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EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL & LOCAL
AUTHORITIES FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

ACTIVITY REPORT

2016



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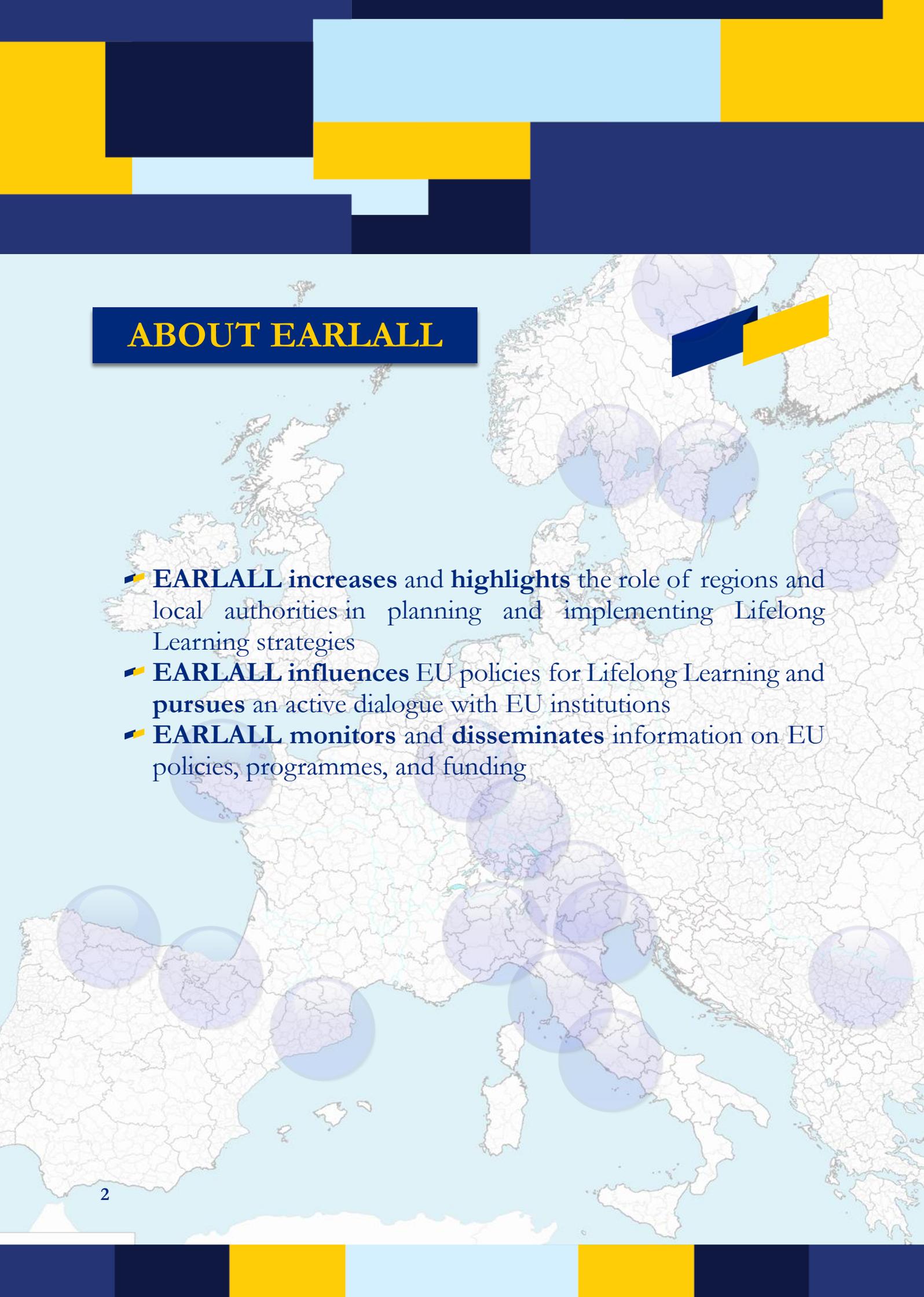
 Communication and dissemination

 Governance and output and impact monitoring



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EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL & LOCAL
AUTHORITIES FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

A map of Europe with several regions highlighted in purple circles, representing the EARLALL project areas. The map is overlaid on a decorative background of blue and yellow geometric shapes. A dark blue banner with yellow text is positioned at the top left.

