	May
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of GRALE III Belgrade (RS), 26 January • DEAR multi-stakeholder meeting with Rosario Bento Pais and Markus Pirchner (DG DEVCO) Brussels (BE), 27 January • The Digital Task Force of the Social Platform Brussels (BE), 30 January 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with MEP Momchil Nekov Brussels (BE), 8 February • Meeting with MEP Julie Ward Brussels (BE), 10 February • Lecture at Winter School University Würzburg Würzburg (DE), 10 February • Debriefing on the Education, Youth and Culture Council Brussels (BE), 22 February • Erasmus+ coalition meeting Brussels (BE), 27 February • ET2020 working groups meeting on migration Brussels (BE), 28 February 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EP event 'Skills Rights for all' Brussels (BE), 29 March • Advisory Board meeting DVV International Berlin (DE), 30 March 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual convention for inclusive growth Brussels (BE), 24 April • EUCEN Policy Talk Brussels (BE), 25 April • Validation Biennale Aarhus (DK), 25-27 April • Meeting with Finnish MPs Helsinki (FI), 29 April (member-led) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Agenda conference Germany Ludwigshafen (DE), 22-23 May • Erasmus+ coalition 24 May • DEVCO Civil Society Consultation Brussels (BE), 29 May • General Assembly of CONCORD Europe Brussels (BE), 31 May – 1 June

- **General Assembly of the Lifelong Learning Platform**
Tallinn (EE), 1-2 June
- **Workshop facilitation at Global education seminar of the Council of Europe**
Prague (CZ), 7-8 June
- **MODERN project multiplier event**
Brussels (BE), 9 June
- **EC Working Group on Citizenship**
Brussels (BE), 9 June
- **Key Competences Framework review conference**
Brussels (BE), 13-14 June
- **Input at adult education conference**
Rijeka (HR), 15-16 June
- **Meeting with a representative of EPALE Belgium**
Brussels (BE), 17 August
- **Meeting with Austrian Education Attaché Franziska Staber**
Brussels (BE), 7 September
- **Attendance of the conference "The role of civil society in the prevention of radicalisation of young people"**
Brussels (BE), 7 September
- **Participation in EPALE/UK EAAL Conference**
London (UK), 4-5 October
- **EC Working Group on Citizenship**
Brussels (BE), 26-27 October
- **DVV International Conference**
Tbilisi (GE), 11-12 October
- **10th Innovative Learning Environments Conference**
Nicosia (CY), 12-13 October
- **Working Group on Adult Learning**
Brussels (BE), 17-18 October
- **Attendance of the conference "From crisis management to everyday practice - Lessons from the integration of refugees"**
Brussels (BE), 6 November
- **EUCEN Autumn Seminar**
Barcelona (ES), 16-17 November
- **Lifelong Learning Civil Society Forum**
Brussels (BE), 20 November

June	August	September	October	November	December
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Group on Adult Learning Brussels (BE), 19-20 June • Attendance of the Eurocarer conference Brussels (BE), 21 June • Lecture on "Adult Education in Europe: Approaches and Trends" for the participants of the advanced training program for teachers of foreign languages in the Linguistic University of Minsk, Minsk (BY), 21 June • (imp)OED Meeting with Martina Ni-Challaigh, Alexia Samuel and Maria Ilies (DG EMPL- Unit C3) Brussels (BE), 22 June • Attendance of the Civil society days Brussels (BE), 26-28 June 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EESC hearing on the European Pillar of Social Rights Brussels (BE), 12 September • Meeting with the Steering Committee of ESREA Brussels (BE), 15 September • EQF Peer Learning Activity Lisbon (PT), 21-22 September 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Society Forum of the mid-term review of CONFITEA VI Suwon (KR), 24 October • Conference of the mid-term review of CONFITEA VI Suwon (KR), 25-27 October • Strategic dialogue meeting Brussels (BE), 26 October • Conference on Recognition of prior learning Ponta Delgada (PT), 30 October 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erasmus+ Coalition meeting Brussels (BE), 21 November • Working group on education of European Movement International Brussels (BE), 24 November • Meeting with MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen Brussels (BE), 29 November 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seminar "Travailler avec les « publics éloignés »" Brussels (BE), 5 December • Input at conference on Letters for Life Coimbra (PT), 7 December • Attendance of the FICEMEA conference on new methodologies for active participation Brussels (BE), 15 December • Attendance of the SIRIUS conference Brussels (BE), 15 December

4

PUBLICATIONS

4 Publications

Grundtvig Award Brochure

All EAEA Grundtvig Award nominee projects were presented in the Grundtvig Award Brochure (available online and in print for free) and widely disseminated during the Lifelong Learning Week and the events on the Future of Adult Education in Brussels. By presenting the nominee projects, the Grundtvig Award Brochure shared best practices on engaging new learners. Online statistics show that the Grundtvig Award publication 2017 has been the most engaging one to date out of all EAEA publications.



