



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR
THE EDUCATION OF ADULTS

ACTIVITY REPORT

2021



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1 Highlights



EAEA REGALE
project starts

Winter School for Adult Education at the University of Würzburg



Let's get our hands dirty! EAEA launches **a background report on Greening Adult Learning and Education**

Europe is more than the EU event brings together EAEA members from non-EU countries, 19 May



New EAEA Executive Board elected

January

February

March

April

May

June

EAEA joins the "We are ale" campaign, which kicks off globally on 23 March



Lifelong Learning Interest Group **meeting on Wellbeing and ageing**: the lifelong learning approach takes place



EAEA General Assembly and FutureLabAE Final Conference take place virtually on 22-23 June





The 9th edition of **the EAEA Younger Staff Training** takes place in Brussels and virtually on 13-17 September



EAEA hosts **the virtual Annual Conference on Learning to Exercise Democracy in a Digital World**, 17-18 November



EAEA's Working Group on Digitalisation publishes a **context paper on digitalisation and democracy**

EAEA Executive Staff Training takes place virtually, 7 December

EAEA launches **a series of webinars on inclusive adult learning**

EAEA contributes to **the European Consultation on CONFINTEA VII**, 9 September

July

August

September

October

November

December

EAEA FutureLabAE **guidelines and policy recommendations on change-oriented adult education** are published



Fostering change-oriented adult education

EAEA hosts **a study visit from the Arab House of Adult Education and Development**, 25-26 October

Two excellent practices on digitalisation and democracy celebrated with the **EAEA Grundtvig Award**; ceremony held virtually on 18 November



2

INFLUENCING PUBLIC POLICY



2 Influencing public policy

EAEA's policy work in 2021 at a glance:



EAEA is excited to present its achievements in 2021. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic and the shift to telework, there were some bright spots: these include the adoption of the New European Agenda for Adult Education, which EAEA's members accepted very positively, and the successful cooperation of members in the EAEA working group on digitalisation.

New opportunities emerged to engage even more members and stakeholders in EAEA's work. The EAEA working group on digitalisation held several meetings throughout 2021 and also discussed and researched background information on EAEA's annual theme "Digitalisation and Democracy". EAEA's choice of theme was obviously spot on, as it attracted a lot of attention outside EAEA's usual networks and strengthened EAEA's position as the most important voice of adult learning and education in Europe.

Promoting inclusive adult learning and education

EAEA's overarching aim is to improve adult learning and education (ALE) both in policy and practice. The key guiding document for EAEA is its Manifesto for Adult Learning in the 21st Century. Specific objectives in EAEA's strategic (2020-2023) plan are:

- Put and keep adult education high on the political agenda in Europe, while using EAEA's influence and networks to also promote adult education globally, nationally and regionally;
- Strengthen civil society supporters and providers of adult education;
- Promote a comprehensive and holistic understanding of adult learning;
- Promote quality and professionalisation in adult education provision;
- Maintain and strengthen the community of EAEA members;
- Enable development and the transfer of innovation in adult learning across borders;
- Find partners and supporters of adult education at all possible regional, national, and European levels.

The thematic focus of 2021 was "The impact of digitalisation on ALE", including the impact of digitalisation on ALE and its institutions, and digitalisation as a subject of teaching and learning (e.g. digital literacy, digital skills for work, and digital competency as a citizen).

Through EAEA's work in the areas of policy and advocacy, capacity building and programmes, the objectives of the strategy have been achieved. The work on the New European Agenda for Adult Learning (NEAAL), but also EAEA's advocacy on more holistic approaches to tools for funding and participation in ALE, especially Individual Learning Accounts and Micro-Credentials, as well as the role of adult learning in the National Recovery and Resilience Plans, brought ALE more into the focus of European and national policy. In the last year, EAEA has also noticed that the role of non-formal ALE was more often mentioned in new initiatives and strategies at the European level. We see this as a sign of our influence and visibility, which we want to continue to expand.

Building bridges across sectors

In 2021, EAEA maintained good contacts with the Adult Education Unit in DG EMPL of the European Commission, as well as fruitful cooperation with the members of the Lifelong Learning Interest Group in the European Parliament. Furthermore, EAEA was in regular contact with representatives of other European institutions, such as the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. EAEA participated in the meetings on the ET2020 Working Groups on Adult Learning and Common Values and Inclusive Education and organised introductory meetings with representatives of the European Commission. National and regional policymakers were kept informed about EAEA activities thanks to the large number of events attended by members of the EAEA Board throughout Europe.

