



Tuesday, April 29, 2025

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

Full name of the candidate Lauri Tuomi

Title Dr.

Organisation of the candidate The Finnish Lifelong Learning Foundation (Kvs Foundation)

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Nominated by Finnish Adult Education Association

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Running for

Please upload your portrait photo.



Please describe your current position and role in your organisation.
CEO of the Finnish Lifelong Learning Foundation. The Foundation is Finland's oldest independent organization dedicated to promoting adult education, lifelong learning and bildung (sivistys). It was founded in 1874. The foundation publishes two open-access learning media platforms: Aikuiskasvatus, a

peer-reviewed academic journal and the only scientific publication on adult education in Finland, and Elm Magazine (European Lifelong Learning Magazine), an English-language online magazine focusing on adult education and lifelong learning.

The Kvs Foundation also operates the South Helsinki Adult Education Centre, the distance education services Etäkoulu Kulkuri and Nomadskolan for Finnish children living abroad, and operates Helsinki communication office for EAEA.

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 would like to continue to support EAEA's success in the areas of my expertise: adult education policy, lifelong learning, as well as the strategic and future-oriented operations of the association. I would like to contribute to EAEA's advocacy work and support deepening collaboration between EAEA members and stakeholders. Additionally, I am happy to continue supporting ALE development in member countries.

I am very thankful for the close collaboration we have in the Nordic and Baltic regions through the Nordic ALE network. During my lifetime, I have been fortunate to make friends and professional colleagues in almost all European countries. I am a strong believer in European values and citizenship.

I have extensive experience in various positions in the education sector, ALE, and lifelong learning (top management, board member, chair, teacher, lecturer, facilitator, senior advisor, etc.) in governmental bodies, educational institutes, and associations. Since 2019, I have been a member of the EAEA Executive Board and, since 2021, one of the vice presidents. Since 2019, I have also been a member of the board of the Finnish Adult Education Association and a vice president since the beginning of 2025.

The impact evaluation is also one of my capabilities, which has led me to chair the national evaluation of Finnish non-formal adult education.

Globalisation, sustainable development, and lifelong learning are topics close to my heart. As a member of Finland's National Commission for UNESCO, I can bring my knowledge to the EAEA executive board on these global (and European) topics. For the past two years, I have been a member of the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development, which is led by Finland's Prime Minister, Mr. Petteri Orpo.

Recently, Finland's Ministry of Education and Culture nominated me to become vice president for the collaborative committee of non-formal adult education.

I would like to contribute by bringing my international networks and contacts to the benefit of EAEA. These include direct connections to the following organizations: UNESCO, UNESCO UIL, and ICAE.

All these above mentioned capacities I would like to bring to support the work of EAEA.

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?

There are many specific areas to which I would like to contribute. In many fields, I would continue the work that has been excellently led by Uwe Gartenschläger. During the following years, it is essential to ensure the basic funding for the EAEA office. As President, I would continue close cooperation and dialogue with the board members as well as the office. A trustful relationship with the Secretary General is one of the issues I would like to ensure. As strategic management is one of my competences, I would like to ensure that EAEA will have an updated and fresh strategy as well as an organization with the needed capabilities.

Another aspect is the services provided to the members of EAEA. Currently, ALE is under financial cuts in many member countries, and the role of non-formal ALE is not fully understood by the decision-makers. Therefore, it is important that EAEA concentrates on advocacy work and provides support to members in their own advocacy work whenever possible. It is strategically important to ensure close dialogue with the European Commission, European Parliament, as well as with the national representatives in these organizations.

I would like to continue the creation of new partnerships to support the work at EAEA. The megatrends (such as digitalization, climate change, the crisis of democracy, etc.) affect ALE, and new partnerships may be found in digitalization (AI), sustainable development, and fore sighting of the future.

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

I strongly believe in civil society, democracy, European values, as well as ALE and lifelong learning as the foundation for a society that does not exclude anyone and provides opportunities for every citizen for learning and wellbeing. My motivation is very well expressed in the Marrakech Framework for Action (UNESCO CONFINTEA VII resolution): ALE has transformational power on society.

I am thankful for the opportunities to support Ukraine and its ALE policy and law development, as well as

the solidarity. The direct opportunities to provide support for countries facing challenges are a very strong motivation for me.

Moreover, I would like to continue bringing my knowledge on strategic, managerial, and leadership development to support the success of EAEA – in close collaboration with the vice presidents, board members, and the secretary general. A strong motivation is the possibility to continue the work we have done for the European ALE on the Executive Board so far.

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

In 2024, Finland celebrated the Year of Sivistys, designated by the Ministry of Education and Culture. The theme year's events engaged 250,000 citizens. More than 2,500 individuals organized events, which took place both in Finland and around the world. The initiative for the year was made by Kvs foundation. Kvs also coordinated the year as an activity to celebrate its' 150th anniversary. In honour of the theme year, the word Bildung was joined by a new companion term – the Finnish word Sivistys.