Publication: Adult Education Policy in Europe – A Civil Society View

EAEA produces yearly a set of country reports about the state of adult education policy in Europe. The 4th edition of the EAEA Country Reports collected information and data about recent developments in adult education in the countries of the EAEA members. The EAEA members were consulted through a questionnaire and interviews and provided an insight into adult education from a civil society perspective.



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The EAEA Country Reports give professionals working in adult education across Europe a platform to express their perspective on the field and the possibility to relay learners' views.

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The EAEA Country Reports give professionals working in adult education across Europe a platform to express their perspective on the field and the possibility to relay learners' views. The report thus bridges the gap between citizens involved in adult education and EU institutions creating adult education policies and strategies. This 'shadow report' of the Education and Training Monitor as well as the Country Specific Recommendations of the European Semester is a key working document for EAEA at the European and national levels. It allows members and stakeholders to compare developments in different countries and to gain a better understanding of the challenges that adult education organisations and providers face.

The publication highlights that new areas in adult education are becoming important: vocational training, family learning, civic education and intercultural learning with the host communities of refugees and migrants. Many members are keen to engage new learners and make adult education more accessible and attractive for disadvantaged groups, showing that EAEA's annual theme in 2017 was a key topic for adult education organisations and providers in Europe.

5

PROJECTS

5 Projects

EAEA's projects focus on advocacy, policy and exchange of practices in adult education and lifelong learning.

EAEA participates mainly in Erasmus+ projects but is also looking at other funding programmes (i.e. DEAR, H2020, etc.). With the very broad membership and strong network Europe-wide, EAEA is a natural project promoter. With increased tendency EAEA is also invited to contribute to projects content-wise, with good practice collection, research analysis and policy recommendations on different subjects.

FINALE – FINANCING ADULT LEARNING IN EUROPE

- **2016–2018 / Erasmus+**
- **Aims:** To create more equitable, cohesive and sustainable adult education provision by drawing on European best practices to establish key indicators for monitoring and evaluating the use of resources in the field.
- **Outcomes:** An advocacy toolkit, including a set of indicators to measure the financing of adult learning in Europe as well as recommendations for policy makers, to ensure sustainable funding in the future, and an Executive Summary that outlines the main findings from the project.
- **Info:** www.financing-adult-learning.eu



LIFE SKILLS FOR EUROPE

- **2016–2018 / Erasmus+**
- **Aims:** To improve basic skills provision in Europe by explaining, further developing and upscaling the life skills approach. The project's final beneficiaries are people from a disadvantaged background, refugees and people resistant to 'foreigners' and intercultural exchange.
- **Outcomes:** A "glossary" of the "life skills" and a collection of tools and good practices of life skills initiatives across Europe are available through the website. An indicative framework for life skills provision as well as an Awareness Raising and Strategy toolkit are expected to follow in 2018.
- **Info:** eaea.org/project/life-skills-for-europe-lse



IMPLOED – IMPLEMENTING OUTREACH, EMPOWERMENT, DIVERSITY

- **2016–2018 / Erasmus+**
- **Aims:** To implement the OED Grundtvig network results. The implOED project will provide the opportunity to mainstream OED results and implement them at different levels (policy and providers) as well as transfer them to different sectors (vocational, basic skills, etc.).
- **Outcomes:** Implementation of guidelines for adult education trainers and staff and policy recommendations in partner countries through events and advocacy meetings. So far over 20 events have been arranged, reaching over 400 adult education trainers and over 80 policy-makers.
- **Info:** www.oed-network.eu



