



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR
THE EDUCATION OF ADULTS

ACTIVITY REPORT
2020



Publisher: European Association for the Education of Adults – EAEA

Text: European Association for the Education of Adults – EAEA

Photos: EAEA

Layout: Sanna Lehti

MINISTRY OF
EDUCATION AND CULTURE
FINLAND

This publication is produced with the financial support of the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

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1 Highlights



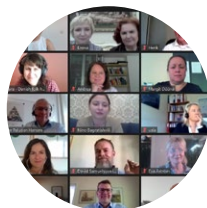
EAEA analyses **taxation of adult learning and education** across Europe



EAEA's **country reports** go digital in an online database

Meeting with **Manuela Geleng, Director for Skills, DG EMPL**

EAEA launches an online **campaign for the continuation of the European Agenda for Adult Learning**



EAEA Virtual General Assembly brings together 80 members from around Europe 28 May - 8 June

January

February

March

April

May

June

EAEA launches the call for **the Grundtvig Award 2020 on Outreach and Access**



FutureLabAE online course on change-oriented adult education and digitalisation is launched

EAEA launches a **series of articles exploring the impact of COVID-19** on the adult learning sector

Meeting of German members of EAEA
24 April, virtual

EAEA meets Commissioner Mariya Gabriel
11 June, virtual





Citizens' University
of Larissa is
awarded the
**EAEA Grundtvig
Award 2020 on
Outreach and
Access**

EAEA leads a
**discussion
on the future
of adult
learning and
education on
EPALE**
8 July

EAEA Executive
Board members
meet with **Chiara
Riondino, Head
of Unit at the
Unit for Adult
Learning, DG
EMPL**
virtual



New Bildung project
is launched



**EAEA Annual
Conference
on Outreach
and Access**
brings together
130 participants
from across
Europe



EAEA organises
**an event
on green
competences**
at the Lifelong
Learning Week
3 December,
online

July

August

September

October

November

December

EAEA publishes
a **background
paper on gender
and adult
learning**



FuturelabAE
**online course
on democracy**
is launched



EAEA launches
a **series of
webinars on
advocacy**



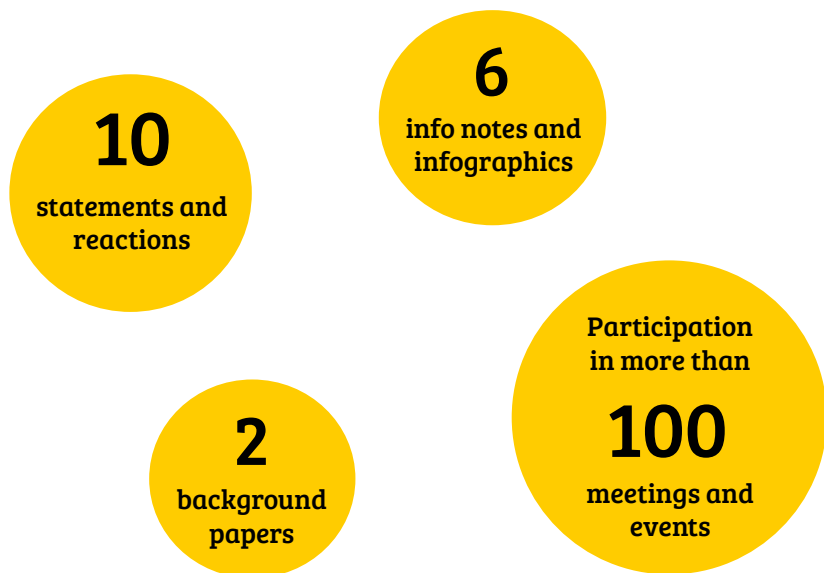
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INFLUENCING PUBLIC POLICY



2 Influencing public policy

EAEA's policy work in 2020 at a glance:



EAEA is proud to present the results of its work in 2020. It proved to be a year full of unexpected challenges; yet despite the difficulties faced by EAEA and the adult learning sector as a whole, it was also a year full of activity. As the COVID-19 pandemic progressed across Europe, EAEA took up new themes that gained relevance: from rapid digitalisation of adult learning organisations to an analysis of the impact of the crisis on the adult learning sector, and a new focus on green skills. Those topics that were already foreseen for 2020 gained new relevance in the face of the crisis, such as the thematic focus on outreach and access to learning, or EAEA's policy work on life skills.

As EAEA and its members quickly learned, it would not have been possible to continue the activities in 2020 without a certain amount of

flexibility. Throughout the year, EAEA adapted the focus of some activities to best reflect members' changing needs. We also changed the mode of delivery of our events and training sessions, which in turn increased their accessibility. We ensured that our work in 2020 remained relevant and interesting for our members and the wider ALE community, while also following the objectives set out in our work plan for 2020.

Spotlight on COVID-19

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the adult learning and education sector could not go unnoticed. As EAEA members had to rapidly digitalise their organisations and move their courses online, seek out new funding to keep afloat and support their educators in improving their digital competences, EAEA provided a platform to share good practices and reflections.

Already in March 2020, soon after most of Europe went into lockdown, EAEA launched a survey among members asking about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their daily work. The results were published in April 2020. In April, EAEA published a series of articles tackling various issues that emerged during the pandemic, such as the importance of health literacy, critical thinking and solidarity. To encourage peer-learning among the membership, EAEA also organised a series of online discussions during which members exchanged on how the pandemic affected their daily work and the solutions they introduced to support their learners and staff. The impact of COVID-19 was also discussed during EAEA's Annual Conference (with a specific focus on outreach) and the General Assembly.

EAEA closely monitored the policy response at the European level and regularly informed members about new developments. Statements and infographics on how the pandemic has been affecting existing European programmes, such as Erasmus+ and ESF+, were published on EAEA website and shared with members. EAEA also quickly reacted to the launch of the Recovery and Resilience Facility, advocating for more attention to adult learning and education in drafting and implementing recovery plans across Europe.

Outreach and access during the crisis and beyond

A renewed sense of urgency to improve outreach and access to adult learning meant that EAEA and its members were compelled to build new collaborations, to look for partners within and outside the sector and increase the feeling of solidarity in the face of a crisis. EAEA encouraged members and the wider community to share their innovative approaches to outreach and access. The EAEA Grundtvig Award 2020 collected a number of best practices from across Europe that improved outreach to the most vulnerable learners and worked towards removing barriers to learning. The winner of the Grundtvig Award, the Citizens' University of Larissa, showed the importance of building collaborations at the local level and demonstrating a political will to improve outreach and access.

