



European Association for the Education of Adults Work Plan 2026



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Preamble

EAEA is the voice of (non-formal) adult education in Europe. EAEA is a European NGO with 120 member organisations in 43 countries and represents more than 60 million learners Europe-wide.

EAEA's main objectives are:

- Policy advocacy for lifelong learning at a European level
- Provision of information and services for our members
- Development of practice through projects, publications and training
- International co-operation with other stakeholders in the field.

EAEA promotes adult learning and the widening of access and participation in formal and non-formal adult education for all, particularly for groups currently under-represented. The purposes of learning may be competence development for personal fulfilment and in employment-related fields; for social change and active citizenship; for sustainable development and gender mainstreaming; for cultural and intercultural awareness and knowledge.

In keeping with the tradition of introducing annual themes, the Executive Board therefore proposes the following theme for 2026: **Resilience and Community Building**.

In line with our general priorities and this annual theme, our main activities in 2026 will focus on strengthening democratic participation, inclusive learning opportunities, promoting safe spaces for adult education, and community resilience.

The 2026 work plan anchors the fundamental values of the EU – human dignity, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights – in all areas of policy, advocacy, capacity building and communication.

It guides us in fulfilling our main tasks: namely, to be the voice of adult learning and education at the European level and to build a strong member network.

Introduction

Currently, Europe is confronted with multiple challenges and crises:

- Ongoing wars and armed conflicts on European soil and in Europe's border regions, energy insecurity, global uncertainties, and geopolitical tensions.
- Transformations of the labour markets, demographic change, digitalisation, labour and skills shortages, but also 'brain drain'.
- Inflation, reduction of public services and social welfare systems, social inequalities, and gaps in social inclusion, as well as access to income, education, and health.
- Climate change, biodiversity loss, and an urgent need for a just green transition, but also increasing opposition to it.
- Rise of populist movements, disinformation, democratic backsliding, and shrinking spaces for active citizenship.

We are convinced that adult learning and education (ALE) can act as a key lever for resilience, empowerment and positive change in the face of these challenges. Building on this, EAEA aims to strengthen ALE across Europe and beyond – together with and, more importantly, through our members.

Our key activities in 2026 will be:

1. Promoting the EAEA annual theme of 2026 on Resilience and Community Building, including our Annual Conference and the EAEA Grundtvig Award 2026;
2. Addressing a number of key policy developments, including the Union of Skills, Skills Guarantee for Workers, Basic Skills Support Scheme, EU Teachers and Trainers Agenda, European Democracy Shield, and Competitiveness Compass;
3. Responding to specific thematic priorities of the EU in relation to civil society cooperation in the field of education, including citizenship education and democracy, as well as the professional development and empowerment of ALE educators;
4. Monitoring and contributing to developments in arts education (including STE(A)M strategies) and basic skills in ALE (linked to PIAAC), Erasmus+ and the Multi-Annual Financial Framework beyond 2027;
5. Contributing to international processes such as the CONFINTEA VII mid-term review process and strengthening our cooperation with our regional "sister organisations" in North America and the Asian-Pacific region;
6. Strengthening EAEA's membership capacity at the national and regional levels, including through a new online version of the Project Design Training and the ABC of ALE, alongside several online training opportunities.

1 Resilience and Community-Building – Theme of the year 2026

Our 2026 work plan builds on results from 2023–2025, focusing on the transformative potential of ALE. During this period, we highlighted ALE’s ability to motivate, inspire, bridge connections, and offer flexible learning.

In 2026, the annual theme is “Resilience and Community-Building”. This annual theme will bring added value to EAEA’s work by:

- Strengthening community resilience: Capacity-building events, webinars, the training on safe spaces and the 2026 Annual Events will enable members to exchange best practices for fostering social cohesion and mutual support in adult learning communities. As members’ direct target groups are adult learners, they will be in a position to strengthen their local learning communities.
- Supporting EU policy priorities, notably shaping democratic societies: Through EAEA’s training, publications, strategic outreach and awareness-raising activities, we will embed core EU priorities such as promotion and safeguarding of democratic values and active citizenship and ensuring a just transition and society through inclusive learning opportunities for all.
- Enhancing cross-sectoral collaboration for upskilling and ALE: EAEA will collaborate with external partners across sectors (VET, HE) to explore the role of ALE in upskilling and how upskilling contributes to the transformative power of ALE.

