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EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL & LOCAL
AUTHORITIES FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

Work Plan

2023

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EARLALL CONTRIBUTION TO THE 2023 EUROPEAN YEAR OF SKILLS

In her third State of the Union 2022 speech Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, proposed 2023 to be the European Year of Skills. "We need much more focus in our investment on professional education and upskilling," said von der Leyen, "but we also have to attract the right skills to our continent, skills that help companies and strengthen Europe's growth." Moreover, in the 'Education and innovation for skills development: empowering the next generation' workshop organised during the Research and Innovation Days (September 2022) European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth stated that "Education is the heart of the European capacity for innovation". Those will be the inspiring principles in which EARLALL will carry out its activities all along 2023.

Always looking out for the best interest of its Member Regions and aligned with the European Union priorities, EARLALL's Work Plan for 2023 gathers the network's activities and strategic actions under the following key areas:

KEY AREAS

-  Skills at the core of the green and digital transitions
-  Engaged regions and communities through lifelong learning
-  Empowering education providers to become more innovative, inclusive and International
-  Vocational excellence, skills ecosystems and the quadruple helix
-  Adult Learning and Education (ALE) to build resilient regions
-  Young people leading Europe's recovery
-  Skills to support European Industries

EARLALL's work in 2023 will continue the efforts from 2022 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 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 the main focus on VET and ALE systems.

The presidency of the Council of the European Union rotates among the EU member states every six months and is responsible for driving forward the Council's work on EU legislation and determining its agenda. In 2023, it will be the turn of Sweden and Spain to hold their presidencies. EARLALL will look at them to integrate their lifelong learning proposals into the network's agenda. Furthermore, the elections to the European Parliament in 2024 might provide EARLALL's four Working Groups an excellent opportunity to organise preparatory and capacity-building activities.

During the General Assembly, 2021 attention was drawn to the importance of facilitating a platform for the politicians from the twelve EARLALL member regions to meet, share experiences and learn from each other. 2023 as the European Year of Skills provides the best scenario to analyse at the highest level the contribution of European regional and local authorities to supply the right skills and knowledge to Europeans.

EARLALL's Working Groups will continue to build on last year's achievements and develop new activities during 2023. They will tackle the three key actions of the network — policy, projects and events —, which will complement each other and consolidate 2022's work.

THEMATIC AREAS 2023

EARLALL's Work Plan for 2023 gathers the network's activities and strategic actions for the upcoming year under the following key areas:

KEY AREAS

-  Skills at the core of the green and digital transition
-  Engaged Regions through Lifelong learning
-  Empowering education providers to become more innovative, inclusive and international
-  Vocational Excellence, Skills Ecosystems and the quadruple helix
-  Adult learning and education (ALE) to build resilient regions
-  Young People leading Europe's Recovery
-  Skills to support European Industries





SKILLS AT THE CORE OF THE GREEN AND DIGITAL TRANSITION

Becoming the world's first climate-neutral continent is the greatest challenge and opportunity of our times. It involves taking decisive action now.

The green and digital transition is part of Europe's present, gathering all sectors from a transversal perspective 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 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 levels 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 year's 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, carried out together with networks EfVET and EAEA (<https://green-comp.eu>). 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 [European framework for skills for sustainable development](#) by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (published January 2022 and recently translated into all EU languages) and the [Council recommendation on learning for the green transition and sustainable development](#) (June 2022). EARLALL has also been actively promoting the Education for Climate Coalition launched by the European Commission and taking part in its networking events (<https://education-for-climate.ec.europa.eu/en>). SMALEI - Sustainability Matrix for ALE institutions project, will support the network in identifying examples of best practices in the field among its member regions.

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- Digital Apprentices Mobility in the Automotive Sector 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 on green skills during sustainability week (with EfVET and EAEA) **EVENTS**
-  Continuous dialogue with the European Commission, European Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee on the topic of green skills **POLICY**
-  Continuous dialogue with representatives from the different economic sectors in Brussels 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**
-  Follow up Digital Europe programme and possible funding for regional skills ecosystems **POLICY**
-  DAMAS project multiplier event **PROJECT** **EVENTS**
-  SMALEI project **PROJECT**
-  Participation at the EU Vocational Skills Week 2023 **EVENTS**

WORKING GROUPS INVOLVED

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





ENGAGED REGIONS THROUGH LIFELONG LEARNING

The **Pact for Skills** is one of the flagship actions under the European Skills Agenda which was launched by the European Commission in November 2020. It is strongly anchored in the European Pillar of Social Rights and plays an important role in Centres of Vocational Excellence. In these regional ecosystems, the key players are the regions, the local authorities, the companies, VET providers, chambers of commerce and many other organisations. The Pact for Skills is the hub for networking, knowledge, guidance and resources. The European Commission already organised fourteen meetings in different areas like the Automotive sector, Energy Intensive Industries, Renewable Energies and others.

