



Activity Report 2019

November 2019



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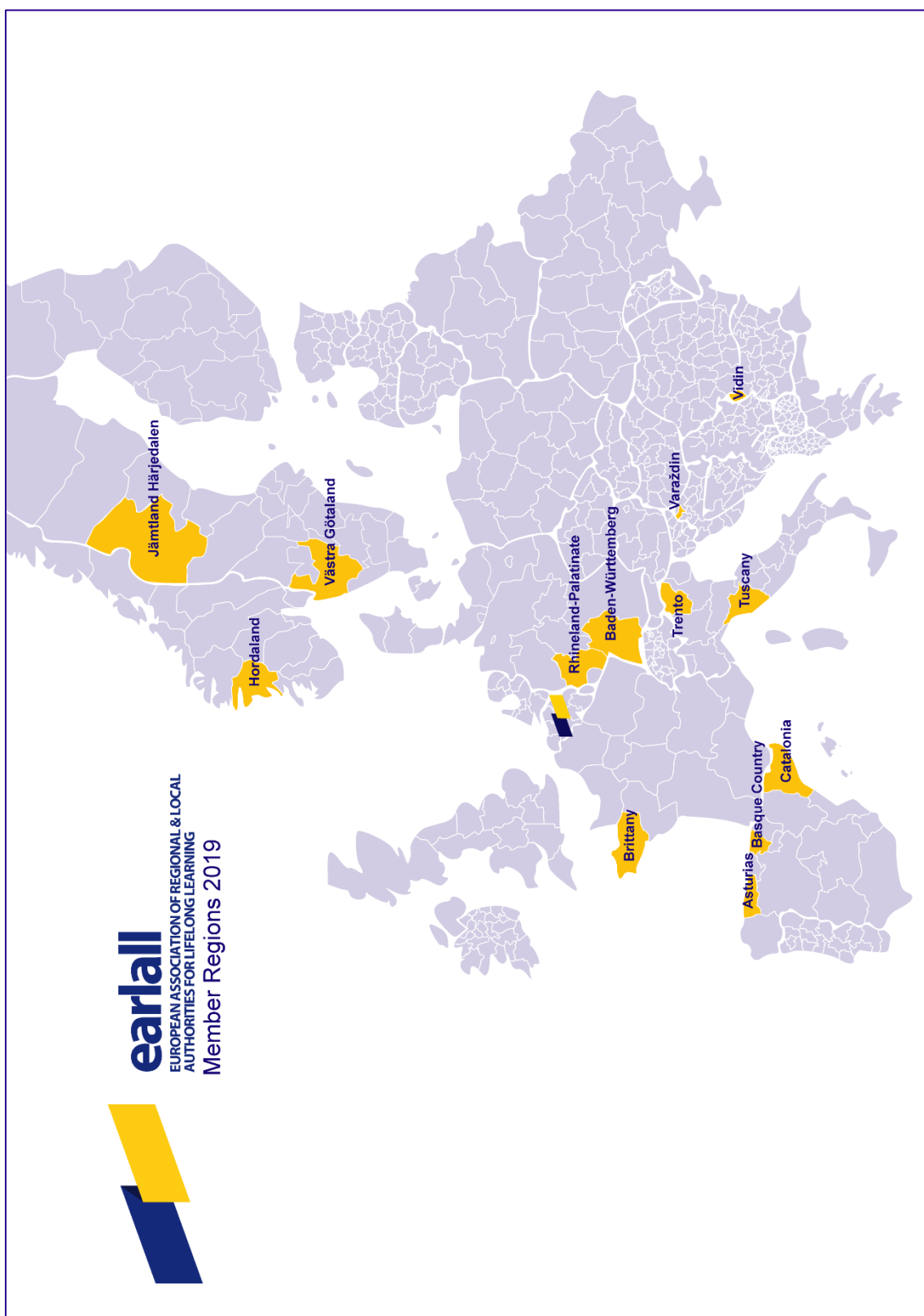


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Member Regions in 2019



Observers: Borås Municipality.

Projects funded by the European Union

Title	Name	Duration	EU Funding EARLALL	EU funding Programme
TALENTS**	New talents for companies – developing the potentials of immigrants and refugees	Ending August 2019	26,900 €	Erasmus+ KA2
FIER*	Fast-track Integration in European Regions	Ending December 2019	66,500 €	EaSI Progress
VET in Urban Centres**	Development of Sustainable Urban Centres with Active Involvement of VET	2018- 2020	9,375 €	Erasmus+ KA2
BRIDGE+**	Building up regional initiatives to develop skills-based guidance: a digital multi-actor approach	2018-2020	54,008 €	Erasmus+ KA3
KEYMOB**	Key Competences for Mobility	2018-2020	15,150 €	Erasmus+ KA2
Boost for CLIL in VET**	Foreign language and acquisition of marketable skills for VET	2018 - 2021	31,725 €	Erasmus+ KA2
SKILLNET**	Skills Network in Advanced Manufacturing	2019-2021	99,325 €	Erasmus+ KA3
Skills4Regions	Collaborative Monitoring of Regional Lifelong Learning Policies	2019 - 2021		Erasmus+ KA2
NEAr - New Europe Around	Mentoring for intercultural dialogue and learning – Matching newly arrived with locals	2019-2021		AMIF

*In yellow, proposals submitted in 2019 that were not selected for EU funding.



