



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR
THE EDUCATION OF ADULTS

Candidate's presentation form for EAEA PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS ELECTIONS 2021

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 2021

*To be returned to EAEA until **22 May 2021**
to Gina Ebner gina.ebner@eaea.org AND
Sari Pohjola sari.pohjola@kvs.fi*

NAME	Oleg Smirnov
TITLE	Board member
ORGANISATION	Integration and Development Center for Information and Research
NOMINATED BY	Ukrainian Adult Education Association
RUNNING FOR	Board member

Please attach your ID picture to the e-mail.



1. Please describe your current position.



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR
THE EDUCATION OF ADULTS

Currently I represent several organisations. Being the head of the Board of the **Ukrainian NGO “Integration and Development Centre for Information and Research” (IDCIR)** since its creation in 1997, I was among the **Ukrainian Adult Education Association** founders in 2015. My experience in the ALE sector has a practical origin. Since 1997 as part of the IDCIR team, I have been involved in developing and introducing innovative approaches of intercultural education into national policy, mainly through training of adult educators. As a member of the UAEA Board during 2015-2017, I made every effort to create a strong association that unites the various ALE providers in Ukraine. My previous experience has helped me join the professional team of the **DVV International** representative office in Ukraine in 2015 as the country director. Since then, I have been involved in developing the legislative support for LLL and ALE in Ukraine, promoting ALE as a human right and value, building strong local structures to provide demand-oriented educational programmes for all population levels with a special focus on vulnerable groups.

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

The EAEA has proved to be a leader in promoting the ALE values throughout Europe and the broader. It is the best example of a networking organisation when the values promoted are realised in practical everyday activities.

At the same time, I see the EAEA as an organisation that has great potential when the experience of each member could be voiced and heard. Unfortunately, recent discussions have demonstrated a certain disproportion, especially when new joint initiatives appear and projects receive support. Such cases are mainly connected with broader opportunities for EU countries.

I want to focus on the involvement of organisations, members of EAEA from non-EU states in more active dialogue, exchange of experiences, upscaling on success stories, and making them visible in all EAEA regions. The importance of non-EU members in the network should be considered on different levels, from sharing information to policy development.

A regional partnership within EAEA could be encouraged by identifying the most relevant goals and formats of networking. I feel that I could stimulate non-EU members to work for a more ambitious agenda and find the motivation to implement practices that allow network development.

From the perspective of cooperation, more efforts and work formats are needed. I can initiate regular meetings (online/offline) of the non-EU members, which should become a basis for joint activities, project planning and implementation. Stimulating partnership projects between actors from different countries in the region can be a priority.

3. What are your motivations as a candidate?

European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA)

Mundo-J, Rue de l'Industrie 10, B-1000 Brussels / Tel: +32 2 893 25 22 / eaea-office@eaea.org / www.eaea.org



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR
THE EDUCATION OF ADULTS

My primary motivation is to make the whole ALE sector responsive to the needs of socially vulnerable groups of the population.

My motivation is based on my experience of work in the region. I am sure that the knowledge gained by ALE providers in my region is worth sharing with other Association members. It can include advocacy practices, capacity-building measures for non-formal ALE providers, ways of overcoming barriers in learning articulated by diverse marginalized groups of the population, etc. Furthermore, the organisations in the non-EU countries need to bring their problems on the agenda of the relevant EU stakeholders in the adult education field.

At the same time, I have a strong motivation to learn from other people, other EAEA member organisations, other regions. I am sure the communication with other Board members, with ALE researchers and practitioners from other countries will encourage my creativity and initiatives in Ukraine and our region. It will also help connect different people in the region interested in developing adult learning and education.

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

I also want to emphasize that I believe in the urgent need to support non-VET ALE, "Bildung", liberal ALE. The experience of recent years in Ukraine shows the importance of civic education, active citizenship for the sake of resilient democracy. I would like to contribute to lobbying for this important component of ALE.