



European Association for the Education of Adults

Annual Activity Report 2024

ea



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We are delighted with EAEA's fantastic achievements in 2024. The year has been an important one for the organisation, bringing with it international recognition for our work through EAEA's induction at the IACE Hall of Fame. We focused on strengthening our international partnerships and advancing our advocacy, leveraging the momentum of the European Parliament elections, and successfully supported the initiation of the first-ever Intergroup on Lifelong Learning in the European Parliament: the Intergroup on the Future of Education and Skills for a Competitive Europe. Moreover, within our 2024 annual theme, Transforming Lives, Communities, and Society, EAEA showcased adult education as a powerful force for change - reinforced by this year's publication of the new Manifesto for Adult Learning in the 21st Century.

In this report, you will find the key highlights from our impactful year, guided by our board and supported by our dedicated staff in the Brussels secretariat. We look forward to continuing to work with all of our members to strengthen adult learning in Europe and beyond.

Raffaella Kihrer,



Secretary General



Our internal organisation

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➤ Our internal organisation



Below represents our Executive Board in 2024. Five Executive board meetings took place in 2024: Manchester UK), 14 - 15 March 2024; Online, 24 April 2024; Helsinki (Finland), 11 - 12 June 2024; Pécs (Hungary), 18 - 20 September 2024; Online, 16 December 2024.



Uwe Gartenschlaeger
(President)
DVV International



John Evers
Verband
Österreichischer
Volkshochschulen



Alex Stevenson
National Learning and
Work Institute (England
and Wales)



Lauri Tuomi
The Finnish Lifelong
Learning Foundation
(KVS)



Marta Jendeková
Association of Adult
Education
Institutions in the
Slovak Republic
(AIVD SR)



Balázs Németh
University of Pécs



Dina Soeiro
ESEC Instituto
Politécnico de
Coimbra



George A. Koulaouzides
Hellenic Adult
Education Association
(HAEA)



Dearbháil Lawless
National Adult
Learning
Organisation
(AONTAS)



Gustav Fridolin
Swedish Interest
Organisation for
Popular Movement
Folk High Schools
(RIO)



Oleg Smirnov
Integration and
Development Center
for Information



Anna Skocz
NGO Trainer's
Association/Stowarzysz
enie Trenerskie
Organizacji
Pozarządowych sTOP



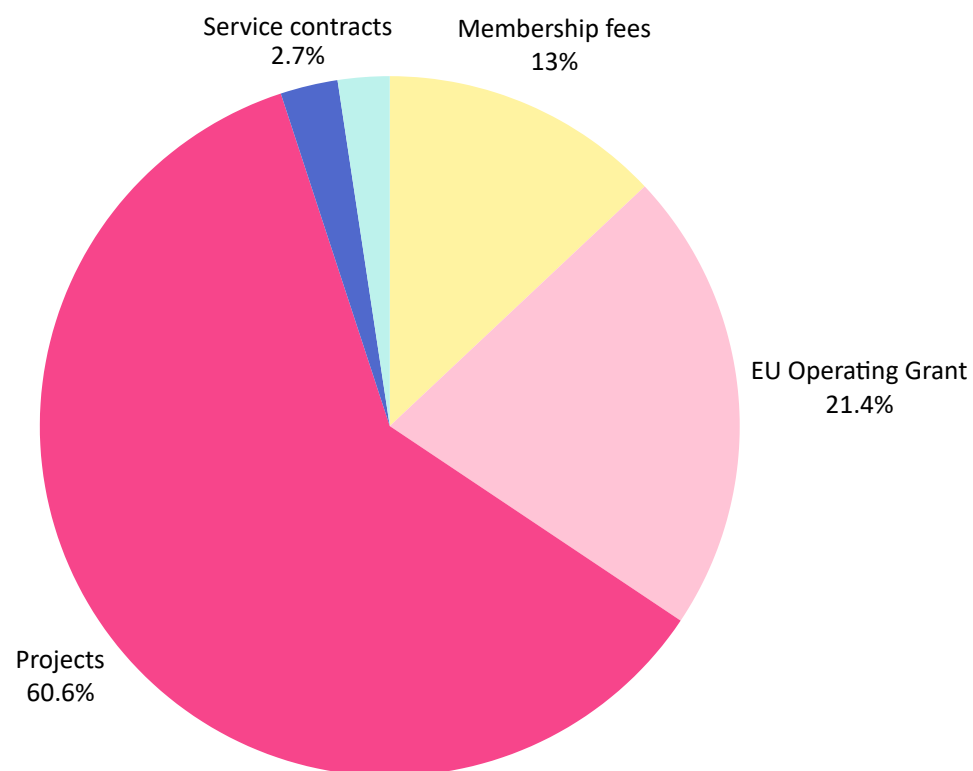
By the end of 2024, the secretariat in Brussels was supported by:

- **Regina Ebner**, Secretary General, 80% FTE until August 2024, 50% FTE from Sept. 2024
- **Raffaella Kihrer**, Deputy Secretary General and Head of Policy, 100% FTE
- **Aleksandra Kozyra**, Head of Capacity-Building, 100% FTE until July 2024, on long-term leave from August 2024 onwards
- **Christin Cieslak**, Head of Stakeholder Engagement, 100% FTE
- **Viola Pinzi**, Head of Projects, 100% FTE
- **Tina Mavrič**, Head of Capacity-Building, 100% FTE
- **Karen Maniraho**, Administrations and Finance Coordinator, 100% FTE
- **Angeliki Giannakopoulou**, Policy Coordinator, 100% FTE
- **Davide Muraro**, Policy Coordinator, 80% FTE until March 2024, 60% FTE from April 2024, on educational leave in October and November
- **Marina Sakač Hadžić**, Communications and Capacity-Building Officer, 100% FTE
- **Greta Pelucco**, Policy and Project Coordinator (starting date 12/08/2024), 60% FTE until September 2024, 100% FTE from October 2024
- **Charlotte Ede**, Capacity-Building and Project Coordinator (starting date 01/10/2024), 100% FTE
- **Lisa-Marie Steinkampf**, Research Assistant, 100% FTE from January to June 2024
- **Sari Pohjola**, Head of Communications - this position is financed through the support of the Finnish Ministry for Education and Culture and the Finnish Lifelong Learning Foundation

Aleksandra Kozyra took long-term leave from August 2024 and Davide Muraro long-term leave from September 2024. Greta Pelucco joined as Policy and Project Coordinator in August 2024 and Charlotte Ede as Capacity-Building and Project Coordinator in October 2024.