EAEA's partner projects in 2017

DIMA - TOOLKIT FOR DEVELOPING, IMPLEMENTING AND MONITORING ADULT EDUCATION

- **2015–2017 / Erasmus+**
- **Aims:** To create a practical and innovative toolkit for developing, implementing and monitoring coherent and participative adult education strategies. This allows adult education providers and local authorities to actively contribute to national and EU adult education policies.
- **Outcomes:**
 - State of the art report on existing adult education strategies, policies and tools in partner countries and at the European level;
 - Comparative study of needs assessment at national and EU level;
 - Practical toolkit to facilitate the development, monitoring and assessment of adult education. It will include, among others, a conceptual framework on effective strategy and policies, guidelines and practical tips as well as a collection of good practice examples;
 - Training curriculum and material to be used by policy makers and adult education providers;
 - E-learning portal with an innovative training package: online instructional materials on adult education strategy development and monitoring.
- **Info:** dima-project.eu



LET EUROPE KNOW ABOUT ADULT EDUCATION

- **2015–2018 / Erasmus+**
- **Aims:** To create the professionalisation and quality of information work of adult education staff through seminars, webinars and simulation games.
- **Outcomes:** In 2017, the partners tested the newly developed learning materials at workshops all over Europe. In partnership with the Belgian EPAL Platforms, EAEA tested selected learning modules at the World Teachers' Day celebration in October 2017 in Brussels, and did another test run at the Younger Staff Training in September 2017 during a half-day workshop on adult education and media. In 2018, the consortium will evaluate the experience from the testing phase of the project and finalise the curriculum.
- **Info:** eaea.org/our-work/projects/let-europe-know-about-adult-education-lek-ae



LQN – LEBENSQUALITÄT DURCH NÄHE

- **2016–2019 / Erasmus+**
- **Aims:** To develop a comprehensive qualification and training programme developed and implemented with citizens in order to encourage them to jointly shape their local community through participatory projects.
- **Outcomes:** Curriculum for local facilitators. EAEA disseminates the project results at the European level to contribute to the development of the competence-check tool and organises a multiplier event in Brussels at the end of the project.
- **Info:** eaea.org/our-work/projects/lebensqualitat-durch-nahe-lqn



SMART GENERATION



- **2016–2018 / Erasmus+**
- **Aims:** To develop an innovative training model at the European level in order to promote a conscious use of the smartphone, its potential and its risks.
- **Outcomes:**
 - analysis of the training needs of young people and teachers / educators about the smartphone;
 - training program on the conscious and critical use of the smartphone;
 - pilot model of workshops on Media Education in schools and in environments outside the classroom;
 - policy recommendations on the use of smartphones;
 - open source e-learning platform.
- **Info:** smart-generation.wixsite.com/smartgeneration

ODESEA: ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR STRENGTHENING EUROPEAN ADULT EDUCATION

- **2017–2018 / Erasmus+**
- **Aims:** To develop relevant skills and improve the knowledge of staff members from three European organisations working in the field of adult education and lifelong learning: LLL-P, EARLALL and EAEA. The specific objectives are to enhance the development of these organisations, to strengthen their cooperation and to transfer the acquired skills and competences to several key stakeholders in the field of lifelong learning at different levels.
- **Outcomes:** 10 staff members of these three organisations will have opportunity to do 16 mobilities, including 5 job shadowings and 11 training courses according to their needs and their role in their organisation.

TRANSNATIONAL PEER REVIEW FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE IN VALIDATION OF NON FORMAL AND INFORMAL LEARNING (VNFIL) EXTENDED

- **2016–2018 / Erasmus+**
- **Aims:** To increase the transparency, market relevance, consistency and transferability of VNFIL across Europe. It supports both Member State VNFIL systems by providing a common framework and tools, as well as transnational use of VNFIL by increasing mutual trust at the European level.
- **Outcomes:** Peer Review – the external evaluation of VNFIL institutions/providers by Peers builds on quality activities already in place at a VNFIL institution/provider, it is cost-effective and it fosters networking and exchange between providers of validation of non-formal and informal learning. Transnational peer review in particular supports exchange between member states and VNFIL providers. In the project, this is used to strengthen mutual trust and enhance transnational cooperation, working towards a common standard for Peer Review on the European level.
- **Info:** www.peer-review-network.eu/pages/peer-review-vnfil-extended.php?lang=EN