The EAEA Annual Conference, organised virtually on 19-20 November, was an opportunity to discuss outreach and access by looking, on one hand, at the impact of the crisis on outreach work among adult learning providers, and on the other hand, at the policy initiatives that can support outreach and enable access, such as Upskilling Pathways. The conference brought together over 130 participants with diverse profiles, including EAEA members, partners from the wider lifelong learning community and policy makers representing different levels.

Digital: the new normal?

As all adult learning activities shifted to an online environment, in 2020 EAEA also looked closely at how adult learning providers had been coping with digitalisation. Two online discussions on the impact of COVID-19 were dedicated specifically to the opportunities and challenges brought by the rapid digital transition. These discussions were brought further at the EAEA Annual Conference, during which two workshops looked at the specifics of organising online and hybrid events, and at the consequences of the digital divide for the adult learning sector. Both workshops concluded with a series of recommendations addressing various stakeholders.

Acknowledging that the sector will continue to be affected by the digital transformation, the EAEA Executive Board set up a working group to look at the topic of digitalisation more closely. The group has recognized that it is a complex issue and that for adult education there are different aspects to consider. They range from teaching (basic) digital skills and dealing with people who don't have access to digital tools to finding different methodologies and changing processes. There are also issues such as privacy, fake news, etc that ALE organisations should take into account. The working group was launched in late 2020 and includes 15 EAEA members who will formulate key issues to be tackled in 2021, when EAEA will take on digitalisation as its annual theme.

Towards a fair and sustainable future

2020 was also a year that forced many of us to reflect on the future that we want, and what action we need to take for our society, economy and the planet to be more fair and sustainable. In this respect, EAEA was happy to see the publication of the new Skills Agenda, launched in the summer of 2020. The Agenda emphasized, among others, a need for a green transition and for equipping all citizens not only with basic skills, but also with skills for life.

Looking towards the future, EAEA also turned its attention towards the concept of green competences. Having set up an informal working group with EARLALL and EfVET, the three organisations started collaborating in July 2020 to foster green competences across the European lifelong learning sectors. Within a year the group has published policy recommendations, a member survey and most recently a website that informs about European good practice. The group has been advocating for the publication of a Green Competence Framework, which they see as essential to meet the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The group also organised a workshop for the Lifelong Learning Week.

The group came together because the organisations believe that an inter-generational and cross-sectoral approach to green competences is necessary. Through their member networks, they can reach a wide variety

of actors across lifelong learning (LLL), adult learning and education (ALE) and vocational education and training (VET) in Europe. Facing this global challenge, European civil society organisations need common action and solidarity to contribute to green re-skilling from the ground up. Contact building between the three organisations was fruitful for knowledge and best practice sharing and built the foundation for a growing coalition of civil society organisations invested in the enhancement of green skills and sustainable development. Strengthening contact and trust between civil society organisations has widened EAEA's reach, brought a new perspective and established a platform for more effective awareness-raising and policy advocacy.

Achieving impact at all levels

Local, regional and national levels

Throughout 2020, we had reasons to be confident that our activities had an impact on the level where our members are active. Results of the membership survey carried out in early 2021 indicate that 65% of EAEA members see EAEA's impact on their organisational level as strong. Members are proactive in using EAEA advocacy tools, such as the Manifesto for Adult Learning in the 21st Century, in meetings with policymakers; to this end, they continued to volunteer to translate the Manifesto into their national and regional languages. In 2020, they also reported that membership with EAEA supported them in expanding their networks and provided them with an opportunity for peer-learning and best practice exchange, making an impact on their daily work.

EAEA also strengthened its impact on the regional level by cooperating more with EARLALL, the European Association of Regional and Local Authorities for Lifelong Learning. A new project which includes EARLALL and its members, as well as EAEA members, was written in early 2020 and approved later in the year, to be kicked off in January 2021. The project will further strengthen capacity building in the adult learning sector at the regional level.

For several years already, EAEA has also been recognized as an expert and partner in national policy. Through three DG REFORM projects, EAEA has been working on national policy issues in adult learning and education, such as literacy and basic skills, in Portugal, Spain and Cyprus.

In 2020, EAEA acknowledged the fact that making an impact on the national level is particularly difficult in countries where EU policy does not apply; this is why the new EAEA strategy, approved by the General Assembly in June 2020, envisaged a new Working Group which would look specifically at policy issues faced by non-EU members. The group formally started its work in late 2020 and continues throughout 2021, with the active participation of EAEA members from the region.

European level

In some cases, EAEA's strong impact on the national level translates into an increased impact on the European level. In 2020, this was illustrated with EAEA's campaign for the continuation of the European Agenda for Adult Learning, in which EAEA's member the Slovenian Institute for Adult Education actively participated in mid-2020. As a result, EAEA was invited by the Slovenian Presidency to contribute to a new paper dedicated to the Agenda, which will feed into the Council Conclusions in 2021.

Regardless the challenges, 2020 also saw the impact of EAEA's years-long policy and advocacy work on the importance of life skills in adult learning

**"Life skills must be a priority
for a new European agenda
for adult learning!"**

EAEA members say that the European Agenda for Adult Learning must be continued after 2020. A renewed strategy should focus on life skills to enable all European citizens to fully participate in society and their communities as well as achieve individual development.

#ALEsupporter #ALEagenda2027



f t @EAEA2020

In 2020, 91% of members saw EAEA's impact on the European level as "strong", according to the results of the EAEA member survey.

and education. Following several events, statements and participation in various consultations, frequently with active contributions with EAEA members, EAEA was happy to see the publication of the new Skills Agenda, in which Skills for Life were featured prominently.

Established relationships with CULT and EMPL Committees as well as with representatives of DG EAC and DG EMPL continued to help EAEA achieve an impact at the European level. In 2020, EAEA also reached out to new MEPs and high-level representatives of the European Commission; among other examples, EAEA secured a meeting with Commissioner Mariya Gabriel. Two meetings of the LLL Interest Group as well as several bilateral meetings, listed in section A2, ensured that the non-formal adult education perspective is taken into account in European policymaking. Importantly, when relevant EAEA's voice was strengthened by the membership and active contribution to the work of the Lifelong Learning Platform, CONCORD Europe and Social Platform.