EAEA’s 2026 annual theme responds to several key EU initiatives: the Union of Skills and Competitiveness Compass, the Commission’s proposed Education Package, and the EU and Commission Work Plan 2026. It directly responds to the emerging need for citizenship to be seen as a skill (Minzatu, 2025) and the role of community-building. Together, these frameworks aim to equip future generations with the skills needed for a competitive and resilient Europe. In line with these priorities, EAEA will focus on strengthening both personal and societal resilience through inclusive, community-based adult learning and education.

Through the 2026 annual theme, EAEA aims to empower learners to participate fully in society by fostering life skills, critical thinking, and civic literacy to navigate transitions in work and life. ALE plays a crucial role in strengthening societies and addressing educational and social inequalities by offering flexible learning pathways to those who may not have succeeded in formal education or who need to adapt to changes in the labour market.

However, resilience is built not only at the individual level but also within communities. ALE’s local and non-formal settings foster social cohesion by encouraging shared goals, dialogue, and democratic engagement. In 2026, EAEA will further advance knowledge in inclusive learning methodologies that foster community resilience, strengthening the capacity of ALE providers to adapt to social and economic change.

2 Objectives

EAEA, as a membership organisation, can provide a discussion platform for exchanges between policy-makers on the one hand, and adult education representatives, staff, providers and learners on the other. Therefore, our events that bring together these different groups provide the opportunity to influence policy from the bottom up.

As an organisation, our main objectives are:

- Put and keep ALE high on the political agenda in Europe, while using our influence and networks to also promote ALE globally, nationally and regionally
- Strengthen civil society supporters and providers of adult education
- Provide capacity building
- Become stronger in stakeholder engagement
- Promote a comprehensive and holistic understanding of adult learning
- Promote quality and professionalization in adult education provision
- Maintain and strengthen the community of EAEA members
- Enable development and the transfer of innovation in adult learning across borders
- Find partners and supporters of adult education at all possible regional, national, and European levels.

In the European Parliament, EAEA is cooperating with the Lifelong Learning Platform on the newly established Intergroup for Education and Skills to achieve a higher visibility of adult learning and education at the European level. EAEA also continues to monitor the implementation of the CONFINTEA VII process and the Marrakech Framework for Action, including the mid-term review process planned for 2026 until 2027. EAEA also continues its work in the two EC Working Groups on Adult Learning and Values.

In 2026, **Resilience and Community Building** will play a central theme for us. We will 1) advocate for strengthening community resilience through peer-learning seminars, local workshops, and online forums will enable members to exchange best practices for fostering social cohesion and mutual support in adult learning communities 2) support EU policy priorities with activities embed digital and green transitions, inclusion and diversity, and democratic participation into trainings, publications, and advocacy initiatives 3) Enhancing cross-sectoral collaboration for upskilling and ALE and 4) drive measurable impact of our activities.

3 Activities & resources

In 2026, EAEA will pursue its mission to strengthen adult learning and education (ALE) across Europe through a comprehensive set of interconnected activities aligned with its key objectives.

A central priority is to promote inclusive, high-quality ALE that ensures equitable participation and access for all learners. Our Safe Spaces training course will equip educators with the tools to create inclusive and supportive learning environments. We will also continue to advance gender equality through our dedicated Task Force in cooperation with EfVET and EARLALL, while actively involving learners and educators in events and capacity-building programmes. Partnerships with key stakeholders will be strengthened, particularly those working on basic skills and transversal life skills. This includes collaboration with the European Basic Skills Network on a webinar addressing PIAAC results, as well as policy discussions on the Basic Skills Support Scheme and the Skills Guarantee for Workers.

We will also work to strengthen adult learner mobility and enhance policy coherence between European and national levels. We will provide strategic guidance to ministries, government departments, and other stakeholders on implementing the Upskilling Pathways Recommendation. At the same time, we will continue our active engagement in the Erasmus+ Coalition, coordinated by the Lifelong Learning Platform, alongside a number of other working groups and task forces organised by the European institutions and our civil society partners.