6

INFORMATION SERVICES

MIRVA: MAKING INFORMAL RECOGNITION VISIBLE AND ACTIONABLE

- **2017–2020 / Erasmus+**
- **Aims:** To improve the recognition of non-formal and informal learning through the use of Open Badges. The project examines the different conditions necessary to create a favourable environment for Open Endorsement, and provides guidelines for various target groups: organisations, practitioners, communities, individuals, technology providers and their clients.
- **Outcomes:** Through the consultation of a network of organisations and practitioners, MIRVA will produce:
 - O1 Open Recognition Framework
 - O2 Guidelines for Communities & Individuals
 - O3 Guidelines for Organisations & Practitioners
 - O4 Guidelines for Technology Providers & Clients
 - O5 Guidelines for linking informal recognition with Frameworks
 - O6 Open Recognition Framework Validation.

In 2017, the partners met for the kick-off meeting in Bologna to set their future cooperation and started working on the first output of the project.

- **Info:** mirva.openrecognition.org



6 Information services

EAEA communication tools

The Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture continues to support the Communication Officer (through The Finnish Lifelong Learning Foundation – KVS). The social media presence was further strengthened in 2017 with a consistent way and pace of publishing.

EAEA uses an integral multimedia approach to promoting its activities, in involving its membership and in distributing its projects and activities results: electronic newsletters, briefings, online questionnaires, press releases, policy papers, statements, social media activities and website information. The EAEA website as well as Facebook and Twitter are well known in the AE sector for providing information about developments in adult education at the European level regularly and on time.

EAEA also uses a specific mailing list targeted at policy makers (around 1,000 receivers), which focuses on policy recommendations and transfer of innovation. This list includes policy makers at European, national and regional level.

The results of EAEA's work are published, distributed and disseminated through the website, social media, the EAEA newsletters, special publications, statements and press releases. Further dissemination is done through EPALE, ELM (European Magazine for Lifelong Learning), the media of the Lifelong Learning Platform, Social Platform, ICAE (International Council for Adult Education), CONCORD Europe, European Movement International, as well as other allies in the field of adult education and lifelong learning for all.

Launched in 2015, EPALE became a central platform for sharing and discussing information about European adult education in 2017. The use of EPALE was integrated in EAEA's dissemination strategy, and the EAEA Secretary-General was appointed Advising Board member of EPALE. Through a service contract with EPALE, EAEA provided content for policy news on EPALE and moderated online discussions, for example through

the newly established EAEA Community of Practice.

EAEA also provided tailor-made dissemination services to organisations and project partnerships. These services, which might include publication of articles on EAEA website, promotion on social media and through newsletters, are offered for free to EAEA members.

Satisfaction with EAEA's communication work

According to the results of the membership survey 2017, almost 90% of EAEA members are “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with membership with EAEA communications, and none of the members is “dissatisfied”. Members particularly appreciate EAEA provision of EU policy developments on adult education and dissemination of project information. Most importantly, over half of the respondents said they had used the Manifesto for Adult Learning in the 21st Century, EAEA flagship publication.

Following a consultation with the EAEA Communication Officer and the input from the members collected during the survey, in 2017, EAEA started to create info notes and infographics for the members to present policy developments in a more comprehensible way and to support them with their advocacy work at their respective levels.