EAEA Income 2024

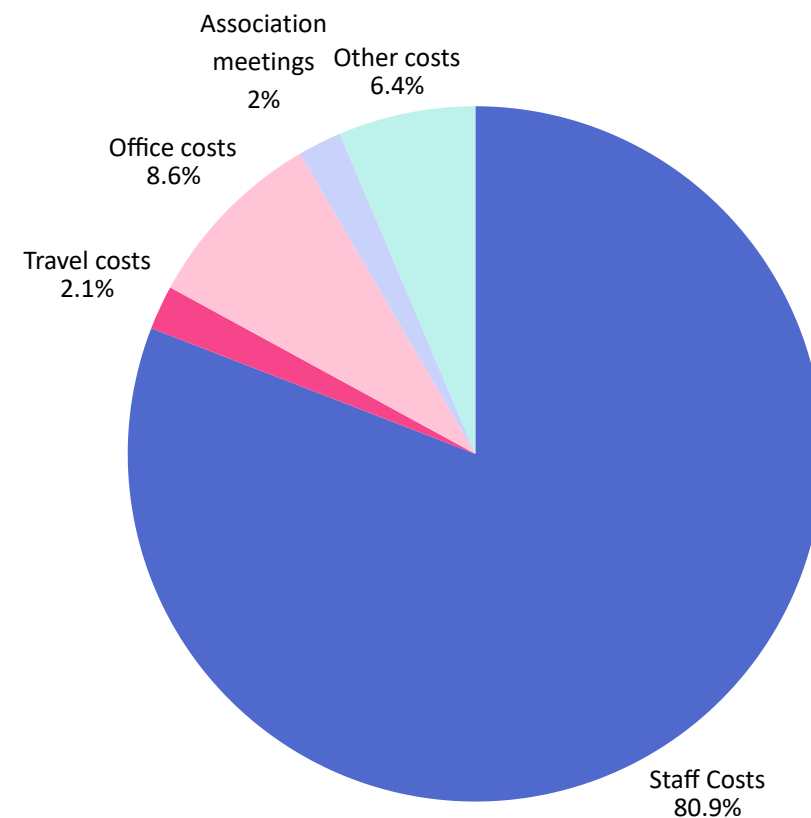
Total: 818.000 €



EAEA expenditures in 2024

Total: 793.500 €

EAEA's budget remained positive for 2024.



In 2024, we continued to expand the EAEA membership, welcoming **seven new associate members, and one new ordinary member**. Welcome to all of our new members, we are delighted to have you as part of the network!

New Associate members:

- Logopsycom, Belgium
- Pučko otvoreno učilište Samobor, Croatia
- Associação Portuguesa de Entidades Formadoras, Portugal
- Euromed Federation of Socio-cultural and Neighborhood Centers - EFS, France
- DigiCo, Belgium
- 4L - Life Long Learning Laboratory (4L) - Georgia
- Associação Integrar - Portugal

New Ordinary member:

- Athens Lifelong Learning Institute Greece

Members **who changed their status from Ordinary to Associate**:

- AIST - Associazione Italiana SocioTerapia, Italy
- ARGE Bildungshäuser, Austria



New members are welcomed by EAEA President at the General Assembly in Helsinki, June 2024

Members excluded:

- Armenian Lifelong Learning League "Union of Legal Entities", Armenia (ordinary member)
- Association for Adult Learning Lifelong Learning Center, North Macedonia (ordinary member)

Organisations that have decided to leave EAEA:

- An Cosan, Ireland (associate member)
- Folkehøgskolernes Forening i Danmark (FFD), Denmark (ordinary member)

➤ Activity highlights



The theme for 2024 was "Transforming lives, communities and society," which provided an opportunity to focus on the impact and wider benefits of adult learning. To gather the results of the year, EAEA wrote a background paper on "Transforming Lives, Communities, and Society", and also focused the annual Grundtvig Award on the theme. During the EAEA Annual Conference, June 10-12 2024 in Helsinki, EAEA organised eight thematic workshops under this theme, including gender equality and the green transition. The conference gathered **147 participants from 32 countries** and was organised in partnership with the International Council for Adult Education (ICAE) and hosted by the Finnish Lifelong Learning Foundation. The European Elections were also central to the theme, evoking adult education and its transformative potential for citizenship and society.



Participants in a workshop at the annual conference in Helsinki, 2024



Panelists at the Annual Conference in Helsinki on 11th June

EAEA's 21st annual Grundtvig Awards celebrated the transformative power of adult learning and education. The winners were selected in two categories: local/regional/national initiatives and transnational initiatives. The award ceremony was organised on 10th June at Bock House, and was hosted by the city of Helsinki. Read our [media release](#) about the winners!