Funded by the
European Union

*



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

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Soon-to-Finish Projects

TALENTS (Erasmus+ KA2)



The TALENTS project focuses on the inclusion of immigrants and refugees in language and professional training in order to support their fast access to the world of work – as jobs are believed to be the most important basis for integration. Therefore, this project is fully in line with the Erasmus+ horizontal priority of inclusive education and training for groups at risk of exclusion from society. In particular, refugees and immigrants are regarded to be a high priority group, given the critical context and situation at the moment.

The Austrian, German, Italian, Norwegian and Swedish project partners are involved in integration activities in their regions and, thus, have the urgent need to find new and sustainable approaches of integration. The title “TALENTS” reflects the main interests of the project partners, as their objective is to develop concepts and tools which will help to identify talents and strengths that every person has and develop them through training that is adapted to the needs of the labour market and companies.

The specific project goal is to analyse, build up, test and further develop European role models, guidelines and tools for guidance, training and company cooperation to support the (fast) access of adult immigrants and refugees to the labour market. To serve this purpose, six partner meetings took part in Gothenburg, Stuttgart, Oslo, Florence, Graz, and Brussels, and pilot training courses for migrants are being implemented in Baden-Württemberg, Gothenburg and Oslo.

Partners: vhs Baden-Württemberg e.V. (coordinator), Kultusministerium Baden-Württemberg, Arbetsmarknad och vuxenutbildning i Göteborgs Stad, Cuben Utbildning AB, Oslo VO Rosenholf, Steirische Volkswirtschaftliche Gesellschaft (STVG), Università degli Studi di Firenze, EARLALL

Meetings and events in late 2018 and 2019:

- 23-26 October 2018. 5th Partner Meeting in Graz
- 18-20 June 2019. TALENTS Conference and 6th Partner Meeting in Brussels

Final project outputs will be available at the project's website by the end of 2019.

For more information: <https://www.talentseuproject.com>.
#TALENTSbxl



The FIER project aims at developing instruments and strategies for a fast-track labour market integration of disadvantaged groups among refugees and asylum-seekers. Its main objective is to develop quality competence assessment strategies, training curricula, self-empowerment initiatives, and a workplace language learning concept to reach a fast and successful integration process in different European areas, by means of the following processes:

1. **Analyse the main challenges for the new arrivals**, when it comes to establishment and integration; taking into account and making visible how the newcomers' challenges vary depending on gender, ethnic origin, age, educational level, special needs, religion or sexual orientation.
2. **Identify, analyse, adapt and pilot different kinds of measures that are likely to be inclusive** as regards disadvantaged groups and that are likely to have a positive impact on the individual's integration into the labour market.
3. **Capitalize on the wealth of existing—however fragmented and not always easily accessible—knowledge at local and regional level** including main stakeholders (political, education sector, companies, etc.) but also individuals (locals, successfully-established immigrants and asylum seekers themselves).
4. **Discuss and further foster knowledge and exchange experience on how the findings can facilitate the establishment of the new arrivals.**

Project partners: Region Västra Götaland (coordinator), Mölndals Stad, Swedish Public Employment Service, Ministerium für Kultus, Jugend und Sport Baden-Württemberg, vhs Baden-Württemberg e.V., AWW Pädagogische Hochschule Weingarten, Stadt Stuttgart, GO! onderwijs van de Vlaamse Gemeenschap, Oslo VO Rosenhof, Land Salzburg, Yuva Association, EARLALL

Meetings and events in late 2018 and 2019:

- 8-9 November 2018. 2nd Partner Meeting in Stuttgart
- 9-10 May 2019. 3rd Partner Meeting in Istanbul
- 18-19 November 2019: 4th Partner Meeting in Brussels
- 19 November 2019: FIER Conference in Brussels

Final project outputs will be available at the project's website by the end of 2019.

For more information: <https://fierprojecteu.com>.

#FIERprojectEU

Ongoing Projects

VET in Urban Centres (Erasmus+ KA2)



The “Development of Sustainable Urban Centres with Active Involvement of VET (VET in Urban Centres)” project pursues the elaboration of governance models to reach an active involvement of VET schools and local businesses in urban planning processes, to create new VET programmes linked to the challenges and needs of urban centres, and to improve the cooperation between VET providers, municipalities and the labour market. The project involves partners from different nature, such as VET schools, municipalities, employment services and regional authorities, from five European countries (BE, ES, IT, NO, SI), who will identify best practices of synergies among the abovementioned actors as a basis for the development of new models.

Coordinated by Hordaland County Council, this project will provide two intellectual outputs, to be published by the beginning of 2020: a local cooperation model including VET in the development of urban centres and an educational VET programme with the same aim.

Project partners: Hordaland County Council (coordinator), Agenzia Umbria Ricerche, Istituto Professionale per l'Industria e l'Artigianato "E. Orfini," Barcelona Activa, Kranj School Center, RDA - Business Support Centre Kranj, Sotra Vidaregåande Skule, Knarvik Vidaregåande Skule, Fjell Kommune, EARLALL

Meetings and events in late 2018 and 2019:

- 24-26 October 2018. 3rd Partner Meeting in Barcelona
- 8-10 April 2019. 4th Partner Meeting in Foligno
- 1-3 October 2019. 5th Partner Meeting in Bergen

For more information: <http://www.veturban.eu.wordpress.com>.
#VETurbanEU



In the context of the BRIDGE+ project, the participating municipalities and regions, together with their partners, aim at building up, testing and implementing new strategies of skills development on a regional level – supported by innovative technology. These regional initiatives shall include relevant groups of actors, above all companies, career guidance organisations, educational institutions and individuals, and interlink them in the framework of personal and virtual networks and platforms. In trainings, these actors will learn how to use innovative technology for competence management and career guidance according to their needs. They will also be motivated to use the tools as *bridges* to the partners, allowing a constant dialogue on future work and learning – the most important pillar of labour market skills intelligence.