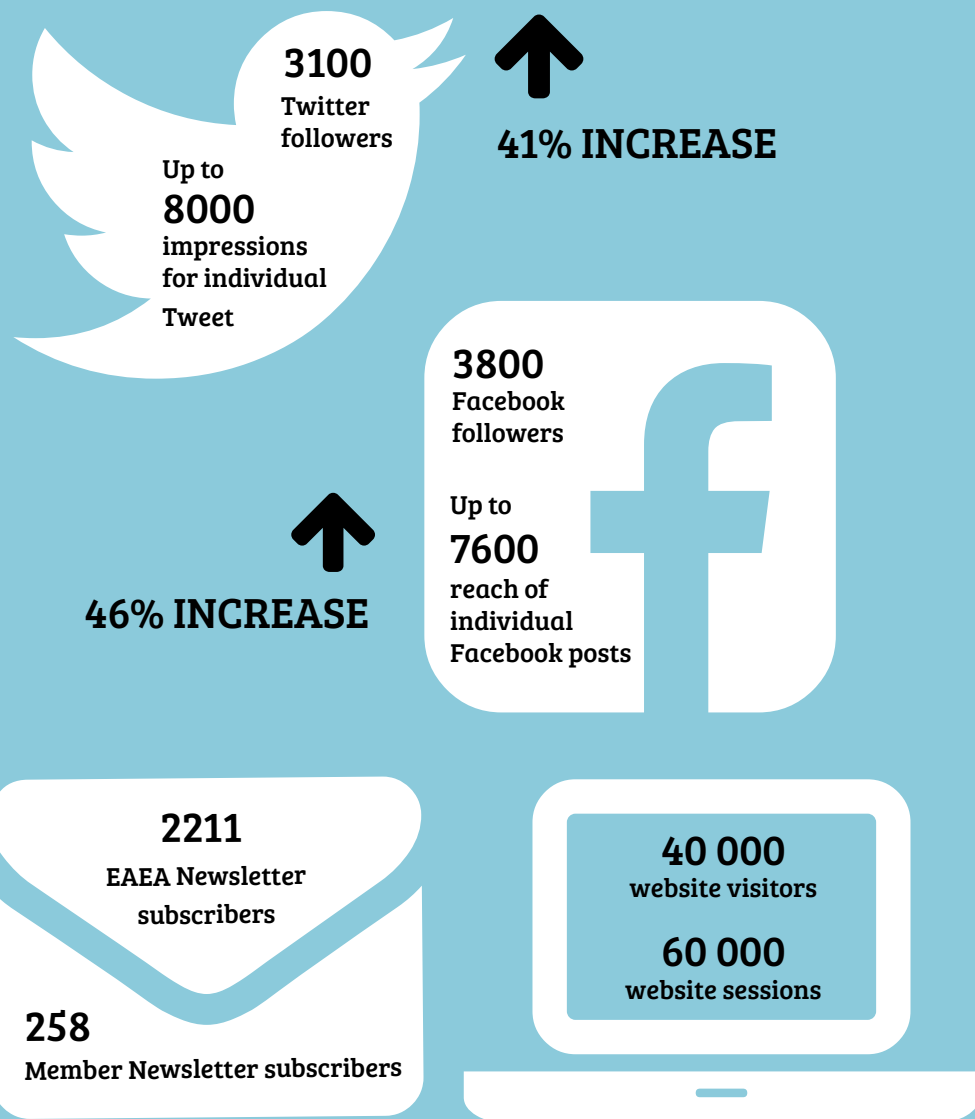
almost

90%

of EAEA members are “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with EAEA communications, and none of the members is “dissatisfied”.

Impact of EAEA communication tools

By continuing and further elaborating its communication strategy in 2017, EAEA increased its impact in all its communication tools:



7

MEMBERSHIP

7 Membership

Contacts with members

As every year, several delegations and staff members from EAEA members and affiliated organisations visited the main office and received information on EAEA's activities, its role at the European level and possibilities for members to get involved. The EAEA Secretary-General continued to regularly send internal e-mail information to the members, explaining what is going on at the secretariat in Brussels and in terms of policy developments at the European level ("News from Brussels").

In 2017, EAEA continued to consult its members on different issues. Most importantly, EAEA worked closely with them to draft the annual "country reports", as well as the policy messages on adult education and refugees, sent via a social media and email campaign in late 2017. Several members sent in the examples of their work in the inclusion of refugees, which were included in the messages and presented during the event in December.

Members' involvement was also key in the successful implementation of the EAEA Year of Adult Education in Europe. The initiative was greatly supported by EAEA members, with almost half of all events organised by them. 26 representatives of EAEA member organisations also travelled to the final events of the EAEA Year of Adult Education in December, breaking the usual pattern of members travelling only to the annual General Assembly.

The members were also actively engaged in the EAEA work for EPALE, sharing their best practices and expertise on specific adult education issues through a number of blogposts and in online discussions.

Member satisfaction

EAEA conducted its annual membership survey between mid-February and mid-March 2018. In 2018, the survey included several parts, focusing on satisfaction with EAEA services, communication and specific membership

services in 2017. For the first time, the survey also included more detailed questions about EAEA advocacy and capacity building.

The general satisfaction with EAEA work and services has stayed high.



Qualitative answers to the questions about members' advocacy work show that EAEA resources are important in their advocacy work, mainly the Manifesto and the statements on Erasmus+.

