

EUROPE IS MORE THAN THE EU: ROADMAP

TOWARDS A STRONGER COOPERATION BETWEEN EAEA AND ITS NON-EU MEMBERS

Introduction

The European Association for the Education of Adults has an understanding of “Europe” within the borders defined by the Council of Europe. Therefore, the EAEA with 124 member organisations in 43 countries is proud to represent member organisations from both the EU and non-EU countries. Yet as demonstrated by the last survey targeting specifically EAEA non-EU membership, there are several barriers that keep non-EU members from getting more involved in EAEA’s policy and advocacy work, not least because they see EAEA’s policy focus as limited to EU member states.

The present paper briefly summarizes the results of the survey and offers a proposal on how EAEA could improve its work with and for non-EU members. Its objectives are based on four areas that the survey results have defined as key for EAEA non-EU membership: advocacy, information, exchange and funding.



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Key objectives

1. Strengthening EAEA's advocacy work for an improved EU Neighbourhood Policy at the European level, and supporting the advocacy work of non-EU members at their respective levels

Concrete activities developing the advocacy of EAEA further and strengthening the relevance for membership from outside the EU:

Supporting advocacy on the national level

- Provide information, analysis and comments to policy documents and processes beyond EU (SDGs, UNESCO)
- Provide information and analysis of selected EU policy documents on ALE from the lens of non-EU-members
- Improve information about good practices on selected ALE related issues, regardless their origin (EU or non-EU)
- Offer participation of board members and staff at advocacy activities and consultations (this can be enhanced especially in the light of the advanced use of digital tools)
- Publish annually one document relevant for members outside EU (targeting on their needs)

Advocacy for improved EU Neighbourhood Policy

- Establish sustainable links to the DGs in charge
- Develop a Policy Statement (?) on the role of ALE in this context
- To build strategic alliances with other stakeholders - Council of Europe, Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, ect. use their platforms and events to promote ALE

Advocacy for improved ERASMUS + programme

- more possibility for non-EU-members to be involved not only into the youth projects, but also under adult education programme

Advocacy on the global level

- in interaction with UNESCO, the UN pay more attention to the situation and needs of non-EU members.



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2. Improving EAEA's information and communication work by valuing different perspectives, including those of non-EU countries

- Improve information about good practices on selected ALE related issues, regardless their origin (EU or non-EU)
- Introduce a special column/chapter in the EAEA newsletter
- Include the perspective of non-EU members in the thematic policies developed by the EAEA.
- One of the EAEA's campaigns could be named as our working group "Europe is more than the EU"

3. Fostering cooperation and exchange between EAEA members by offering opportunities for peer-learning and capacity building

- Reflect on effective use /(and sustainable development) of the Bob-Schouten-Fund
- To include in the annual work plan activities for the sub-regions (Eastern Europe, Mediterranean, EAEA and Nordic countries, etc.)
- Every year to find at least one topic, which is relevant for non-EU members and to find appropriate format for their involvement.

4. Involving non-EU members, when possible, in project proposals, and identifying sources of funding that would be open to non-EU members

- Establish a benchmark of one project proposal annually open to non-EU-members
- Develop other funding opportunities (e.g. foundations)

Overarching

- Appoint a staff member responsible for working with members outside the EU
- Put the issue of ALE outside the EU on the agenda of every second board meeting (at least twice a year) and appoint one board member as responsible for this topic
- Develop options for enabling board meetings and GAs in countries outside the EU.