



Tuesday, April 29, 2025

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

**Full name of the candidate** Oleg Smirnov

**Title** Mr

**Organisation of the candidate** Інформаційно-дослідний центр "Інтеграція та розвиток";  
Integration and Development Center for Information and  
Research

**Email address of the candidate** smirnov@dvv-international.org.ua

**Nominated by** Ukrainian Adult Education Association

**Email address of the nominating  
member** info@uaod.org.ua

**Running for**

**Please upload your portrait photo.**



**Please describe your current position and role in your organisation.**

I have been linked with various non-governmental organizations for several years. Since 1997, from the very moment of its registration in the Crimea, I have been involved in the activities of the Ukrainian NGO Integration and Development Center for Information and Research as a founder, as its board member, as a trainer. Since 2015 our organisation has been participating in the launch and development of the Ukrainian Adult Education Association (UAEA), and all these years I have been actively engaged in discussions of its priorities, strategy and specific annual plans. It is also no secret that I continue to work as the director of the DVV International representative office in Ukraine, which gives me access to the vast experience that this organisation has in different parts of the world. My practical experience in the field of lifelong learning

confirms that contributions to high-quality non-formal education can create sustainable support systems for local communities affected by war and crises and influence the formation of relevant policies at various levels.

**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?**

Since February 2022 the emergency work of the Ukrainian organisations I am affiliated with has focused on psychosocial and mental resilience, as well as strengthening the capacity of adult education institutions to survive, adapt, and continue to empower people even in times of war. We have expanded our efforts to include not only educational continuity, but also economic recovery, social inclusion, digital empowerment, and community recovery. I support local advocacy initiatives aimed at promoting equal access to lifelong learning, which is closely aligned with the EAEA mission. Through this combination of practical experience, strategic insight, and strong networking abilities I am eager to actively support EAEA's mission to promote lifelong learning and strengthen adult education across Europe.

**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 eager to support EAEA's work on policy advocacy, social inclusion, and capacity-building for adult learning institutions. I believe that I can strengthen the association's work areas aimed at sharing experiences on crisis resilience and recovery through adult learning, ways to support adult education systems in countries affected by various crises, wars or for post-conflict recovery. The integrated, community-based approach can be adapted by other countries facing similar challenges in reintegrating and supporting traumatized populations. I believe I have enough vision to proactively develop and strengthen the EAEA network, empower regions, help member organizations share knowledge, resources, and best practices. I can add actions to support smaller organizations and create regional hubs, especially in underrepresented regions.

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

I am deeply motivated to contribute to the work of the EAEA Executive Board, as I believe that adult education is a powerful tool for social transformation, and all regions of Europe are at a crucial stage in their efforts to ensure inclusive, equitable and accessible lifelong learning for all. My experience in adult education, especially in post-conflict and crisis settings, has shown me how important this work is for empowering individuals, building resilient communities and promoting social cohesion. Serving on the Executive Board will allow me to bring my practical experience, understanding of the current educational needs of the most disadvantaged groups and my enthusiasm to help other EAEA member organisations reach more people and make a difference in their work.

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

I sincerely thank the EAEA and other Board members for their personal support and assistance in these last years. I see my membership in the Board as an opportunity to speak out about the educational challenges of a society that is fighting for its independence, for the freedom to choose its own development, and where lifelong learning is gaining new relevant significance. Sometimes I think that if we get through this we'll be able to get through anything the future has in store.