These initiatives will be implemented in the framework of existing multi-actor career guidance and education networks of five European regions: Baden-Württemberg (Germany), the Basque Country (Spain), Brittany (France) Jämtland (Sweden) and Styria (Austria). The main goal of the project is to tackle skills mismatches between demands of the world of work and competences of employees or candidates. With the help of ICT tools, relevant skills and competences shall be made visible in the two directions of companies and individuals and be accessible for career guidance officers. Respective activities will be developed on regional level and like this in close cooperation with the relevant actors.

Project partners: vhs Baden-Württemberg e.V. (coordinator), Ministerium für Kultus, Jugend und Sport Baden-Württemberg, Basque Government – Directorate for Training and Learning, Lärcentrum/City of Östersund, IUC-Z Group/Östersund, STVG, Foundation EC-VPL, EARLALL.

Meetings and events in 2019:

- 23-24 May. 3rd Partner Meeting in Östersund
- 9 October. BRIDGE+ Workshop in the context of the European Week of Regions & Cities 2019 in Brussels
- 14-16 October. 4th Partner Meeting in Graz

For more information: <http://bridgeplusproject.com>.
#BRIDGEplusEU

BOOST to it! VET's CLIL (Erasmus+ KA2)



This project aims at improving the competitiveness and employability of vocational students in a global European market by developing and testing a Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) on the Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) approach, starting by testing an Open Online Course (OOC) in English, which will result in a MOOC; and designing and implementing an electronic open platform that permits to mutualise the different materials developed in each region/country and to share experiences. This will ensure a sustainable transnational community of VET professionals that allows the exchange of materials. The specific objectives are the following:

- To stress the need to master foreign languages as a key competence to foster employability in all VET sectors.
- To highlight the importance of developing intercultural competences as European citizens working in a global market.
- To help teachers disseminate critical thinking skills through their teaching practices.
- To disseminate and exchange innovative methodologies and approaches in the VET teaching and learning context when featuring a foreign language.
- To define assessment strategies and use different tools for assessment of the competences to be acquired by VET learners (digital, social and linguistic contexts).
- To use web 2.0 tools and apps not only for engaging learners but also for the opportunities that they offer with regards to sharing knowledge and good teaching and learning practices among teachers all over Europe, especially in regions with fewer resources.
- To improve teacher training programmes by teaching trainers how to use the many available tools effectively.
- To enhance mutual trust amongst vocational schools and institutions for further future mobility projects.

Regional and country-specific reports about the state-of-art of the CLIL methodology in vocational education and training (VET) were published in June as a first output for the project. They are available at EARLALL's website (see link below).

Project partners: Provinciaal Onderwijs Vlaanderen (coordinator), Departamento de Educación, Política Lingüística y Cultura del Gobierno Vasco, Departament d'Ensenyament – Generalitat de Catalunya, ROC Da Vinci College, Seinäjoki Joint Municipal Authority for Education, EARLALL.

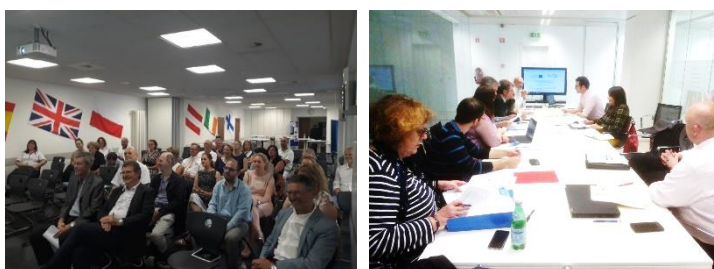
Meetings and events in late 2018 and 2019:

- 26-28 November 2018. Kick-off meeting in Ghent
- 8-9 May 2019. 2nd Partner Meeting in San Sebastian
- 13-14 November 2019. 3rd Partner Meeting in Seinäjoki

During 2019, EARLALL Secretariat has also held two bi-lateral meetings with the project coordinator in Brussels in order to get updates on the project's progress (one in June and one in October).

For more information: <https://www.earlall.eu/project/vetsclil/#VETsCLIL>

KEYMOB (Erasmus+ KA2)



An increased mobility of apprentices between companies from different countries exposes them to different situations, new environments, and different cultural and organisational contexts, and stimulates their capacities for autonomy, resilience, problem solving, adaptation to new situations and innovation. The aim of this project is to establish a strategic partnership for the development of innovative products within the project framework and their dissemination among partners and training agents, improving the cooperation between training centres, companies, regional and municipal governments to develop curricular tools and the necessary logistical and organizational agreements. In this sense, the project aims at developing a curriculum proposal and at developing evaluation tools.

The work shall be disseminated among stakeholders in open seminars held in Barcelona, Toulouse, Stuttgart and Chomutov, with a special attention to those units involved in curriculum creation: training centres, teacher organisations, professional organisations, and academic and professional experts.

The main actions will be the following:

- Sharing and mapping of the main methodologies, actions and initiatives.
- Drafting of a curriculum proposal.
- Drafting of a protocol proposal defining the role of the regions.
- Drafting the document: The role of companies in apprenticeships.
- Identifying the main transversal competences acquired by apprentices in mobility programs (fieldwork).
- Organizing three national seminars and the final event in Brussels.