ABOUT EARLALL

- **EARLALL increases and highlights** the role of regions and local authorities in planning and implementing Lifelong Learning strategies
- **EARLALL influences** EU policies for Lifelong Learning and **pursues** an active dialogue with EU institutions
- **EARLALL monitors and disseminates** information on EU policies, programmes, and funding

OBJECTIVES

- **Increase and highlight** the role of regions/local governments in planning and implementing Lifelong Learning strategies
- **Influence** EU policies relevant for lifelong learning and cooperate and pursue an active dialogue with EU institutions
- **Support** collaboration and co-operation among its members in order to **promote** the exchange of information, experiences, expertise and sharing of good practice
- **Facilitate** joint work through EU funded projects and **encourage** the development of joint actions
- **Monitor and disseminate** information on EU policies relevant for lifelong learning

ACTION PLAN

Policy & Advocacy – To position EARLALL and its members as a benchmark for lifelong learning expertise in the European arena, by means of bringing the regional perspectives to the European debate, policy shaping and implementation.

Antenna of opportunities and platform for exchange – To provide opportunities for EARLALL members to enhance their strategies, plans and actions, and to enable exchanges of good practices, experiences and expertise; with a view to facilitate concrete actions between members and other stakeholders, as well as participation in calls for proposals, tenders and initiatives by the EU.

Effective communication and dissemination – To publicise and showcase EARLALL voice and actions via a dynamic and interactive web page and use of social media; and to provide regular, timely and relevant information to the members.

Governance & Outcome and Impact monitoring – To plan, budget and run General Assemblies, seminars and other internal meetings, as well as to monitor and assess the effectiveness and impact of the actions and deliverables of EARLALL.

MEMBERS



EUSKO JAURLARITZA
GOBIERNO VASCO



Baden-Württemberg



GOBIERNO DEL
PRINCIPADO DE ASTURIAS



MADONAS
NOVADS



Région
BRETAGNE



PROVINCIA
AUTONOMA DI TRENTO

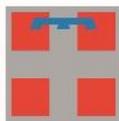


REGION
VÄSTRA GÖTALAND

Generalitat
de Catalunya



REGIONE TOSCANA



REGIONE
PIEMONTE



Rheinland-Pfalz
DIE LANDESREGIERUNG



Republic of Bulgaria
Regional administration - Vidin

REGION
JÄMTLAND
HÄRJEDALEN



PARTNERS



EUROPEAN CIVIL SOCIETY FOR EDUCATION



EPAL



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNESCO Institute
for Lifelong Learning



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR
THE EDUCATION OF ADULTS



LIFELONG
LEARNING
INTEREST GROUP



euro|guidance



EUROPEAN LIFELONG
GUIDANCE POLICY
NETWORK



European Alliance
for
Apprenticeships

Good for youth,
good for business

#ApprenEU

ESF Transnational Platform

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2016

-  Policy and advocacy
-  Antenna of opportunities and platform for exchange
-  Communication and dissemination
-  Governance and output and impact monitoring



ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION IN RELEVANT EU-POLICY AND ADVOCACY MILESTONES AND ACTIVITIES

THE NEW SKILLS AGENDA FOR EUROPE

On June 10th, the European Commission launched the “New Skills Agenda for Europe”, together with a number of actions to **ensure that the right training, the right skills and the right support is available to people in the European Union**. It will aim at making better use of the skills that are available; equip people with the new skills that are needed - to help them find quality jobs and improve their life chances. The Commission invites Members States, social partners, the industry and other stakeholders to work together to:



- improve the quality and relevance of skills formation
- make skills more visible and comparable
- improve skills intelligence and information for better career choices

EARLALL participated in:

- Consultation meeting with the European Commission (DG EMPL) on 15 March
- Launch event on 10 June

EUROPEAN ALLIANCE FOR APPRENTICESHIPS

The EAfA, European Alliance for Apprenticeships is a unique platform which brings together governments with other key stakeholders, like businesses, social partners, chambers of commerce, VET providers, regions, youth representatives and think tanks. The common goal is to strengthen the quality, supply and image of apprenticeships in Europe. It was launched in July 2013 with a joint declaration by the European social partners, the European Commission and the Presidency of the Council of the EU.