EAEA's impact on the European level is particularly appreciated by EAEA members. In 2020, 91% of members saw EAEA's impact on the European level as "strong", according to the results of the EAEA member survey.

Global level

With strong connections at the international level, EAEA is a frequent collaborator of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning, and as such represents the voice of European civil society in adult learning and education. In 2020, EAEA co-organised several online workshops with both UIL and EAEA's sister organisation the International Council for Adult Education, and closely monitored the preparations for the next CONFINTEA VII, set to take place in Morocco in 2022.

Statements and opinions



IN 2020, EAEA CONTRIBUTED TO EU POLICIES WITH THE FOLLOWING PAPERS, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND RESPONSES:

- The added value of adult learning: Large differences in taxation of learning offers in Europe – **EAEA's statement**, January 2020
- Resilience of Individuals, Communities and Economies: We need more Adult Learning and Education in and after the Coronavirus Pandemic – **EAEA's statement**, April 2020
- ESF and COVID-19 – **EAEA's info note**, April 2020
- Lifelong learning and adult learning and education policies and strategies in the EU – **EAEA's infographic**, April 2020
- For a 'green' and socially inclusive Erasmus+ programme – **EAEA's statement**, April 2020
- Making your voice heard at the global level – **information package for members on the developments leading up to CONFINTEA VII**, April 2020
- ESF+ Update – **EAEA's info note**, June 2020
- Reaction to the European Skills Agenda for Sustainable Competitiveness, Social Fairness and Resilience – **EAEA's statement**, July 2020
- European Skills Agenda: What's in it for Adult Learning and Education? – **EAEA infographic**, July 2020

- Gender and adult learning – **EAEA's background paper**, July 2020
- Consultation on the Digital Education Action Plan – **EAEA's response**, August 2020
- Let's use the Recovery and Resilience Facility for Adult Learning and Education! – **EAEA's statement**, September 2020
- The Recovery and Resilience Facility: What does it mean for ALE? – **EAEA's info note**, September 2020
- Consultation on the European Democracy Action Plan to Protect European Democracy from Interference and Manipulation – **EAEA's statement**, September 2020
- Outreach and Access in Adult Learning: Access in Rural Areas, November 2020
- Reinforcing Social Europe – EAEA's response to the Commission's consultation, November 2020
- Reinforcing Social Europe – **EAEA's info note for members**, November 2020
- Where are the Adults? A European Education Area requires a holistic vision of Lifelong Learning! – **EAEA's statement**, November 2020
- Improving outreach and access to adult learning during COVID-19 – **EAEA statement**, December 2020



3

EVENTS AND CAPACITY-BUILDING



3 Events and capacity-building

EAEA's events in 2020 at a glance:



General Assembly

The General Assembly of EAEA members, which is the main decision-making body of EAEA, met virtually between 28 May and 8 June to discuss and approve the EAEA financial and activity reports in 2019 and the plans for the year ahead. There were a total of 80 participants, with 27 member countries represented or present.

Four new associate members and one new ordinary member were approved at the 2020 General Assembly.



General Assembly.

Grundtvig Award 2020

EAEA welcomed several applications with examples of innovative practices on outreach and access in adult learning. Our esteemed jury selected a winner who was invited to share their practices and reflections during the virtual Annual Conference on Outreach and Access.

WINNER

Citizens' University of Larissa, Greece

The winner of the 2020 Grundtvig Award, the Citizens' University of Larissa – Larissa Learning City, provides access to high-quality non-formal learning to all of its community members, especially the underrepresented social groups. Launched in 2018, the initiative is a collaborative effort between volunteers and city stakeholders.

All learning programmes are provided free of charge and run on twelve thematic cycles, including local history, mental health, unemployment and labour market issues, disability issues and more. Targeting the most underprivileged residents, such as the Roma community or refugees, the Citizens' University takes a holistic and life-skills approach to learning, as long promoted by EAEA, combining arts, well-being, science and technology.



Mayor of Larissa interviewed.



Train the trainer course of Citizens' University of Larissa.

“ Our city’s vision is to create learning opportunities and ensure access for every citizen, especially for vulnerable groups which are most affected during the current socio-economic and health crisis. Nowadays, it is most needed to promote social cohesion and sustainable development on the basis of a philosophy of equality, learning and democratic participation.

- Kalogiannis Apostolos, Mayor of Larissa

EAEA Virtual Annual Conference: Outreach and Access in Adult Learning

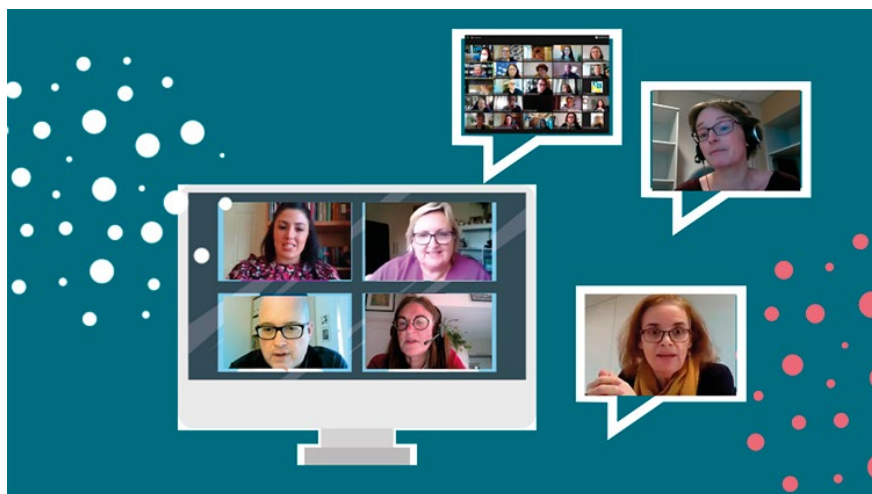
The two-day conference, organised virtually on 19-20 November, looked at the topic of outreach and access from different perspectives. The first day focused on how adult learning providers have responded to the COVID-19 crisis, looking at issues such as partnerships with local services, learner support and virtual and hybrid learning festivals. It was also an opportunity to look at outreach and access beyond the crisis, and to provide policy recommendations. On the second day, the participants looked at the European Commission's Upskilling Pathways as an initiative underpinned by the concept of outreach and access, and we discussed how and why to engage to make the initiative a reality.