Winners

Local/regional/national projects:

SmartFood - Engaging citizens in food diversity in cities
Maria Grzegorzewska University, Poland

Transnational projects:

ADELE - Advancing Digital Empowerment of Libraries in Europe
European Grants International Academy (eGina), Italy

eaea
GRUNDTVIG AWARD
excellence in adult education

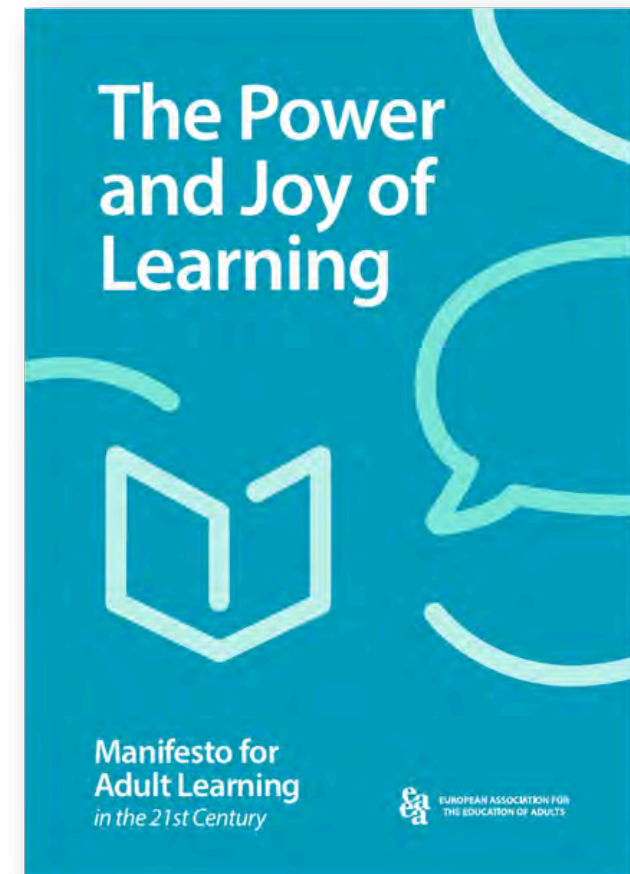


From left: Lauri Tuomi from the Finnish Lifelong Learning Foundation, Elisabetta Mei from eGina, Ewa Duda from Maria Grzegorzewska University, Uwe Gartenschlaeger from DVV International and Anja Vallittu from City of Helsinki.

In 2024, EAEA launched the new Manifesto for Adult Learning in the 21st Century: The Power and Joy of Learning. We highlight 9 areas that are key to **unlocking the transformative potential of ALE, as a source of joy, for all learners.**

The topics are:

- Peace and Democracy
- Environmental Sustainability and Green Transition
- Well-being and Resilience
- Life Skills
- Inclusion, empowerment and social justice
- Employment and Work
- Digitalisation
- Demographic Change and Migration
- European and International Policies





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The Partnerships and stakeholder engagement for Upskilling Pathways (Partner UP) worked on improving the implementation of Upskilling Pathways (UP) by identifying and engaging new stakeholders, establish and improve cooperation mechanisms and implementation plans with them.

<https://partnerup-project.eu/>

ERASMUS+ | Coordinated by EAEA



RALEXILA



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the European Union

RALEXILA project is a forward-looking project aiming to develop and deliver a model for an integrated information system of the national registries for training, focusing on ALE (Adult Learning and Education), to support the implementation of Individual Learning Accounts.

<https://ralexila.eu/>

ERASMUS+ | Coordinated by EAEA



From the manifesto: The positive link between learning and work is obvious: Learning workers are more creative, innovative, stress-resilient, and productive – this makes companies more competitive and successful. Digitalisation, green transition, internationalisation, service orientation, flexibilisation: all these megatrends on the labour market have one thing in common: they raise and change the requirements for competencies of workers. The recognition and validation of skills and competences that people have acquired through in- and non-formal ALE form an important basis for reskilling and upskilling.





Co-funded by
the European Union

The Sustainability Matrix for ALE institutions focuses on improving the sustainability of adult learning and education (ALE) providers and organisations all over Europe and increasing their capacity to contribute to forward-looking societal development.

<https://smalei.eu>

ERASMUS+ | Coordinated by EAEA



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Engage4BIO will strengthen circular, sustainable bioeconomy and sustainable regional development taking into account their diversity of societal, economic and cultural perspectives in processes of design thinking, co-creation, (re)training and skills development.