Project partners: Barcelona Chamber of Commerce (coordinator), Departament d'Ensenyament – Generalitat de Catalunya, Fundació Catalunya Europa, NOTUS Applied Social Research, Střední škola ESOZ Chomutov, Kaufmännische Schule 1, FREREF, EARLALL.

Meetings and events in 2019:

- 27-28 March. Partner Meeting in Brussels
- 27-28 June. Partner Meeting and multiplier event in Stuttgart

For more information: <https://www.earlall.eu/project/keymob/>
#KEYMOB

Recently Selected Projects

 **SKILLNET – Skills Network in Advanced Manufacturing (Erasmus+ KA2, coordinated by Centro Studi Cultura Sviluppo, SKILLMAN, Tuscany)**

This project aims at upscaling the previous experience carried out by the Skillman network (2015-2017), focusing on the following new trends in the advanced manufacturing sector, to be addressed by the research and training activities of the project:

- Encourage the creation of transnational and national VET providers' networks and partnerships to work together at national and European level in order to improve the quality and efficiency of VET, enhance its impact and relevance for learners and employers, and build cross-border cooperation for VET quality and attractiveness;
- Foster communication, dissemination and support for implementation of the VET policy agenda at EU and national level, to exchange knowledge, feedback and experience of policy implementation and sharing of best practices on VET excellence.



Therefore, the project envisages a series of actions aimed at involving VET providers from Europe in capacity-building activities, training sessions, events and transnational mobility.

Project partners: CSCS Centro Studi Cultura Sviluppo Tuscany (coordinator), Cumulus Cumulus International Association of Universities and Colleges, WC Warnborough College Limited, EARLALL.

Meetings and events in 2019:

- 2-3 December. Kick-off Meeting in Brussels

CoVE Projects in which EARLALL is an Associate Partner

 Excellent Advanced Manufacturing EXAM 4.0 (led by TKNIKA, Basque Country)
 VENHANS – VET European networking Enhancement (led by EVTA)

Policy Contributions and Public Consultations

Strategic Dialogue with DG EAC and DG EMPL in Brussels (December 2018 and May 2019)

EARLALL was part of the delegation composed by Lifelong Learning Platform members that met with European Commission's officials at DG EAC (10 December 2018) and DGEMPL (28 May 2019). The meetings are part of a strategy to from the EC to consult with stakeholder groups the future EU funding programmes post 2020, the revision of the Education and Training 2020 strategy and the inclusion of skills in the European Semester country reports. Participants highlighted the importance to reinforce the capacity of intermediary associations and networks, provide further support through operating grants and enhance social inclusion as a transversal aspect in the new Erasmus+ programme among other issues.

Meeting with the Education attachés of the Romanian Presidency of the Council in Brussels (March 2019)

EARLALL Business Manager, and EARLALL Presidency (represented by Marta Marín and Camila de Epalza) met with the two education attachés of the Romanian Presidency of the Council on 6 March. The Romanian representatives recommended the association to establish a dialogue with the upcoming presidencies (Finland and Croatia) as a six months period is short for a close cooperation. The education council attachés recognised the importance of involving the regions in the Council discussions and to recognise the many example of good practices that are currently taking place in Europe. Some regional representatives from EARLALL member regions were invited to take part in the semester activities.

Apprenticeship Support Services stakeholder group meetings in Brussels (April and September 2019)

EARLALL was invited by DG EMPL (Unit dealing with VET, apprenticeships and adult learning) to join the Apprenticeship Support Services stakeholder group in February 2019 in order to represent European regional authorities. This expert group is also composed by representatives from Business Europe, ETUC, SMEs United, EfVET, ETF, and Cedefop, among others.

Two meetings have taken place on 2 April and 13 September in 2019. European Commission's officials recognise the importance of learning what stakeholders are doing to promote training opportunities and apprenticeships. EARLALL initiatives have been welcomed. Stakeholders have been involved in providing input and feedback to the European Commission's information material and activities regarding the European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAfA), apprenticeship-related activities (webinars, training modules online, digital repository, etc.) and the *bench-learning* exercise that is being carried out in some EU countries.

DG EAC foresight studies on education in 2030 (July 2019)

EARLALL has completed two surveys about inclusive education and validation of informal and non-formal learning within the research that is being carried out by DG EAC towards a 2030 strategy.

EARLALL's Response to the public consultation about the EIT strategy for 2021-2027¹ (July 2019)

EARLALL welcomed the EIT strategy proposal for the 2021-2027 period. However, some improvements are suggested in linking education and training to smart specialisation strategies, fostering Vocational Education and Training (VET) and identifying skills mismatches. Furthermore, social innovation is suggested to be considered as part of innovation strategies, along with technological and digital research, as an integral part of future research efforts and European funds.

EARLALL's contribution to the European Committee of the Regions' (SEDEC) stakeholder consultation "Brain Drain in the EU: addressing the challenge at all levels" (October 2019)

At the request of the SEDEC commission of the European Committee of the Regions, EARLALL provided experience-based insights on the challenges of brain drain in Europe for both sending and receiving regions. Promoting the concept of Regional Skills Ecosystems was highlighted as a way to align regional strategies with education and training policies, and as a means to match skills offer and demand. Furthermore, fostering concepts such as entrepreneurship, self-employment, cooperatives and alternative ways of business development, was also underlined, transforming challenges into opportunities. Lastly, receiving regions' best practices include work-based language learning, grassroots initiatives such as Support Group Network (Västra Götaland and Baden-Württemberg), and international initiatives such as the TALENTS (Erasmus+) and FIER (EaSI PROGRESS, funded by the European Union) projects.