EAEA Annual Conference on Outreach and Access in Adult Learning held virtually on 19-20 November 2020



“ This is the time to invest in people skills,
and in building a new green economy.
Maybe now it's time for something
bigger, to move outside of your own area,
for instance cooperate with the area of
health or environment.

– Martina Ní Cheallaigh, European Commission



Virtual Annual Conference.

“ Hope is really important. Are people
having enough feelings of hope that the
future will be better? Adult education can
also make a positive contribution to that.

– Prof. Ellen Boeren, University of Glasgow



Investigating outreach and access in adult learning in light of the covid-19 crisis

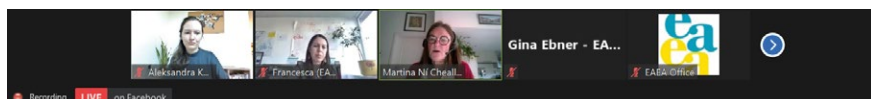
Prof. Ellen Boeren

University of Glasgow
UK



EAEA Annual Conference
on Outreach and Access
Keynote
19 November 10:15 CET

EAEA's Annual Conference was promoted widely on social media.



Skills Agenda - BUILDING BLOCKS



During EAEA's Annual Conference, the new European Skills Agenda was presented.

Making your voice heard: Foundations of advocacy in adult learning. EAEA webinars

Health concerns and travel restrictions forced EAEA to cancel the 2020 edition of the EAEA Younger Staff Training, which takes place annually in Brussels and introduces adult education staff to key issues in policy and practice. Instead, EAEA offered a series of webinars discussing the foundations of advocacy in adult learning, organised over the course of five weeks. The webinars looked at topics such as network building, campaigning, making an elevator pitch and the inclusion of learner voices in advocacy. Additional resources and recordings of the inputs were uploaded on EAEA's e-learning platform ae-learning.eu.

EAEA WEBINAR SERIES 13.10. - 10.11.2020

MAKING YOUR VOICE HEARD

FOUNDATIONS OF ADVOCACY IN ADULT LEARNING AND EDUCATION



Foundations of advocacy webinars.

“

The EAEA advocacy webinars were excellent opportunities to understand the mechanisms of this demanding challenge, now even more difficult because of COVID-19 and to learn and share effective strategies. I was invited to think outside the box, to inverse the perspective: to ask what are we going to offer instead of what we demand; to go where the love is, value what we have in common because that is stronger than our differences, to gain allies, to invest in network influence and partnerships, to improve personal relationships.

- Dina Soeiro, ESEC Portugal / EAEA Executive Board

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEBINARS:

- 27 participants representing a variety of profiles and countries
- 7 speakers with expertise in advocacy for adult learning and education
- 5 interactive sessions combining input and practice



Ilona Kish speaking at a webinar on campaigning.

Online discussions with members

EAEA also organised several online discussions with members to look at specific issues that emerged in 2020. Among others, we discussed the impact of COVID-19 on the adult learning sector and the continuation of the European Agenda for Adult Learning.

EAEA IN MEETINGS AND EVENTS

INFLUENCING POLICY

- 20/01/2020, DE: Meeting with Alan Smith, former coordinator of the Grundtvig programme for adult learning at the European Commission, DG EAC
- 24/01/2020, BE: Participation in the meeting of the Strategic Dialogue
- 30/01/2020, BE: Participation in the Erasmus+ Coalition meeting
- 06/02/2020, BE: Participation at the Erasmus+ and Green Deal stakeholder meeting at the European Parliament
- 24/02/2020, SK: Meeting with Monika Korkošová, LLL Department Director, Ministry of Education, Slovakia at an event on Individual Learning Accounts
- 26/02/2020, BE: Meeting with Martina Ni-Cheallaigh, DG EMPL, European Commission
- 05/03/2020, BE: Participation in a lunch event organised by MEP Sabine Verheyen, European Parliament
- 19/03/2020, virtual: Participation in the meeting of the LLLP advocacy task force
- 27/03/2020, virtual: Meeting with Manuela Geleng, Director for Skills, DG EMPL
- 31/03/2020 - 01/04/2020, virtual: Participation in the meeting of the ET2020 Working Group on Adult Learning

January

February

March

RAISING VISIBILITY

- 31/01/2020, virtual: Meeting with the new CSS coordinators of EPALE
- 03-14/02/2020, DE: Participation and input at the Winter School on International and comparative studies in adult education and lifelong learning, Julius-Maximilian-University of Würzburg
- 12/02/2020, BE: Final conference of the VISKA project
- 12/03/2020, BE: Meeting with the European Association of Institutes for Vocational Training (EVBB)
- 26/03/2020, virtual: Participation in a webinar on "Envisioning more 4.7", Bridge47

- 27/04/2020, virtual:
- **Participation in the**
- **working group on the**
- **European Pillar of**
- **Social Rights, Social**
- **Platform**

- 27/04/2020, virtual:
- **Meeting with**
- **Malgorzata Kozak (DG**
- **EAC)**

- 28/04/2020, virtual:
- **Participation in the**
- **S&D Conference on**
- **Lifelong Learning**

- 28/04/2020, virtual:
- **Participation in the**
- **C20 EWG Virtual**
- **Consultation Forum**

- 18/05/2020, virtual:
- **Meeting with Andrew**
- **Todd, Lifelong Learning**
- **Platform**

- 25/05/2020, virtual:
- **Participation in the**
- **Sector Council for**
- **Education and Sport for**
- **Slovakia**

- 04/06/2020, virtual:
- **Meeting with Doris**
- **Pack, former MEP**
- **and chair of the**
- **CULT Committee**
- **in the European**
- **Parliament**

- 11/06/2020, virtual:
- **Meeting with**
- **Commissioner**
- **Mariya Gabriel**

- 25/06/2020, virtual:
- **Strategic dialogue**
- **meeting on ESF+**

- 26/06/2020, virtual:
- **Participation in the**
- **Working Group on**
- **the European Pillar**
- **of Social Rights,**
- **Social Platform**

April

- 24/04/2020 virtual:
- **Meeting with EAEA**
- **German members**

May

- 08-09/05/2020, virtual:
- **Participation in the**
- **European Bildung Days**

- 18/05/2020, virtual:
- **Participation in the**
- **imagine webinar: The**
- **new normal – how ready**
- **are we really?**

June

- 26/06/2020, virtual:
- **Participation in the**
- **webinar Proença-a-Nova**
- **Mobile Library, ESEC-IPC**

- 30/06/2020, virtual:
- **Participation in the**
- **General Assembly of**
- **CONCORD**