EARLALL participated in:



5th Stakeholder meeting, 17 March in Brussels: Marcus Persson and Johanna Togelid from **Cuben utbildning**, Västra Götaland presented the "Spotted hidden talents" project, which focuses on supporting students through teachers and individual coaches and on social welfare offices and

cooperation between schools, employment and employers. The scheme leads to 90% employment.

6th Stakeholder meeting, 15 September in Brussels
7th Stakeholder meeting, 6 December in Brussels: the meeting took place in the framework of the 1st European Vocational Skills Week. The EAfA awards were announced: Petronor and Somorrostro College, from the Basque Country, received one of the awards from Commissioner Marianne Thyssen.



THE EUROPEAN WEEK OF REGIONS AND CITIES 2016



European Week | Brussels

The 14th edition of Europe's regions and cities annual *rendez-vous* – the **European Week of Regions and Cities** – took place from Oct 10 to Oct 13. The programme included 130 workshops spread across some 30 Brussels-based venues. Over 5,000 attendees and 800 speakers gathered in Brussels and shared the four day event on EU regional policy.

EARLALL's Business Manager - Ms Jugatx Ortiz - moderated an event titled "**Smart partnership for new skills**" in the morning of Tuesday, October 11. The conference at the Norway House was organised by the regional partnership for smart skills (Principality of Asturias, Ave Region, Castile and León, East of England, Mid-Norway, Nilufer Municipality, Normandy, Region Västra Götaland, Warmia-Mazury, West Norway).

The workshop showcased best practice from across Europe's regions on how local and regional authorities are improving the skills and employability of EU citizens. The Norwegian Minister of the European Economic Area and EU Affairs, Mrs. Elisabeth Vik Aspaker, opened the conference.



In the afternoon, EARLALL's regions Västra Götaland and Baden Württemberg were invited to the **1st meeting of the European Integration Network**. Developed from the previously existing National Contact Points on Integration, the European Integration Network presents a stronger coordination role and mutual learning mandate, in line with the Commission Action Plan for the Integration of Third Country Nationals. The aim of the Network is to support regular exchanges and mutual learning on specific aspects and elements of integration through targeted learning activities.

In parallel, representatives from the Basque Country and Wallonie-Bruxelles, among others, discussed with the European Commission what is needed to make the Guarantee work. EARLALL members attended the **European Commission's conference on the Skills Guarantee**. The aim of the workshop was to discuss how cities and regions can implement such a guarantee through a partnership approach looking at issues such as finance, outreach, guidance and support.



On Wednesday October 12th, EARLALL, together with its partner regions, organised the conference titled "**Regional and local measures to develop the potential of refugees**", linked to our Erasmus+ **Project TALENTS**. The European Commission was present, together with partner regions and professionals in integration, which gave birth to a lively debate. The project has now entered its core phases, with piloting actions already happening and a lot of exciting news.

THE LIFELONG LEARNING WEEK 2016

The 6th edition of the Lifelong Learning Week was held from 10 to 13 October in Brussels, gathering circa 200 policy-makers and educational stakeholders representing civil society organisations, academics and decision-makers, highlighting the key role lifelong learning plays in facing major societal challenges nowadays.

Support Group from Västra Götaland, was one of the winners in the Inspiring Practices for the prestigious Lifelong Learning Awards! Congratulations!



THE EUROPEAN VOCATIONAL SKILLS WEEK 2016

The first **European Vocational Skills Week** took place from 5 to 9 December 2016 with events in Brussels and parallel activities in Member States, EFTA and EU candidate countries at national, regional and local levels.

