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EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL & LOCAL
AUTHORITIES FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

Work Plan 2022



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Contents

Skills at the core of the green and digital transition	6
Engaged regions and communities through lifelong learning	7
Vocational Education and Training (VET), skills ecosystems and quadruple helix	8
Adult learning and education (ALE) to build resilient regions	9
Young People at the Heart of the Recovery	10
Strategic Development and Governance.....	12
Communication and dissemination activities	13

Introduction

Always looking out for the best interest of its Member Regions and aligned with the European Union priorities, EARLALL's Work Plan for 2022 gathers the network's activities and strategic actions for the upcoming year under five key areas:

-  **Skills at the core of the green and digital transitions**
-  **Engaged regions and communities through lifelong learning**
-  **Vocational Education and Training (VET), skills ecosystems and the quadruple helix**
-  **Adult Learning and Education (ALE) to build resilient regions**
-  **Young people at the heart of the recovery**

EARLALL's work in 2022 will continue the efforts from 2021 in building resilient skills ecosystems that are connected to the present and future needs at regional and local levels. A call for regions and cities to play a bigger role in the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis and in facilitating the green and digital transitions has been identified from both policy and practice levels from an education and training perspective. In this context, capacity building at administration and teaching staff levels has progressively become a key area of the network's activities, with a main focus on VET and ALE systems.

Therefore, activities engaging EARLALL's five working groups will be developed during 2022 in order to build on the achievements from last year and reach new horizons. They will tackle the three key actions of the network — policy, projects and events —, which shall complement each other and consolidate 2021's work. Furthermore, new ideas shall be explored regarding the connections between different areas and the development of innovative learning validation concepts, such as microcredentials and individual learning accounts (ILAs).

Thematic areas





Skills at the core of the green and digital transition



The green and digital transition is part of Europe's present, gathering all sectors from a transversal perspective in order to build a more resilient and interconnected continent. Education and training policies and practices are at the core of this transition, equipping citizens with the skills they need in order to thrive in their work and personal lives. Therefore, EARLALL will continue its work in the fields of green and digital skills and explore bridges between them at regional and local level in order to facilitate a common understanding of European challenges, find solutions to the climate and transport crises, and bridge existing skills gaps at all ages.

In this sense, and in line with the last years' efforts to align education and training activities with the goal of building a greener and more sustainable Europe, EARLALL will continue promoting the *green culture* and *skills* concept from an over-arching perspective, building on the progress made in the previous years under the GreenComp initiative's umbrella. These efforts will be based on and contribute to the European Commission's implementation plan for the [European Green Deal \(Fit for 55 communication\)](#), published in July 2021), along with the production of a European framework for skills for sustainable development by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (expected end 2021) based on its [Sustainable competences](#) report (2020), complying with the over-arching EU Green Deal and UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has made it clear that digital technologies can help in building a more connected Europe while preventing an over-pollution of the environment and fostering inclusiveness. In this sense, EARLALL will continue working on the DAMAS project to explore digital mobility in the automotive sector's apprenticeship systems, and will explore the perks and liabilities that digitalisation is bringing in terms of skills, with a lifelong learning perspective. Lastly, bridges shall be built between these so-called *twin transitions* by exploring how they can complement each other from an education and training point of view, along with alternative pathways to successfully achieve sustainability by means of lifelong learning.

Key actions

-  Workshop exploring bridges between green and digital skills EVENTS
-  Monitoring the development of the Skills for Sustainable Development framework and the prospective Council Recommendation on education for environmental sustainability by the European Commission, which will build on the consultations carried out during 2021 POLICY
-  Continuous dialogue with the European Commission, European Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee on the topic of green skills POLICY
-  Monitoring and assessing the potential involvement of EARLALL in the [Education for Climate Coalition](#) (European Commission) POLICY

-  Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition and [Platform](#) – promotion of activities and news among EARLALL members POLICY
-  DAMAS project PROJECTS
-  Potential project with EAEA and EARLALL members under Erasmus+ SMALEI (awaiting approval) PROJECTS

Working groups involved

- Mobility
- Skills & Labour Market
- Lifelong Guidance & Ageing Societies
- Youth Policies

Engaged regions and communities through lifelong learning

Community engagement in regional development requires a set of skills both at citizen and administration level to allow territories to thrive. With sustainability and digitalisation at the core, an entrepreneurial mindset and the empowerment of citizens raise as key elements in preventing brain drain and attracting talent towards rural contexts, as well as fostering community development in urban ones. In this sense, a joint effort by all stakeholders is needed to foster growth and inclusion.