<https://www.engage4bio.eu/>

Horizon Europe | Partner



Co-funded by
the European Union

The Tale project responds to the urgent need to transform into a more climate-friendly and sustainable society. Tale project explores solutions to this challenge by using transformative learning approaches.

<https://kvs.fi/tale>

ERASMUS+ | Partner



movetia Austausch und Mobilität
Echanges et mobilité
Scambi e mobilità
Exchange and mobility

The ALE4TT project will support ALE organisations in better communicating, advocating and developing strategies to convince third parties such as policymakers why ALE has a crucial role to play in a just transition process.

<https://eaea.org/project/ale4tt/>

Co-funded by MOVETIA | Partner



Co-funded by
the European Union

The INCLUSIVE-PATH project aims to enhance the transition of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDDs) to post-secondary education (PSE)/Adult Learning & Education (ALE) through capacity building of educators and staff in Secondary Education (SE) and PSE, and empowerment of families and their children with IDD.

<https://eaea.org/our-work/projects/projects-inclusive-path/>

ERASMUS+ | Coordinated by EAEA



Did you know? EAEA has published a new background paper, “Fostering the Well-Being of Adult Educators in Europe.” The paper is based on a study by Chidubem Precious Ezurike, former EAEA trainee. The study identified several factors that negatively affect the well-being of adult educators, including their low professional status, inadequate compensation, unhealthy work environments, lack of job security, high workload, and the well-being of their learners.

move up

Motherhood is an asset



Co-funded by
the European Union

MOVE-UP project develops a flexible and quality upskilling pathway for women who are dedicating most of their time and efforts to the role of mother and who are in need to (re)join education activities and the job market.

<https://academyofentrepreneurship.org/move-app>

ERASMUS+ | Partner



Did you know? EAEA, together with members and partners, has developed a ‘European framework for life skills’ which emphasises the need for lifelong and life-wide learning for all. In an era characterised by constant economic, technological and social developments, all people in Europe need to continuously develop, enhance and update their life skills. This was developed in the project “Life Skills for Europe” (2016 - 2018)



Our projects on inclusion, empowerment and social justice

15



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the European Union

Learner Voice is a fundamental concept in adult education, which emphasises that learning is most effective when it is a collaborative process. ENHANCE (Enhancing Adult Learners Voices) is a project which intends to enhance adult learners' voices by creating learning spaces where the educational process is based on the voice of the learner.

<https://enhance-aontas.com/>

ERASMUS+ | Coordinated by EAEA



Co-funded by
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Just4All- Adult Education for a Just Transition is an EU-funded initiative promoting a just transition through inclusive and innovative lifelong learning and adult education. It aims to develop integrated, inclusive, and innovative adult learning and education (ALE) models that promote just transition.

<https://eaea.org/our-work/projects/just4all-adult-education-for-a-just-transition/>

European Social Fund+ (ESF) | Coordinated by EAEA

“

From the manifesto: Adult learning and education plays a fundamental role in fostering social justice, embracing diversity, and promoting inclusion. Research evidence shows that ALE offers individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds a chance to enhance their education, increase their job prospects and improve the quality of their life. Critical thinking and problem-solving skills are crucial for active participation in the processes of a democratic society.

”



Did you know? JUST4ALL has developed a Massive Open Open Online Course (MOOC) to promote just transition through far reaching and inclusive teaching. It's available on learning.eaea.org for free!





Our projects on digitalisation

16



The overall goal of AI4AL is to facilitate a mindful adoption of AI technologies in the Adult Learning and Education (ALE) sector. AI4AL will develop a methodology and a tool for direct involvement of adult educators in the process of adopting AI-based technologies. The project will also offer training to adult educators on the use of the AI4AL tool and the application of AI technologies in ALE.

