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EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL & LOCAL
AUTHORITIES FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

Annual Report 2022 - 2023





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Executive Summary

2022 – 2023 has been a remarkable year for the EARLALL network. The network has expanded, welcoming Camilla Winter AB as an associate member in October 2022, Centre Val-De-Loire a full member in September 2023 and Taith as an associate member also in September 2023. The expansion of the network marks a new era of greater strength in diversity and increased dynamism across our membership. Moreover, in May 2023, the European Year of Skills was officially launched by the European Commission. As a response, EARLALL organised its flagship event, the ‘EARLALL Regional Exchange: Policies and Practices in Lifelong Learning’, as discussed during the EARLALL General Assembly 2022. In June 20-21 2023, representatives from across the European Association of Regional and Local Authorities for Lifelong Learning (EARLALL) network gathered at the Representation of the State of Baden-Württemberg to the European Union (Brussels, Belgium). The event gathered 50 representatives from across the network and was an opportunity for in-person networking, exchange, debate and ideas related to lifelong learning and EARLALL. **The event strongly shaped the 2023-2024 Work Plan and gave impetus to the strategic priorities which will define the next 5 year period.** Along with this initiative, 2022 – 2023 was a fruitful year for the network and showed greater engagement with a variety of stakeholders, including through the launch of the Gender Equality Task Force with EAEA and EfVET, and participation in activities organised by the EAfA (European Alliance for Apprenticeships), Pact For Skills Initiative, the OECD and many other organisations. The purpose of this current document is to **review the 2022-2023 activities of the EARLALL network, in relation to the 2023 Work Plan, as approved in the General Assembly of 2022.** To this end, it considers the key areas and goals laid out in the previous year, and evaluates the activities and initiatives led by the network and through the secretariat. It tackles each thematic priority in the order of the 2022 – 2023 Work Plan and lays out the activities that were held throughout the year to this end.



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Member Regions (September 2023)



EARLALL's Contribution to the European Year of Skills



The European Year of Skills was announced by the European Commission President, Ursula Von der Leyen, during her third State of the Union Address before the Members of the European Parliament in Strasbourg on 14 September 2022. The Year of Skills was officially proposed by the European Commission in October 2022 and a political agreement was reached on 7 March 2023, agreeing to launch the year officially on May 9 2023. It will run until May 2024. EARLALL set the goal in 2022 to work

within the framework of the European Year of Skills under the following key areas:

- Green and Digital Skills Transition
- Engaging 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 to build resilient regions
- Young people leading Europe's Recovery
- Skills to support European Industries

In the first half of 2023 alone, EARLALL contributed to the Year through key initiatives including participation by the EARLALL Director in the Committee of the Region's 153rd Plenary meeting debate on the European Year of Skills; launching a European Year of Skills Website page under 'Activities'; launching the #TogetherForLifelongLearning EARLALL campaign branding and hosting the EARLALL Regional Exchange, including four-panel discussions pertinent to the theme of the Year and a Roundtable on the role of regions during the European Year of Skills. The following initiatives were part of EARLALL's heightened contribution to the year:

Events

EARLALL comments on the proposal of the European Parliament and the Council on a European Year of Skills | September 2023

EARLALL responded to the proposal by the European Commission on the European Year of Skills, firstly through an online consultation and secondly by responding to a request from the European Parliament for a more detailed response. EARLALL stressed the importance of skills being important in a lifelong learning context and not only the labour market, as well as the importance of the local and regional level.

EARLALL Brussels-Based Representatives Exchange on the Year of Skills | December 2023



EARLALL Brussels-based representatives met on 14 December 2022 in the Basque Delegation in Brussels, the office of the current presidency of the network. The meeting opened with a presentation from Anna Carerro, Deputy Head of Unit – Vocational Education and Training, Cedefop at the DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion in the European Commission, about the European Year Of Skills. In this meeting, representatives agreed to provide new information on their upcoming initiatives within the year.