EARLALL has participated in the following events and venues:

- On December 5th, in the Lifelong Learning Platform Task Force on Validation
- On December 6th and 7th in the "Adult Skills: Empowering people" event, where the Commission outlined its plans for the future and companies and regions presented best practices
- On December 8th, in the European Business Forum, to confront needs and practices of employers and other actors



Regions in Action
to Sustain and Develop Learning Mobility in VET

A joint position paper FREREF – EARLALL

Some facts

It is well admitted that two major factors influence positively the access to employment for people in VET

- the use of alternate periods of learning in "school" (or training centre, including high school, college and university) and learning at workplace (we will call this way of learning "apprenticeship"; it covers all kinds of alternate learning (e.g., one week in "school", one week at work; three weeks in "school", up to six months in "school", six months at work, and any other kind of combination);
- the possibility to move to a foreign country (or several) to achieve part of this learning, and if possible, not

Finally EARLALL, together with FREREF, participated in the workshop "Mobility in VET and Apprenticeships" on December 8th as part of the European Business Forum on Vocational Training.

The two associations presented a **joint position paper** to enhance the role of regions in VET mobility, titled "Regions in action to sustain and develop VET learner mobility". Regional and local authorities have a privileged role in crafting and implementing VET policies, because of their intimate ties with the territory, as well as with VET centres and learners. Therefore, given the huge stress posed onto mobility as a unique opportunity for learning and developing skills, the position paper calls all stakeholders to a deeper regional dimension in VET mobility.



PORSUE AN ACTIVE DIALOGUE, COOPERATION AND LIAISON WITH KEY PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

ReSET: European regions working on Skills, Education and Training

The informal network ReSET, coordinated by Vleva, brings together European regions and provides a structure for positive interaction on the broader education and skills agenda both between local and regional stakeholders and with the European Institutions.

In 2016, EARLALL participated in the following meetings:

- European Commission Work Programme 2016 - 21 January 2016, with Youri Devuyst, Principal Administrator at DG Competition
- Creative Mindsets, Entrepreneurial Futures - 1 March 2016
- EMCO's role in the CSRs on education in the framework of the European Semester - 5 April 2016, with Tom Bevers, EMCO Chair
- The new Skills Agenda for Europe - 17 June 2016, with Sonia Peressini, Ating Head of Unit at DG EMPL
- Action Plan on Integration - 30 June 2016, with Michael Teutsch, Deputy Head of Unit at DG EAC
- Project Development Workshop - 8 and 9 December 2016 - The New Skills Agenda for Europe
- European Commission Work Programme 2017 - 14 December 2016, with Filip Van Depoele, Policy Coordination and Inter-Institutional Relations at DG EAC



On Thursday 8 and Friday 9 December 2016 EARLALL, together with Baden-Württemberg, Île-de-France, West Finland, Vleva and the LLLPlatform organised their second **Project Development Workshop** for the upcoming call for proposals Erasmus+ KA2 Strategic partnerships. The Minister of Education of Catalonia, Ms Meritxell Ruiz i Isern opened the event.

The PDW Task Force received more than 50 project ideas and 9 were selected, after a careful partner selection was carried out.

Overview of the 9 project ideas:

- Platform Maker Education Europe: Waag Society
- Cognition & Inclusion: vzw den achtkanter
- Improving learning efficiency / learning pathways: PXL University College, Centre of expertise PXL Educational Innovation
- Developing new training approaches for ppl w/ mental disorders: INFREP

- Supporting Transition towards Education Progression (STTEP): Scottish Wider Access Programme(SWAPWest)
- Capacity-building in sustainable tourism: Hasselt University – Transportation Research Institute (IMOB) – Centre for Travel & Tourism Research
- Experimental digilab - University of Jyväskylä
- Marketable skills/foreign languages: Government of Catalonia
- Prevention of the development of Salafist attitudes among young people: State Institute of School Development, Stuttgart, Baden-Wuerttemberg



During the workshop, on December 9th, the ReSET Task Force provided participants with several introductions to Erasmus+ calls. Presentations were held by:

- Testimonials from 2015 Project Development Workshop participants
- Eric Ballhausen, EACEA, European Commission
- Marc De Vlieger, EPOS National Agency Flanders
- Brikena Xhomaqi, Lifelong Learning Platform and Project Evaluator

OTHER KEY PARTNERSHIPS

Interest Group of the European Parliament on Lifelong Learning

Initiated by the Lifelong Learning Platform and EAEA together with a number of MEPs, the Interest Group on Lifelong Learning brings together civil society representatives and MEPs to discuss key issues connected to lifelong learning with strong emphasis on adult education.