- 08/07/2020, virtual:
- **SDG Watch: HLPF**
- **side event 'CSO**
- **coalitions' role in**
- **the Decade of Action**
- **after Covid-19'**

- 21/08/2020, virtual:
- **Participation**
- **in the Working**
- **Group on the**
- **European Pillar**
- **of Social Rights,**
- **Social Platform**

- 11/09/2020, virtual:
- **LLL and YFU:**
- **Meeting on the**
- **Erasmus + Coalition**
- 23/09/2020, virtual:
- **Participation in the**
- **ICAE working group**
- **on the Futures of**
- **Adult Learning and**
- **Education**

July

August

September

- 08-09/07/2020, virtual:
- **Participation in**
- **the workshop on**
- **Quality Assurance**
- **in Adult Education**
- **and Training in**
- **Portugal, OECD,**
- **Government of**
- **Portugal, European**
- **Commission**

- 08-09/07/2020, virtual:
- **Participation in**
- **the workshop on**
- **Quality Assurance**
- **in Adult Education**
- **and Training in**
- **Portugal, OECD,**
- **Government of**
- **Portugal, European**
- **Commission**

- 10/09/2020, virtual:
- **Participation in the**
- **General Assembly**
- **of the European**
- **Basic Skills**
- **Network**
- 24/09/2020, BE:
- **Meeting with**
- **Louise Culot and**
- **Aurelie Ademar,**
- **Lire et Ecrire**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15/10/2020, virtual: Participation in the ET2020 Working Group on Adult Learning and Education 16/10/2020, virtual: Meeting with Anna Nikowska, DG EMPL 28/10/2020, virtual: Meeting with the EC Joint Research Council on GreenComp 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 05/11/2020, virtual: Third Policy learning forum (PLF) on Upskilling Pathways: a vision for the future 09-13/11/2020, virtual: Participation in the Vocational Skills Week 16/11/2020, virtual: Participation in the Europe 2020 Policy coherence working group 25/11/2020, virtual: Input at the LLLP validation task force 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 02/12/2020, virtual: Participation in the CULT Committee hearing on the European Education Area 10/12/2020, virtual: Third European Education Summit: Digital Education Transformation
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October

- 06-08/10/2020, virtual:
Participation, input and moderation at the EPALE Stakeholder Conference
- 20/10/2020, virtual:
Input at a webinar on a European approach to Micro-Credentials: The learners'

November

- 03/11/2020, virtual:
Input at the Annual Conference of the European Basic Skills Network
- 04/11/2020, virtual:
Input at the EPALE conference of NSS Italy

December

- 03/12/2020, virtual:
Delivering a workshop on Green Skills at LLLWeek
- 17/12/2020, virtual:
Participation in a panel discussion in Greek EASl conference on Upskilling Pathways

4

PUBLICATIONS



4 Publications

EAEA's publications in 2020 at a glance:

2

key
publications
launched

Digital
publications
complemented
by videos

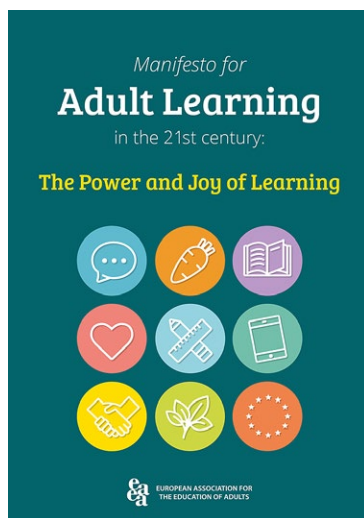
2

new language
versions of
the Manifesto
published

EAEA Manifesto

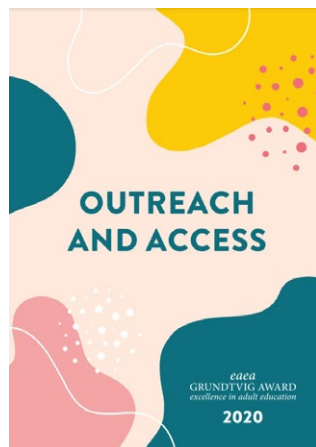
In 2019, EAEA published an updated and revised version of its Manifesto for Adult Learning in the 21st Century: The Power and Joy of Learning. It outlines the challenges in which adult education can play a key role and its transformative power. The manifesto is targeted at European, national and regional policy makers to demonstrate the benefits of adult learning. The manifesto communicates EAEA's vision of a Learning Europe with all necessary skills, knowledge and competences.

Throughout 2020, more translations of the Manifesto were provided by EAEA members, reaching 13 language versions by the end of the year. To further encourage the use of the document in a time when most policy and advocacy work happens online, EAEA also produced a short video about the Manifesto which was released in late 2020.



EAEA Grundtvig Award brochure

The annual EAEA Grundtvig Award collects examples of innovative practices and projects, focusing on initiatives that promote learner-centred approaches that can foster change. The 2020 Grundtvig Award publication brings together examples of how adult learning organisations in Europe have been working towards improving outreach and access in adult learning. The publication, released online in September 2020, was widely disseminated to relevant stakeholders and policy makers on a European, national and regional level.



In 2020, the Grundtvig Award publication was complemented with a video interview with the award winner, the Citizens' University of Larissa.

Adult education in Europe 2020: A Civil Society View

The annual country reports provide the perspective of non-formal adult education providers and umbrella organisations on national developments in adult learning. In 2020, members were asked about recent developments in their countries, their links to EU and international policy, especially the European Semester and the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights. They were also invited to share their views on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the adult learning sector and their daily work. In total, EAEA collected responses from 31 countries (out of the 43 represented in EAEA membership). The country reports are available on website countryreport.eaea.org. In 2020 EAEA continued to further develop the presentation of the data on the website.