<https://www.ai4al.eu/>

ERASMUS+ | Coordinated by EAEA



The “Emerging Technologies for Holistic Literacy in Adult Education (ETHLAE)” project aims to address the challenge of effectively integrating emerging technologies into adult learning and education contexts, filling the gap about innovative pedagogies with emerging technologies.

<https://all-digital.org/projects/ethlae-emerging-technologies-for-holistic-literacy-in-adult-education/>

ERASMUS+ | Coordinated by EAEA



Did you know? In response to European Commission’s Digital Education Action Plan (DEAP) for 2021-2027, EAEA calls for significant reforms to ensure that digital initiatives effectively serve all learners. EAEA views the [Digital Education Action Plan](#) as a crucial tool for advancing digitalisation in education. The structured consultations and involvement of diverse stakeholders have been one of the strong points of the DEAP in promoting a more comprehensive and inclusive digital education ecosystem.

However, there is still a critical need to strengthen the focus on non-formal learning within the DEAP. The emphasis of the strategy tends to remain on formal education, with non-formal learning often appearing as an add-on rather than as an integral part of the strategy. Read it [here](#).



The PRISCILA project was created to foster personal, intercultural, social and citizenship competencies for lifelong learning in order to empower migrant adult learners. This project is a collaboration of six organisations dedicated to supporting adult education and learning through various methods.

priscilaproject.eu/

ERASMUS+ | Partner



The Ageing Well project is a collaborative initiative focused on enhancing the well-being and quality of life for elderly populations. With partners from across Europe, AgeingWell aims to address the unique challenges faced by older adults and promote active ageing.

<https://eaea.org/project/ageing-well/>

ERASMUS+ | Partner

“

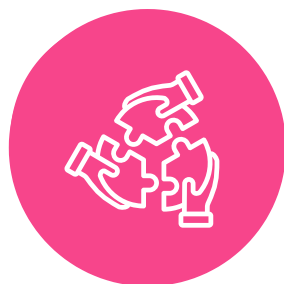
From the manifesto: ALE promotes active ageing and the development of a shared vision for the active participation of all Europeans. Learning in later life plays a central role in fostering and maintaining cognitive and social competencies: research shows that seniors who learn are more active, have more social contacts, are more likely to volunteer, work longer and are healthier. It can even help to combat dementia. A society that considers itself inclusive must provide quality learning opportunities for people of all ages. This calls for a necessary framework of policy, funding, structures and access – including cost-benefit considerations that build on relevant research evidence. Learning opportunities can include intergenerational learning: it enables both older, experienced people and the young to benefit from each other's knowledge and experience. The results of such shared learning processes can also contribute to greater intergenerational solidarity.

”

➤ Our policy work



In 2024, EAEA responded to policy developments through participation in key partnerships, stakeholder consultations and also the release of statements and position papers on thematic issues. EAEA's response to the European Elections 2024 were a key achievement of the year. Moreover, we continued to focus on the European Year of Skills (which closed in May 2024), as an impetus to upskilling and reskilling of adults across Europe. EAEA took part in the European Year of Skills CoR stakeholder consultation, in addition to the PES Civil Society Consultation on promoting the just transition, European Commission Mutual Learning Programme on ILA 2024 workshop, Pact for Skills online webinar participation, EESC Civil Society Forum, and the DigiComp Expert Group by the JRC, among others.

**12**

EU stakeholder consultations

**10**

Policy publications on eaea.org

Our key policy partnerships in 2024:



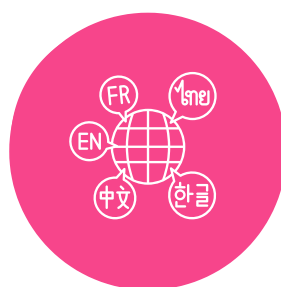
Working Group on 1) Adult Learning – Opening Up Opportunities for All 2) Equality and Values in Education and Training



EAEA published 10 recommendations for the European elections to ensure quality adult learning and education for everyone, and organised a social media campaign advocating for a #LearningEurope. The recommendations were translated by our members and published in 20 languages. We also provided a social media pack for our members, including campaign banners, hashtags and other useful resources about the EU. We organised three Election Lab sessions for the members, and they were attended by 50 participants.