Working for, and with, members has always been at the forefront of EAEA's priorities, to maintain and strengthen the community of EAEA members and to strengthen civil society supporters and providers of adult education. EAEA informed its members about new developments at the European level, involving them in its political work wherever possible. EAEA built on the members' expertise in ALE on the policy implementation at the national and regional levels, and on their projects and initiatives related to EAEA's focus areas. In 2021, members were invited to submit best practices in digitalisation and democracy for the EAEA Grundtvig Award. EAEA members were regularly consulted on other central pieces of EAEA's policy work, for instance on Green Skills and ALE, enabling the development and transfer of innovation in adult learning across borders.

All strategic decisions for EAEA's work and the basic direction of EAEA's work were decided by its members, through the General Assembly, but also via several webinars, online meetings and consultations. These include EAEA's member satisfaction survey and the survey on EAEA's Country Reports. EAEA developed infographics and other tools to introduce EU initiatives, and to encourage members to participate at national and regional levels in their implementation.

In 2021, EAEA engaged members and the wider ALE community in cross-

sector, cross-country and cross-organisational sharing of expertise and innovation. EAEA explored online event formats and experimented with new participatory tools that enhanced peer learning across the network to actively engage those members who cannot normally afford to travel to EAEA events. EAEA Board established three new working groups in 2021. One of these working groups is dedicated to the topic of quality in ALE, another one deals with the financing of ALE. In both, the question of professionalisation of the sector plays an important role.

EAEA strengthened its collaboration with civil society, social partners and with the research sector to better understand the consequences of the crisis for the ALE community and especially for disadvantaged learners, and in relation to digitalisation and democracy. In 2021, EAEA decided to develop a stakeholder engagement strategy to broaden the network in and beyond education and training.

Achieving impact at all levels

Local, regional and national levels

EAEA was able to work more at the local, regional and national levels in 2021 thanks to its members. EAEA's work on three projects with the Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support of the European Commission in Portugal, Spain and Cyprus has enabled EAEA to support ministries and national and regional stakeholders. The EAEA working group 'Europe is more than the EU' also brought members from non-EU countries, including Eastern Europe, UK, Switzerland and Norway, closer to European issues, while strengthening regional cooperation, especially among Eastern European members. For example, EAEA's Ukrainian Executive Board member brought EAEA messages further in meetings with policymakers, several of which were taken into consideration in the final draft of the new law on adult education in Ukraine. Furthermore, closer cooperation with EARLALL, the European Association of Regional and Local Authorities for Lifelong Learning, contributed to a greater

outreach to the regional level.

Many activities took place in 2021 at the national, regional and local levels, mostly led by the members, in close cooperation with EAEA. Although members see EAEA's impact more at the European and international levels, according to the results of the annual member satisfaction survey, there is a growing understanding among members of the potential to influence other levels of governance. This is also reflected in the fact that EAEA representatives - especially the Secretary General and members of the Executive Board - were very regularly invited to key events in the countries of EAEA members in 2021 (most of them virtual in 2021) in order to better connect the national, regional and local levels with the European level. Through the consultation process on the New European Agenda for Adult Learning (NEAAL) that was presented by the Slovenian Presidency in 2021, EAEA worked closely together with national experts on ALE in Slovenia, and, through its impact at the national level, could also have an impact on the future European strategy for ALE.

In 2021, EAEA put great effort into making political processes at the European level more accessible to the members, in particular through infographics, regular information e-mails and online meetings. EAEA involved its members through consultations and direct meetings whenever possible to make the results of EAEA's work relevant for the national, regional and local levels. EAEA members continued to share EAEA advocacy tools, for example the Manifesto for Adult Learning in the 21st Century, with policymakers. EAEA Board members and other members appreciate very much the information provided by EAEA and the advocacy toolkits.

An important aspect of EAEA's increased accessibility regards language barriers. In 2021, EAEA's Working Group Europe is more than the EU developed a set of materials in Russian and Bosnian-Croatian-Montenegrin-Serbian. These included the roadmap on how to strengthen the cooperation between EAEA and its non-EU members, and an event during which key European and global policy issues were discussed in three language groups. Additionally, the EAEA Manifesto for Adult Learning in the 21st Century continued to be translated by members into their languages and used for advocacy.