Supporting continuous professional development (CPD) and the well-being of adult education staff remains another core focus. EAEA will organise a focus group on the working conditions of adult educators and deliver our annual ABC of ALE training course for young professionals. The Safe Spaces training will further empower educators, while existing MOOCs hosted on EAEA's online learning platform (learning.eaea.org) will continue to be offered to broaden access to professional learning opportunities.

In response to ongoing societal transitions, EAEA will build the capacity of adult learners and educators in sustainability and digital inclusion. We will maintain active participation in the European Alliance for a Just Transition and coordinate exchanges on digital strategies through collaboration with All Digital and the European Digital Education Hub.

EAEA will also strengthen Europe's cooperation in ALE with global partners. This includes active engagement in the International Council for Adult Education (ICAE), continued collaboration with the European Training Foundation through the Adult Education Club, and structured exchanges with our regional sister organisations such as the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education (AAACE) and the Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE).

Fostering active citizenship, democratic participation, and dialogue is another key strand of work. We will develop an annual theme paper on resilience and community-building and organise our annual conference on this topic. EU values will be embedded across all activities, from advocacy to capacity building. EAEA will disseminate the EAEA Manifesto for ALE alongside good practices in democracy, equality, and human rights, and we will consult our members to assess how their perceptions and promotion of EU values evolve. Additionally, EAEA will amplify the voices of underrepresented learners through a new season of the Beyond Learning podcast.

Finally, we will support inclusive upskilling and reskilling as drivers of competitiveness and social cohesion. Our policy analysis will align with key European debates, including the Competitiveness Compass and the Draghi and Letta reports, with a focus on governance, outreach, and validation. A dedicated Policy Lab on Competitiveness and ALE will be organised, and citizenship competences will continue to be promoted through the ABC of ALE training.

Responding to EU policy

EAEA's 2026 work plan is embedded in key EU policy initiatives. The priorities, actions and annual theme are determined by these important initiatives and processes:

- New European Agenda for Adult Learning (NEAAL)
- European Education Area (EEA)
- European Semester (including EU-27 Recommendation on education and skills)
- New Skills Agenda (including Upskilling Pathways and Skills for Life)
- Union of Skills
 - Arts and STE(A)M education for adult learners
 - Basic skills
 - Basic Skills Support Scheme (New for 2026 work plan)
- Bridging non-formal ALE with VET and Upskilling Pathways
- Just transition
 - Sustainability and green transition
 - Digital transition
- Individual Learning Accounts
 - Micro-credentials (Council Recommendation on a European Approach to Micro-credentials)
 - Europass
 - Quality in ALE
- Improvements for Erasmus+, especially learning mobility of adult learners
- Erasmus+ and ESF+ in the next Multiannual Financial Framework
- Competitiveness Compass (New for 2026 work plan)
- European Democracy Shield (New for 2026 work plan) and the Civil Society Strategy
- EU Teachers and Trainers Agenda (New for 2026 work plan)
- Skills Guarantee for Workers (New for 2026 work plan)
- Skills Guarantee and Skills Portability Initiative

EAEA also closely monitors the European Semester cycle, providing information on EU country reports and country-specific recommendations related to ALE to its members. The last edition of our country reports – summarising the results of a membership-wide survey carried out in 2024 and 2025 – will be shared widely with key policy-makers, stakeholders, and the wider ALE community, aiming to provide an evidence-based civil society perspective on the state of ALE across Europe to promote and improve European policy strategies and initiatives, and the results will be used to engage our country-specific members on pertinent topics. In 2026, EAEA will review the methodology of the country reports to ensure alignment with the needs of our members.

Taking positions

In order to be recognised as a policy actor and interesting representative of the civil society sector, EAEA needs to take a position, present opinions on policies, offer clear perspectives on strategies and produce convincing policy recommendations, which are based on the EAEA members' experiences. EAEA is also aiming to produce and gather evidence for policy proposals.