Europe's demographic challenges deepen when looking at rural contexts, and the European institutions have put forward several lifelong-learning-related initiatives during 2021 in order to tackle them that call for the direct involvement of regional and local authorities. EARLALL's work in 2022 will build on the following proposals and documents, integrating them into ongoing projects, such as YESpecialists (promoting an entrepreneurial mindset among young people to foster rural development and the inclusion of vulnerable groups), and developing new ideas:

- [Action plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027](#) (November 2020), which depicts the Commission's support for building rural partnerships that "ensure inclusion and integration of migrants in rural areas," along with empowering local communities by "Building capacity of local and regional authorities to involve local communities in the design and implementation of integration measures and programmes."
- European Commission's [Green Paper on Ageing](#) (January 2021)
- [European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan](#) (March 2021)
- [Council Conclusions on equity and inclusion in education and training in order to promote educational success for all](#) (May 2021)

Key actions

-  YESpecialists Erasmus+ KA2 project PROJECTS

- Erasmus+ proposal NEETs for NEETs (coordinated by Region Västra Götaland) awaiting confirmation PROJECTS
- Monitoring the Conference on the Future of Europe and exploring opportunities within it for regional and local authorities POLICY
- Renewed ESF Transnational Cooperation Platform – promotion of activities and news among EARLALL members POLICY
- Follow-up of ESF+ and the Youth Guarantee scheme POLICY
- Follow-up of the Resilience Plans and the Next Generation EU programme, mainly under the upskilling and reskilling strand (no. 7) POLICY
- Follow-up the European Youth Year 2022 initiatives POLICY
- Follow-up ALMA programme to support NEETS POLICY

Working groups involved

- ➔ Youth Policies
- ➔ Inclusive Societies
- ➔ Lifelong Guidance & Ageing Societies

Vocational Education and Training (VET), skills ecosystems and quadruple helix¹

A new boost to the Centres of Vocational Excellence initiative was given by the European Commission along 2021, launching a new call for project proposals and developing a European Community of Practice (CoP). Moreover, a [revision of the 2020 Industrial Strategy](#) was also published in March 2021, focusing on transition pathways and calling for investment in skills. These efforts built on 2020's published documents and the engagement of Vocational Education and Training (VET) centres across Europe along with the national, regional and local authorities that hold the area competence. For 2022, EARLALL will continue working on building skills ecosystems connected to regional smart specialisation strategies with an enhanced role of VET.

A follow-up project to the EXAM 4.0 pilot one is expected to start by mid-2022 (awaiting funding approval), led by the Basque Country. Furthermore, the S4stride project workshops will continue strengthening skills matching policies at regional level and boosting capacity building for skill needs anticipation and adaptation. In addition, beyond project work, regional initiatives underpinning the internationalisation of VET systems will also count on the support of EARLALL, and a follow-up will be given to Catalonia's International VET Campus, along with the organisation of capacity building workshops and events within EARLALL's Mobility, Lifelong Guidance & Ageing Population, and Skills & Labour Market working groups.

From a policy perspective, close contact will be kept with the European Commission's Directorate for Employment and Social Affairs (DG EMPL), the OECD's Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, and stakeholder associations at European level, such as EfVET, EVTA, and EURADA.