The Pact for Skills builds on other initiatives like the Blueprint for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills, reinforced European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EaFA) and Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition. Skills are still the keyword in the European Union and will be reinforced by the European Year of Skills 2023. Regional and local participation in the pact is essential. Therefore, EARLALL will continue to provide several activities connected to skills and in the context of the Pact since the Association became a Pact for Skills member and Regional Skills Alliance in 2022. EARLALL is also invited to take part in the Pact for Skills Exchange Meetings with Stakeholders and has the acknowledgement of the European Commission regarding its initiatives.

The RegALE: Regional Capacity for Adult Learning and Education project, co-led by EARLALL, will continue in 2023 through its piloting phase to facilitate the setting up of regional alliances between public authorities and education providers. Possible connections between the project and the Pact for Skills will also be explored.

In 2023, the **presidency of the Council of the European Union** will be held by Sweden (from 1 January to 30 June) and Spain (from 1 July to 31 December). To ensure continuity member states are holding the presidency of the Council of the EU working together closely in groups of three, called 'trios'. Therefore, Sweden will be part of the trio composed of France, the Czech Republic and Sweden. The next trio will start the first quarter of the year 2023 combining the presidencies of the Czech Republic, Sweden and Spain. The three Member States are already working closely together. In the second quarter of the year 2023 the countries represented in the trio are Sweden, Spain and Belgium. The Swedish and the Spanish presidencies' priorities will inspire EARLALL activities in 2023. The Secretariat and Working Groups will make sure that the connection is made.

One of the keywords in the Lisbon Strategy (2009) is **democracy**; Democratic equality, Representative democracy and Participatory democracy. This brings the next elections of the Members of the European Parliament in mind. They are held every five years and the next time will be on **6-9 June 2024** for the 2024-2029 term. The participation rate at the last elections in 2019 was set at 50.66% where the EARLALL member regions/ associate members are situated between 32.64% and 61.38%. In other words, political and administrative representatives in all EARLALL member regions have a very important role in strengthening citizens' participation. EARLALL believes that it is important to take up an active role and propose capacity-building activities during 2023 and the first half of 2024 in the member regions so that the participation of Europeans in the elections is increased, especially among young people.

The war in **Ukraine** has turned EARLALL member regions' priorities in 2022 upside-down. With Ukraine foremost on everyone's minds in 2023, policymakers, education providers, students, industry leaders, and government representatives will continue to support those fleeing the war and provide flexible and appropriate education schemes for those arriving in our countries and regions. EARLALL will continue to explore EU funding options to share and promote inclusion methods and tools. Joint projects under Erasmus+, ESF+, AMIF, Horizon Europe, etc will be analysed and discussed at the working group meetings. The Interreg Europe recently submitted project ULISES could also be a platform to discuss on the integration of migrants young people in EARLALL members' education systems.

KEY ACTIONS

-  Strengthening citizens' participation - Roundtable with the politicians' POLICY EVENTS
-  Exchange and networking meetings Pact for Skills (knowledge hub) POLICY EVENTS
-  The European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAfA) POLICY EVENTS
-  Apprenticeship Support Services - Knowledge-sharing, Networking and EARLALL High-level event for politicians - 2023 European Year of Skills POLICY EVENTS
-  Benchlearning (EAfA) POLICY EVENTS
-  ULISES project (pending approval - Interreg Europe) PROJECT





EMPOWERING EDUCATION PROVIDERS TO BECOME MORE INNOVATIVE, INCLUSIVE AND INTERNATIONAL

EARLALL work under this thematic priority in 2023 will explore actions in the following areas:

a) The New European Bauhaus, put its focus on the concept of sustainable transformation concentrated around three words: “beautiful”, “sustainable”, and “together” How can this be done when many come together to transform happen in our learning environments? Informal and formal education joining forces? Social sustainability at its best – hand in hand with ecological sustainability? The ideas are many and change is needed. We need to innovate the way we innovate!