EAEA published a statement on the New European Agenda for Adult Learning in December 2021.

European level

EAEA is proud to have members whose advocacy work, supported by EAEA, has an impact at the European level. Such is the case with the Slovenian Institute for Adult Education in the framework of the New European Agenda for Adult Learning (NEAAL), drafted during the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the EU. EAEA closely monitored the developments and appreciated the holistic approach of the NEAAL, which was adopted in November 2021.

Over the years of policy and advocacy work at the European level, EAEA established an excellent working relationship with representatives of DG EAC and DG EMPL. Throughout 2022, EAEA had a series of meetings with representatives of the European Commission who work on adult learning and education, providing feedback on the EU adult education policy from the perspective of EAEA members. EAEA members participated in a number of meetings, including the session on the new Erasmus+ programme.

EAEA also has regular contacts with Members of the European Parliament,

most importantly through the regular activities of the Interest Group on Lifelong Learning, coordinated together with the Lifelong Learning Platform. Two meetings of the Interest Group, as well as a few bilateral meetings with MEPs, were held in 2021, ensuring that the non-formal adult education perspective is considered in European policymaking.

EAEA's membership in several civil society platforms, including the Lifelong Learning Platform and the Social Platform, furthered EAEA's exchange of expertise. EAEA continued to be an active member of CONCORD Europe and the SDG Watch Europe in 2021, contributing to the work of these platforms in the field of development and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and raising awareness of the role of non-formal adult learning and education within the networks.

Moreover, EAEA continued its cooperation with European and international organisations and networks working on global citizenship education, especially the Bridge47 policy network that was established in the framework of the former DEAR project Bridge47, but also the NECE network (Networking European Citizenship Education), the GENE network (Global Education Network Europe), and Solidar Foundation. In 2021, 91% of members regarded EAEA's impact on the European level as "strong", according to the results of the EAEA member survey.

Global level

2021 was an important year with preparations for CONFINTEA VII underway. CONFINTEA, or the International Conference on Adult Education, is a major event in the ALE sector, taking place every 12 years. CONFINTEA VII is scheduled to be held in June 2022 in Marrakesh, Morocco. EAEA worked closely together with the International Council for Adult Education (ICAE) on the preparation of CONFINTEA VII and on the global "We are ALE" campaign, aiming to raise awareness of non-formal adult learning and education. EAEA's expertise was also taken into account by the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) who invited EAEA as a contributor to the European Consultation on CONFINTEA VII. Furthermore, EAEA collaborated with the UIL on the European regional preparatory conference for CONFINTEA VII.

Statements and opinions



IN 2021, EAEA CONTRIBUTED TO EU POLICIES WITH THE FOLLOWING PAPERS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESPONSES:

- **Reaction** to the Council's conclusion on improving the well-being of older persons in the era of digitalisation. January 2021
- **EAEA's reaction** to the Green Paper on Ageing. March 2021
- Let's insist on using the Recovery and Resilience Fund for Adult Learning and Education! – **EAEA's statement**. March 2021
- A pledge for more Adult Learning and Education in and after the Coronavirus Pandemic – **EAEA's statement**. March 2021
- Let's get our hands dirty! – **EAEA background report** on greening adult learning and education. April 2021
- A critical reflection on Individual Learning Accounts – **EAEA's statement**. July 2021
- The peril and potential of Micro-Credentials – **EAEA's statement**. July 2021

- Sustainable development needs Adult Learning and Education – **EAEA's statement**. September 2021
- The National Recovery and Resilience Plans – **EAEA's info note**. October 2021
- Erasmus+ KA1 learning mobility: see what's in there for you! **EAEA's infographic**. November 2021
- Adult Learning and Education is Key for the Future of Europe – **EAEA's statement** on the New European Agenda for Adult Learning. December 2021
- Digitalisation and democracy – **EAEA's context paper**. December 2021
- Policy recommendations for digitalisation and democracy – **EAEA's infographic**. December 2021
- More inclusion in Erasmus+ requires adequate funding and support – **EAEA's reaction** to the Commission Implementing Decision on the framework of inclusion measures of the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Programmes 2021-2027. December 2021
- CONFINTEA VII needs a strong civil society representation – **EAEA's statement**. December 2021

EAEA networks

umbrella organisations



EAEA members

other key partners



3

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS



3 Conferences and events

EAEA's events in 2021 at a glance:



General Assembly 2021

The General Assembly of EAEA members, which is the main decision-making body of EAEA, met virtually on 21 June to discuss and approve the EAEA financial and activity reports in 2020 and the plans for the year ahead. In total, 81 participants were present at the General Assembly.

