



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR  
THE EDUCATION OF ADULTS



## SkillHUBS conference

Gina Ebner, EAEA Secretary General

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# What is EAEA?

- It works with **adult education** and **lifelong learning**
- It concentrates on the **non-formal sector**
- It is an association with **130 members**, from **43 countries**, representing **5000 associations**



# 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

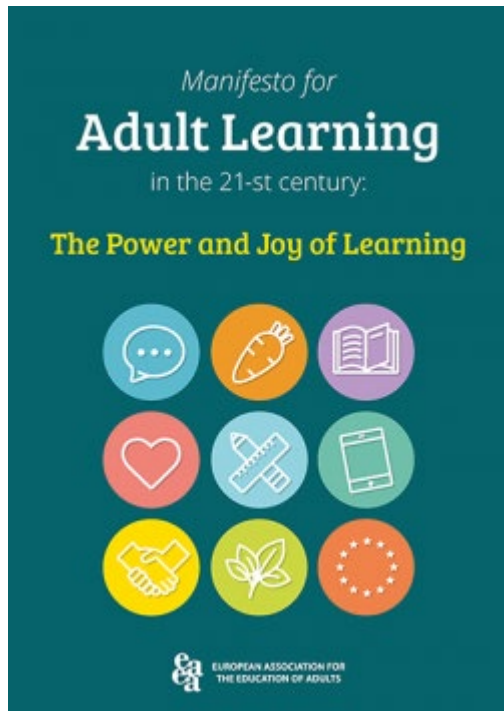
- Works in **projects**
- Provides **information about adult education** and learning in Europe
- Offers **dissemination** packages
- Maintains **networks**





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# Manifesto for Adult Learning in the 21st century



Download the Manifesto on  
<https://eaea.org/our-work/influencing-policy/manifesto-for-adult-learning-in-the-21st-century/>



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# EAEA and prison education

- Part of adult education
- Members
- Excellent examples of transformation (see Grundtvig Award)
- EPEA is a member



# Why advocacy and European Policies?

- Everyone in adult learning and education should do it (Gina's second principle of ALE) and probably does anyway
- We need to be aware of any possible support – if you're making omelettes without eggs, it's lovely to find an unexpected yolk!
- We need to connect levels, organisations, sectors....
- (For those interested: Gina's first principle: everyone can learn, everyone can change)





# Advocacy

- To draw attention to adult learning and education – general public but also and especially policy makers
- For policy makers: to be aware of ALE, to support and promote it, to include it in policies, initiatives, strategies and provide funding
- Specific advocacy, eg to change or introduce a law, stop funding cuts, improve conditions etc.
- Can happen on all levels: local, national, European
- Have a look at <https://eaea.org/project/awareness-raising-for-adult-learning-and-education-arael/> (Conference report with lots of examples, recommendations)



# European Education and Training Policies and Advocacy

- Subsidiarity ...
- Nevertheless: European policies can be used as an argument for the implementation of adult learning, also and especially in prisons!
- A driving force in countries where adult education is weaker
- Transfer of innovation for policies and programmes
- Creation of a European adult education community
- EPAL as instrument to promote this European community (<https://epale.ec.europa.eu/>)



# Upskilling Pathways

- Upskilling pathways targets adults with a **low level of skills**, e.g. those without upper secondary education. They may be in employment, unemployed or economically inactive, with a **need to strengthen basic skills**. Member States may define priority target groups for this initiative depending on national circumstances.
- To boost access to and take up of quality learning opportunities, adults with low levels of skills should have access in 3 **key steps**.
  - **Step 1 – Skills assessment**
  - **Step 2 – Learning offer**
  - **Step 3 – Validation and recognition**
- Delivery is built on existing structures and varies across Member States.
- <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1224>



# European Agenda for adult learning

- The [Renewed European Agenda for Adult Learning](#) (EAAL) defines the focus for European cooperation in adult education policies for the period to 2020. It was adopted by the Council in November 2011. Adult participation in learning continues to be low. In order to achieve an effective adult learning sector, more needs to be done.
- Among the issues targeted for action in the Agenda are: increasing the possibilities for all adults to access flexible, high-quality learning at any time in their lives; developing new approaches to adult education focusing on learning outcomes; raising awareness that learning is a lifelong endeavour; developing effective lifelong guidance systems and systems for validating non-formal and informal learning.
- General information: <https://epale.ec.europa.eu/en/policy-in-the-eu>



# Project support – Erasmus+

- Mobility (study visits, training...) of adult education staff (wide interpretation), between at least 3 countries:  
[https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/opportunities/individuals/staff-training/adult-education\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/opportunities/individuals/staff-training/adult-education_en)
- Cooperation: transnational, can be combined with developing outputs (curriculum etc):  
[https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/opportunities/strategic-partnerships-field-education-training-and-youth\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/opportunities/strategic-partnerships-field-education-training-and-youth_en)
- Policy: more complex projects (transnational), but can be used to work on develop key reforms  
[https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/opportunities/support-policy-reform\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/opportunities/support-policy-reform_en)



# Structural Reform Support Programme (SRSP)

- The Structural Reform Support Programme (SRSP) is an EU programme that provides tailor-made technical support to all EU countries for their institutional, administrative and growth-enhancing reforms. The SRSP support covers the entire reform process, from preparation and design to implementation of the reforms. It is demand driven and does not require co-financing from EU countries.
- Run by DG REFORM – ministry has to apply



# More information needed?

## *Don't hesitate to contact us!*

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THANK YOU!