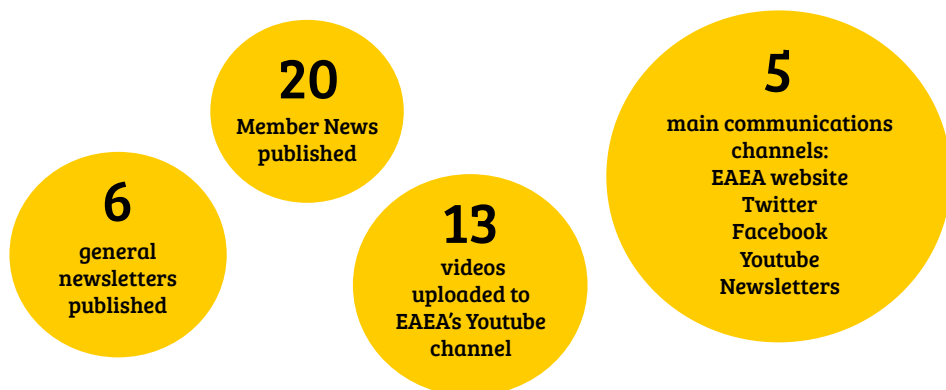
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INFORMATION SERVICES



5 Information services

EAEA information services in 2020 at a glance:



Communication channels

In 2020, EAEA continued to provide first-hand information about EU policy developments. Members and the larger ALE community received regular updates in the form of briefings and infographics. New communication tools and formats were used to make sure that EAEA's communication stays interesting and relevant. In addition, a new communications strategy was drafted for 2020-2022.

The ongoing pandemic and the need to move all activities online required the EAEA staff to be more creative in its communication. EAEA published a series of articles on COVID-19 in April which gained a lot of attention. Thanks to the high number of webinars and online events EAEA became more active on its Youtube channel where many recordings of inputs were made available. Some conference inputs were also live-streamed on EAEA's Facebook page, such as the Annual Conference on Outreach and Access. Videos of the inputs gained a large number of views even after the conference. In addition, new videos were also produced to

facilitate members' advocacy work through new communication tools; for example, a short video presenting the EAEA Manifesto for Adult Learning.

In 2020, EAEA continued to cooperate with [the Elm Magazine](#) (European Lifelong Learning Magazine). The Speakers' Corner column series remained an occasion to put the spotlight on EAEA members' and partners' views. EAEA also continued its successful cooperation with EPALE, which since May 2020 is covered through a new service contract. EAEA staff wrote several blogs to EPALE, and EPALE disseminated EAEA's news and events.

The Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture continued to support the Communication Officer (through the Finnish Lifelong Learning Foundation – KVS).

Satisfaction with EAEA communication

EAEA members remained very satisfied with EAEA communication: 91% of all members who replied to the EAEA survey in early 2021 felt “satisfied” or “very satisfied”; the remaining 9% felt “neutral” with EAEA communications. Members were particularly appreciative of EAEA's policy news.



In 2020, EAEA invested in video communications.

Impact of EAEA communication work



10% INCREASE

18.5% INCREASE



20% INCREASE



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PROJECTS



6 Projects

EAEA 's project work in 2020 at a glance:



EAEA's projects focus on advocacy, policy and exchange of practices in adult education and lifelong learning. As a network of over 120 organisations, EAEA is a natural promoter of project results and as a project partner is frequently responsible for dissemination. However, with increasing tendency EAEA is also asked to lead or contribute to project outputs, especially those that have a policy focus or involve a best practice collection.

FUTURE LAB FOR ADULT EDUCATION (FUTURELABAE)

- **2018-2021 / Erasmus+ KA2**
- **Aims:** FutureLabAE provides adult education organisations, staff and trainers with resources and a space for discussing with and learning from each other. It also provides knowledge, expertise and tools on developing innovative, change-oriented adult learning provision which will have an extremely positive impact on low-skilled learners and the society as a whole.
- **Info:** eaea.org/project/future-lab



UPSKILLING PATHWAYS IN AEPRO (UP-AEPRO)

- **2018-2020 / Erasmus+ KA2**
- **Aims:** UP-AEPRO addresses the need and interest of adult education (AE) trainers and staff to learn more about European developments in adult education and other countries' systems and innovations. In particular, the project contributes to deepening the knowledge and fostering discussion about the Upskilling Pathways initiative (UP).
- **Info:** eaea.org/project/up-aepro



BUILDING INCLUSIVE LIFELONG LEARNING SYSTEMS BY DEVELOPING A EUROPEAN UNDERSTANDING OF BILDUNG FOR THE NEXT GENERATIONS (BILDUNG)

- **2020-2023 / Erasmus+ KA2**
- **Aims:** Bildung project contributes to innovation of the European adult education sector by adopting the holistic concept of 'Bildung' and exploring its political and practical potential for adult learning and education. The concept, rooted in the tradition of the enlightenment and the Nordic Folkbildning envisages an education, targeting all aspects of development of individuals, communities and societies, including e.g. ethical, emotional and scientific dimensions in a holistic manner.
- **Info:** eaea.org/project/bildung



BILDUNG
INCLUSIVE LIFELONG
LEARNING SYSTEMS

FOSTERING OUTREACH THROUGH CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR ADULT LEARNING ORGANISATIONS (FOCAL)

- **2020-2022 / Erasmus+ KA1**
- **Aims:** The project responds to two key challenges faced by the ALE sector: the need for improved outreach strategies to include learners from disadvantaged backgrounds, and the need for more capacity-building opportunities for adult education staff. The role of adult learning providers is key in identifying the existing barriers, removing them and reaching out to learners in their everyday environment. The project offers support in this process.

NATIONAL LITERACY PLAN FOR PORTUGAL

- **2018-2020 / funded by the EU and implemented in cooperation with the Structural Reform Support Service**
- **Aims:** The project improves the skill level of the adult population in Portugal by increasing the participation rate of adults in lifelong learning, especially among those with very low basic skills. The specific objective of this project is to contribute to the design of a National Plan for Adult Literacy in collaboration with the Ministry of Education of Portugal and with the support of other relevant stakeholders and civil society organisations.



RECOGNITION, VALIDATION, ACCREDITATION MODEL FOR BASIC SKILLS IN SPAIN

- **2019-2021 / Funded by and implemented in cooperation with the Structural Reform Support Service in the Directorate-General of the European Commission**
- **Aims:** The project improves the integration of low-skilled adults in education and in the labour market in Spain. Main activities include the drafting a diagnostic report on the state of play of basic competences in Spain, compiling a report on European good practices, developing a proposal for a reference framework and an evaluation and accreditation model of basic competences as well as undertaking a pilot.

SUPPORT TO DESIGN LIFELONG LEARNING STRATEGY IN CYPRUS

- **2020-2021 / Funded by and implemented in cooperation with the Structural Reform Support Service in the Directorate-General of the European Commission**
- **Aims:** The project contributes to improving the lifelong learning system and its quality in Cyprus. It improves governance and cooperation between authorities, stakeholders and providers, facilitating access to learning. The final goal is to increase young people's employability and participation in adult education and training in Cyprus.