New members of the EAEA Executive Board were elected by the EAEA General Assembly via Electionbuddy. 15 representatives put forward their candidacy for a maximum of 13 seats, following a nomination of an EAEA ordinary member.



Participants of the EAEA General Assembly 2021; picture by Visuality

Grundtvig Award 2021

In 2021 EAEA celebrated excellent projects and initiatives in adult learning and education in Europe supporting “Digitalisation and Democracy”.

WINNER IN THE TRANSNATIONAL CATEGORY

DIGIT-AL Digital Transformation in Adult Learning for Active Citizenship

The winner of the 2021 Grundtvig Award, in the transnational category was the Arbeitskreis deutscher Bildungsstätten with their Erasmus+ project *DIGIT-AL Digital Transformation in Adult Learning for Active Citizenship*. The project worked towards a broader picture of what digital competence means as the sum of skills, knowledge, attitudes, and values. It also tackled digital transformation as a social-political issue, exploring the potential of Education for Democratic Citizenship and/or Human Rights education for education and learning about digital transformation.

WINNER IN THE NATIONAL CATEGORY

#GEMMA il Sapere è Prezioso – Knowledge is Precious

The winner in the national category was Giove In Formatica srl together with Comune di Montone (capofila) and their project *#GEMMA il Sapere è Prezioso – Knowledge is Precious.* This project's objectives were the reduction of the cultural and digital gap, as well as supporting the right to lifelong learning in the small Municipalities of Umbria, Italy.

“ Winning the award motivates us to continue on our path and work to ensure that more adult Europeans can learn fundamentally about digitalisation as a major political and social issue.

- Nils-Eyk Zimmermann, DIGIT-AL



DIGIT-AL publications

“ **Winning the award supports us in giving a voice to actors at the territorial level, such as municipalities and associations, that need to reinforce social bonds within communities, developing a more equal, supportive and resilient society.**

- Anna Schippa and Giuseppe Calderaro, #GEMMA



#GEMMA training course in Umbria, Italy

Annual conference on digitalisation and democracy

In 2021, EAEA centred its annual conference around the topic of digitalisation, focusing specifically on its impact on citizenship and the contribution of adult learning. Conference “Learning to exercise democracy in a digital world”, took place online on 17-18 November. It brought together 135 participants representing 26 countries and different profiles: umbrella organisations, NGOs, adult education providers, public authorities and more. EAEA offered the participants a two-day programme with a mix of inputs, workshops and small-group discussions. As part of the conference, EAEA members facilitated a series of workshops on key issues that link adult learning, democracy and digitalisation. The conference also included a vibrant discussion on the EAEA context paper, which was a key outcome of the work of the EAEA DIGIT Working Group.

EAEA Annual Conference





EAEA Annual Conference banner 2021

A blue slide for the EAEA Annual Conference 2021 keynote presentation. At the top left, it reads 'EAEA Annual Conference 2021' and 'Keynote presentation 17 November 10.10 - 10.50 CET'. The EAEA logo is in the top right corner. The main title, 'Building Democracy in a Digital World. a Conversation', is written in a large, yellow, cursive font. Below the title, the speaker's name 'Antonio Dias de Figueiredo' and affiliation 'University of Coimbra, Portugal' are listed in white. On the right side, there is a circular inset photograph of Professor Antonio Dias de Figueiredo, a man with a beard and glasses, looking thoughtfully to the side. The background of the photo is a dark screen with binary code (0s and 1s).