From a learning point of view, it is about harnessing students’ creativity and desire to learn, how to provide student-centred education and create a learning environment relevant for their present and future. The new Bauhaus initiative connects strongly to the European Green Deal and was mentioned for the first time in September 2020 by President Ursula von der Leyen. “If the European Green Deal has a soul, then it is the New European Bauhaus which has led to an explosion of creativity across our Union”.

The European Commission launched in the framework of the New European Bauhaus an open call to join a wide network making a difference in all areas where people learn. See here to learn more about the call on the Transformation of places of learning and share your project/initiative! See the new EP study on the Bauhaus.

b) “Mobility should be an EU financed fundamental right” said by Margaritis Schinas, Vice-President of the European Commission in the celebration of the 35th anniversary of the Erasmus+. Through the Erasmus+ programme, individuals – staff members and students- have excellent learning opportunities. Connected to the European Year of Skills 2023 and the Pact for Skills as well mobility will be highlighted in different EARLALL events during the year.

c) Promotion of activities organised by our members. EARLALL members organise and run many interesting local and regional projects and initiatives with big impact . There are good reasons for sharing results, experiences and best practices. The regions and the municipalities can learn from each other, scaling up the results of successful development and creating new partnerships. EARLALL communication strategy in 2023 will be evaluated and reinforced to allow for the most efficient exploitation and promotion of the association’s best practices.

d) Gender equality Task Force. According to Eurostat, on 1 January 2021, the population of the EU was estimated at 447.0 million inhabitants. 51% of the EU inhabitants are women with a life expectancy at birth of 5.5 years higher than the one of men. However, the EU employment rate for men of working age was 79.0 % in 2019, exceeding that of women (67.3 %) by 11.7 percentage points. The European labour market is then male-dominated despite having a higher number of active women who also live longer than men.

Lifelong learning is key to accompanying European citizens in reaching out their full potential and in increasing their chances to excel professionally and fulfilling their aspirations and personal development. In line with this, the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan (March 2021) sets a new target whereby at least 60% of all adults should participate in training every year by 2030. The skills challenge that a post-pandemic Europe faces to successfully respond to the digital and twin transitions require gender-sensitive initiatives and policies.

EARLALL together with the European Forum for Vocational Education and Training (EFVET) and the European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA) are setting up a dynamic Task Force aiming at raising awareness of the importance of increasing the participation of women in lifelong learning, and notably in technical (STEM/STEAM oriented) disciplines and professions and also to review male participation in adult learning. Online meetings, joint workshops, project proposals, etc will be proposed within the TF all along 2023. The first meeting will take place in December 2022.

e) Support to teachers/trainers + administrative staff in regions

Margaritis Schinas, Vice-President of the European Commission in the celebration of the 35th anniversary of the Erasmus+ underlined the programme is the soul of Europe and the most successful EU programme. In fact, the Erasmus+ programme provides many opportunities for organisations and individuals like teachers, trainers, administrative staff, and students. Some people might believe that they don't have the means nor the competences to write a successful proposal, but nothing is impossible. One of the target groups of the Erasmus+ programme is the newcomers without experience in transnational cooperation. In 2023 there will be some EARLALL initiatives like webinars for capacity building in Erasmus+ Key Action 1 "Learning Mobility of Individuals" and Key Action 2 "Cooperation among organisations and institutions".

In the context of the **LCAMP – Learner Centric Advanced Manufacturing Platform for CoVEs** – EARLALL Secretariat will organise a training workshop on tips and tricks for effective dissemination of results. EARLALL members will be welcome to join this training too.

