



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	Uwe Gartenschlaeger
TITLE	Mr
ORGANISATION	DVV International
NOMINATED BY	Deutscher Volkshochschul-Verband (DVV)
RUNNING FOR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> President <input type="checkbox"/> Board member

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





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1. Please describe your current position.

From August 2019 onwards, I will serve as the Deputy Director of DVV International, based in Bonn, Germany. My responsibility will include especially the work on the European level and the global advocacy for ALE within the framework of the SDGs and the Education 2030 agenda. DVV International is the international branch of DVV (Deutscher Volkshochschul-Verband).

DVV is the educational and political representation of the approximately 920 Adult Education centres (Volkshochschulen) and their state associations, the largest further education providers in Germany. DVV supports cooperation and experience exchange among members, develops policies and guidelines, and promotes the quality of Adult Education work.

Currently, I am the Regional Director of DVV International for Southeast-Asia based in Vientiane (Laos) until end of July 2019. In this capacity, I am responsible for designing and implementing development projects on ALE in Laos and Cambodia as well as for the cooperation with ASPBAE, the Asian sister organization of EAEA.

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

My professional journey of nearly 30 years in ALE provided me with the opportunity to share some specific experiences:

In the 90th I was engaged in a Church based organization dealing with reconciliation and remembering the past. It taught me to value liberal (or civic) education as an essential ingredient to encourage active citizenship, democracy and understanding in society, develop understanding between nations and foster highly demanded voluntary engagement.

Later, I implemented projects with various countries in Central and Eastern Europe for more than a decade. These emblematic experiences demonstrated to me the diversity of cultures and traditions in Europe, the importance of European values as well as the diversity of challenges ALE providers are facing. To moderate diversity is something I definitely can bring in. Additionally, it gave me a sense of the role of ALE in ensuring social cohesion and equity in times of economic and social crisis and transformation, through e.g. guidance and workplace learning.

Lastly, my experiences in working outside Europe shaped my sense for the global responsibilities of the European adult education in providing the necessary support to our citizens to be able to understand the globalization and the necessities of solidarity and sustainable thinking.



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On the other hand, I am deeply convinced that we can and should learn from other experiences, in the Asian context for example from their work on Education for Sustainable Development, Global Citizenship Education or the changes digitalization brings to learning.

Besides these specific experiences, there are some overarching qualifications I would like to bring in:

1. As a director of DVV International regional offices and deputy director of DVV International I developed my leadership skills and the ability to work with multi-national teams. In this capacity, I applied for and implemented more than 20 EU-funded projects from various budget-lines.
2. My work at the boards of the EAEA and ICAE provide me with several years of experience in working in international contexts.
3. Representing DVV at German Round Table on international Cooperation in TVET until 2015 gave me some insides into the international dimension of vocational education.

Based on my experiences, I would like to contribute to support EAEA and our membership to be able to offer and advocate for ALE approaches to deal with the multiple new challenges Europe is facing.

3. What are your motivations as a candidate?

I perceive EAEA as a professional and successful organization, highly valued by its members and counterparts. Seven years serving in the EAEA board convinced me that the fundament, including a vibrant membership and a very dedicated and highly professional staff is well established to serve the needs of the sector and perform advocacy for ALE.

Advocating for ALE – Advocating for Europe: As a convinced adult educator and European citizen, I would like to strengthen the engagement of EAEA in these two directions: to be on the top of the agenda in lobbying for the needs of our sector and advocate for the power of ALE to shape the future of our societies, including the challenges of digitalization, migration, climate change and ageing population. Many of them are outlined in the Manifesto. As a president, I would like to shape these discussions and be vocal on the needs in funding, professionalization and recognition ALE needs to fulfill its role.

Additionally, I would like to help to develop more initiatives on how ALE can be used to enhance the dialogue with the citizens on European values, the role Europe should play in the world and the importance of coherence in our societies. Saying so, I think we should continue to go beyond lobbying our interests vis-a-vie the Commission and other stakeholders, but try to harvest and conceptualize the experiences of our membership to provide highly needed dialogue formats on shaping the future of our continent. The roots of ALE are emancipatory, it should empower people to take informed decisions and actively shape the future.



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

My candidacy is based on a decision of the DVV board from 6 December 2018 to nominate me for the presidency of the EAEA. The decision is linked to a strategy to involve DVV and its constituencies more with the work at the European level and make use of the DVV networks in the European Parliament, the Council and Comission as well as on national level. DVV is happy to offers the experiences of the more than 900 Folkhighschools (VHS) and their associations e.g. in their efforts for basic education or work with the migrant communities.

After more than 30 years, DVV decided to support again an EAEA-President, rooted in the association.