Professor Antonio Dias de Figueiredo was keynote speaker at the Annual Conference 2021

Younger Staff Training

The 2021 edition of the Younger Staff Training was held on 13-17 September face-to-face in Brussels and was hosted by De Markten, a cultural organisation that also fosters adult learning. Some sessions of the training were also delivered online to include participants who were unable to travel because of COVID-19 restrictions. Throughout the five day training, participants learned about topics such as policy and advocacy for stronger adult learning strategies, change-oriented education and digitalisation. These topics were explored through a series of peer-learning sessions “adult learning in my country”, input sessions, practical workshops and study visits to organisations in Brussels that have excellent practices on digitalisation: Maks and BeCentral.



EAEA Younger Staff Training participants in Brussels.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 10 participants who joined face-to-face
- Five online participants
- Countries: Poland, Switzerland, Ukraine, Ireland, Spain, Finland, Estonia and Ukraine.

EAEA IN MEETINGS AND EVENTS

INFLUENCING POLICY

- Meeting with DG EAC
- 22 January 2021

- Meeting Adult Education for Life: “living the crisis with Permanent Education”, with the Education Secretary of State João Costa, Portugal, online
- 28 January 2021

- ILO Office for the European Union and the Benelux countries webinar on The role of digital labour platforms in transforming the world of work
- 25 February 2021

- High-level forum on individual learning accounts (ILAs)
- 4-5 March 2021

- Portuguese Presidency conference
- 10 March 2021

- DEAR Multi-Stakeholder Group meeting
- 24-25 March 2021

January

February

March

- Participation in the ALE-VET cluster meeting
- 29 January 2021

- Participation in the CEDEFOP seminar for VET teachers trainers
- 3 February 2021

- SDG Watch Europe General Assembly
- 23 February 2021

- Participation in the global kick-off of “we are ale”
- 22 March 2021

- Participation in the LLLP Conference on Wider Benefits of Learning
- 25 March 2021

RAISING VISIBILITY

Lifelong Learning
 Interest Group
 Meeting: AIE and
 old learners, with
 Members of the
 European Parliament,
 online
 27 April 2021

WG of the Lifelong
 Learning Platform on
 Policy Coherence for
 EU2030
 30 April 2021

Transformative
 education –
 Implementing SDG
 Target 4.7, Bridge 47
 and Ban Ki-moon Centre
 for Global Citizens, as
 part of the UNESCO
 World Conference
 on Education
 for Sustainable
 Development, online
 17 May 2021

Stakeholder workshop
 on a potential European
 Education Platform
 with MEP Negrescu
 19 May 2021

“Lifelong Learning
 Lab” of the Lifelong
 Learning Platform,
 online
 1-2 June 2021

Meeting of co-chair
 of the Lifelong
 Learning Interest
 Group
 22 June 2021

April

May

June

MES 2021:
 International Media
 Education Summit
 2021, University of
 Leeds, Online
 31 March and
 1 April 2021

European Bildung
 Day 2021
 08 May 2021

Micro-Credentials
 in VET. Challenges
 and opportunities at
 European level
 25 May 2021

Conference 100
 years of Paulo Freire,
 Colectivo Paulo Freire
 Portugal, online
 7-11 June 2021

EAEA General
 Assembly and
 FutureLab
 conference, online
 22-23 June

- Virtual coffee with
• MEP Victor Negrescu
• 23 July 2021
•

- Eucen Policy Talks:
• the roles of EAEA
• in promoting
• LLL in Europe in
• association with HEIs
• 7 September 2021
•
- 2nd International
• Conference on
• Learning Cities in
• Pécs, Hungary
• 23 September 2021
•

July

August

September

- EPALE online
• discussion on Active
• Aging
• 15 July 2021
•
- Meeting with MOJA:
• Adult Education
• Africa
• 15 July 2021
•

- Exchange with
• ETUI on Next
• Generation EU
• 31 August 2021
•

- Dual conference:
• Adult Learning and
• Education - The
• Resilient Response
• to Future Challenges,
• organised by the
• Slovenian Presidency,
• UNESCO, and UIL,
• online
• 8-9 September 2021
•

- EAEA Younger Staff
• Training
• 13-17 September 2021
• virtual and in Brussels
•

- European Bildung Day
• 21 September 2021
•

• **Meeting with DG EAC
on mobility targets
in Erasmus+**
• 7 October 2021

• **Strategic Dialogue
with DG EMPL
on Individual
Learning Accounts
and Recovery and
Resilience Plans**
• 18 October 2021

