



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

Full name of the candidate MARGIT DÜÜNA

Title Ms

Organisation of the candidate NGO Estonian Non-Formal Adult Education Association

Email address of the candidate margit.dyyna@vabaharidus.ee

Nominated by NGO Estonian Non-Formal Adult Education Association, Aslan Liivak, Board Member

Email address of the nominating member aslan@vabaharidus.ee

Running for

Please upload your portrait photo.



Please describe your current position and role in your organisation.

I am the Chair of the Board of the Estonian Non-Formal Education Association (EESTI VABAHARIDUSLIIT), a national umbrella organization representing adult education and lifelong learning providers across Estonia. In this role, I am responsible for strategic leadership, advocacy, and representing the interests of our member organizations at both national and international levels. I coordinate policy dialogue with public authorities, support the development of non-formal adult education, and foster cooperation within our network and with international partners.

I am actively engaged in national policy processes and serve as a member of the Adult Education Advisory Council at the Ministry of Education and Research. I also participate in the HAKA Continuing Education Cooperation Council, which focuses on the development and implementation of a national quality framework for adult learning. In addition, I am involved in initiating and managing national and transnational projects that promote inclusive, high-quality, and learner-centred lifelong learning opportunities for adults.

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?

With my background in organisational management (MBA) and extensive experience as Chair of the Board of the Estonian Non-Formal Education Association, I would bring both strategic insight and hands-on leadership skills to the work of EAEA. I am well-equipped to contribute to the development and implementation of EAEA's long-term strategies as well as support the organisation's day-to-day management, including financial oversight and governance.

I strongly believe in human-centred leadership that values trust, shared responsibility, and continuous learning. This approach has helped me to foster meaningful collaboration within our diverse network and to support the development of inclusive, learner-oriented adult education policies and practices. I view leadership not only as a structural role but also as a relational process that enables people and organisations to grow and thrive.

My practical experience in representing a national umbrella organisation has given me a solid understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by adult education providers across Europe. I have been actively engaged in national policy dialogue, building partnerships between civil society, government bodies, and international networks.

In addition, I am currently completing training as a supervisor and coach, which strengthens my capacity to support reflective practice, team development, and value-based organisational change. I would be honoured to contribute to strengthening the voice, values, and impact of non-formal adult education in Europe through committed and collaborative board membership.

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 would like to contribute particularly to EAEA's work in advocacy, policy development, and member engagement, with a focus on strengthening the visibility and impact of non-formal adult learning across Europe. I am especially interested in contributing to the implementation of the EAEA manifesto and supporting initiatives that promote adult learning as a tool for active citizenship, social cohesion, and personal empowerment.

In addition, I would be keen to support EAEA's work in capacity-building for members, promoting human-centred leadership, and developing peer learning opportunities, especially for smaller organisations in the sector. With my background in organisational leadership and ongoing training as a coach and supervisor, I can contribute to creating a reflective, inclusive, and resilient learning community within the EAEA network.

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

I am motivated to join the Executive Board of EAEA because I strongly believe in the power of adult learning to create more inclusive, democratic, and resilient societies. As the Chair of the Estonian Non-Formal Education Association, I have seen first-hand how grassroots initiatives, learner-centred approaches, and cross-sectoral cooperation can transform lives and strengthen communities. I want to bring this experience to the European level and contribute to shaping policies that support accessible, high-quality adult learning for all.

My motivation also comes from a deep commitment to advocacy and collaboration. I believe that EAEA plays a crucial role in amplifying the voice of civil society in adult education, and I am eager to support its mission by contributing to strategic discussions, policy influence, and stronger links between national and European stakeholders. I also see this role as a valuable opportunity to learn from others, share Estonian perspectives, and jointly promote the values of lifelong learning, participation, and social cohesion.

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

I would like to highlight that I bring a strong commitment to inclusive, learner-centred adult education, as

well as extensive experience in building networks and partnerships both nationally and internationally. I value open dialogue, mutual learning, and transparency in decision-making, and I believe that diverse voices make our sector stronger.

As a board member, I would aim to represent smaller countries and civil society organizations that often face limited resources but contribute significantly to the adult learning ecosystem. I am always open to collaboration and eager to listen, share ideas, and support joint efforts that strengthen our collective voice across Europe.