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EARLALL Launches a dedicated webpage on the European Year of Skills | March 2023



As a response to the growing need for visibility of the European Year of Skills and the importance of situating EARLALL within the framework of the EU policy, EARLALL launched a webpage dedicated to the initiatives of the network throughout the year. It is to be updated regularly throughout 2023-2024. [The website is accessible here.](#)

Call for Member Information for the European Year of Skills | January 2023

Following the December 2023 meeting among Brussels-based EARLALL representatives, the secretariat launched a call for information on members' initiatives that they were planning within the context of the year. This information was planned to be shared with the European Commission, as representatives expressed their interest in hearing from the regions.

EARLALL highlights the role of its regions at the 153rd CoR Plenary Sessions | February 2023

On 9 February 2023, the Committee of the Regions 153rd Plenary session hosted a Debate on the European Year of Skills. During the debate, Noelia Cantero, Director of the European Association of Regions and Local Authorities for Lifelong Learning (EARLALL), highlighted the importance of the role of regions and the EARLALL network. She referred to how EARLALL, as a network of member regions, is currently working to share challenges and good practices, acquire new knowledge and participate in joint projects in a wide range of topics: from Vocational Excellence to Youth entrepreneurship, NEETs, or Smart Specialisation Strategies, funded under Erasmus+ and Interreg Europe and led mostly by regional authorities.



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EARLALL contributes to the European Year of Skills campaign through video | April 2023

As part of the European Commission's online strategy for increasing the visibility of the European Year of Skills, the EARLALL Secretariat was asked to contribute to the 'European Year of Skills Stories', sharing how they developed their skills in their roles.



EARLALL participates in the "Making Skills Count" conference, Brussels | June 2023



The 'Making Skills Count' conference was one of the flagship events taking place during the European Year of Skills, held from June 8- 9 2023. The conference brought together policymakers, experts, and stakeholders from across Europe to explore the significance of skills in various contexts. The event featured engaging discussions, inspiring speeches, and thought-provoking panels that shed light on the importance of skills in driving economic growth and societal well-being. EARLALL

projects SMALEI and LCAMP were also discussed through the second panel and gallery walkway.

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EARLALL Regional Exchange: Practices and Policies in Lifelong Learning | June 2023

The highlight of EARLALL's contribution to the European Year of Skills so far was the high-level regional exchange "Practices and Policies in Lifelong Learning", held in Brussels from June 20 – 21. Representatives from across the network gathered at the Representation of the State of Baden-Württemberg to the European Union (Brussels, Belgium). The two-day conference welcomed more than 50 political and technical representatives from across EARLALL's 12 members and 4 associate



members to discuss internally and exchange. Representatives discussed four pertinent topics over the two days: Digitalisation and Skills, Innovation, Internationalisation and Attractiveness.



Moreover, during the reception evening proposed by the EARLALL Network on June 20, regional and local authorities, as well as engaged Brussels stakeholders, were able to take stock of the opportunities and challenges of regions during the capacity-building efforts in lifelong learning of the year and beyond. It was opened by a keynote speech on Lifelong learning and upskilling pathways for an adaptable labour market by Mr Stefan

Olsson, Deputy Director General, Jobs Skills and Social Policies, DG for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission. Mr Olsson underscored how the European Year of Skills was much less about implementation and more about shifting mindsets and increasing the dialogue on skills and being critical of what has been done to date.

The event overall strongly helped to inform the 2023 – 2024 Work Plan as EARLALL's network identified the need for common priorities and joint initiatives. It also made the need for a strategic plan evident. The Regional Exchange report can be found in an Annex to this current report.