• **Strategic Dialogue
with DG EMPL on the
ESF+**
• 20 October 2021

• **EMPL Committee
Hearing on The
importance of lifelong
learning, digital
education and active
ageing as tools to
increase employability,
active participation in
the society as well as to
battle social exclusion**
• 15 November 2021

• **European
Educational Area:
Quality Education
and Training for All
- Fourth European
Education Summit:
The Next Decade
of European
Education, European
Commission, online**
• 9 December 2021

October

November

December

• **EAEA Annual
Conference:
Learning to exercise
democracy in a
digital world. Online**
• 17, 18 November 2021

• **EAEA Executive
Staff Training**
• 11 December 2021

In addition to meetings with policy-makers, EAEA participates in other key meetings and events for adult education and lifelong learning. These are opportunities to present EAEA and its viewpoints.

4

PUBLICATIONS



4 Publications

Grundtvig Award Brochure

Each year, EAEA awards excellent and innovative projects that follow a selected theme. [The 2021 Grundtvig Award publication](#) presents 21 adult learning initiatives that successfully explored the complex connections between adult learning, digitalisation and democracy. The publication, released digitally in November 2021, was widely disseminated to relevant stakeholders and policy makers on a European, national and regional level.



Adult education in European countries from a civil society perspective

The country reports are one of the most important EAEA publications, presenting the state of adult education in European countries from a civil society perspective. In 2021, EAEA asked members about sustainability, funding and the impact of COVID-19 on the ALE sector. The reports are published digitally on [the country report website](#). EAEA continued to develop the graphic presentation of the data on the website.



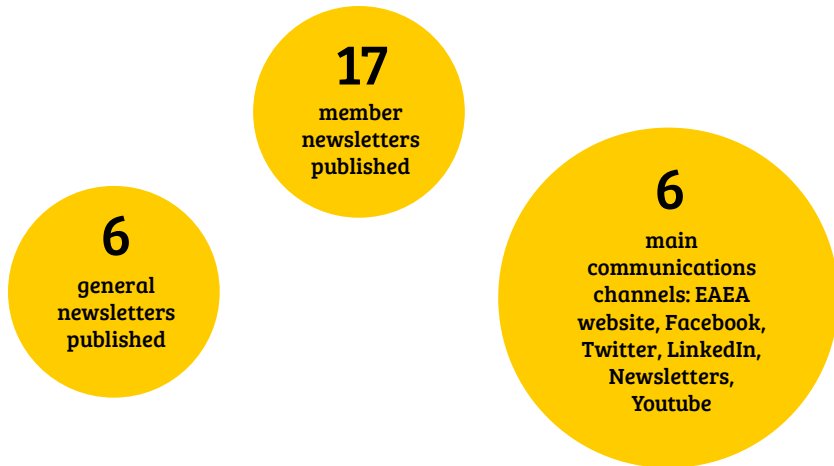
5

INFORMATION SERVICES



5 Information services

EAEA information services at a glance



Communication channels

Targeted and visually appealing online communication kept EAEA's audience informed and actively involved throughout 2021. EAEA uses various communication channels to increase its visibility and engage in dialogue: social media, the EAEA website, press releases, newsletters, briefings, strategy papers and other publications. In 2021, EAEA started to experiment with new communication tools, such as online polls.

The EAEA website and social media are well known in the ALE community. The number of EAEA social media followers and website visitors steadily grew throughout 2021. The number of followers of EAEA's Facebook account grew by 7%. In total, Facebook reached more than 55 200 people in 2021, including 7350 regular followers. EAEA's Twitter account grew by

7%, reaching 5264 followers and generating a total of 515 900 impressions in a year. In 2021, EAEA also created a new LinkedIn profile, reaching more than 700 followers by the end of the year. Importantly, EAEA's strategy to produce unique, relevant and approachable media content that is relevant to our target groups has resulted in high levels of engagement among our social media followers.

Thematic mailing lists helped EAEA to reach specific target groups: EAEA members, policymakers, members of the wider ALE and LLL community. This enabled us to deliver a target-specific communication approach that has proven very successful.

EAEA remained a regular partner of EPALE and Elm, the European Lifelong Learning Magazine (elmmagazine.eu), and therefore continued to be present in key communication platforms for ALE in Europe. EAEA contributed with blog posts, podcasts, events, webinars and resources to EPALE under a service contract. EAEA also remained in the Editorial Board of Elm, suggesting content and writers and continued collaboration under the "Speaker's corner", a joint column. EAEA Board member Dearbháil Lawless was nominated as EAEA's representative in the Editorial Board of Elm.