¹ Understood as including: Governments; Academia; Industry and Civil Society (Community)

Key actions

- EARLALL project activities in 2020 and follow up: PROJECTS / EVENTS
 - EXAM 4.0 (finishing end 2021)
 - S4stride project workshops
 - Follow-up to the VENHANS project (associate partner)
 - LCAMP under the Erasmus+ Centres of Vocational Excellence strand (awaiting approval)
- Participation at the EU Vocational Skills Week 2022 EVENTS
- Online and offline training workshops for Member Regions and Associate Members EVENTS
- Apprentices Support Services stakeholder group at European Commission's DG EMPL POLICY
- European Alliance for Apprenticeships – promotion of EAfA and its activities among EARLALL members POLICY
- Participation at the Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs) community of practice (CoP) meetings, led by the European Commission's DG EMPL POLICY
- Follow-up to EARLALL Member Regions joining the European Pact for Skills and further contact with the European Commission POLICY
- Cooperation with the OECD's Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities POLICY
- Follow-up to Catalonia's VET Campus 2021 (iqCampusFP#2021) EVENTS

Working groups involved

- ➔ Mobility
- ➔ Skills & Labour Market
- ➔ Lifelong Guidance & Ageing Societies

Adult learning and education (ALE) to build resilient regions

The Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union made it a priority to revise the European Adult Education Agenda. This has brought adult learning and education (ALE) to the centre of skills policies and given a boost to its development at European level. The engagement of regional and local authorities in ALE has been promoted in the last years through pilot network initiatives, within which the RegALE project was created, and a growing support from different governance level is needed to provide European citizens with lifelong learning opportunities through ALE.

EARLALL boosted capacity building at regional in the past two years by means of online workshops and the production of factsheets. Efforts in this sense aimed at building more resilient regional and local ALE systems will continue in 2022, based on a strong cooperation with ALE providers and the administration and policy levels, along with stakeholders at European level, such as the EAEA. EARLALL Secretariat will boost the

network's participation in the EPAL platform and keep a close contact with Cedefop with a focus on skills and adult learners, in order to boost skills policies for personal development, complementing the above-mentioned priority on VET and smart specialisation.

Key actions

- RegALE project PROJECTS
- Online and offline training workshops for Member Regions and Associate Members EVENTS
- Participation in events under Cedefop's Upskilling Pathways strand EVENTS
- Monitoring the development of European initiatives regarding microcredentials and individual lifelong learning accounts (ILAs) POLICY / EVENTS
- Follow-up to the revision of the Adult Education Agenda, started by the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the EU (second half of 2021) POLICY
- Increased presence on EPAL: development of an action plan, regular blog posts and interaction with key stakeholders POLICY
- Endorsement of the StartNet proposal to the COFOE on the importance of Lifelong Guidance POLICY

Working groups involved

- ➔ Mobility
- ➔ Skills & Labour Market
- ➔ Lifelong Guidance & Adult Learning

Young People at the Heart of the Recovery



The turmoil caused by the COVID-19 crisis has brought about new social challenges, mainly in urban areas, with key groups such as young people and third country nationals heavily impacted by its economic side.

The European Commission has been acknowledging the importance of supporting young people in this context already in 2020 with the publication of the [Youth Employment Package](#), the [New Skills Agenda](#) and the relaunched [European Alliance for Apprenticeships](#). Moreover, a new re-inforced political message in favour of supporting the younger generations was addressed by President Von der Leyen on September 2021 during her speech on the occasion of the [State of the Union](#). EARLALL will take all necessary actions to guarantee that young people are recognised as main actors in the recovery of European regions.

2022 has been proposed by the [Commission as the Year of European Youth](#) and EARLALL will closely follow up on all events and initiatives that will take place in this

context and that promote the acquisition of skills and competences that are needed for the personal and professional development of our younger generations.

The [ALMA \(Aim, Learn, Master, Achieve\)](#) programme was also announced by President Von der Leyen during her address to the European Parliament in September. ALMA is a cross-border youth mobility scheme that will transform the lives of disadvantaged young people not in employment, education or training. It targets **young people** who:

- have difficulties finding a job
- are in long-term unemployment
- have insufficient school performance or vocational skills
- have a migration background
- or live with disabilities

The programme will be implemented under the ESF with an estimated budget of 15 million for the first year.