KEY ACTIONS

-  New European Bauhaus – Innovative Learning Places and Training (webinar) EVENTS
-  Erasmus+ KA1 – Info session (webinar) for newcomers with a focus on short-term projects EVENTS
-  Erasmus+ KA2 - Info session (webinar) for newcomers with focus on Small Scale Partnerships EVENTS
-  Mobility Matchmaking Tool for EARLALL members PROJECT
-  Evaluation of mobility within EARLALL regions – impact for different stakeholders POLICY
-  Joint needs analyses among the Working groups and proposals PROJECT
-  Training Workshop on "Tips and Tricks for effective dissemination of project results" (within LCAMP project) EVENTS
-  Running and participating in the "Gender Transformation" with the European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (EfVET) and the European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA) POLICY EVENTS PROJECT

WORKING GROUPS INVOLVED

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



VOCATIONAL EXCELLENCE, SKILLS ECOSYSTEMS AND THE QUADRUPLE HELIX

Vocational excellence is key to promoting regional lifelong learning practices at their best and supporting Smart Specialisation Strategies. Since the launch of the European Skills Agenda Strategy in July 2020, VET and vocational excellence have been at the central stage in policy initiatives at the EU level aiming at making Europe a more inclusive, innovative and sustainable world economy. EARLALL has been very active in promoting EU initiatives that reinforce VET and promote vocational excellence such as European Alliance for Apprenticeships, the Pact for Skills, the European Vocational Skills Week, etc. Moreover, joint EU-funded proposals and projects, such as LCAMP: Learner Centric Advanced Manufacturing Platform for CoVEs, have been discussed at the working group level and shared among members. 2023 will follow the same actions and consolidate on the concept of vocational excellence which entails a holistic learner-centred approach in which VET:

- Is an integrative part of skills ecosystems, contributing to regional development, innovation, and smart specialisation strategies
- Is part of the research, education, and innovation, working closely with other education and training sectors, the scientific community, and business
- Enables learners to acquire both vocational and key competences through high-quality education that is supported by quality assurance, builds innovative forms of partnerships with the world of work, and is supported by the continuous professional development of teaching and training staff, innovative teaching methods, mobility and internationalisation strategies.

VET excellence ensures high-quality skills and competences that lead to quality employment and career-long opportunities, which meet the needs of an innovative, inclusive and sustainable economy. The EC is organising a first Forum on Vocational Excellence – ‘Global partnership for Vocational Excellence’ on 15 – 16 November 2022 in San Sebastian. The event will be a unique opportunity to inform, involve, inspire and learn on the different CoVEs project and other Vocational Excellence initiatives deployed in Europe and beyond. It will also count with the participation of high level political representatives and VET stakeholders. EARLALL will join the event representing the key role that public authorities at regional level play in fostering skills ecosystems that are relevant for regional development and growth.

The Quadruple Helix Model of innovation recognizes four major actors in the innovation system: science, policy, industry, and society. In keeping with this model, more and more regional governments are prioritizing greater public involvement in innovation processes. EARLALL will, in 2023, continue to explore the best ways to gather major stakeholders to promote skills alliances and ecosystems that strive for inclusiveness and innovation.

Since being recognised as a Regional Partnership under the Pact for Skills in July 2022, EARLALL is taking part in Exchange meetings and networking events with the European Commission and other members of the Pact to foster up and re-skilling to ensure that everyone can participate and benefit from the twin transitions.

KEY ACTIONS

-  Participation in the Vocational Excellence Forum organised by the EC and hosted by the Basque Government in San Sebastian (15 - 16 November 2022) **POLICY** **EVENTS**
-  Joint needs analyses among the Working groups and proposals **PROJECT**
-  Validation, Microcredentials, Individual learning Accounts, European Qualification Framework **EVENTS**
-  European Year of Skills 2023 **EVENTS**
-  Participation in the European Vocational Skills Week 2023 **EVENTS**
-  New Centre of Vocational Excellence proposal **PROJECT**
-  Participation in the Apprenticeship Support Services (EC expert Group) **POLICY**
-  Participation at the Exchange Meetings with the EC (Pact for Skills, expert group) : Meetings on Skills to support regional development strategies (13 February 2023); Skills anticipation (17 April 2023) and Skills for green and digital transition (3 July 2023) **POLICY**
-  CoVEs Community of Practice, follow-up and participation **POLICY**
-  LCAMP promotion and participation in meetings **PROJECT**
-  SKYLA (pending approval) **PROJECT** **EVENTS**
-  DUAL PLUS 3.0 (pending approval) **PROJECT** **EVENTS**

WORKING GROUPS INVOLVED

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





ADULT LEARNING AND EDUCATION (ALE) TO BUILD RESILIENT REGIONS

The **Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union** in 2021 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 the European level also in 2022 and 2023. The engagement of regional and local authorities in ALE has been promoted in the last years through pilot network initiatives, within which the RegALE: Regional Capacity for Adult Learning and Education project was created, and growing support from different governance levels 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 2023, based on a strong cooperation with ALE providers and the administration and policy levels, along with stakeholders at the European level, such as the EAEA. EARLALL Secretariat will boost the network's participation in the EPALE 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.