Representation of our members in the EU and national processes

EAEA continues to represent ALE at the European and other levels as much as possible. EAEA also receives invites regularly (from the European Commission, but also other bodies like National Agencies, the EESC, CEDEFOP, OECD etc.) to represent non-formal adult education at conferences and workshops.

The EAEA president, Executive Board and secretariat are representing the voice of ALE in Europe and beyond, for instance in the working groups of the European Commission: former Board member Dina Soeiro represents EAEA in the WG on Values, and Secretary General Raffaella Kihrer in the WG on adult learning.

To have a stronger and wider influence, it is necessary to be represented in different networks, fora and platforms at the European and global levels.

In addition, EAEA represents its members at:

- The Lifelong Learning Platform: EAEA is represented in the Lifelong Learning Platform through a member of the Steering Committee, Raffaella Kihrer, who was re-elected Secretary General in 2025.
- Council of Europe Working Conference on Digital Education: EAEA is represented through the elected expert of the Lifelong Learning Platform and EAEA Senior Policy and Projects Coordinator, Angeliki Giannakopoulou.
- European Digital Education Hub: Since 2025, EAEA has been a content contributor for the cross-sectoral Digital Education hub, set up by the European Commission in 2023.
- Since 2025, EAEA has been a member of the Pact for Skills Initiative of the European Commission.

Other networks and associations, where EAEA is a member and represents adult learning and education, include the Social Platform, SDG Watch Europe, the Global Citizenship Education Alliance, the Bridge 47 policy network, and the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum.

EAEA is also working with some member organisations at the regional and national levels to support their advocacy work. Through projects, including, for instance, the EU-funded ENHANCE project, EAEA has been able to reach the national, regional and even local levels of decision-making and implementation for advocacy initiatives.

Intergroup on the Future of Education and Skills

Following the 2024 EU elections and as a result of the strong commitment of the Lifelong Learning Platform and EAEA, a parliamentary Intergroup on the Future of Education and Skills was established

and launched at the end of 2024. The current co-chairs of the intergroup are Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) Nela Riehl (Greens/EFA), Brigitte van den Berg (Renew Europe), Victor Negrescu (S&D), and Dennis Radtke (EPP), supported by a number of other MEPs. A supportive European Parliament and MEPs who are committed to adult learning and education are of utmost importance. EAEA will raise awareness for ALE among the members of the Intergroup and develop recommendations for better EU policies, as well as establish new alliances for ALE.

In 2026, EAEA will continue to contribute to the Intergroup through our strategic partnership in the Lifelong Learning Platform.

International Cooperation

EAEA will continue to participate in regional, civil society-led follow-up activities to UNESCO's CONFINTEA VII to promote the implementation of the Marrakech Framework for Action in Europe. In addition, EAEA will promote the implementation of UNESCO's Transforming Education process in adult learning and education in Europe, in particular the life skills strand. EAEA will continue to participate in the implementation process of the Declaration on Global Education to 2050.

EAEA will continue to actively participate in the work of the International Council for Adult Education (ICAE) and cooperate with its regional sister associations, such as the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education (AAACE) and the Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE), through structured exchanges.

In 2026, EAEA's international work will focus on the global geopolitical situation and support to adult educators and learning providers in countries affected by wars, crises, and fundamental political changes. For this, EAEA will continue its membership in the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, Bridge 47, and other relevant networks. EAEA is, together with Solidar+ and Südwind Austria, also actively working on the establishment of the European Alliance on Global Citizenship Education, with a view to supporting members working in this area and strengthening Europe's commitment to democracy, a just transition, and sustainability, and leaving no one behind.

Lifelong Learning Platform (LLL)

The LLLP, with EAEA as one of its founding members, brings together 44 European associations in education and lifelong learning – representing all forms and levels of education, from early childhood to adult education, and from informal to formal learning. The current representative on the LLLP Steering Committee is EAEA Secretary General Raffaella Kihrer, who also serves as LLLP General Secretary and Chair of the LLLP Working Group on EU2030 Policy Coherence.

