

**Gender Equality Task Force**

For equality in lifelong learning



# WELCOME PACK

## GENDER EQUALITY TASK FORCE FOR LIFELONG LEARNING 2026

An initiative of  
**EARLALL, EFVET AND EAEA**



# WELCOME TO THE GENDER EQUALITY TASK FORCE

## WELCOME FROM OUR HONOURARY MEMBER



*Dear new member of the Gender Equality Task Force, I am happy to welcome you onboard of this very strategic initiative at the European level. Gender Equality in VET and lifelong learning is still not enough explored and mainstreamed, leading to the replication of stereotypes in guidance, career choices and the labour market. The lack of accurate gender-disaggregated data, together with the*

*reduced awareness of how gender inequalities and discrimination, negatively affect people's choices and thus the society as a whole, calls for a strong commitment by key actors and relevant stakeholders. Together we can build strong foundations for the change!*

## WE'RE THRILLED TO HAVE YOU!

This welcome pack seeks to orientate you to the activities of the Gender Equality Task Force, and we're thrilled you have joined us! The Task Force is an **exploratory group**, where we identify issues and solutions, together. By joining our Task Force, you have made a step forward to addressing gender equality in education, the labour market and lifelong learning. Read through the information in the pack and if you have any questions, comments or suggestions, do not hesitate to contact us at [gendertforce@gmail.com](mailto:gendertforce@gmail.com).

## A SNAPSHOT OF US

In January 2023, the European Association for Regional and Local Authorities for Lifelong Learning (EARLALL), the European Forum for Vocational Education and Training (EfVET) and the European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA) set out to jointly create a dynamic **Task Force that aims to support gender-balanced participation in lifelong learning** and to ensure equal access and rights for everyone.

# WHAT'S AT STAKE?

## GENDER DISPARITY IN LIFELONG LEARNING

The Gender Equality Task Force for lifelong learning acknowledges the current disparities in gender equality in lifelong learning in the EU. Some key figures that guide the Task force are:

- There is an inequality in the EU in the number of working citizens, with the rate of working men in 2019 (79.0%) being 11.7% higher than that of women (67.3%) – (European Commission 2019)
- There is a gender inequality in enrolments in general education programmes, with female upper secondary students more likely to enrol than men (Eurostat 2022)
- There is an inequality in the share of early leavers from education and training in the EU, with dropout rates higher among young men (11.4 %) than among young women (7.9 %) (Eurostat 2022)
- There is an inequality in the number of enrolments of men and women in vocational programmes, following upper secondary VET, with women (41.6%) less likely to enrol than men (54.9%) (Eurostat 2021)
- Gender segregation in tertiary and VET depends on the subject of education and training. In most EU countries for example, women dominate among education, health and work graduates, while they only constitute 13% of graduates in STEM VET ([EIGE2018](#)).
- According to a number of studies, women participate in adult education in Europe, especially informal provisions, at a higher rate than men (EAEA 2020)



With the inequalities painted above in the labour, education and training opportunities of EU citizens according to their gender, EARLALL, EfVET and EAEA have launched this Gender Task Force. This 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 Force will share 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.

# PRIORITY AREAS FOR OUR MEMBERS

The following priority areas were co-designed with members during an online meeting we organised in February 2025. As a result of this initial brainstorming and subsequent strategic discussions throughout the task force, the following areas of priority focus have been identified:

1. Advancing Gender Equality in the Digital Age
2. Building Capacity in Adult Education for Gender Equality
3. Gender Equality in TVET and AI
4. Monitoring the European Gender Equality Strategy Revision
5. Online Marketplace: Exploring Erasmus+ Opportunities for Gender Equality Initiatives
6. Survey/Session on Women's Equal Access to Education and Work
7. Empowering Migrant Women
8. Bringing Learners to the Stage – Allowing Them to Share Their Own Experiences and Projects
9. Advocacy Initiatives for Gender Equality

# WHAT ACTIVITIES DO WE WORK TOWARDS?

The Gender Equality Task Force seeks to respond to the priority areas of interest of its members. With this in mind, the following activities are possible outputs of the Task Force:

## WEBINARS

In line with the Task Force's vision to explore questions of gender inequalities in lifelong learning, the Task Force organises webinars with external experts and guest speakers. In 2023 for example, the kick-off webinar explored the differences in gender inequalities in Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Adult Learning and Education (ALE).