Sirpa Pietikainen (EPP, FI) is chair of the Interest Group. MEP Julie Ward (S&D, UK) and Krystyna Lybacka (S&D, PL) are Vice-Chairs. The Interest Group is supported by many other MEPs.



The focus of 2015–2016 is «Inclusive education for inclusive societies». The group aims to fight inequalities and discrimination in education in order to reach the Europe 2020 and Education and Training 2020 headline targets and contribute to the EU growth strategy this way.



In 2016, EARLALL attended two meetings:

- 16 February, “Education for Personal Development and Well-being”
- 30 November, Employment and the New Skills Agenda for Europe

TIA FORMAZIONE - European Conference: “Role, strength and impact of European networks in realising the political priorities of President Juncker”

On February 11th, EARLALL participated to the conference “Role, strength and impact of European networks in realising the political priorities of President Juncker”, held in Rome and organised by TIA FORMAZIONE. The conference’s aims were to focus on the role of European networks and their methods to cooperate in the realisation of European policies and priorities for the 2020 objectives. The conference focused onto three priorities:

- 1. Jobs, Growth, Investment
- 2. Justice and Fundamental Rights
- 3. Digital Single Market



EARLALL was part of the panel and illustrated its activities and priorities.

6th European conference on lifelong guidance policy



On June 13th and 14th, EARLALL participated in the 6th European conference on lifelong guidance policy in Harleem. Organised by the network Euroguidance, with whom EARLALL holds partnership, the two-day seminar was a unique opportunity to learn about guidance systems in Europe. The main topic was regional cooperation and regional structures in career guidance, as local authorities play a crucial role in this area. Project BRIDGE was presented.



EPALE Workshop: "Integrating immigrants by means of adult education"

On September 8th and 9th, EARLALL participated in the EPAL seminar titled "Integrating immigrants by means of adult education". Held in Aachen, the seminar showcased vivid examples of how municipalities successfully face the challenge of receiving a high number of refugees. From establishing an effective reception process up to providing learning opportunities for the many different people – it is the local administration who has to find solutions.



Ms Jugatx Ortiz presented project TALENTS, a milestone for local authorities in integration migrants and refugees into the labour market; she explained how the city of Göteborg had set up a programme for integration for refugees and asylum seekers, highlighting an on-the-job training. So does the city of Ulm, where refugees also get in touch with the labour market at an early stage. The key for this is the knowledge of the language, explained Claudia Schöppel, head of the department of German as a foreign language at the adult education center. The workshop participants were impressed by the activities of both cities and first of all surprised about the well functioning network between adult education, municipality and the private sector in Ulm under the umbrella of the concept "Ulm - International Stadt" (Ulm, an international city).

At the seminar, EARLALL met UNESCO lifelong learning Institute at the conference, and discussed opportunities for cooperation

FREREF Annual Conference: "Building one's pathway in tomorrow's society"



On September 22th, EARLALL attended the FREREF's Annual Conference in Krakow. EARLALL developed an overall common position, on issues such as guidance, VET and mobility. Eventually, those positions will end in the policy paper designed with FREREF, on VET and Mobility.

Future Västra Götaland

TALENTS project partners participated in the first annual conference "Future Västra Götaland", where they explained new approaches and models that create labour market integration of refugees.



FRAMTID

VÄSTRA

GÖTALAND 2016

KOMPETENSFÖRSÖRJNING OCH INTEGRATION



ANTENNA FOR OPPORTUNITIES AND PLATFORM FOR EXCHANGE

EARLALL STUDY VISITS IN VÄSTRA GÖTALAND AND STUTTGART

Partners discussed and shared best practices and respective experience on integration policies and activities, welcoming, language training and vocational training and entry to the labour market for immigrants and refugees.

- 1-3 March: Stuttgart, Baden-Württemberg
- 30-31 May: Gothenburg, Västra-Götaland

The very well prepared and interesting presentations before the Advisory Council for Sustainable Development in Västra Götaland (BHU) gave new perspectives, insights and inspiration to the region and the municipalities in Västra Götaland. The fruitful meeting in Stuttgart served as preparation for the TALENTS project.