The LLLP represents lifelong learning in a number of European and international high-level fora. The EAEA Secretariat contributes to the work of the LLLP by participating in working groups and providing input to policy papers and statements, especially those dealing with Erasmus+ and the European Education Area. EAEA will also endeavour to actively participate in LLLWeek in 2026, either with its own events or by providing speakers for LLLP events. EAEA and the LLLP also cooperate on the newly established Intergroup for the Future of Education and Skills.

Capacity building

In 2026, EAEA will provide several capacity-building opportunities for our members and other interested persons. In January, a new edition of the EAEA Project Design Training will take place in Brussels. In late June/early July, EAEA will organise a training course on creating and maintaining safe spaces in Brussels. In the autumn, another edition of the popular “ABC of ALE” (formerly Younger Staff Training) will take place in Brussels.

Further webinars and online events are planned to inform members about European and international policy initiatives and provide a space for discussion. For selected topics, EAEA is now increasingly focusing on cooperation with other organisations; among others, EAEA is cooperating with EBSN on a webinar on the latest PIAAC results. EAEA is also planning to increase its offer of member-only webinars, with an exploratory webinar on the role of ALE and citizenship in 2026.

Information about all EAEA trainings and webinars will be shared with members in the member newsletters and targeted emails.

EAEA’s main capacity-building event will be the annual conference held on the theme of ‘Resilience and Community-Building’, a two-day event with 6 parallel workshops, a panel and keynote speakers. 2026’s edition will be held on June 9-10 in Warsaw, Poland.

Furthermore, EAEA and SOLIDAR will co-organise an online webinar on enhancing the learners’ voice in May 2026. EAEA will also release 4 new episodes on the Beyond Learning Podcast. We will organise a final event for the EAEA-lead ETHLAE project in November 2026.

Stakeholder Engagement

EAEA works closely with a wide range of stakeholders, in particular with European platforms of which EAEA is a member, i.e. Lifelong Learning Platform, the Social Platform, Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, and SDG Watch Europe. We also collaborate with the European Basic Skills Network and the European Society for Research on the Education of Adults (ESREA), as well as several organisations in the field of vocational education and training, including the European Forum for Vocational Education and Training (EfVET) and the European Association for Regional and Local Authorities in Lifelong Learning (EARLALL) around the Gender Equality Task Force.

Moreover, we also work with national ministries (through ministries, but also the EC working group on adult learning), as well as social partners, and, in some cases, regional bodies and partners in order to raise awareness but also promote improved ALE policies and initiatives at all levels.

EAEA seeks to strengthen its network in 2026 and particularly support cross-sectoral partnerships, working closer with university and VET-level institutions.

Ensuring visibility & communication efforts

The voice of (non-formal) adult learning and education needs to be present at meetings, conferences and working groups. We will therefore continue to give inputs at conferences, to lobby to be included in stakeholder meetings and other working groups and to raise the importance of adult education at a variety of meetings and get-togethers. EAEA continues to be recognised as a highly competent partner for adult learning.

EAEA will implement a comprehensive communication and dissemination strategy to reach ALE providers, practitioners, policymakers, civil society, researchers, and the public through established channels and strategic collaborations. For example, EAEA will send out 6 general and 10 member newsletters and will reach 1,500+ subscribers with 40–50% open rates. EAEA will continue to increase its social media: Facebook (9,800+ followers), LinkedIn (4,600 followers), and Bluesky (170 followers) and will share high-quality content and campaigns.

EAEA will develop a new social media strategy in 2026, taking into account previous analytics and working to bridge different areas of EAEA's work and their visibility.

4 Projects

Part of EAEA's overall strategy, particularly in terms of partnerships, networking and policy relevance are met through our participation in EU-funded projects. For EAEA-led projects, we ensure a strong presence of EAEA members to help build collective capacity and knowledge. For projects where EAEA participates, we bring EAEA members in where possible and participate in projects where results can be of interest to the membership.