Partner projects / Policy and advocacy

DEVELOPING STRATEGIES FOR ADULT EDUCATION PROVIDERS AND ADULT EDUCATORS (DIMA 2.0)

- **2019-2021 / Erasmus+ KA2**
- **Aims:** The project improves the capacity of adult education providers to be able to design strategies and programs, to reach out more effectively to low skilled or low qualified adults.
- **Info:** eaea.org/our-work/projects/archive-policy-and-advocacy/dima-2-0

dima | 2.0

BLUEPRINT FOR BASIC SKILLS DEVELOPMENT IN SLOVAKIA (BLUESS)

- **2019-2021 / EASI**
- **Aims:** The project supports the development and implementation of a national strategy on basic skills for adults in Slovakia.



Partner projects / Professionalisation

INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE STUDIES FOR STUDENTS AND PRACTITIONERS IN ADULT EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING (INTALL)

- **2018-2021 / Erasmus+ KA2**
- **Aims:** The project develops a methodology for building joint structures in the professionalisation activities of universities and practitioners in adult education and lifelong learning.
- **Info:** eaea.org/our-work/projects/professionalisation/international-comparative-studies-students-practitioners-adult-education-lifelong-learning-intall



DIGITAL ADULT EDUCATORS - PREPARING ADULT EDUCATORS FOR A DIGITAL WORLD (DIGITALAD)

- **2019-2021 / Erasmus+ KA2**
- **Aims:** The project supports adult educators to become digitally literate, building their capacity to use innovative digital tools and resources and integrate digital tools in their teaching practices for employability.
- **Info:** eaea.org/our-work/projects/archive-professionalisation/digitalad



SUPPORT OF PROBLEM-SOLVING MENTALITY IN LIFELONG LEARNING FOR TRAINERS (SUPPORT)

- **2019-2022 / Erasmus+ KA2**
- **Aims:** The project enforces in an anti hierarchical way inclusion, retention and outreach in the adult learning environment in order to maximise the positive effect for the direct and indirect target group.
- **Info:** eaea.org/our-work/projects/support-support-of-problem-solving-mentality-in-lifelong-learning-for-trainers



Partner projects / Social inclusion

MEASURES FOR ADULTS TO SUPPORT TRANSITION TO FURTHER EDUCATION AND RE-SKILLING OPPORTUNITIES (MASTER)

- **2019-2022 / Erasmus+ KA2**
- **Aims:** The project facilitates the participation of low-skilled adults in formal education and in the labour market by reinforcing their personal, social and learning competence. MASTER also improves the capacity of adult education providers to reach out to the target groups through a multi stakeholder outreach strategy and a tailored training provision.
- **Info:** eaea.org/our-work/projects/measures-for-adults-to-support-transition-to-further-education-and-re-skilling-opportunities-master



SAFE SPACES FOR LEARNING (SAFE)

- **2020-2023 / Erasmus+ KA2**
- **Aims:** The aim of this project is to improve and extend the provision of high quality learning opportunities for adults by designing a comprehensive guide for creating and maintaining safe spaces for learning.



WOMEN IN DIASPORA COMMUNITIES AS CHAMPIONS OF LEARNING TO LIVE TOGETHER (WIDHT)

- **2018-2021 / Erasmus+**
- **Aims:** The project contributes to the empowerment of migrants and disadvantaged people, in particular women, in strengthening and supporting pre-literacy and socialization activities. It will also increase the level of linguistic proficiency in order to facilitate social and occupational integration.
- **Info:** eaea.org/our-work/projects/social-inclusion/width-women-diaspora-communities-champions-learning-live-together



ADULT EDUCATION AND INCLUSION: NEW COOPERATIVE APPROACHES (ALL IN)

- **2020-2023 / Erasmus+ KA2**
- **Aims:** The project aims to foster inclusive adult education by analysing and transferring the success factors of the most inclusive adult education institutions to the other providers and organisations of the sector all over Europe.
- **Info:** eaea.org/our-work/projects/all-inclusive-adult-education-and-inclusion-new-cooperative-approaches-all-in



MOTIVATING LOW-SKILLED ADULTS IN ACCESSING UPSKILLING PATHWAYS TO INCREASE JOB OPPORTUNITIES (MOTIV-ACTION)

- **2020-2023 / Erasmus+ KA2**
- **Aims:** The project aims to create new career opportunities for unemployed adults by increasing and improving digital guidance services in Europe.
- **Info:** motiv-action.eu



EDUCATION BY THE WAY (EDU-BTW)

- **2018-2020 / Erasmus+**
- **Aims:** The project aims to design and implement new, flexible methods and approaches in non-formal education for adults with low competences.
- **Info:** eaea.org/our-work/projects/education-by-the-way



INCLUDING MIGRANTS THROUGH ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRAMME PLANNING IN ADULT EDUCATION (DIVERSITY)

- **2019-2022 / Erasmus+ KA2**

- **Aims:** The aim of DIVERSITY is to accompany the EU adult education systems in the mentality shift from focusing on migrants as distinct target groups and preparing them for integration, towards including migrants into the providers' regular programs as an equal target group to actively foster diversity and their inclusion in adult education and in society.
- **Info:** eaea.org/our-work/projects/archive-social-inclusion/diversity



TRANSNATIONAL PRISON UP-SKILLING GUIDANCE AND TRAINING MODEL (SKILLHUBS)

- **2018-2020 / Erasmus+**

- **Aims:** The project aims to develop a transnational counselling and training model for inmates and to elaborate recommendations for the introduction of the model into national prison education systems across Europe.
- **Info:** www.skillhubs.eu



Partner projects / Validation of learning

MAKING INFORMAL RECOGNITION VISIBLE AND ACTIONABLE (MIRVA)

- **2017-2020 / Erasmus+**
- **Aims:** The project improves the recognition of non-formal and informal learning through the use of Open Badges. Project examines different conditions necessary to create a favourable environment for Open Endorsement, and provides guidelines for various target groups: organisations, practitioners, communities, individuals, technology providers and their clients.
- **Info:** mirva.openrecognition.org



GUIDANCE FOR LOW-SKILLED ADULTS TOWARDS SKILLS ASSESSMENT AND VALIDATION (GLAS)

- **2020-2022 / Erasmus+ KA2**
- **Aims:** The main aim of the project is to develop inclusive methodologies and guidelines for adult education practitioners for the assessment and validation of basic skills and guidance services.
- **Info:** eaea.org/our-work/projects/glas



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MEMBERSHIP



7 Membership

EAEA's membership in 2020 at a glance

5

new members
join the
network



124
members
in **43**
countries



5

online discussions

and **5**

webinars open to
members only

Throughout 2020, EAEA focused on involving members more in day-to-day activities. The ongoing pandemic and the resulting difficulties made the need for more exchange and capacity-building within the network more urgent; members frequently expressed their interest in discussing issues such as digitalization or funding for ALE with their peers. To encourage best practice exchange and to provide support in such difficult times, EAEA carried out several activities that ultimately strengthened its relationship with members: several online discussions and a series of webinars on advocacy, in addition to regular consultations and policy updates.