The revision of the Validation of non-formal and informal learning Guidelines are under preparation by Cedefop and the EC and its publication due in 2023. EARLALL is taking part in the group of stakeholders that is providing advice to Cedefop regarding these and will promote the Validation Festival to take place in May 2023.

KEY ACTIONS

-  RegALE: Regional Capacity for Adult Learning and Education **PROJECT**
-  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**
-  Webinar on Validation and Micro-credentials **EVENTS**
-  Mobility Guidance course online **EVENTS**
-  Follow up on the revision and publication by Cedefop of the Guidelines for Validation of prior learning **POLICY**
-  Participation in the Validation Festival (May 2023) **POLICY** **EVENTS**
-  Increased presence on EPALE: development of an action plan, regular blog posts and interaction with key stakeholders **POLICY**

WORKING GROUPS INVOLVED

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



YOUNG PEOPLE LEADING EUROPE'S 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 and social side.

EARLALL and its member regions have been acknowledging the importance of supporting young people in this context of uncertainty and instability. The **Neets for Neets** project (Co-creating social sustainability), the **Yespecialists** (Promoting entrepreneurship for young people in rural areas) one or the Tuscan initiative '**Siete Presente**' (Be present) are clear examples of actions that are making the younger generation the protagonist of change and that is placing them at the heart of the recovery.

The European institutions have also recognised the necessity to accompany and empower Europe's younger generations by celebrating 2022 as the European Year of Youth (https://youth.europa.eu/year-of-youth_en), with the approval of initiatives such as the ALMA programme or the revision of apprenticeship schemes to improve their quality and effectiveness as a transition from education to work. EARLALL is closely following up on all events and initiatives that have taken place in this context and that are promoting the acquisition of skills and competences that are needed for the personal and professional development of our younger generations.

In 2023 EARLALL actions will consolidate the celebration of the European Year of Youth 2022 but given the elections to the European Parliament in 2024 and the rise of extremist political positions in different European countries, we will put forward initiatives that deal with concepts such as democratisation, information, citizenship and literacy, among others.

The concept of Media and information literacy (MIL) has often come to be equated with the concepts of source criticism and source confidence, but it is much broader than this. It is an evolving field, as technology and media use are constantly changing. It is about Information Literacy, Media Literacy, along with ICT and Digital Literacy. MIL includes knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for active citizenship: for everyone to be able to access reliable information, form opinions and make their voice heard. In the wake of the European Year of Youth, the target group for events will be youth. Among other things, MIL is about understanding the role of the media in society finding, analysing and critically evaluating information and expressing themselves and creating content in different media. The Council of Europe has taken a two-fold approach to MIL; The first objective is to set MIL within institutional frameworks and the second objective is to provide tools for empowering individual media users of all ages and walks of life." Even UNESCO is engaged in this area and its MIL Alliance Youth Committee aims to enable meaningful and structured youth participation in societies at global, regional, national and local levels.

KEY ACTIONS

- MIL - How to manage, evaluate and analyse the flow of information **EVENTS**
- Follow Up activities 2022 European Year of Youth **POLICY**
- YESpecialists **PROJECT**
- YES Festival in Brussels, March 2023 **EVENTS**
- Needs for Needs **PROJECT**
- New project proposals to support young people **PROJECT**
- ULISES - INTERREG PROPOSAL (pending approval) **PROJECT**
- Participation in the European Migration Forum 2022 and 2023, by the EESC **EVENTS**
- Participation in the Education Summit - December 2022 **EVENTS**
- Follow Up discussions at ILO and EP on quality of apprenticeships **POLICY**
- Participation in EaFA events and Apprenticeships Support Services **POLICY** **EVENTS**
- Follow Up the ALMA programme implementation through the ESF funds **POLICY**

