



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR
THE EDUCATION OF ADULTS

Lobbying for adult education

Helsinki, 27 April 2015

What is EAEA?

- It works with **adult education** and **lifelong learning**
- It concentrates on the **non-formal sector**
- It is an association with **123 members**, from **42 countries (+ 18 candidate members)**, representing **5000 associations**, reaching **40-60 million adults in Europe**



How does EAEA work?

EAEA is an International NGO run by the General Assembly of the 123 member organizations from 42 countries

President
Per Paludan Hansen

Executive Board
11 Members

Secretary General
Gina Ebner

Office
Brussels

Communication Unit
Helsinki

What does EAEA do?

I Voice for grass roots level

- Represents **civil society** for adult learning and education at **European level**
 - Raises the **visibility** of adult education and learning
- Influences policy

What does EAEA do?

II Offers member services

- Works in **projects**
- Provides **information about adult education** and learning in Europe
- Offers **dissemination** packages
- Maintains **networks**

Lifelong learning and adult education

- Lifelong learning: from 'cradle to grave' that also includes life-wide learning: formal, non-formal, informal
- EAEA represents mainly non-formal adult learning, although many members also offer formal and vocational ALE
- 'general' / 'liberal' ALE
- If you put the learner at the centre, sectoral differences become less important

Our challenges

- Diversity and fragmentation of adult education in Europe
- Northwest – South and East
- Different understandings of adult education
 - Adult education is just Thai cooking...
 - Adult education is just basic skills....
- Adult education has never been more important than now

Cooperation in projects

EAEA is actively participating in projects, both as coordinator and partner.

Our aim is to be present in European projects of strategic importance with regard to advocacy policy in adult education and lifelong learning.

- **Outreach, Empowerment and Diversity (OED)**
- **Benefits of Lifelong Learning (BeLL)**



AE-PRO



European e-training for adult education staff

Training for AE :

- Online peer-learning platform with cross-national & intergenerational exchange of expertise and EU contents
- Mobility platform;
- Portfolio to complement national certification;
- Mobility charter for hosts;
- Network of trainers & experts

Duration: 3 years (2014-2016)

Partners: Kerigma Portugal · DAFA Denmark ·



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24.01.2013

AVA



Action plan for validation and non-formal adult education

Objectives:

- analysing tools and methodologies in different European countries
- proposing solutions from the civil society perspective
- contribute to reducing the fragmentation on the policy and practice level
- explore the best practices and strategies for validation for the disadvantaged
- contribute to an exchange of tools, procedures and experiences

AVA [Survey](#) – currently open:

- Evaluation and analysis of validation systems in Europe

Duration: 2 years (2014 – 2016)

Partners: KERIGMA, Portugal; VÖV, Austria; Learn for Life, The Netherlands; EUROED, Romania; NVL, Norway

We work with...

- our members
- the European Institutions: the European Commission, the European Parliament, the European Council
- EESC
- other civil society organisations: EUCIS-LLL, Social Platform, Concord...
- UIL
- ICAE
- and plenty of other organisations

Recent activities

- Theme for 2014: democracy
- Country reports
- Lobby for an intergroup on LLL in the EP
- Younger Staff Training: early December 2014
- Monitoring Erasmus+
- TTIP
- GA in Brussels and OED conference
- Participation in LLL week at European Parliament



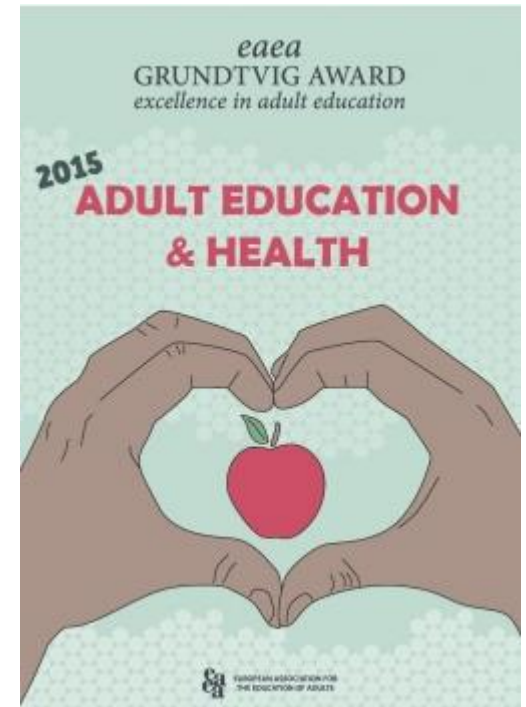
• Participation in WG of the European Commission (ongoing)

Current activities

- Theme for 2015: health and development
- Country reports
- Interest group on LLL in the EP
- Monitoring the European Agenda and Erasmus+
- TTIP
- Preparation for a European Year of adult learning
- Membership strategy
- Communication strategy
- Financing

EAEA Grundtvig Award

- On adult education and health/health literacy
 - health and well-being through adult education
 - wider benefits of adult learning, including its impact on health
- EAEA will award two best practice examples on this theme which combine innovation and excellence



Events

- **Annual Conference:** 22 June 2015 in Porto, Portugal
 - on health and health literacy in adult education in Europe
- **General Assembly:** 23 June 2015 in Porto, Portugal
- **Younger Staff Training:** 1-4 December 2015

European Strategies & Initiatives

- EU 2020
- ET 2020 – working group on adult learning
- European Agenda for adult learning (National Coordinators – Petri Haltia
- Erasmus+
- ePale

ET 2020 Priorities

- making lifelong learning and mobility a reality
- improving the quality and efficiency of education and training
- promoting equity, social cohesion and active citizenship
- enhancing creativity and innovation, including entrepreneurship, at all levels of education and training
- Additional priority for European Agenda:
Improving the knowledge base on adult learning and monitoring the adult-learning sector

Working group

- Consists of representatives of national governments (mainly ministries), social partners and other stakeholders (CEDEFOP, EUCEN, EAEA)
- 3 main outputs planned:
 - Basic skills
 - Effectiveness of adult education policies
 - ICT and OER in adult education

Advocacy challenges

- EAEA members think a European strategy is very important
- Currently: New parliament, shift of portfolios (first AE merged with VET, then the unit moved to DG Employment)
- Jobs and growth are key (but growing awareness of intolerance ...)
- Adult education in danger of being lost

More information needed?

Don't hesitate to contact us!

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THANK YOU!