



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

Please attach your ID picture to the e-mail.



European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA)

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1. Please describe your current position.

Since August 2019, I am the Deputy Director of DVV International. The Institute is a branch of the DVV, the national umbrella organization of appr. 900 community based learning centers (Volkshochschulen – vhs) and their state associations. In my current function, I am responsible for our project portfolio in Europe and Asia, which includes cooperation with around 120 partners in 16 countries. Most of the activities are funded in the framework of the German development cooperation, some from European Union or the Foreign Office. Additionally, I am responsible for linking the national association to EAEA and the wider European area.

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

I am working in ALE since more than 30 years, starting in a church affiliated NGO on bringing together German and Belarussian citizens in a reconciliation process. My entire professional live was linked to international cooperation, which gave me some insides into the rules and limitations of international work, but offered me as well the privilege to meet and learn from many people in different countries and cultures.

As a president, I would like to contribute for EAEA to reach its strategic objectives. This includes three main points:

- Making the voices of ALE heart at the European level: As the president, I would like to continue to be present in various settings, including commission, parliament and council to ensure ALE stays an integral part of the Education Agenda and is recognized as an important part of LLL. Additionally, I would like to strengthen the links to the global level, especially in the framework of the upcoming CONFITEA
- Participate in the further conceptual development of ALE: in the upcoming years, several developments and transformations will require our attention: We will be challenged to have clear concepts about the role of ALE in the process of digitalization, the fight against climate change and for a “greener” society, in the struggle to close the multiple gaps in our society. Additionally, I would like to continue to define our role in a wider Europe, beyond EU.
- Ensuring the sustainability of a robust and well equipped organization, based on multiple channels of funding and a diverse membership

To reach these objectives, I would like to intensify the dialogue with the partners and my presence in these discussions (hopefully not only virtually). I will contribute to ensure the board is able to



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work in professional manner and a spirit of solidarity. This is from my side based on DVV's commitment to offer parts of my working time for this job. However, all this is based on the existence of an office well equipped and functional, with an excellent spirit, as it is the case since many years. I will do my very best to keep this situation! Additionally, I will continue to bring in the networks of DVV on policy and science for strengthening our position and support the advocacy efforts where needed.

3. What are your motivations as a candidate?

I can share two main motivations:

First, I am convinced that we will be able to defend and develop our lifestyle, values and diversity only in a common European framework, which should be more than just a technical, bureaucratic entity. To ensure the European project is backed by its citizens, we need to educate European citizenship, we need more ALE. This idea was one of the foundations of EAEA, which I can subscribe to.

Second, EAEA has a role to play to support member and to advocate for a better ALE policy in Europe. This will be something I would like to contribute to as well

Finally, I love Europe and its people and will be happy to get the chance to discuss, argue and laugh with many of you another two years!

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

I do not want to become EAEA's "Corona-president", so, please, give me another chance to work with you after the pandemic!