WORKING GROUPS INVOLVED

- Youth Policies
- Lifelong Guidance
- Mobility
- Skills and Labour Market





SKILLS TO SUPPORT EUROPEAN INDUSTRIES

In her third State of the Union speech, **Ursula von der Leyen** underlined the need for “an enabling business environment, a workforce with the right skills and access to raw materials that our industry needs.” In addition, the **Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU** highlights that the decarbonisation of the EU industry and the transition from natural gas to hydrogen represents an important goal requiring the implementation of an ambitious plan for the development of hydrogen infrastructure, storage and terminals (including a skilled workforce). The war in Ukraine and the trade relationships with China have affected the supply of many important components that are needed for the European industry to be a world-class leader and to be able to manufacture goods that are used by European citizens. This dependency on external supply sources has pushed EU leaders to take action and encourage the EU industry to be self-sustained with the implications that this strategy will have on the provision of skills, upskilling and reskilling of workers.

The **European Green Deal and the Digital Transition** affect many industries that will have to change how they work, the technology that they use and the interactions that they have with their local and regional actors. As reflected by the **New Industrial Strategy for Europe**, moving towards a low-carbon economy will create more than 1 million jobs by 2030, and, what is more, industrial transitions will require reskilling and upskilling more than 120 million Europeans in the next five years.

These changes are already pushing the acquisition **of a whole new set of skills, from technical to soft ones**, that allow full participation in the economic activity and the labour market but, beyond them, **a new culture needs to be developed also in the workplace by introducing small but significant changes in the way people interact with each other and with technology**.

Amongst European companies, SMEs are the most vulnerable group, the ones that are more likely to suffer the effects of the twin transitions, according to the New Industrial Strategy for Europe, “Small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) account for over 99% of all European firms – the vast majority of which are family-run companies – and are our economic and social backbone”. EARLALL and its member regions need to support them through the provision of relevant training and the lightening of administrative procedures.

Up and re-skilling in **industrial ecosystems** can help tackle the hampering of economic growth, skills mismatches and shortages by establishing and cultivating collaboration around the principle of workforce development, ensuring that the supply of skills matches the actual demand. The Pact for Skills calls on all industrial ecosystems’ stakeholders (including EARLALL and its member regions) to work together and make a clear commitment to invest in training for all working-age people across the Union.

EARLALL Working Group for Skills and Labour Market and Lifelong Guidance and the joint initiatives with EfVET and EAEA (GreenComp and Gender equality Task Force) will become the best fora to start discussing up and re-skilling strategies for European citizens.

KEY ACTIONS

-  Exchange Meetings with stakeholders under the Pact for Skills **EVENTS**
-  Industry Days in May 2023 **EVENTS**
-  Proposal in Energy under CoVEs (Battery) **PROJECT**
-  Dialogue with different Industry ecosystems and economic sector through the GreenComp initiative set with EfVET **POLICY**
-  Women in industry workshop to be organised under the Gender equality Task Force **EVENTS**

WORKING GROUPS INVOLVED

-  Skills & Labour Market
-  Lifelong Guidance & Ageing Societies



STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT & GOVERNANCE

WORKING GROUPS

EARLALL's Working Group structure will remain the same in 2023:

-  Mobility, led by Region Västra Götaland and co-hosted by Movetia
-  Lifelong guidance & ageing societies, led by Baden-Württemberg
-  Youth policies, led by Tuscany Region
-  Skills & labour market, led by Catalonia

A new Task Force will join the work of the association: Gender Equality Task Force, an initiative that has been put forward by EARLALL and two other networks of education providers: EfVET and EAEA.

INTERNAL PLATFORM

EARLALL Member Regions and Associate Members have access to the 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 in early 2023 in order to collect first impressions and improve it.

STAKEHOLDER COOPERATION

EARLALL will continue its relations at the 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, the Goethe Institut or the Automotive Skills Alliance. Two European Commission initiatives, the Pact for Skills through its Exchange Meetings with stakeholders and networking events as well as EAfA and its Apprenticeships Support Services, facilitate the interaction between EARLALL and representatives from the businesses, trade unions, chambers of commerce, SMEs and industries, students/learners, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

