



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR
THE EDUCATION OF ADULTS

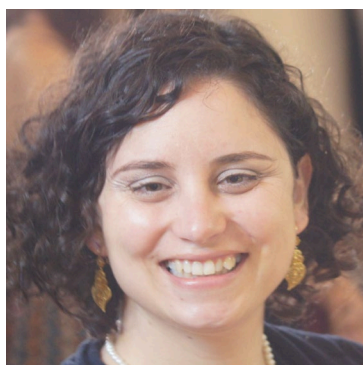
Candidate's presentation form for EAEA PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS ELECTIONS 2019

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	Dina Isabel Mendes Soeiro
TITLE	
ORGANISATION	Coimbra Higher Education School - Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra CHES/PIC (ESEC/IPC)
NOMINATED BY	APCEP – Associação Portuguesa para a Cultura e Educação Permanente
RUNNING FOR	<input type="radio"/> President <input checked="" type="radio"/> Board member

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



1. Please describe your current position.



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR
THE EDUCATION OF ADULTS

I am a Professor at Coimbra Higher Education School - Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra, Portugal, where I lecture Adult Education and Educational Gerontology using an on-Service Learning approach. Students, teacher and communities learn together. The impact of on-Service Learning in the students involved is very significant in the development of vocational skills and in learning for life, while at the same time, in a reciprocal relationship, it benefits individuals and communities. My work contributes to foster reciprocity between higher education and communities. I also do applied research on non-formal adult education.

As a Board member of APCEP – Associação Portuguesa para a Cultura e Educação Permanente (APCEP), the umbrella association in Portugal, I take an active role in promoting lifelong learning for all, adult education and adult literacy on the political agenda.

I learn a great deal and feel very happy coordinating “Letras prá Vida / Letters for Life” (EAEA Grundtvig Award 2017), an Adult Literacy Community-Based Project that sets up workshops to promote literacy, family literacy, digital literacy, empowerment and social inclusion. The project also fosters social participation through the conscious and critical use of ICT, by learning how to use smartphones, computers, Internet and social media. ‘Literacy with the heart’ is the motto, because affections are at the center of all andragogy dynamics. Music is a powerful tool in this Project, to promote ‘literacy with the heart’, particularly with older learners affected by cognitive impairment. LFL organizes an annual meeting of Adult Education for Life to promote adult education for all and to disseminate good practices in adult education in Portugal, by bringing together experts, students and participants, in a participatory dialogue. The project participates in the APCEP Literacy Circle, develops a community of practice and provides training in adult literacy and non-formal adult education.

To learn more about it, please visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/letraspravida>

<https://eaea.org/our-work/capacity-building/eaea-grundtvig-award/eaea-grundtvig-award-publications/>

<https://uil.unesco.org/case-study/effective-practices-database-litbase-0/letters-life-portugal>

“Literacy for Democracy” (Active Citizens Fund - Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway – EEA Grants, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Fundação Bissaya Barreto) is a project promoted by APCEP. Here I belong to the professional team, which intends to “educate for citizenship and democratic literacy in order to develop the self-efficacy of communities.”

The Project “National Plan for Adult Literacy” led by the Portuguese Government, with the support of the European Commission and in partnership with EAEA for technical support is an urgent and



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR
THE EDUCATION OF ADULTS

necessary response to the needs of Portuguese adults with very low levels of literacy. The Plan is being developed in a participatory methodology in which I am involved. I am a member of the Stakeholder Advisory Group and also a facilitator of a Development Group focusing on “methodologies for working on Literacy with seniors”.

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

As a teacher, a researcher and a practitioner who works on non-formal education with communities, organizations and also political actors at local and national levels, my contribution to the work of EAEA is bound to increase cooperation, collaboration and learning among practices, research, training and policies.

Europe is facing very demanding challenges, so we need capacity-building, critical thinking in our digital and complex world as well as innovation.

Given my expertise in Educational Gerontology, I am deeply concerned with the participation of older people. Therefore, I want to contribute in providing high quality and equal learning opportunities for the elderly, enhancing intergenerational learning and promoting awareness of the importance of learning at an advanced age and, as a consequence, demonstrating that, at this stage of life, educational offers are not an expense but an investment.

I want to contribute to EAEA with my commitment, my experience, my will to learn and share and with my heart.

3. What are your motivations as a candidate?

Europe and the EAEA have a huge impact in the development of adult education in Portugal, as the Project “National Plan for Adult Literacy” shows, so Portugal needs to be represented in the EAEA Executive Board to continue this work. Since 1974 we have developed in Portugal several innovative measures and practices in this field that should be widely known at a European level. My presence in the EAEA Board would guarantee this dissemination and the sharing of philosophies, methodologies and materials.

We need to fight for a steady and solid public investment in Adult Education in Europe and in Portugal, strengthen and broaden adult education policies, beyond narrower qualification goals.

To campaign for funding that generates cooperation rather than competition among adult education providers.

I stand for adult education integrated in a lifelong learning strategy that considers and equally values formal, non-formal and informal learning.



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR
THE EDUCATION OF ADULTS

I intend to empower adult education practices by promoting training and opportunities for sharing experiences.

And I wish to learn more from all the voices that EAEA gives expression and from its experience, to make new critical friends and to expand my current community of practice.

Older people are now a large and a growing sector of the European population, but what education and learning opportunities exist for people over 65? We EAEA - as a Europe-wide network - clearly need to work on that!

To sum up my motivation is: to advocate the right to learning and education for all, no matter their age, background and/or personal circumstances. I want to guarantee more means to open up opportunities of participation especially for those who have lost hope in education.

My dream: create a "Learning Europe" where no one is left behind and learning is a valued path for active citizenship, happiness and well-being!

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

My grandmother Carma did not have the opportunity to learn to read or write. I feel her sorrow and I know well the impact this has throughout her life.

With her I learn a lot, I have learned to value education, and from her comes my love for music.

Like her, I love to sing! In fact, I sing in a choir: the fantastic Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra Choir!

I have a 12 years old daughter, Maria Inês, she also loves music and plays transverse flute, teaches me how to be a better person everyday and helps me keeping updated in the digital world.

My bedside book is Fernando Pessoa's "Book of Disquiet". At the end of the day I like to open a page at random. It has always something to say to me.