**10**

recommendations for
the EU Elections 2024

**20**

language versions of the
recommendations

**3**

Election Labs for
EAEA members



EAEA is pleased to announce the official establishment of the Intergroup on the Future of Education and Skills for a Competitive Europe. The EAEA had the honour of attending the inaugural session, which took place at the European Parliament in Strasbourg. During this event, Members of the European Parliament and Vice-Chairs Victor Negrescu, Eleonora Meleti, Nela Riehl, Brigitte van den Berg, as well as Executive Vice-President Roxana Minzatu, demonstrated their strong commitment to the objectives of the Intergroup. This initiative represents an important step toward reinforcing the role of education and skills development in shaping Europe's competitiveness and long-term resilience. One of the key priorities the EAEA is eager to contribute to is the advancement of improved and sustainable funding for education policy, alongside the creation of a stable, cross-committee network that will work to enhance the visibility and significance of education at all levels across the European Union.

“This ambitious initiative aims to improve the quality, equity, and inclusiveness of education and training systems across Europe in a holistic approach. It will tackle pressing challenges such as the growing scarcity of education professionals and trainers, upskilling and reskilling for the twin transitions, the declining basic competences of learners and skills shortages in various sectors.” - Lifelong Learning Platform statement on the new intergroup.



Intergroup members at the kick off meeting in Strasbourg.



EAEA, together with EfVET and EARLALL, met with Ms. Debiais Sainton, Cabinet Member of European Commission Executive Vice President Roxana Minzatu, to discuss the gendered challenges of adult education in Europe and present our recommendations for a successful implementation of the Union of Skills.

Read more about the [task force](#)

The Gender Equality Task Force for Lifelong Learning is a joint initiative between EAEA, the European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (EfVET) and the European Association of Regional and Local Authorities for Lifelong learning (EARLALL). The group aims to gather interested members from the three organisations to launch a series of initiatives that encourage discussion on EU policies and strategies related to gender equality in lifelong learning. The Task Force shares best practices in dedicated roundtables, seminars and other events, to open a dialogue around gender inequalities with relevant stakeholders, and to translate the discussions into actionable items where possible.



As a network organisation, it is important for EAEA to have strong civil society partnerships across Europe. In 2024, we continued to strengthen these partnerships with the following organisations:



solidar



EVBB
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION
OF INSTITUTES FOR
VOCATIONAL TRAINING



earlall
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL & LOCAL
AUTHORITIES FOR LIFELONG LEARNING



eucen



EFVET



EVTA
European Vocational Training Association



AGE
PLATFORM Europe



**LIFELONG
LEARNING
PLATFORM**
EUROPEAN CIVIL SOCIETY FOR EDUCATION



International Council for Adult Education (ICAE): EAEA organised its annual events 2024 in close collaboration with ICAE, bringing the international perspective of adult learning to the discussions. ICAE contributed to EAEA's annual events with several workshops, and EAEA was invited to contribute to the new policy strategy of ICAE.



International Adult Education Hall of Fame (HOFE) award to EAEA: In 2024, EAEA received the prestigious international adult education award, which honours outstanding achievements and impact in adult education. During the conference and award ceremony, EAEA also organised a working group session on micro-credentials, in addition to one on cooperation and stakeholder in ALE.



EAEA has been included in several UIL expert networks, including on basic digital skills. EAEA also collaborated during a session part of the series of workshops of the project Strengthening digital competencies of adult educators in policy and practice, a capacity-building project co-organised by the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) and Shanghai Open University (SOU), focusing also on finalizing and implementing the DELTA Framework before its public release.