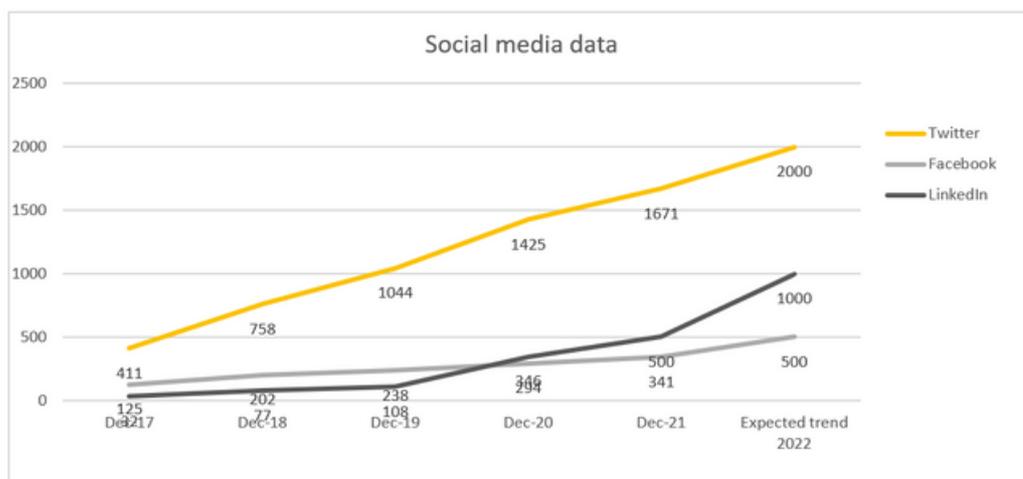
EARLALL communication and dissemination activities will continue to aim at raising and consolidating the profile of the network in the European lifelong learning arena and promote its Member Regions' achievements and best practices, along with cooperation projects. Furthermore, a stronger engagement 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 build 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 in European advocacy in general.

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

Social media targets 	Website targets 
 2,000 followers on Twitter (1,815 as of 29/09/2022)	 Regular posts as up until now
 500 followers on Facebook (321 as of 29/09/2022)	 Reach 8,000 website users (6,000 as of 29/09/2022)
 1,000 followers on LinkedIn (793 as of 29/09/2022)	
Printed materials	Newsletter targets
 All printed materials shall be made of recycled paper, produced in a way that respects the environment.	 Reach 700 EARLALL Insights Newsletter subscribers (518 as of 29/09/2022)
	 EARLALL Insights, quarterly launched (external contacts)
	 EARLALL EU Monitoring, monthly launched (only for members)

These goals and predictions are based on data from previous year



NOT TO MISS IN 2023

First Forum on Vocational Excellence – Global Partnership for Vocational Skills	San Sebastian 15-16.11.2022	EC website
Fifth European Education Summit – hybrid	1.12.22	EC website https://education.ec.europa.eu/whats-new/events?
EU Industry Days – hybrid	Winter 2023	https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/business-and-industry/eu-industry-days_en
EU Validation Festival	May 2023	
European Vocational Skills Week	Spring or Autumn 2023	https://ec.europa.eu/social/vocational-skills-week/index_en
European Week of Regions and Cities	Autumn 2023	https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/
Erasmus Days	Autumn 2023	https://www.erasmusdays.eu
8th European Migration Forum	Autumn 2023	By sending an 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 2023	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 2023

Skills Assessing/Adaptation https://s4stride.eu	8-10 November 2022	Rennes
Skills Intelligence Implementation https://s4stride.eu	Spring 2023 (TBC)	Barcelona
Individual learning accounts	Spring 2023 (TBC)	Online
Info session Erasmus+ KA1	Autumn 2023	Online
Info session Erasmus+ KA2	Autumn 2023	Online
YESpecialists: Youth Entrepreneurial Spirit Specialist // Festival	02 March 2023	Brussels
Workshop on Dissemination tips and tricks (context of LCAMP project)	Autumn 2023	Hybrid (tbc)
Validation and micro-credentials	Spring 2023	Online
DAMAS final event	May 2023	Brussels
Needs for Needs training	December 2022	Stuttgart
High level for politicians	TBD	TBD
Event EU Sustainability Week – GreenComp	September 2023	Brussels and online
Event EU Week of Regions and Cities - REGALE	October 2023	Brussels and online
Women in Industry (TF)	Spring 2023	Online



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EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL & LOCAL
AUTHORITIES FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

www.earlall.eu

EARLALL - European Association of Regional & Local Authorities for Lifelong Learning

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