European Commission's Publications

In 2019, EARLALL and its Member Regions have been featured in official publications by the European Commission. The European Alliance for Apprenticeships has published a new informative brochure including a description of EARLALL and its involvement in promoting apprenticeships at regional level, as well as the TALENTS project. Also, EARLALL Business Manager, Noelia Cantero, has been interviewed in the latest video of the Alliance.

On another note, the Joint Research Centre has published the report *Skills and Smart Specialisation*, building on the conclusions of a seminar that took place in Brussels in September 2018 with a strong involvement of EARLALL and featuring best practices by the Basque Country and Västra Götaland. Also, 2019's edition of DG EAC's flagship report *Education & Training Monitor* features the Basque VET Law, passed in June 2018. Lastly, DG EMPL has published the *Mapping of Centres of Vocational Excellence* report,

¹ Full document available at the end of this report (annex, page 24).

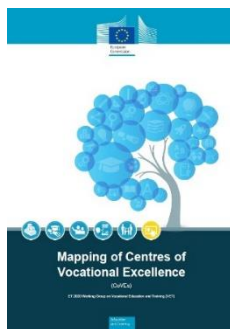
explaining the concept of vocational excellence and including examples from the Basque Country and Västra Götaland.



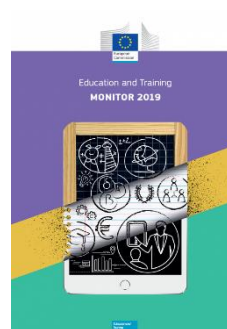
Good for Youth, Good for Business
European Alliance for Apprenticeships



Skills and Smart Specialisation
Joint Research Centre



Mapping of Centres of Vocational Excellence
DG EMPL



Education & Training Monitor 2019
DG EAC

Publications' covers © European Commission.

Participation in High Level Events

Forum on the Future of Learning Brussels (24 January)

On 24 January 2019, the European Commission hosted the Forum on the Future of Learning in Brussels. The event focused on six key challenges for education and training up to 2030, revolving around demographics; inclusion; technological changes and the future of work; digitalisation; sustainability; and investment and governance. The goal was to provide an open platform to foster exchange between education, training and youth stakeholders and policymakers, building on the work of the European Education and Training Expert Panel, made up of independent experts across Europe. The general aim of the event was to gather inputs to build the post-2030 education and training strategy of the Commission.

European Alliance for Apprenticeships' Meeting (EAfA) **Brussels (21-22 March)**

EARLALL Secretariat attended the Joint European Parliament and European Commission Conference 'Mobility of Apprentices in Europe – A contribution to youth employment and competitiveness of business,' that took place on 21 and 22 March 2019 in Brussels, combined with an EAfA meeting. The conference was hosted by MEP Jean Arthuis, the driver behind the long-term mobility of apprentices in Europe pilot project by the EP that inspired the ErasmusPRO initiative, and gathered practitioners and policy makers involved in promoting mobility in the VET sector.

The European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAfA) and its contribution to mobility of apprenticeships was at the heart of the conference. Dana-Carmen Bachmann (Head of Unit at DG EMPL) highlighted the important achievements that have been delivered by EAfA, counting at present with members from 36 countries, 282 pledges, and more than 906,000 offers. Ms. Bachmann mentioned EARLALL as a strategic member to gather the views and practices from regional authorities in promoting mobility and providing support services for apprentices.



From left to right, EAfA meeting, ACIG 2019, and Forum on the Future of Learning

Annual Convention for Inclusive Growth (ACIG) 2019 **Brussels (10 May)**

One year more, the European Commission's DG EMPL hosted in Brussels the Annual Convention for Inclusive Growth (10 May 2019). Marianne Thyssen, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, welcomed all attendants by reminding of the need of reconnecting European policies with the people. Among the workshops that followed, one of them was dedicated to the future of work and the role of lifelong learning in it.

Second Policy Learning Forum on Upskilling Pathways **Brussels (20-21 May)**

Several EARLALL Member Regions representatives attended the second edition of the Policy Forum on Upskilling Pathways by Cedefop, which took place in Brussels on 20-21 May 2019, after having been postponed in February. The event built on the achievements of last year's edition to effectively support stakeholders in the implementation of Upskilling Pathways for adults.

Romanian Presidency Conference on Entrepreneurial and Digital Skills Brussels (21 May)

The Council of the EU hosted on 21 May in Brussels a conference about combining digital and entrepreneurial competences to support innovative education and training. At the event, the European Commission and its JRC said seeing a crucial role for regions to activate entrepreneurial and digital ecosystems through Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3) and to provide a favourable context that creates value for citizens.

Cedefop and LLLP joint event: Tackling Early School Leaving Brussels (29 May)

The Permanent Representation of Romania to the EU hosted a policy forum on the role of community lifelong learning centres (CLLCs), organised jointly by Cedefop and the Lifelong Learning Platform (LLLP) in Brussels on 29 May. At the event, Cedefop presented its vocational education and training (VET) toolkit for tackling early leaving from education and training.

International Congress of Vocational Training 2019 Donostia – San Sebastián (5–6 June)

As in recent years, the Basque Country hosted an International Vocational Training Congress at the Kursaal Conference Centre in Donostia - San Sebastián. Representatives from some 50 countries attended the event, including EARLALL Secretariat. The congress focused on the effects that the fourth industrial revolution has and will continue to have on people's lives, their work, society in general, businesses, and the various productive sectors, taking into account the implications for training, with especial regard to VET.