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

Satisfaction with EAEA's communication work

EAEA members remained very satisfied with EAEA communication in 2021: all members who replied to the EAEA survey in early 2022 felt "satisfied" or "very satisfied"; the remaining 9% felt "neutral" with EAEA communications. Members were particularly appreciative of EAEA's policy news and internal EAEA news. Members' communication channels of choice remained the EAEA Newsletter, Member News and email.

Impact of EAEA communication work



Amount of Twitter users has grown to

5264



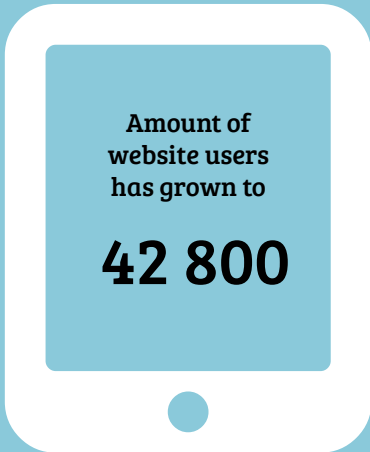
7% INCREASE



Amount of Facebook users has grown to

7350

7% INCREASE



Amount of website users has grown to

42 800



24% INCREASE



Amount of LinkedIn users

700

6

PROJECTS



6 Projects

EAEA's project work in 2021 at a glance:



EAEA's projects focus on advocacy, policy and exchange of practices in adult education and lifelong learning. EAEA participates mainly in Erasmus+ projects but also in other funding programmes (i.e. DEAR, H2020). With the very broad membership and strong European-wide network, EAEA is a natural project promoter. With increased tendency EAEA is also invited to contribute to the content of the projects, in particular projects which include good practice collection, research analysis and policy recommendations.

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



REGIONAL CAPACITY FOR ADULT LEARNING AND EDUCATION (REGALE)

- **2021 – 2024 / ERASMUS+, KA3 AE Networks**
- **Aims:** RegALE aims to set up or reinforce networks of adult education organisations and to create synergies with regional/ local authorities in order to increase their impact and sustainability. This will be achieved by increasing the partners' capacity (and of their networks, stakeholders, partners and members at their level of action) to respond to their challenges, build cooperation structures, and promote an adult education culture in communities, cities and regions.
- **Info:** regalenetwork.eu



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



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.

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.

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.

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



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



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



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



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



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



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.



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



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



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



Partner projects / Validation of learning

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



GLAS

Guidance for Low-skilled Adults towards Skills Assessment and Validation

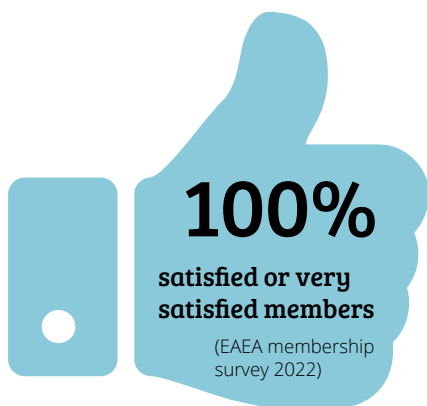
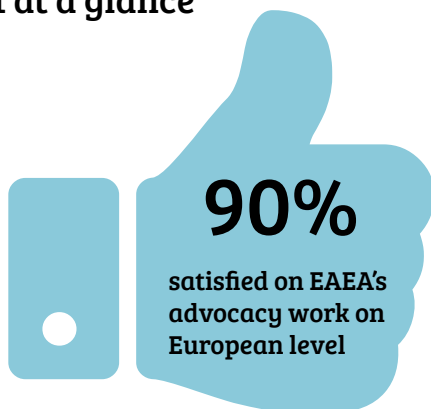
7

MEMBERSHIP



7 Membership

EAEA's membership in 2021 at a glance



In 2021, 91% of members regarded EAEA's impact on the European level as "strong", according to the results of the EAEA member survey.

In 2021, EAEA enjoyed a close partnership with its members. Members were invited to join online discussions, to contribute to consultations and to EAEA working groups. They also took a leading role in facilitating workshops at EAEA events, for example at the EAEA Annual Conference: Learning to Exercise Democracy in a Digital World.