Ongoing EAEA-led projects

ETHLAE - Emerging Technologies for Holistic Literacy in Adult Education

- **Duration:** 2024 – 2026
- **Call:** Erasmus+ / KA2 Centralised
- **Description:** Emerging Technologies for Holistic Literacy in Adult Education (ETHLAE) aims to analyse, adapt and test methods and practices to embed emerging technologies in the ALE sector and in holistic literacy programmes, especially targeting adults' learners in vulnerable situations.
- **EAEA members involved:**
 - Finnish Lifelong Learning Foundation, KVS (Finland)
 - Learning and Work Institute, L&W (UK)
 - Center for promoting lifelong learning, CPIP (Romania)
 - Association of Austrian Adult Education Centres, VÖV (Austria)
 - Swiss Federation for Adult Learning, SVEB (Switzerland)
 - VHS Vienna (Austria)
 - Finnish Adult Education Association (Finland)
- **Website:** <https://eaea.org/project/ethlae/>

ENHANCE – Enhancing Adult Learners Voices

- **Duration:** 2023 – 2026
- **Call:** Erasmus+ / KA2 Centralised
- **Description:** The ENHANCE project focuses on bottom-up approaches and learners as agents of change in their communities, through the creation of a comprehensive and interactive matrix of existing initiatives that promote learners' voices, the creation of a roadmap, a set of recommendations and booklets for enhancing learners' voices, as well as the development of a series of podcasts that will be socially activated in the public space.
- **EAEA members involved:**
 - National Adult Learning Organisation, AONTAS (Ireland)
 - Färnebo Folk High School (Sweden)
 - Swiss Federation for Adult Learning, SVEB (Switzerland)
 - NHE-Nevelők Háza Egyesület (Hungary)
- **Website:** <https://enhance-aontas.com/>

RALExILA – National Registries of Adult Learning and Education to support the Deployment of Individual Learning Accounts

- **Duration:** 2024 – 2025 (2026 extension granted)
- **Call:** Erasmus+ / Forward Looking
- **Description:** RALExILA aims to develop and deliver a model and a proof of concept for an integrated information system of the national registries for training opportunities (focusing on ALE – Adult Learning and Education), with a methodology based on interoperability, accessibility and inclusiveness, also looking at quality of the ALE provision and the relevance of such training in terms of employability and personal development.
- **EAEA members involved:**
 - Association of Adult Education Institutions in the Slovak Republic, AIVD SR (Slovakia)
 - Centre for Advancement of Research and Development in Education Technology, CARDET (Cyprus)
- **Website:** <https://ralexila.eu/>

Ongoing projects in which EAEA participates as a partner

CAN - Counselling and career guidance for adults to value Neurodiversity

- **Duration:** 2026 - 2028
- **Call:** Erasmus+ / Forward Looking
- **Description:** CAN aims to ensure equal lifelong learning opportunities for all, addressing persistent skills shortages, unlocking the potential of neurodivergent talent, and removing barriers to access training through neuroinclusive guidance.
- **Website:** Coming soon.

DigiFuse – Digital Fusion Environments

- **Duration:** 2025 - 2027
- **Call:** Erasmus+ / KA2
- **Description:** The project aims to create practical and evidence-based guidelines for improving education in (closed) detention and care institutions, supporting the development of digital readiness and resilience in these controlled learning environments.
- **Website:** <https://www.digifuse.eu/>

INCLUSIVE PATH – Empowering Families and children with IDD's

- **Duration:** 2025 - 2027
- **Call:** Erasmus+ / ENGO
- **Description:** 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's. INCLUSIVE-PATH strives to create more inclusive and supportive environments for individuals with IDD's, facilitating their successful transition to PSE and beyond.
- **Website:** <https://easpd.eu/project-detail/inclusive-path/>

Judo4LLLC - Judo For Lifelong Learning Communities

- **Duration:** 2026 - 2029
- **Call:** Erasmus+ / Sports
- **Description:** This projects aims to create a learning environment for Judo clubs, an online peer-exchange community and an innovative link between lifelong learning competences and Judo values. The platform created will be in line with the LifeComp framework.
- **Website:** <https://eaea.org/our-work/projects/judo4llc/>

LEVERS – Learning Ventures for Climate Justice

- **Duration:** 2023 – 2026
- **Call:** Horizon Europe/ European Research Area
- **Description:** LEVERS aims to develop a flexible, inclusive education system that equips learners with both scientific knowledge and holistic competences to address the complex challenges of the climate crisis, fostering engaged and informed societies. LEVERS focuses on climate justice, aiming to integrate varied perspectives, prioritise social justice and care, and test the effectiveness of Learning Ventures in science education engagement.
- **Website:** leversforclimate.eu/about/