EAEA was one of the founding organisations of the now formally established international Bridge47 network. Through membership in Bridge47, EAEA engages in international advocacy and awareness raising processes on global citizenship education, bringing in the perspective of non-formal adult learning in this network that brings together all sectors of education.

➤ Events at a glance





ABC of ALE (October 2024)

During the ABC of ALE training, participants got to explore the concept of non-formal adult learning and education, linking it to both theory and practice. In particular, the training focused on holistic perspectives on ALE, including transformative approaches as linked to the annual theme.

Project Design Training (January 2024)

In the Project Design Training, we discussed the core processes that support designing successful, sustainable and impactful initiatives in the field of adult education, to tackle our long-term goals while also aligning with the main requirements of broader priorities and funding programmes. We explored together effective techniques to analyse contextual needs, on the one hand, and existing funding schema, on the other, and to define project requirements to build a bridge into meaningful actions.



The Annual Conference was hosted on June 10-12 2024 by our member the Finnish Lifelong Learning Foundation (KVS Foundation) in Helsinki. The annual conference centred on the theme of “Transforming Lives, Communities and Society”. An annual event report was published.

**8**

group discussions and
workshops

**147**

participants

**32**

countries



➤ Impact



Through our podcast “Beyond Learning”, as well as the EAEA Grundtvig Award and background paper for the annual theme, we focused on celebrating our members’ transformative actions.



I found true community education and explored my passions, my passion specifically for childcare. But I am still in training programs, and it’s all about being heard, being listened to. There is unlimited potential to use my voice.



-Paula Garry, an adult learner at the Childcare Programme in Longford Women’s Link. Statement given during the “Learner Voice in Action” discussion of our Annual Conference in Helsinki, 12 June 2024



30

Grundtvig Award applications



8

new podcast episodes

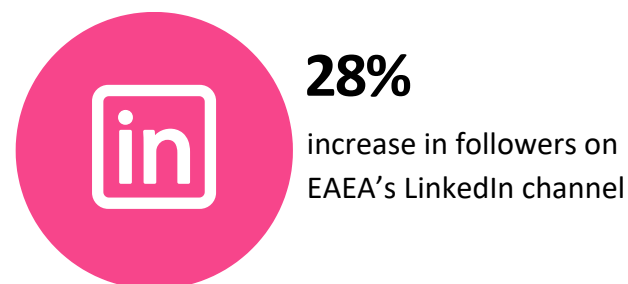


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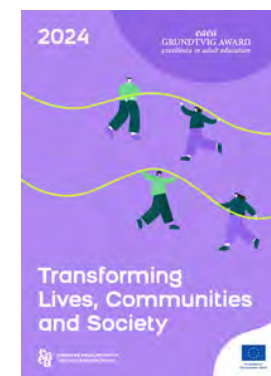
ALE stories in the annual background paper

EAEA's communications and dissemination strategy had a key role achieving a strong impact among our members, stakeholders and the European adult education community as a whole.

Key figures from 2024 include:

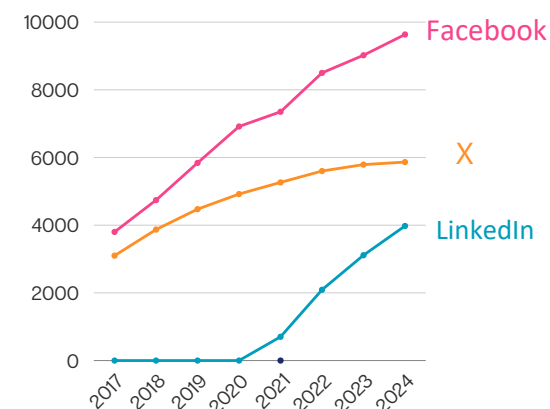


Highlight: Grundtvig Award report



EAEA produced a report presenting the 30 candidates for the Grundtvig Award.

EAEA social media followers



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Photos: EAEA. All the people photographed have given EAEA consent to use their photo.

Layout: EAEA

