



Thursday, April 24, 2025

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

Full name of the candidate Musa Kirkar

Title Mr.

Organisation of the candidate CEIPES ETS - Centro Internazionale per la Promozione dell'Educazione e lo Sviluppo / International Centre for the Promotion of Education and Development

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Nominated by Associação Portuguesa para a Cultura e Educação Permanente - Sílvia Maria Rodrigues da Cruz Parreiral

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Running for

Please upload your portrait photo.



Please describe your current position and role in your organisation.

I am the president and general manager of CEIPES ETS - International Centre for the Promotion of

Education and Development, based in Palermo, Italy. In this dual role, I have played a crucial role in shaping the organisation's direction and ensuring its smooth functioning.

As the President of the Board of Directors, my responsibilities include defining organisational policy, setting strategic goals, and overseeing the functionality of various departments and offices within CEIPES. With over 20 years of experience, I bring valuable insights and expertise to the organisation, driving its growth, maintaining its mission-driven focus, and ensuring its long-term sustainability.

As General Manager, I am responsible for the comprehensive management of the organisation. This includes setting the strategic direction, overseeing financial operations, managing human resources, and coordinating the International CEIPES Network. My role requires a hands-on approach to ensure that all departments function cohesively and effectively.

Another critical aspect of my position is the design and delivery of both formal and non-formal education programs. As a senior trainer, I conduct educational sessions for adults, youth, and youth workers, ensuring that our programs meet high standards of quality and relevance.

Moreover, I play an important role in the general coordination of numerous European projects. I have extensive experience in both coordinating and implementing projects within various EU funding programmes, such as under the Erasmus+, CERV, REC, AMIF, EU4Health, CREA, and ESF. Our portfolio includes over 1000 EU projects, reflecting our commitment to promoting education and development through innovative methodologies and making learning accessible to all, particularly those facing disadvantages.

Through my leadership, CEIPES has achieved substantial growth, fostering international collaborations and enhancing its impact on the communities it serves. My role requires a balance of strategic vision and operational excellence, ensuring the organisation not only sustains its mission but also thrives in an ever-evolving educational landscape.

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 over 20 years of experience in the non-profit sector, primarily focused on adult education and development, I bring extensive hands-on expertise in managing an NGO, coordinating large-scale international projects, and delivering impactful training. As President of CEIPES, I have overseen substantial growth and managed diverse initiatives funded by various EU programs. My capacities include strategic leadership, financial administration, network coordination, and curriculum development in non-formal education. I have personally facilitated over 200 training courses on critical themes such as project management, social entrepreneurship, human rights education, intercultural dialogue, and active citizenship. I want to leverage this practical experience in project implementation, policy understanding from a grassroots level, and network building to strengthen EAEA's advocacy, project portfolio, and member engagement.

Based on my extensive experience in the non-profit sector, primarily focused on adult education and development, I am eager to contribute to the work of the EAEA and support its mission. As the President and General Manager of CEIPES ETS, I have gained considerable expertise in managing an NGO, coordinating large-scale international projects, and delivering impactful training programs. My strategic leadership has driven the growth of the organisation, maintained its mission-driven focus, and ensured its long-term sustainability. I am well-versed in financial administration, effectively overseeing financial operations to support our initiatives. Additionally, my role involves coordinating the International CEIPES Network, fostering international collaborations, and enhancing the impact of our work. I have extensive experience in network building, curriculum development, and delivering educational sessions that meet high standards of quality and relevance.

My practical experience in project implementation and understanding policies from a grassroots level equip me to contribute to EAEA's advocacy efforts. I aim to strengthen the collective voice of ALE providers and ensure that lifelong learning remains central to European policy agendas, particularly in promoting equity and addressing contemporary challenges like social inclusion and digital transition. Furthermore, I want to support initiatives that promote ALE for active citizenship, democracy, and peacebuilding. I am keen to contribute to strengthening the EAEA network, fostering collaboration between members, and enhancing the capacity building offered to member organisations, drawing from my experience coordinating the CEIPES international network.

Through my leadership, CEIPES has achieved substantial growth, enhancing its impact on the communities it serves. I look forward to leveraging my skills and experience to support the work of EAEA and contribute to its mission.

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 am particularly interested in contributing to EAEA's work in capacity building for the organisation and its members. Ensuring the development and strengthening of skills, resources, and capabilities within EAEA and its member organisations is vital for our collective impact. My extensive experience in managing projects focused on social inclusion, digitalisation for disadvantaged groups, migration, and basic skills development aligns well with EAEA's thematic priorities.

These projects have equipped me with the insights and expertise necessary to understand the unique challenges faced by disadvantaged communities and to develop effective solutions that promote equity and inclusion.

I believe that adult learning and education (ALE) are crucial tools for fostering active citizenship, democracy, and peacebuilding. Through my work at CEIPES, I have seen how ALE can empower individuals, build bridges across cultures, and create more cohesive and resilient communities. This motivates me to support initiatives that promote ALE as a means of addressing contemporary challenges such as social inclusion, digital transition, and the development of basic skills.

Additionally, I am keen to contribute to strengthening the EAEA network, fostering collaboration between members, and enhancing the capacity building offered to member organisations. My experience coordinating the CEIPES international network has taught me the importance of building strong partnerships and networks to amplify our collective impact. I have actively participated in various events and activities within the EAEA network, and I have seen firsthand the benefits of collaboration and shared learning.

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

My core motivation stems from a deep belief in the transformative power of adult learning and education (ALE) for individual empowerment and societal development. Having worked extensively with diverse groups, including adults and marginalised communities, I have witnessed firsthand how ALE fosters inclusion, promotes active citizenship, and builds bridges across cultures. EAEA is a crucial platform for championing ALE across Europe, and I am eager to contribute my leadership skills, practical project experience, and commitment to human rights and development to its mission. I want to help strengthen the collective voice of ALE providers and ensure that lifelong learning remains central to European policy agendas, particularly for promoting equity and addressing contemporary challenges like social inclusion and digital transition.

I firmly believe in the transformative power of learning, which can drive not only individual growth but also societal evolution. Through shared experiences and collective learning, we can all evolve together as a diverse and interconnected community. This holistic approach to education has the potential to break down barriers, foster empathy, and promote a more inclusive, equitable world. My commitment to this vision is unwavering, and I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to contribute to EAEA's mission in this capacity.

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

I am the proud father of a baby girl named Elif and the life partner of Sara.

I am a librarian as vocation, member of different European Umbrella Organisations like EffVET and the European Basic Skills Network (EBSN). I've written over 10 scientific publications in different areas of education and hold a master's degree in governance and human rights from LUISS, ISIPM Project Management certification from the Italian Institute of Project Management, and a Postgraduate master's degree in management and Rights of Third Sector Organisations from the University of Florence. Since 2021, I've been part of the ISIPM - Association of Project Management Professionals.

I organized the first regional Compass course for COE in Sicily, train the trainers and manage to reallocate CEIPES ETS in one of three organizations recognized by the Council of Europe to support peace and democracy in Italy.

I'm also a member of the Palermo Peace Council of Municipality of Palermo and represent CEIPES ETS in our autonomous Region of Sicily in Regional Register of Peace Bodies and Associations.

CEIPES, the organisation I lead, is all about promoting education and development with a human rights twist, working locally in Sicily and internationally. We love innovating educational methodologies and making learning accessible to everyone, especially those who face disadvantages. My background includes handling project management across various EU funding. I've got loads of experience as a trainer in non-formal education settings. I'm all about fostering intercultural dialogue and building collaborative

partnerships across Europe and beyond to push adult learning forward for a fairer and sustainable future.