Q-ALE - Quality assurance in non-formal Adult Learning and Education

- **Duration:** 2025 – 2026
- **Call:** Erasmus+ / KA2 Small-scale
- **Description:** The project aims to research and examine existing models of quality assurance, including certification systems and Training of Trainers for adult educators and trainers and compose a model that could be tested (piloted) in the international community (following Design Thinking approach).
- **EAEA Members Involved:**
 - NGO's Trainers Association, sTOP (Poland)
- **Website:** <https://eaea.org/q-ale-quality-assurance-in-non-formal-adult-learning-and-education/>

TWIN-IN – Promoting responsible TWIN transitions in European agrifood systems through INnovation and learning alliances

- **Duration:** 2025 - 2027
- **Call:** Erasmus+/ Partnerships for Innovation - Alliances
- **Description:** The project, focusing on the agrifood sector, which operates under the high pressure of climate change, aims to develop and test a new model for education and training tailored to the complex needs that twin transitions generate.
- **Website:** <https://project-twinin.eu/>

VOICES – Voices of Immigrants creating empathy & social cohesion

- **Duration:** 2025 - 2027
- **Call:** Erasmus+ / Sports
- **Description:** The aim of this project is to strive for social inclusion and change by improving and extending the supply of high-quality learning opportunities for adults, through the creation of a comprehensive counter archive of oral history in Europe that can be used for language learning.
- **EAEA Members Involved:**
 - VHS Vienna (Austria)
 - Vocational Training Centre DAFNI KEK (Greece)
 - National Adult Learning Organisation, AONTAS (Ireland)
 - Swiss Federation for Adult Learning, SVEB (Switzerland)
- **Website:** <https://www.voices-archive.eu/>

Project Applications 2026 (including as project partner)

Application year	Acronym	Full project name	Funding programme
2026	ACT4RIGHTS	Human Rights Ambassadors for Participatory Policy Making	Erasmus+ / KA2
2026	Wiser & Better	Raising Awareness and Educating the Elderly and their Caregivers on Happy Ageing, Addressing Emotional Challenges in Effective Ways	Erasmus+ / KA2
2026	Public Libraries	Bridging Basic Skills Gaps with Public Libraries	Erasmus+ / KA2
2026	SCLS	Social Climate Literacy and Skills	Erasmus+ / KA2
2026	GRETA	Ecofeminism and Global Crisis	Erasmus+ / KA2
2026	AI-BRIDGE	Basic Skills & AI Labs - Bridging Basic Skills and Responsible AI	Erasmus+ / KA2
2026	INN-WELL PATHS	Trauma-informed workplace inclusion	Erasmus+ / KA2
2026	InvestLit	Investment Literacy	Erasmus+ / KA2
2026	VAL-MIGRA+	Operational integration of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and micro credentials	Erasmus+ / KA2
2026	QALE RESU	Quality assurance in ALE for Resilience and Sustainability	Erasmus+ / ENGO
2026	Active-ULL	Active Ageing through University Lifelong Learning: Micro-Credentials and Skills Pathways in European Higher Education	Erasmus+ / ENGO
2026	DIALOGUE	Citizenship education labs in Europe	Erasmus+ / ENGO
2026	AGRI-FUTURES	Co-shaping safe and sustainable by design Agrifood FUTURES through knowledge and competence development	Erasmus+ / Alliance for Innovation
2026	ELEA	European Leadership Ecosystem & Academy	Erasmus+ / Forward Looking
2026	RES-REC	From Resistance to Reclaiming: Motivation through Open, Safe Community Learning Spaces for the development of life skills	Erasmus+ / Policy Experimentation (T10-ADULT-EMPOWER)
2026	UPSTEMING SKILLS	Building STEM Micro-Credentials for Public Administration Officers	Erasmus+ / Policy Experimentation (T4-MICROCREDENTIALS)
2026	ADVOCALE	Advocacy for the Marrakech Framework for Action in Adult Learning	MOVETIA

5 Statutory Processes

General Assembly

The EAEA General Assembly will take place in Warsaw, Poland, June 8-9, back-to-back with the Annual Conference and the Grundtvig Award Ceremony. The annual events 2026 will be co-organised with Polish EAEA member sTOP (NGO Trainers Association).