EAEA also involved members more in its daily work by setting up new thematic working groups. One of them, Europe is more than the EU, was set up in late 2020 specifically to engage non-EU members and will officially launch its activities in 2021. The overall aim will be to gain more information about policy issues that are specific to non-EU members, to involve them more in EAEA's international work and to foster peer-learning with and between non-EU members. Another working group that is key in engaging members more is that on digitalization in ALE. Also set up in late 2020, it is a natural follow-up of the online discussions that took place in the summer and aims to prepare EAEA's annual topic for 2021.

Satisfaction with membership is monitored through the annual member survey; members' views about EAEA work in 2020 were collected during the survey that was carried out in January and February 2021.

Changes in membership

All changes in the membership in 2020 were approved by the EAEA General Assembly in June 2020.

The following organisation became an ordinary member of the association:

- Eesti Rahvaülikoolide Liit/ERL- Association for Folk High Schools in Estonia/AFHSE, Estonia

The following organisations became associate members of the association:

- Open Europe, Spain

- Centre for Competence Development Cyprus, Cyprus
- Centro de Profesorado (C.E.P.) de Alcalá de Guadaíra - Training centre for teachers in Alcalá de Guadaíra, Spain
- Public organization Center "European education of adults, PO Center EEA, Ukraine

The following organisations were excluded from the membership due to non-payment of membership fees for three consecutive years:

- Ustanova za obrazovanje odraslih "Socijalno - edukativni centar" Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina Innovative Community Centres Association, Bulgaria
- Association des Universités Populaires des France, France
- Association Philotechnique de Paris, France
- Confederazione Nazionale delle Università Popolare Italiane, Italy
- Assosiazione Solidarci Caserta, Italy
- Cerebral Palsy Association of Coimbra (APCC), Portugal
- Consortium for Adult Education in Alto Palancia, Spain
- Kerigma, Innovation and Social Development, Portugal

The following organisations left the membership:

- Cyprus Adult Education Association, Cyprus
- Fédération régionale Familles Rurales des Pays de la Loire, France



EAEA Board members in 2020 met virtually.

EAEA Executive Board 2019-2021

The Executive Board and its preparatory body the Bureau (President, Vice-presidents and Secretary General) are responsible for the overall direction and policy development of the association. The Board works primarily on policy level, leaving the running of the association to the Secretary General. Nevertheless, board members were extremely helpful in advising the secretariat on different matters, from practical to operational to general issues. The role division is clearly defined in the constitution of the association.

Executive Board meetings in 2020

- Board meeting – Brussels, Belgium and virtual – 27 February 2020
- Board meeting – virtual – 16 April 2020
- Board meeting – virtual – 10 June 2020
- Board meeting – virtual – 23 September 2020
- Board meeting – virtual – 15 December 2020

EAEA Executive Board 2020



EAEA PRESIDENT
UWE GARTENSCHLAEGER
GERMANY

EAEA President since 2019
EAEA Board member 2009 – 2015



EAEA VICE-PRESIDENT
BERNHARD GRÄMIGER
SWITZERLAND

EAEA Vice-President since 2019
EAEA Board member since 2017



EAEA VICE-PRESIDENT
BENJAMIN HENDRIKSEN
IRELAND

EAEA Vice-President until Sept 2020
EAEA Board member until Sept 2020



EAEA VICE-PRESIDENT
GRO SVENNEBYE
NORWAY

EAEA Vice-President since 2019
EAEA Board member since 2019



DINA SOEIRO
PORTUGAL

EAEA Board Member since 2019



ALEX STEVENSON
UK

EAEA Board Member since 2019



GEORGE A. KOULAOUZIDES
GREECE

EAEA Board Member since 2019



KARIN TUDAL
FRANCE

EAEA Board Member since 2019



LAURI TUOMI
FINLAND

EAEA Board member since 2019



KLAUDIUS ŠILHÁR
SLOVAKIA

EAEA Board Member since 2017



GALINA VERAMEJCHYK
BELARUS

EAEA Board Member since 2015



MONICA WIDMAN LUNDMARK
SWEDEN

EAEA Board Member since 2019



DEARBHAIL LAWLESS
IRELAND

EAEA Board member since Sept 2020

Finances

In 2020, EAEA successfully applied for one year's core-funding, managed through a three-year framework contract with the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency. EAEA also renewed its service contract with EPALE to provide contents and manage communities of practice for the electronic platform. EAEA also received funding through the Belgian Maribel Fund to cover the salary of one staff member. As in previous years, extensive project work contributed to the financial stability of EAEA. Furthermore, membership fees were - as they have been for many years - an important part of our financing.

Staff

The EAEA staff underwent a number of changes in 2020.

- **Gina Ebner**, Secretary General
- **Francesca Operti**, Deputy Secretary General and Head of Projects

- **Raffaela Kihrer**, Head of Policy (on maternity leave since December 2020)
- **Christin Cieslak**, Head of Programmes (maternity cover since November 2020)
- **Aleksandra Kozyra**, Head of Capacity Building
- **Sari Pohjola**, Communications Officer
- **Matthias Jespers**, Administration Officer
- **Agatha Devlin**, Policy Assistant (until April 2020)
- **Alejandra Piot**, Project Assistant (until November 2020)
- **Marina Vitiz**, Research Assistant (February-July 2020)
- **Jana Ahlers**, Policy Assistant (July-December 2020)
- **Dimitrios Charmpis**, Research Assistant, (student traineeship September-December 2020)



EAEA staff in 2020.

The European Association for the Education of Adults is an international non-profit organisation (A.I.S.B.L.) registered under Belgian law.





EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR
THE EDUCATION OF ADULTS

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