



Candidate's presentation form for EAEA President and Executive Board members

Full name of the candidate Esther Hirsch

Title Ms

Organisation of the candidate Deutscher Volkshochschul-Verband (DVV)

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Nominated by DVV, Julia von Westerholt, Director

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Running for Board member

Please upload your portrait photo.



Please describe your current position and role in your organisation.

I am Deputy Director of DVV International. DVV International implements the international work of the German Adult Education Association (DVV) and, as a leading specialist organisation for international adult education, works with more than 200 partners in over 30 countries worldwide. As deputy director, I am responsible for our global work and advocate for youth and adult education at both the national and global levels. At the same time, I work closely with my colleagues in the association and in adult education centres in Germany.

How would you like to contribute to the work of EAEA, based on the experience in your organisation? What capacities do you have to support the work of EAEA?

A special focus of my work at EAEA would be on international cooperation, with regard to global processes and networks. To this, we will make the global structures of DVV International available. We have close contacts and good access through relevant partners, such as the International Association ICAE, where DVV is a board member, or the Asian association ASPBAE.

I would like to maintain and strengthen the close ties with EAEA and bring relevant European topics and debates to Germany and from Germany to EAEA. Last but not least, I would like to use the DVV to facilitate connections to the more than 800 Volkshochschulen in Germany and to all other German EAEA members.

Are there specific activities or areas of work at EAEA you would like to contribute to? Which activities or areas of work are you already actively contributing to?

Lobbying for youth and adult education, active participation in the development of European and global policies and strategies and monitoring their implementation are core components I would like to focus on with EAEA in the next years. Very concretely the end of the 2030 Agenda is approaching - a big global process to be influenced.

We are living in times of numerous changes – with regard to shrinking spaces, changing political systems, climate change, digital developments, to name just a few topics adult learning and education should address and EAEA has a role to play.

What motivates you to candidate for the Executive Board of EAEA?

DVV International has been represented on the EAEA Board for many years, and I myself was a board member from 2015 to 2019. I have always found the close and long-standing cooperation to be enriching and inspiring, both personally and institutionally.

As a member of the EAEA Board, DVV International can continue to actively support the work of EAEA and promote important EAEA issues in Germany and in a global context. For me personally, it is an opportunity to place our work in a broader context and reinforce the impact of our activities.

What other information would you like to share with EAEA members?

Working in international contexts has been a constant feature of my adult life. During a year of voluntary service in Israel, a year of study in France and 15 years in various development cooperation projects in Africa, I gained experience in working and living with people from different cultures and backgrounds.

Through my actual position I get into touch with many different forms of adult education in a lot of countries. Becoming a member of EAEA board will give me the very special opportunity to bring my experiences in the work of EAEA and to widen at the same time my horizon.