



Tuesday, April 15, 2025

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

Full name of the candidate Gustav Fridolin

Title Mr

Organisation of the candidate Folkbildningsrådet

Email address of the candidate gustav.fridolin@stadsmissionen.se

Nominated by Folkbildningsrådet, Sveriges Lärare Folkhögskola, Rörelsefolkhögskolornas intresseorganisation & Studieförbunden i Samverkan

Email address of the nominating member thor.rutgersson@folkbildningsradet.se

Running for

Please upload your portrait photo.



Please describe your current position and role in your organisation.

Adult educator at Stockholm City Mission folk high school.

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?

I've been in the executive board for four years, and would like to have a seat for a final term. I hope to contribute with continuity as well as experience in organization and politics during a time when the organization is navigating the effects of its significant growth, increasing political instability—where organizations and cooperation like ours are being questioned—and challenges for adult education in many member countries. I believe that together we can empower both larger and smaller, older and newer, members with the strength that European cooperation can offer: knowledge through exchange, and tools to advance the fight for adult education in our respective countries.

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?

I have a background in politics and served as Sweden's Minister for Education between 2014 and 2019. I therefore hope to continue contributing with both advice and action in political advocacy—towards EU institutions as well as in individual countries where it can be of value.

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

In Sweden, a country with a long-standing tradition of adult education (folkbildning) that predates even our democracy, with excellent PIAAC results and a relatively well-funded sector compared to others, we are now seeing adult education come under political attack. We are facing budget cuts, expressions of distrust, and demands for greater state control. In this context, being part of a European community is incredibly valuable—we draw energy, strength, and knowledge from colleagues in diverse situations, and hopefully, we can also share the lessons we have learned along the way.

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

We need to stand stronger. Even though this is a time when our work—and the efforts to secure the conditions necessary to carry it out—demands a great deal of time and energy in our own countries, we must also be able to prioritize our shared work at the European level. In the coming years, EAEA will need structural changes to increase its self-financing capacity, and contributions from all of us will be essential.