Committee of the Regions: Integration of Migrants and Refugees in Small Territories. A factor for development Brussels (25 June)

The European Committee of the Regions hosted a seminar to promote the integration of migrants and refugees as a factor for local development in small territories on 25 June in Brussels. This seminar was organised as part of the Cities and regions for integration initiative and was the first of a series of events for local politicians and experts to discuss how to support integration of migrants in Europe.

Cedefop and Romanian Presidency Seminar on Upskilling Pathways Brussels (25 June)

Cedefop, together with the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU, held the 7th Cedefop Brussels-based seminar. The event presented Cedefop's research activities on empowering low-skilled adults by developing coordinated approaches to upskilling pathways.

Second Education Summit Brussels (26 September)

The Second European Education Summit took place in Brussels on 26 September 2019. A total of 800 participants, including 19 Education Ministers and more than 160 teachers, gathered in the heart of the EU capital to discuss about the role that education and teaching will have in the society of the future. EARLALL Secretariat was present at the Summit, as well as a delegation from the Basque Country (EARLALL Presidency). The Basque Regional Vice-Minister for VET, Jorge Arévalo, took part in a high-level panel dealing with Vocational Excellence, along with Shyamal Majumdar (UNESCO-UNEVOC), Adrijana Hodak (EUproVET), and Pieter de Jong (Wetsus and WaterCampus). The summit also counted on the attendance of Cristina Uriarte, Basque Regional Minister for Education (EARLALL Presidency).



EU Vocational Skills Week 2019 Helsinki (14-18 October)

The European Vocational Skills Week 2019 took place on 14-18 October in Helsinki, jointly organised by the European Commission and Finland's Presidency of the Council of the EU. "VET for all, skills for life" was one of the key motors of the week, aiming at a more inclusive approach to VET and making it an area of excellence. The importance of re-skilling and up-skilling was also highlighted by Dana-Carmen Bachmann, Head of Unit at European Commission's DG EMPL. Furthermore, skills demand and an unknown future were underlined during the sessions.

European University Business Forum Brussels (24 October)

The eighth edition of the European University Business Forum took place in Brussels on 24-25 October 2019. The event brought together policy makers, representatives from higher education, business and other stakeholders to discuss and debate the role of university-business cooperation for innovation and sustainable development. During these days, the blurring frontier between higher education and VET was highlighted, along with the challenges of digitalisation (in terms of teacher training, learning provision, learning experiences and education outcomes) and sustainable development, and the role of university-business cooperation in tackling them.

OECD Local Development Forum Antwerp (10 December)

The 2019 OECD Local Development Forum will bring together hundreds of local development practitioners, entrepreneurs and social innovators to share good practices about how employment and skills programmes are meeting employer demand and what is being done to help people and places catch up. EARLALL Member Regions will take actively part in panels during the event, tackling aspects such as lifelong learning and integration of migrants in the labour market.

EARLALL Events

EARLALL meeting – member regions representatives Brussels (11 March and 9 October)

Brussels-based EARLALL Member Representatives gathered at the Delegation of the Basque Country to the EU to assess the network's achievements so far this year. The meeting on 11 March counted on the participation of Ms. Anna Barbieri (DG EMPL), who welcomed and encouraged regional authorities' involvement in VET policies and practices, also at EU level, with initiatives such as the Vocational Skills Week and the Centres of Vocational Excellence.

In the context of the European Week of Regions and Cities 2019 (see below), a meeting was held along with EARLALL Mobility Working Group's meeting on 9 October. The meeting counted on the participation of Mr. Manuel Fernández Arroyo and Mr. Kristijan Vukelic, from the European Commission's DG EAC, who presented the Erasmus+ programme post-2020, with a focus on inclusion, innovation, simplification, and sustainability.

YES Conference (II EDITION) – Youth Entrepreneurship in Rural Areas Brussels (27 September)

A diverse audience gathered at Tuscany Region EU Liaison Office on 27 September for the second edition of the YES Conference (Youth Entrepreneurial Spirit), organised by Tuscany Region and EARLALL. Regional policy officers; EU representatives (EC, CoR); members of NGOs and international associations; the business sector; and, most important, young people discussed about how to boost young entrepreneurship in rural areas. The debate was fed with interventions from different stakeholder groups, who agreed on the importance of having education opportunities available to foster an entrepreneurial spirit among the younger generations.



European Week of Regions and Cities 2019 Brussels (9-10 October)

EARLALL was actively involved in the European Week of Regions and Cities 2019, which took place in Brussels, and organised two official events within its context. On Wednesday, October 9, the SQUARE centre in Brussels hosted a workshop about the BRIDGE+ project, funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union. Next day (October 10), the "Building Regional Skills Ecosystems" workshop gathered regional representatives, the European Commission and the OECD at the European Committee of the Regions. Also, as a previous side event on Tuesday afternoon, Project Matchmaking allowed Norwegian project promoters to find the right partners to take their ideas and turn them into a reality. Furthermore, on Wednesday morning, EARLALL's Mobility Working Group met together with European Commission's DG EAC representatives.



EARLALL Annual Conference 2019 **Brussels (19-20 November)**

- Board Meeting: 19 November (Delegation of the Basque Country to the EU)
- Extraordinary General Assembly: 20 November (Delegation of the Basque Country to the EU)
- General Assembly: 20 November (Delegation of the Basque Country to the EU)

Project Development Workshop **Brussels (27-28 November)**

Jointly organised by EARLALL, the Liaison Agency Flanders-Europe (VLEVA), Central Denmark EU Office, North Denmark EU-Office, South Denmark European Office, Région Île-de-France and West-Finland European Office, this year's edition of the Project Development Workshop will focus on projects dealing with technology-enhanced learning. Project leaders will share their ideas with potential partners and start shaping their proposals for the next year's Erasmus+ deadlines.