Key actions

- YESpecialists Erasmus+ KA2 project PROJECTS
- Needs for Needs Erasmus+ KA2 project (awaiting approval) PROJECTS
- Participation in the European Migration Forum 2022, by the EESC EVENTS
- Renewed ESF Transnational Cooperation Platform – promotion of activities and news among EARLALL members POLICY
- Follow Up the ALMA programme implementation through the ESF funds POLICY
- Participation in 2022 Year of European Youth EVENTS






Working groups involved

- ➔ Youth Policies
- ➔ Inclusive Societies
- ➔ Lifelong Guidance

Strategic development & governance

Working groups

EARLALL's Working Group structure will remain as in 2021:

-  Mobility, led by Borås Municipality on behalf of Region Västra Götaland
-  Lifelong guidance & adult learning, led by Baden-Württemberg
-  Youth policies, led by Tuscany Region
-  Inclusive Societies, supported by the Secretariat
-  Skills & labour market, led by Catalonia

As proposed by the working group leaders, a call for membership to the groups was launched in the autumn 2021. As a result, a renewal of active working group members and EARLALL Member Regions' and Associate Members' engagement in them will take place at the General Assembly 2021.

Member Regions and Associate Members

EARLALL's Member Region structure will remain as in the previous year, with 12 Member Regions and 3 Associate Members. New Member Regions and Associate Members will be sought after by EARLALL Secretariat and current Member Regions and Associate Members.

Internal platform

EARLALL Member Regions and Associate Members have access to a new internal platform that was launched in the autumn of 2021 on Microsoft Teams. Their participation and engagement in it will be boosted by EARLALL's Secretariat, and a feedback survey will be shared with them after one year of its launch in order to collect first impressions and improve it.

Stakeholder cooperation

EARLALL will continue its relations at EU institutional level with the European Commission (DG EMPL, DG EAC, DG CONNECT, JRC) and with the European Parliament (LLL-IG, MEPs, etc.), as well as with other stakeholders, such as the Lifelong Learning Platform, EfVET, the EAEA, and the Goethe Institut.

Communication and dissemination activities

EARLALL communication and dissemination activities will continue to aim at raising and consolidating the profile of the network in the European lifelong learning arena and promote its Member Regions achievements and best practices, along with cooperation projects. Furthermore, a stronger engagement of EARLALL Member Regions and Associate Members will be fostered through the use of digital means (see Internal Platform section above), which will also support the interaction with external stakeholders.

The network's communication strategy will continue the digitalisation efforts that have been developed in the past years and building on the lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, all communication actions will continue the aim of a greener strategy, prioritizing ecological promotion materials when needed and promoting a green way of thinking European advocacy in general.

To fulfil these aims, specific objectives will be the following:

Social media targets

- 🚩 1,900 followers on Twitter
(1,671 as of 29/10/2021)
- 🚩 365 followers on Facebook
(325 as of 29/10/2021)
- 🚩 542 followers on LinkedIn
(462 as of 29/10/2021)

Website targets

- 🚩 Regular posts as up until now
- 🚩 Reach 7,254 website users
(5,280 as of 29/10/2021)