The mutual learning and trustful relationship between our regions and cities create a solid ground for future cooperation and coordination of activities in Västra Götaland, Baden-Württemberg and to the EU.



EARLALL'S PROJECTS

ERASMUS+ Strategic Partnership

BRIDGE - Building up Regional Initiatives to Develop Guidance for low-skilled adults

The project focuses on special guidance needs of low-skilled adults, especially of those who are in employment but at risk of being excluded from the job-market because of missing qualifications. Companies employing low-skilled adults are involved. The project partners are analysing the access to and quality of



guidance services for low-skilled adults in Baden-Württemberg/Germany, Bretagne/France and Jämtland/Sweden from different perspectives and with different methods and activities. In a second step, they aim at the adaption, testing and transfer of best practice tools and processes in the field of guidance from one region to the others.

- 7 May - Multiplier event in Brussels

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Our dissemination event in Brussels gathered more than 100 participants! Representatives from Baden-Württemberg, Brittany, Jämtland and the Basque Country presented their best practices on guidance for low-skilled adults at the Committee of the Regions. From the European Commission, Mrs. Bachmann, Head of the Adult Education Unit (DG EMPL) set the framework and Mrs. Salvatore, from CEDEFOP, presented the study "Economic and social consequences of low skilled adults in the EU". As keynote speaker we had Mr. Olszewski, Mayor of Luciz Municipality and Member of the CoR, SEDEC Commission.



ERASMUS+ Strategic Partnership

FinALE - Financing Adult Education

The objective of the project is to provide a set of analyses (such as 'why invest in adult education', indicators for financing adult education, where to invest, etc.) and policy recommendations targeted at policy-makers of all levels (European, national, regional, local, communal) and at providers. The partnership is monitoring and analysing adult education policies and funding instruments and making proposals on how to improve them.



- First Partners meeting: Hannover (Germany), 11-12 February 2016
- Second Partners meeting: Copenhagen (Denmark), 29-30 September 2016

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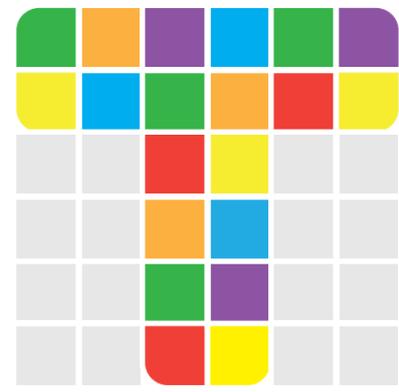


ERASMUS+ Strategic Partnership

TALENTS – New talents for companies: developing the potential of migrants and refugees

The TALENTS project will transfer and further develop a new and very successful language and vocational training and integration concept for immigrants. The Göteborg HOTEL TALENTS concept will be amended so that it can be transferred to other sectors (e.g. health, logistics, retail trade) and other countries and regions with different legal, financing, integration and training systems.

TALENTS will reach up to 9000 participants, among them staff of all project partners, counsellors and teachers participating in trainings, staff in companies and partner institutions involved, persons receiving guidance in connection to training activities, participants in six pilot training courses, users of the European toolbox and modules of the training concept, in- and outside the project within five years from the



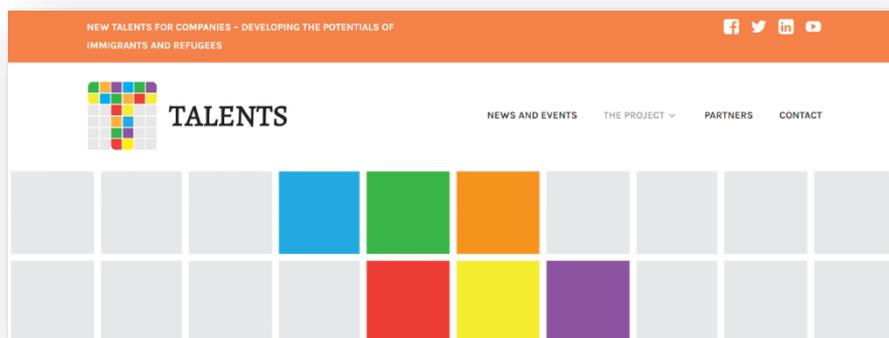
T A L E N T S

project start, persons who have a profit from improved guidance and training in partner organisations and other institutions and persons reached through other dissemination activities like press articles.