EAEA launched a working group dedicated to improving the cooperation with EAEA non-EU members and better serving their needs. To gain better insight into the challenges faced by EAEA non-EU members, a survey was launched in January 2021; based on the results, a roadmap was developed with four areas of action: advocacy, communication, exchange and financing. The roadmap was translated into three languages and discussed by EAEA non-EU members, who joined an online event on 19 May to share their regional perspectives. More initiatives targeting EAEA non-EU members and following the areas of the roadmap are planned for 2022.

Member satisfaction

Member satisfaction remained high. According to a membership survey carried out in early 2022, all respondents were either “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with EAEA. Members were particularly satisfied with advocacy on the European level for non-formal adult education and lifelong learning (90% respondents satisfied or very satisfied). Members also highlighted their appreciation with EAEA policy work on the new European Agenda for Adult Learning and on CONFINTEA VII (60% and 65% considered them as EAEA most important activity in 2021).

Changes in membership

As a result of the membership strategy, the EAEA General Assembly received and approved new applications for membership in 2021, resulting in a total of 120 members in 43 European countries.

All changes in the membership in 2021 were approved by the EAEA General Assembly in June 2021.

The following organizations were approved to become **ordinary members of the association:**

- Kosova Education Centre – Kosovo

The following organizations were approved to become **associate members of the association:**

- Modus Alapítvány – Modus Foundation – Hungary
- Spa and Wellness Association of Macedonia – SWAM – Republic of North Macedonia

The following organizations were approved to be **excluded from the association:**

- PAR Institute for Developing Lifelong Learning, Croatia
- The Federal State Budget Scientific Institution «Institute of Education Management of the Russian Academy of Education», Russia
- Per Formare, Italy
- Civic Organisation Alliance, Ukraine

The following organisations decided to **leave EAEA:**

- Stephansstift Zentrum für Erwachsenenbildung gemeinnützig GmbH, Germany
- SOCIUS, Belgium
- Non-Governmental Organisation for Solidarity and Promotion (SOPRO), Portugal

EAEA Executive Board

The Executive Board and its preparatory body the Bureau (President, Vicepresidents 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 2021

- Board meeting – virtual – 25 February 2021
- Board meeting – virtual – 22 April 2021
- Board meeting – Brussels, Belgium and virtual – 21 June 2021
- General Assembly – virtual – 22 June 2021
- Board meeting – Brussels, Belgium and virtual
– 13-14 September 2021
- Board meeting – Vienna, Austria – 1-2 November 2021

EAEA Executive Board 2021



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
LAURI TUOMI
FINLAND

EAEA Vice-President since 2021
EAEA Board Member since 2019



OLEG SMIRNOV
UKRAINE

EAEA Board Member since 2021



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



BALÁZS NÉMETH
HUNGARY

EAEA Board Member since 2021



KLAUDIUS ŠILHÁR
SLOVAKIA

EAEA Board Member since 2017



GUSTAV FRIDOLIN
SWEDEN

EAEA Board Member since 2021



DEARBHAIL LAWLESS
IRELAND

EAEA Board member since Sept 2020

Finances

In 2021, EAEA successfully applied for one year's core-funding, managed through a three-year framework contract with the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency that was established in 2018 and extended for an additional year in 2021. EAEA also renewed its service contract with EPALE to provide content and manage communities of practice for the electronic platform.

Staff

- **Gina Ebner**, Secretary General (on 80% FTE)
- **Francesca Operti**, Deputy Secretary-General and Head of Projects (going on maternity leave in October 2021)
- **Raffaella Kihrer**, Head of Policy (back from maternity leave in July 2021)
- **Christin Cieslak**, Head of Programmes
- **Aleksandra Kozyra**, Head of Capacity-Building
- **Matthias Jespers**, Administration Officer
- **Sari Pohjola**, Communications Officer (Sari's position is financed through the support of the Finnish Ministry for Education and Culture)
- **Tina Mavric**, Project Assistant (January to September 202), Project Coordinator (October 2021 onwards)
- **Panagiotis Chatzimichail**, Policy and Programmes Assistant (March to September 2021)
- **Sima Alia Ramos**, Policy and Programmes Assistant (September 2021 onwards)

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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