



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR
THE EDUCATION OF ADULTS

Candidate's presentation form for EAEA PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS ELECTIONS 2019

Please introduce yourself with this form and make your motivation known to the members of EAEA who will elect the new executive board in June 2019

*To be returned to EAEA until **26 May 2019***

to Gina Ebner gina.ebner@eaea.org AND

Sari Pohjola sari.pohjola@kvs.fi

NAME	Monica Widman Lundmark
TITLE	Chairperson, Studieförbunden (the national organization for study associations in Sweden) Secretary General, ABF (Workers Education Association)
ORGANISATION	ABF
NOMINATED BY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Swedish National Council of Adult Education, Folkbildningsrådet• The Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (OFI)• Swedish Interest Organization for Popular Movement Folk High Schools (RIO)• Folkhögskollärarna (Trade union for Folk High School teachers)• Studieförbunden i samverkan (The Swedish Adult Education Association)
RUNNING FOR	<input type="radio"/> President <input checked="" type="radio"/> Board member



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Please attach your ID picture to the mail or add it here:



1. Please describe your current position.

I am the head of organization at ABF, one of oldest and the largest organization for liberal education in Sweden. ABF was founded in 1912 by the growing labor movement. The founders still play an important role, but we have another 50 member-organizations and more than 60 with an agreement of cooperation at the national level. ABF has 52 local branches, and thanks to that a strong network on the local level of the civil society. As a part of ABFs international engagement, we mainly cooperate with IFWEA.

2. How would you like to contribute to the work of EAEA, based on your experience in your organisation?

With my experience from the Swedish system of adult liberal education, both as principal at a folkhighschool, and now as head of the organization ABF, I know both parts of the adult liberal education in Sweden.

3. What are your motivations as a candidate?

The ideas of a united Europe become more and more challenged. Even though we are very much depending on cooperation to find solutions good for the many, nationalistic movements grow all

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over Europe and the rest of the world. We see the increasing gaps between people and between nations, many times due to high rates of unemployment and lack of gender equality. We can also see numerous examples of xenophobia and racism, many undemocratic movements who claims to speak for the so-called ordinary people. We hear many young people like Greta Thunberg expressing their fear for the climate change and their frustration caused by lack of action from politicians. And on the other hand, groups of people claiming that this is exaggerations or simply fake news.

My conclusion is that lifelong and lifewide learning is as important as ever to understand the present and meet the future Europe. The right to education for adults is important, not only for finding solutions but also to create a self-defense for democracy. The non-formal education is aiming for personal development, active citizenship, further studies and a stronger position on the labour market for the individual but also for a more inclusive and participatory society. But we need to work on linking the formal and non-formal education together in a way that enhances the opportunities, instead of creating walls. It is very beneficial for the individuals to get and for society to give second chances and to create low thresholds between formal and non-formal education.

4. Which other information would you like to share with the EAEA members?

My network will be an asset.

As the head of board for the national organisation for study associations in Sweden, there is a connection with a major part of the civil society in Sweden.

As the vice chair of the board for ABF Norden and the Geneva School, I have a strong relationship with the other workers education associations of Norden (Denmark, Finland, Island, Norway and Åland).

As a member of the board for IFWEA, where I am the internal auditor, I have an international network that includes Rutgers University, New Jersey.