- 12 October: Preliminary Conference in Brussels
- 9-13 November: Kick-off and 1st partners meeting in Göteborg

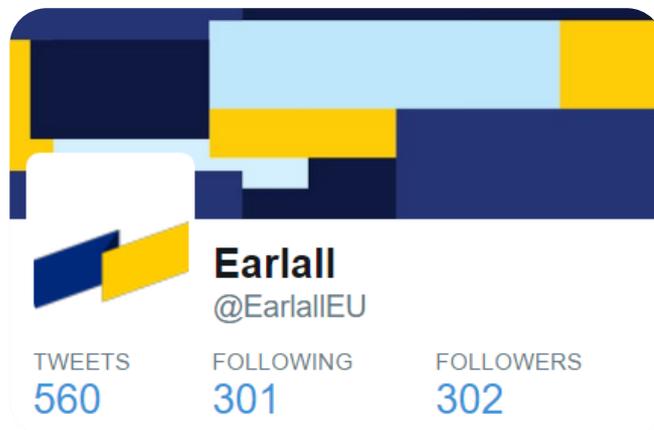
One of the first outputs of TALENTS is its brand new website (below). It was built to collect all actions, outcomes, results, conferences, events and meetings of the consortium, thus counting on a centralised dissemination to reach out as many potentially interest partnes as possible.





EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION

EARLALL publicises and showcases regional and local voices and actions via its **dynamic and interactive web page** and the use of **social media**. Since September, EARLALL can count on Mr Andrea Lapegna to deal with all communications issues: the network now has a consistent **communications strategy**, both on social media and through the website. Members receive **newsletters** and thematic **bulletins** with the latest information on EU policy developments on lifelong learning. The new dissemination identity has started to inform EARLALL's projects too, in the form of visual identity and brand placement as well as through fresh logos.



COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT – September 2016

As of September 2016, EARLALL hired a Communications Assistant on an internship contract. Mr Andrea Lapegna helped organise the many aspects of outreaching communications: from the website to social media, from the layout of important documents to the support in the organisation of the events, he has been an added value to the network and its forward-looking aspirations.



GOVERNANCE AND OUTCOME AND IMPACT MONITORING

BOARD MEETING & GENERAL ASSEMBLY: 12-13 May, Brussels

Earlall members met on the 12th and 13th May for the Annual Meeting at the Committee of the Regions and at the Delegation of the Basque Country to the EU in Brussels. These days, bringing together participants from a variety of regions, constitute a milestone in EARLALL's daily work: members' experience and exchanges shape our future activities and constitute a genuine moment of dialogue and peer exchange on lifelong learning.



PEER LEARNING: Guidance and validation of competences of migrants and low-skilled adults



On May 12th, more than 50 experts from our regions participated in the following programme:

Study visit: Bruxelles Formation, an information and guidance centre on education and training for adults in the Brussels Region, visited by more than 30.000 persons each year.

Seminar: “Identifying and documenting refugees’ skills with a European tool - a Skills Profiler for asylum seekers”.

With:

- Mr. William O’Keefe, DG EMPL European Commission “Empowering migrants and refugees - A competence-oriented career guidance tool as the first step of a validation process”
- Dr. Martin Noack, Bertelsmann Stiftung “Guidance in the Dutch Language Houses/Agency for Integration”
- Mr. Christ Floren, Agency for Integration in Limburg
- Concept and position of “Basiseducatie” in Flanders
- Mr. Stefan Paredis, Federatie Centra voor Basiseducatie vzw

BOARD MEETING: 10 October, Brussels

On October 10th Board members met in Brussels for the last meeting of the year. That was the occasion for discussion of EARLALL priorities and initiatives for 2017, including the selection of topics for the next General Assembly. The coordinators of the working groups presented their specific action plans and project and seminar proposals. It was agreed that the most urgent topics to be addressed in the next General Assembly will be **innovation in vocational training**.



...AND MANY MORE
TO COME IN 2017!



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EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL & LOCAL
AUTHORITIES FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

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