Changes in membership

As a result of the membership strategy, the EAEA General Assembly received and approved 10 new applications for membership in 2017, resulting in a total of 142 members in 44 European countries.

The following organisations became ordinary members of the association in 2017 (approved by the General Assembly):

1. Adult Education Institution Dante – Ustanova za obrazovanje odraslih Dante – Croatia

2. NGO Trainers Association – Stowarzyszenie Trenerów Organizacji Pozarządowych STOP – Poland
3. Association Européenne de l'Education – France (AEDE) - European Association for Education – France

The following organisations became **associate members of the association in 2017 (approved by the General Assembly):**

1. Ecett-Networks – Belgium
2. International Center for Promotion of Education and Development CEIPES – Centro Internazionale per la Promozione dell'Educazione e lo Sviluppo CEIPES – Italy
3. Libar – Bosnia and Herzegovina
4. Association for Democratic Initiatives ADI – Združenje Asocijacija za demokratska inicijativa ADI – Macedonia
5. Educators' Centre Association (ECA) – Nevelők Háza Egyesület (NHE) – Hungary
6. Institute of Entrepreneurship Development (iED) - Ινστιτούτο Ανάπτυξης Επιχειρηματικότητας (IN. AN. ΕΠ.) – Greece
7. Valencian Association of Head Teachers AMB Members of Management Staff of State Schools of Education for Adults (VAMS-ea) - Associació valenciana de directores i directors i membres d'equips directius de centres públics de Formació de Persones Adultes (AVED-fpa) – Spain

The following members were **excluded, in accordance with internal rules:**

1. Research & Organizational Development Association – Bosnia and Herzegovina (associate member)
2. Scuola IaD, Università di Roma Tor Vergata – Italy (associate member)
3. Tabula Education Centre – Romania (associate member)

The following members **left:**

1. Europahaus Burgenland – Austria (associate member)
2. SROV – Tetovo – Macedonia (associate member)
3. Vox, Norwegian Agency for Lifelong Learning – Norway (associate member)
4. Centre for Adult Educators-Linköping University – Sweden (associate member)



EAEA President Per Paludan Hansen welcoming new members.

Executive Board and President

The Executive Board and its preparatory body the Bureau (President, Vice-presidents and Secretary-General) are responsible for the overall direction and policy development of the association. The Board works primarily on policy level, leaving the running of the association to the Secretary-General. Board members also advise the secretariat on different matters, from practical to operational to general issues. The role division is clearly defined in the constitution of the association. The Board also contributes actively by representing EAEA in different bodies and conferences, and representing the EAEA at events, as well as connecting with other members.

The Executive Board aims at supporting adult education issues at transnational as well as country levels: The EAEA Board is rotating its meetings in order to liaise with adult education and lifelong learning institutions in various host countries.

EAEA Executive Board 2017



EAEA PRESIDENT
PER PALUDAN HANSEN
DENMARK

EAEA President since 2013.
EAEA Board Member since 2008.



EAEA VICE-PRESIDENT
JOYCE BLACK
UNITED KINGDOM

EAEA Board Member since 2013.



MAJA MAKSIMOVIC
SERBIA

EAEA Board Member since 2014.



MARIANA MATACHE
ROMANIA

EAEA Board Member since 2013.



EAEA VICE-PRESIDENT
SUSANA OLIVEIRA
PORTUGAL, nominated by Slovenia

EAEA Board Member since 2013.



BERNHARD GRÄMIGER
SWITZERLAND

EAEA Board Member since 2017.



PIRKKO RUUSKANEN-PARRUKOSKI
FINLAND

EAEA Board Member 2011–2013,
acting Board Member since January 2016.



KLAUDIUS ŠILHÁR
SLOVAKIA

EAEA Board Member since 2017.



ESTHER HIRSCH
GERMANY

EAEA Board Member since 2015.



KENT JOHANSSON
SWEDEN

EAEA Board Member since 2015.



GALINA VERAMEJCHYK
BELARUS

EAEA Board Member since 2015.



LIZ WATERS
IRELAND

EAEA Board Member since 2017.