 [READ MORE](#) | [EVENT REPORT](#)

Green and Digital Skills Transition

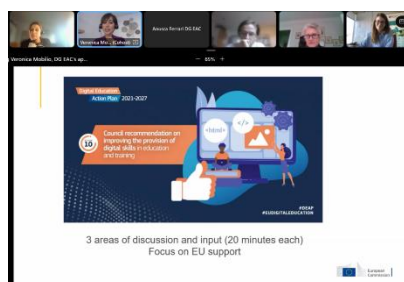
Education and training policies and practices are at the core of the green and digital ‘twin transition’, equipping citizens with the skills they need to thrive in their work and personal lives. In 2022 – 2023, EARLALL set out a goal to continue its work in the fields of green and digital skills and 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. With this in mind, specific targets were set and many were achieved:

- Workshop on green skills during sustainability week (with EfVET and EAEA) | **Transformed to session during the European Week of Regions and Cities 2023**
- A continuous dialogue with the European Commission, European Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee on the topic of green skills | **Ongoing**
- A continuous dialogue with representatives from the different economic sectors in Brussels on the topic of green skills | **Ongoing**
- Monitoring and assessing the potential involvement of EARLALL in the Education for Climate Coalition (European Commission) | **Ongoing**
- Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition and Platform – promotion of activities and news among EARLALL members | **Ongoing**
- Follow up Digital Europe programme and possible funding for regional skills ecosystems
- DAMAS project multiplier event | **Achieved**
- Progress with the SMALEI project: new LinkedIn Group and key developments | **Ongoing**
- Participation at the EU Vocational Skills Week 2023 | **Upcoming**

In addition to the activities laid above, the EARLALL network has been active in the field of green and digital skills, notably through the launch of a new **Interreg Europe project, SKYLA – Smart specialisation skills ecosystems for the Twin Transition**. All of the activities in this area can be found below:

Events

EARLALL Participated in the European Commission’s Stakeholder Consultation on Digital Skills | 21 October 2022

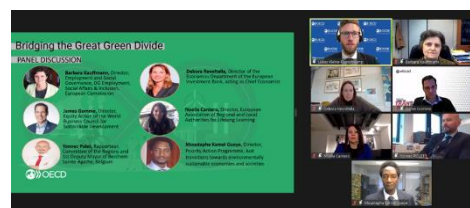


On 21 October 2022, the European Commission invited EARLALL to participate in the Stakeholders’ Consultation on the proposals for Council Recommendations on digital education and skills. The online participatory workshop aimed to discuss the Council Recommendation Proposals on 1) Enabling Factors for Digital Education and 2) Improving the Provision of Digital Skills in Education and Training, in the context of the Digital Education Action Plan 2021-2027.

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EARLALL participates in OECD Webinar on 'Bridging the Great Green Divide' | March 2023

On 14 March 2023, the OECD held a webinar “Bridging the Great Green Divide” for the launch of their report under the same name. The 2023 edition of the Job Creation and Local Economic Development report provides new insights on the impact of the green transition on local labour markets and jobs. Ms Cantero, Director of EARLALL, took the floor. Ms Cantero referenced the results of the RegALE – Regional Capacity Building in Adult Learning Education – report, which states that despite the importance of adult learning policies, too few regional policies pay attention to them. Despite this, “one of the most important ways to meet the green skills needs at the local level is through setting up skills ecosystems.” Ms Cantero pointed towards examples from the EARLALL network, including the use of territorial committees in Brittany, the Competence Forum in Vestland and the Pact for Training in the Municipality of Livorno, Tuscany.



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EARLALL supports the ALL Digital Campaign | April – May 2023



EARLALL became a partner of ALL DIGITAL Weeks, the annual digital inclusion and empowerment campaign involving centres, libraries, community centres, schools and other venues across Europe. The three weeks of the campaign will focus on the following specific core themes under which all the training and events will be organised at international and national levels across Europe. It will focus on Digital Skills for “Equity, Diversity and Inclusion” encompassing issues such as migration, democratisation, gender gap, and ethnicity; DigComp and Digital Skills Certifications, Digital media literacy and culture, Cybersecurity and safer internet, Digital Skills for Environment and

Sustainability, Digital Skills for specific sectors.