Meetings of the Executive Board

The meetings of the Executive Board are necessary for the decision-making of EAEA.

Three face-to-face Board meetings are planned for 2026: in Stockholm, Sweden (March), Warsaw, Poland (June), and Dublin, Ireland (September). Two additional Board meetings will be held online, one in April/May, and another in late November/at the beginning of December.

Membership

In 2026, EAEA will continue the efforts to involve members in day-to-day content work in EAEA through their participation in EAEA thematic task forces, including the Irish Presidency Task Force and a newly planned Annual Theme Task Force. EAEA members are kept informed of the activities of EAEA through the “News from the Bubble”, which concern major European policy developments, as well as the general newsletter and e-mails regarding topics of particular interest to the members (such as new calls or project partner searches within the network). Members will continue to be invited to online discussions, especially those concerning policy issues, such as the European Education Area, Erasmus+ and other key areas.

6 Operational Processes

Finances

Following a successful application, EAEA will again receive an Operating Grant from the European Commission in 2026 as part of a framework agreement from 2026 to 2027. This framework agreement makes annual funding applications possible. The amount of the operating grant is 175.000,00 EUR. EAEA also receives a grant from the Belgian MARIBEL fund, a sectoral levy fund to promote employment in the socio-cultural sector, with a total of 73.000,00 EUR and providing support to 1,5 full-time positions.

The secretariat is supported by the external accountant Dimitri Dupont, the external auditor Pierre Lerusse, and the internal auditors Gerhard Bisovsky (VÖV) and Margit Dööna (ENAEA).

We are very happy that the Finnish Ministry for Education continues its support for the communication office of the EAEA in Helsinki (situated at KVS). We thank the ministry and our colleagues at KVS for this very important assistance.

Staff

Currently, the following staff members work for EAEA, based in Brussels:

- **Raffaella Kihrer**, Secretary General (100%)
- **Gina Ebner**, Deputy Secretary General and Head of Policy (50%)
- **Karen Maniraho**, Administration and Finance Coordinator (100%)
- **Viola Pinzi**, Technical Advisor (on sabbatical leave from May to August 2026)
- **Tina Mavrič**, Head of Capacity-Building (on maternity leave from April to December 2026)
- **Angeliki Giannakopoulou**, Senior Project and Policy Coordinator (100%)
- **Greta Pelucco**, Senior EU Public Affairs Coordinator (100%)
- **Maria Gonçalves Ribeiro**, Policy and Project Coordinator (100%)
- **Charlotte Ede**, Learning and Project Coordinator (100%)
- **Marina Sakač Hadžić**, Communication and Capacity-Building Officer (80%)

In Helsinki (financed by the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture): **Sari Pohjola**, Head of Communications.

7 Preview 2027

The Executive Board of the EAEA proposes the following theme for next year:

Global and local ALE heritage

The annual theme on Global and Local ALE Heritage will focus on citizens' understanding of the heritage of the core European values and the historic and contemporary role of local community learning in asserting them. ALE plays a central role in this by using storytelling, folklore, local history, and intergenerational dialogue to help learners explore how these values have been shaped over time and how they continue to evolve. By fostering cross-sectoral collaboration between education, the arts, culture, and science, ALE becomes a tool not only for knowledge transmission but also for building social cohesion and collective memory, common ground and critical awareness. EAEA will explore its European members' role in the world, compare international examples of ALE for skills building, integration, democracy and empowerment. By approaching the topics of cultural heritage education and Global Citizenship Education during this annual theme, EAEA will emphasise the transversal skills, behaviours and attitudes that unite its members in ALE and build stronger international relations based on a common understanding of values.

Specific actions in 2027 will include:

- Bi-annual EAEA country survey and reports, published on the dedicated website
- Internal capacity-building hub for EAEA members

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