Executive Board meetings in 2017

VIENNA, AUSTRIA 16–17 FEBRUARY 2017

In focus: On the Board's agenda were discussions about the European Pillar of Social Rights, Upskilling Pathways, the Grundtvig Award and the Younger Staff Training. Further points of discussions were the renewed membership strategy, an update on the EAEA Year of Adult Education 2017, and the preparation of the Annual Conference and General Assembly 2017. The Board meeting was combined with a seminar on Austrian adult education with an introduction to the Austrian adult education system, the implementation of Upskilling Pathways at national level, as well as professionalisation and quality assurance in adult learning. The EAEA Board also met with the former Austrian President, Heinz Fischer, for a discussion on civic adult education and democracy.

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM 8–9 MAY 2017

In focus: The Board discussed the results of membership survey as well as the communication report. Furthermore, discussions on political developments and international cooperation, particularly the CONFITEA VI mid-term review, and on Erasmus+ for adult education were high on the agenda. In a strategy session, the Board analysed European strategies for adult education and discussed the next 3-year plan. The members of the Board also discussed the work of EAEA with EPALE, the progress of the EAEA Year of Adult Education 2017, the financial updates, and the organisational development, and they prepared the General Assembly, Annual Conference and Grundtvig Award Ceremony 2017.



EAEA Executive Board 2017 with Gina Ebner.

GIRONA, SPAIN 28 JUNE 2017

In focus: The Board meeting at the General Assembly 2017 welcomed the new Board members, to recap on the strategy discussion, to discuss new political developments, particularly Erasmus+, and the EC's Working Groups for Adult Education and Citizenship.

VIRTUAL MEETING 15 SEPTEMBER 2017

In focus: In a virtual meeting, the Board did their strategic planning for 2018: the members of the Board discussed the general strategy for EAEA and the proposal of a 4-year plan and the operating grant. The Board also planned the final events of 2017, particularly the CONFITEA VI mid-term conference in South Korea, the Lifelong Learning Week in Brussels, and the EAEA events in December 2017. Moreover, the Board discussed its work in platforms and initiatives as well as new political developments, particularly Erasmus+.

TBILISI, GEORGIA 9–10 OCTOBER 2017

In focus: The meeting in Georgia aimed to doing team-building as the new Executive Board. Topics on the agenda were the financial update and planning, the election of the EAEA Vice-Presidents, and the continuation of the strategy discussion, i.e. themes for 2018 and the annual workplan 2018. Furthermore, the Board discussed political developments, the Interest Group for Lifelong Learning, and key issues such as Upskilling Pathways, social inclusion and citizenship. The Board worked on the EAEA Future Lab, planned next events and meetings, and discussed international cooperation, particularly ICAE, CONFINTEA VI mid-term review, and the UNESCO CCNGO.

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM 7–8 DECEMBER 2017

In focus: The Board discussed political developments, particularly the European Social Fund, the European Pillar of Social Rights, and the European Education Area. Moreover, the Board received updates on the Interest Group for Lifelong Learning, the CONFINTEA IV mid-term review, and the Education and Training Monitor 2017. The members of the Board also discussed ongoing and planned projects, did a recap on past events, as well as planned future events, particularly the Education Summit. Furthermore, the Board discussed the financial update and analysed the results of the EAEA Country Reports 2017. A discussion on the work with the European Semester and on taking the EAEA Manifesto for Adult Learning into the future complemented the agenda.

Finances

In 2017, EAEA successfully applied for another year's core-funding, managed through a three-year framework contract with the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency that was established in 2015. EAEA also renewed its service contract with EPAL to provide contents and manage communities of practice for the electronic platform.

The Younger Staff Training brought some income as a large number of people participated in the training. Extensive project work contributed to the financial stability of the organisation.

Staff

- **Gina Ebner**, Secretary-General
- **Francesca Operti**, Project Manager
- **Raffaella Kihrer**, Policy Officer
- **Helka Repo**, Communications Officer
- **Aleksandra Kozyra**, Membership and Events Officer
- **Clémence Garnier**, Junior Project Officer (until June 2017)
- **Noora Puolamaa**, Project Assistant (July–December 2017)



EAEA Brussels staff members with EAEA President Per Paludan Hansen. From left: trainee Meghna Jadhav, Aleksandra Kozyra, Raffaella Kihrer, Gina Ebner, Francesca Operti, trainee Gil Freitas and Noora Puolamaa.

The European Association for the Education of Adults is an international non-profit organisation (A.I.S.B.L.) registered under Belgian law.





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