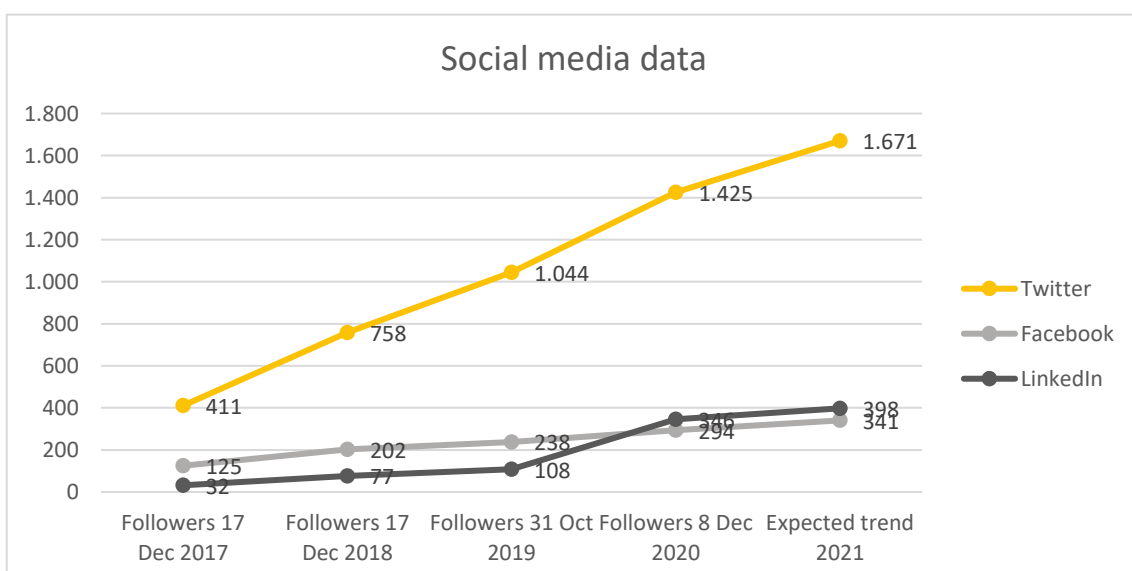
Printed materials

- 🚩 All printed materials shall be made of recycled paper, produced in a way that respects the environment.

Newsletter targets

- 🚩 Reach 520 EARLALL Insights Newsletter subscribers
(489 as of 29/10/2021)
- 🚩 EARLALL Insights, quarterly launched
- 🚩 EARLALL EU Monitoring, monthly launched

These goals and predictions are based on data from previous years:



Not to miss in 2022

Fourth European Education Summit – online event	9.12.21	EC website https://ec.europa.eu/education/summit/next-decade-european-education_en
EU Industry Days	Winter 2022	https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/business-and-industry/eu-industry-days_en
European Vocational Skills Week	Spring 2022	https://ec.europa.eu/social/vocational-skills-week/index_en
European Week of Regions and Cities	Autumn 2022	https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/
Erasmus Days	Autumn 2022	https://www.erasmusdays.eu
7 th European Migration Forum	Autumn 2022	By sending expression of interest to soc@eesc.europa.eu https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/sections-other-bodies/other/european-migration-forum
Lifelong Learning Week	December 2022	https://lllplatform.eu/events/lll-week/

To follow as well:

Cedefop upcoming events (microcredentials, inclusion in CVET, monitoring and evaluation of lifelong guidance...)	https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/events/upcoming-events
OECD Centre for Skills	https://www.oecd.org/skills/
OECD Centre for entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities	https://www.oecd.org/cfe/
SEDEC Commission, Committee of Regions	https://cor.europa.eu/en/our-work/Pages/sedec.aspx
UNESCO UNEVOC (skills for resilience future, future of TVET...)	https://unevoc.unesco.org/home/

Some of EARLALL Events planned for 2022:

Skills Assessing/Adaptation https://s4stride.eu	Rennes	26 to 29 January 2022
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Skills Intelligence Transmission https://s4stride.eu	Vestland	Tbc – spring/summer 2022
Skills Intelligence Implementation https://s4stride.eu	Barcelona	TBC – autumn 2022
YESpecialist workshop on STEAM related areas	Trento	TBC – winter 2022
YESpecialist workshop on Tourism, agriculture, retail and CCI	Varaždin	TBC
REGALE Training on EU policies and programmes	Brussels	Winter 2022
REGALE Training on Advocacy and Communication Strategies	Leicester	Spring/summer 2022
REGALE Training on Building up local ecosystems	Vestland	Spring/Summer 2022
REGALE Webinars: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Guidance 2. Community learning 3. Cross border cooperation 4. Financing adult education 5. Supporting the creation of learning cities 6. Advocating adult education at the local level 7. Innovation in adult learning 8. Adult education and local economy 9. Synergies between adult education and the labour market 10. EU tools applied at the local level 11. Regional lifelong learning policies 	Online	One a month

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