## WORKSHOPS

With the goal to involve the Gender Equality Task Force's members and to explore questions in a more interactive setting, the Task Force foresees online and in-person workshops. Workshops seek to engage participants and bring their views to the forefront of discussion.

## JOINT PROJECTS

All three organisations, EARLALL, EfVET and EAEA, are experienced participants in EU projects. Gender Equality is a priority for all three organisations and their members. In this context, the Task Force may lead to project proposals and applications under the topics explored throughout other activities.

## RESPONSE TO POLICY

As the Gender Equality Task Force initiative was born as a response to the increased societal and political focus on gender equality in education and the labour market, the Task Force is well-positioned to follow relevant policy developments and to propose joint statements of responses to them.

# OUR MILESTONES IN 2023 – 2025

Jan.  
2023

## LAUNCH OF THE TASK FORCE

The first informal meeting was chaired by Ms Sylvia Liuti, a Gender Equality expert at FORMA.Azione (EfVET Italy), gathering over 25 participants such as public and regional authorities, representatives from European Institutions, education and training providers, and gender in education experts, among others.

[READ MORE](#)

March.  
2023

## WEBINAR ON GUIDANCE FROM A GENDERED PERSPECTIVE

The second informal meeting formally presented Ms Sylvia Liuti, a Gender Equality expert at FORMA.Azione (EfVET Italy), as the Gender Equality Task Force's honorary member. Ms Liuti presented on gender disparities in guidance and career choices.

[READ MORE](#)

Oct.  
2023

## WORKSHOP ON MICRO-CREDENTIALS FROM A GREEN-GENDER PERSPECTIVE, BRUSSELS

During the European Week of Regions and Cities 2023 edition, the Gender Equality Task Force hosted a participatory lab on micro-credentials and their capacity to address gender-based issues going into the green transition.

[READ MORE](#)

Nov.  
2023

## WEBINAR ON SAFE SPACES

The Task Force held a webinar on learning spaces and safe spaces in November 2023. The European Association for the Education of Adults led this discussion.

# OUR MILESTONES IN 2023 – 2025

Jan.  
2024

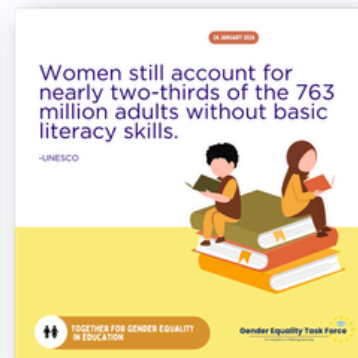
## WEBINAR: GENDER EQUALITY IN EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT FROM A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

On Thursday 18 January 2024, EARLALL hosted, on behalf of the Gender Equality Task Force, a webinar entitled “Gender Equality Policies in Education and Employment”. The online session welcomed 30+ participants to learn about the regional situations and examples of gender equality in various underrepresented fields. It was moderated by Charlotte Ede from the EARLALL Secretariat, and interactions were led by Òscar Palazón, Regional Ministry of Education at the Government of Catalonia. Participants heard from Centre Val de Loire, there Basque Country, Catalonia and Brussels based initiatives.

[READ MORE](#)

January  
– April  
2024

## ONLINE CAMPAIGNS



# OUR MILESTONES IN 2023 – 2025

Nov.  
2024

## **DRIVING WELL-BEING THROUGH GENDER EQUALITY: INSIGHTS FROM LIFELONG LEARNING LEADERS**

On 06 November 2024, Sylvia Liuti, moderated the session a leading expert in gender equality in education and chair of the Task Force, moderated the session “Gender Equality as a Driver of Well-being in Educational Spaces” in Brussels. The event welcomed participants both in Brussels and online, providing an opportunity to explore how gender equality contributes to well-being in educational and workplace settings.

[READ MORE](#)

Feb.  
2025

## **MEMBERS’ MEETING TO PLAN PRIORITIES**

The Gender Equality Task Force for Lifelong Learning has officially kicked off its 2025 initiatives with a dynamic meeting on 7 February that brought together 17 representatives from policy advisors, directors of institutions working in the field, heads of international projects and project officers, and representatives from public authorities.