LLLWeek 2019 – Greencomp? Joint event with EfVET **Brussels (4 December)**

The 2030 Horizon to meet the SDGs and the utter need for transformation of the industry to achieve an environment-friendly economy have raised the question of green skills as a catalyst for sustainable development. Vocational education and training (VET), the education sector that is most closely connected to industry, is reacting to the new demands, but there is still a need of a more coordinated perspective between authorities, education providers and the industry. Therefore, a flexible common framework that could be implemented in each sector and region – according to their specific challenges – might provide an answer to this, bearing in mind that local activities have a continental and global impact.

Other Meetings and Events

Meetings with regional representatives

Throughout 2019, EARLALL Secretariat has welcomed and held bilateral meetings with regional representatives from Zagreb, North Denmark, South Denmark, Puglia, Lombardy, West Finland, Salzburg and Centre-Val de Loire. These meetings have allowed a rapprochement to other regions envisaging a stronger cooperation in the future.

 **Wielkopolska councillors' study-visit on integration policies**
Brussels (2 April)

A short session was held for Wielkopolska Councillors on the integration of immigrants on 2 April at the region's European office, where best practices in the field, such as the TALENTS and FIER projects, were introduced.

 **Borås Municipality "EU and the local/regional level"**
Brussels-Borås (28 May)

EARLALL was digitally present at the Borås Municipality (EARLALL Observer) "EU and the local/regional level" training course by means of a web-streamed workshop about regional and local cooperation in the network.

 **European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA) Conference on Local development through citizens' empowerment**
Brussels (28 May)

Noelia Cantero, EARLALL Business Manager, took part at the final conference of the LQN project by the European Association for the Education of Adults. At the event, she explained the importance of the regional and local environment for successful lifelong learning strategies, providing examples from projects such as FIER (funded by the European Union) and VET in Urban Centres (Erasmus+ KA2).

 **NETH-ER VET coordinators workshop**
Brussels (13 June)

NETH-ER organised a VET Coordinators workshop in Brussels to which EARLALL was invited to present the interaction of regional authorities with other actors and the development of regional skills ecosystems.

 **Institute of Research and Training in European Affairs workshop for Greek municipality representatives**
Brussels (9 October)

Representatives from five Greek municipalities were given a presentation about EARLALL and its role in engaging regional and local authorities in EU-level lifelong learning policies and policies, taking into account multi-stakeholder relations and smart specialisation ecosystems.

 **In4Wood final conference by EURADA**
Brussels (30 October)

EARLALL Business Manager, Noelia Cantero, moderated a session during the final conference of the Erasmus+ IN4WOOD project, in which participated Mr. João Santos (Deputy head of unit at European Commission's DG EMPL). The conference, organised by EURADA, was set to pave the way in the wood and furniture sectors for a wider

discussion with inputs from representatives of HE/VET, companies and regional development agencies (RDAs).

VET GPS final conference by EfVET **Brussels (26 November)**

The final conference of the VET GPS project (Erasmus+ KA2), Guiding tools for Professional Skills development in VET, will focus on the acquisition, development and assessment of soft skills of trainees attending VET training, essential for their personal development, social participation and workplace success. During the event, EARLALL will introduce the BRIDGE+ project (Erasmus+ KA3) to a European audience.

Partnerships and Cooperation with other Networks

Lifelong Learning Platform

- Erasmus+ Coalition
- Policy and Advocacy Task Force
- Validation Task Force.

Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition (European Commission)

European Alliance for Apprenticeships (European Commission)

Apprenticeship Support Services Stakeholder Group (European Commission)

Lifelong Learning Interest Group (European Parliament)

European Social Fund Transnational Platform (European Commission)




- Final meeting took place in June 2019

ReSET Network



Digital Communication and Dissemination Activities

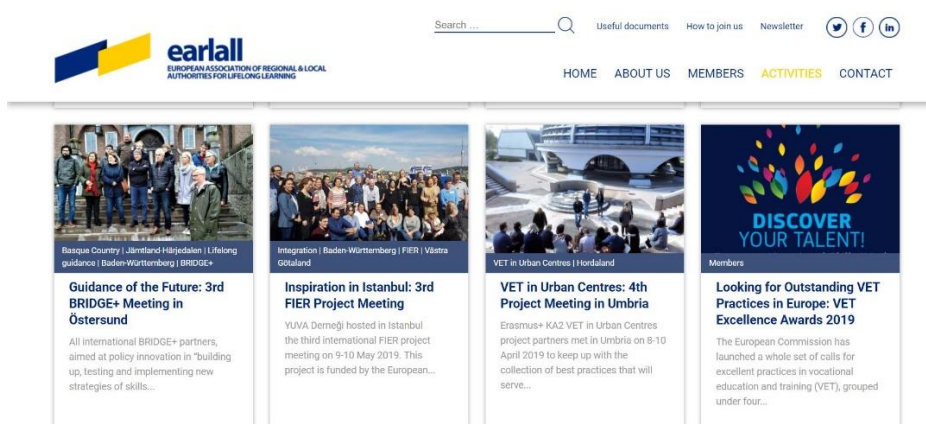
Social media data (January–October 2019)

 <p>290 tweets 286 new followers (1,044 followers in total) 20,791 imp./month (avg.)</p>	 <p>108 posts 36 new followers (238 followers in total) 1,374 imp./month (avg.)</p>	 <p>96 posts 29 new followers (109 followers in total) 473 imp./month (avg.)</p>
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Newsletters

- *EARLALL Insights* (quarterly, 4/year): dissemination of our network's activities to all our subscribers (457 as of 31 Oct 2019).
- *EU Monitoring* (monthly, 12/year): only for members and observers.
- *Newsflash* (last calls, partner searches, important events, etc.): only for members.
- *FIER Newsletter* (semi-annually, 2/year): dissemination of FIER project progress, results and partners' work (525 subscribers as of 31 Oct 2019).