[READ MORE](#)

Oct.  
2025

## **INCLUSIVE REGIONS, SAFER SPACES: LOCAL AND REGIONAL APPROACHES TO GENDER EQUALITY, WELLBEING AND DIGITAL SAFETY IN EDUCATION**

The Task Force coordinated an event during the European Week of Regions and Cities 2025 to bring awareness to the role of a multi-stakeholder approach to create safe online and offline public spaces.

[READ MORE](#)



# OUR MILESTONES IN 2025 – 2026

March  
2026.

## **THE GENDER-SEX BINARY IN ADULT LEARNING AND EDUCATION**

On the 25th of March 2026, EAEA held a breakfast discussion on the Gender-Sex Binary, its origins and its implications for inclusion and social justice in Adult Learning and Education (ALE). The event was led by Bea Martín Piqué, as part of the ENHANCE project, which explores how to amplify the learner voice in adult education through participatory policy making. The event was also held with the support of the Gender Equality Task Force.

[READ MORE](#)

Oct.  
2026

## **WORKSHOP RETHINKING CARE CAREERS: GENDER, SKILLS AND WELLBEING FOR STRONGER REGIONS**

During the annual European Week of Regions and Cities, the Task Force organised a workshop exploring the attractiveness of the care sector and how training and education could help.

# INTERESTING READING LIST

- Declaration of principles for a gender-equal society (2026):  
[https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/declaration-principles-gender-equal-society\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/declaration-principles-gender-equal-society_en)
- The EU Roadmap for Women's Rights: a renewed push for gender equality (2025) [https://commission.europa.eu/news-and-media/news/eu-roadmap-womens-rights-renewed-push-gender-equality-2025-03-07\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/news-and-media/news/eu-roadmap-womens-rights-renewed-push-gender-equality-2025-03-07_en)
- Capacity-Building in ALE for Gender Equality (2025): <https://eaea.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Background-Paper-Capacity-Building-in-Adult-Education-for-Gender-Equality-with-illustrations.pdf>
- Issue paper on gender in and through education (2022):  
<https://op.europa.eu/bg/publication-detail/-/publication/d36b1bdf-adae-11ed-8912-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>
- Background Paper on ALE and Gender (2020): [https://eaea.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/ALE-and-Gender-EAEA-background-paper-July-2020\\_final.pdf](https://eaea.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/ALE-and-Gender-EAEA-background-paper-July-2020_final.pdf)

# KEEP IN TOUCH!



We would love to hear from you, be it for your **propositions for the next activities of the Gender Equality Task Force**, or for any questions you may have.



**Email:** [gendertforce@gmail.com](mailto:gendertforce@gmail.com)



**Keep updates with our activities by using and searching for  
#GenderEqualityTaskForce**

# ABOUT THE PROMOTORS



EfVET – the European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training – was founded in 1991 following the recognition that Vocational Education and Training Institutions did not have a voice in Europe. VET institutions were, at the time, facing challenges to gain recognition as a key educational pathway for many young people. The Academic/Vocational divide was considerable and vulnerable young people and even adults were significantly disengaged as a result. It was time to build a network of practitioner VET institutions to secure a voice across Europe in both the policy arena and also to share and establish good practises in the delivery of VET learning.



EARLALL – the European Association of Regional and Local Authorities for Lifelong Learning – is a Brussels-based network of regions aiming to contribute to EU policy-making and cooperate in projects in the field of lifelong learning. Based on the unique strengths of every region and local authority, EARLALL facilitates regional collaborations and partnerships, as well as an open and rapid exchange of knowledge in a context of trust and confidence. EARLALL believes that regions and local authorities have a privileged role in designing and implementing strategies related to it, since they are in direct contact with educational institutions, the business environment and, most notably, citizens.



The European Association for the Education of Adults (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 is a European NGO whose purpose is to link and represent European organisations directly involved in adult learning. Originally known as the European Bureau of Adult Education, EAEA was founded in 1953 by representatives from a number of European countries. EAEA promotes adult learning and access to and participation in non-formal adult education for all, particularly for groups currently under-represented.