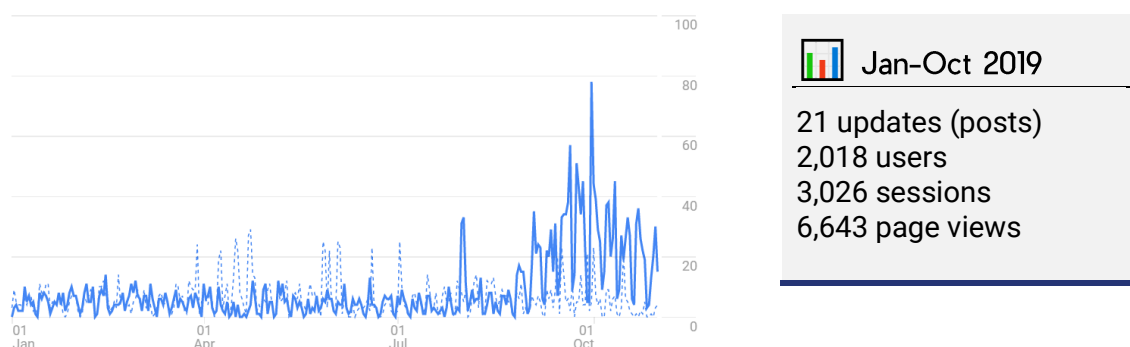
New Webpage (www.earlall.eu)



EARLALL's webpage was fully updated in August 2019 to provide its Member Regions a prominent place in it. A completely new design has been developed to make all relevant information about Member Regions, working group activities, events and projects accessible, with a responsive display:

- New content distribution for easy access to information.
- Responsive design to suite browsing device preferences.
- New section dedicated to our Member Regions, where information can be found about their activities in the fields of education and training.

Daily audience improvement in 2019 (data from 2018 in dotted line)



Annex
Position Paper

Annex: EARLALL's Reflections on the Consultation about the EIT's Strategy 2021-2027

July 2019

EARLALL fully supports the Strategic Innovation Agenda proposed for 2021-2027 with goals such as increasing the regional impact of knowledge and innovation communities. These will surely contribute to generating highly skilled jobs and significant improvements in innovation activities that may serve as a motor for the economy in the coming years

The consolidation of existing KICs and the setting up of new high-added-value and knowledge-intensive innovation and technology-oriented ecosystems are positive aspects that will improve Europe's citizens wellbeing in a rapidly changing demographic and socio-economic context.

Education and training

Education and training must be an integral part of European innovation policies, and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology should promote mechanisms to reinforce the links between education and training and investment in innovation.

In line with Smart Specialisation Strategies, regional innovation ecosystems can inspire the mission and the 2021-2027 European Institute strategy, that should enhance Europe's competitiveness, improve the quality and the relevance of skills acquisition, and help to create jobs.

Vocational training centres

The 2021-2027 strategy for the European Institute of Technology and Innovation supports the regional impact of knowledge and innovation communities by strengthening its networks, involving more higher education institutions, businesses and research organisations and by developing regional outreach strategies.

EARLALL firmly believes the Institute must consider and provide support for this including as well open product and process innovation coming from vocational training centres. Their role must be strengthened so that they may become agents supporting innovation; notably applied innovation.

Vocational training centres are ideally placed to act as the right link between research and innovation. VET centres also have a privileged relation with businesses as they promote practical on-the-job competences while providing appropriate technical knowledge. This experience, which is transferable to any territory, might be even more beneficial if collaboration between different centres is encouraged, sharing knowledge and methodologies and fostering open science on a European scale.

In the context of the European Pillar of Social Rights and the EC Communication 'Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture'² that sets the EC's vision to create a European Education Area by 2025, It will be difficult to understand it if we do not recognise a proactive VET system that takes into account:

- A diversified offer that meets the skills demands of the productive sectors and anticipates future qualification needs.
- Innovation and new technologies in VET.
- New active learning methodologies that improve the technical skills and competences and reinforce transversal skills, entrepreneurship and creativity.
- Joint work and cooperation between VET and higher education institutions to provide answers to new qualifications and new training itineraries.

Social Innovation

EARLALL strongly believes that, in addition to technology innovation or innovation of business models, European policies must take into account social innovation as a means of facing social challenges and problems and of achieving a production model that is not only efficient but also fair and equalitarian. Social innovation results as a relevant tool to combat inequality, maintaining social cohesion, creating opportunities among the disadvantaged groups and generating locally rooted, person-centred economic activity. Developing new responses to identify social needs means providing integrated, individualised services, improving their quality, access, coverage and affordability and increasing their efficiency and effectiveness.

Thus, social innovation can help provide valuable responses to challenges identified in areas such as poverty, active inclusion, integration of migrants, youth employment and preventive support measures for children and families at risk of exclusion. Social innovation makes can guarantee that innovation is mainstreamed, and no one is left behind. The EIC could provide all agents involved with guidance on how to use innovation in social policy and how to use EU funds appropriately in this field.

² COMM 2017, 673 final, published on 14.11.2017

www.earlall.eu