Projects and project events

Kick-off for the Interreg Europe project SKYLA – Smart Specialisation Skills Ecosystems for the Twin Transition| May 15-16 2023



**Interreg
Europe**



Co-funded by
the European Union

SKYLA

On 15-16 May 2023, EARLALL hosted the kickoff to the new Interreg Europe project SKYLA: Smart Specialisation Skills Ecosystems for the Twin Transition, at the Regional Government of Tuscany Brussels Office. The SKYLA project seeks to support public authorities in putting future skills at the centre of the twin transitions for a smarter, more resilient development, by boosting

and adapting the role of VET in innovation ecosystems and smart specialisation strategies. It is led by the Agency for the Development of the Empolese Valdelsa, Tuscany, in consortium with 11 partners across 8 regions in the European Union. SKYLA will seek to achieve the following specific goals:

- 1) encourage interregional learning on policy adaptation and modernisation required to adapt VET systems and facilities and integrate them into S3/S4 processes and innovation ecosystems;
- 2) understand how public policy can address these needs and challenges;
- 3) design, and initiate implementation of, policy improvements to integrate skills into the twin transition, with a new role for VET systems/facilities and better capacity among public authorities to implement approaches;
- 4) implement, extend and monitor policy improvements, using territorial resources

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SMALEI – Sustainability Matrix for Adult Education Institutions – new LinkedIn Group and key developments



The SMALEI Erasmus+ project aims to improve the sustainability of adult learning and education (ALE) providers and organisations all over Europe and to increase their capacity to contribute to forward-looking societal developments. The project will raise awareness about the environmental and climate change challenges and enable ALE institutions to take concrete actions toward sustainable growth. Green competencies and methodologies for ALE educators and staff will be developed to foster behavioural changes and contribute to the environmental sustainability of the European Union. Project partners will develop a matrix to assess the existing conditions of sustainability aspects, hands-on tools and policy recommendations in ALE organisations. The products will be tested by all partners so that results could be transferred to other organisations and

countries. SMALEI will motivate institutions to cooperate more with stakeholders from other sectors and take an active role in strengthening European active citizenship.

Key Events in 2022 – 2023:

- SMALEI launched its official website
- SMALEI partners meet in Poland for the second in-person TPM
- SMALEI and EARLALL launch the LinkedIn Group 'Green Adult Learning and Education'
- The Matrix is created in a first draft and reaches the piloting phase

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Engaged Regions Through Lifelong Learning

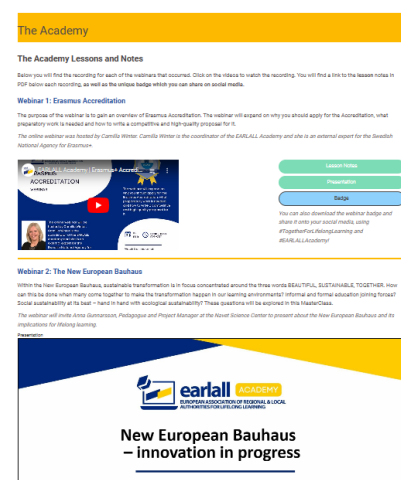
Recognising the importance of fostering and cultivating learning environments and initiatives at the regional level to support lifelong learning for individuals, EARLALL's Work Plan 2022 – 2023 laid out key initiatives to support collaborations among various stakeholders, such as educational institutions, government bodies, businesses, community organizations, and individuals. It set out the specific key actions:

- Strengthening citizens' participation – roundtable with politicians | **Transformed to cooperation with ETF in this field for Ukrainian local authorities**
- Exchange and networking meetings in the Pact for Skills | **Ongoing**
- European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAfA) | **Ongoing**
- Apprenticeship Support Services | **Ongoing**
- EARLALL High-Level Event for Politicians during the European Year of Skills | **Completed**
- ULISES project submission | **Re-submitted**

In addition to the key actions laid out in the 2022 – 2023 work plan, EARLALL contributed to engaging regions through lifelong learning through the following actions:

Events

EARLALL Academy Launched with Two Sessions | February 2023



On February 16 2023, the EARLALL Academy kicked off with a webinar on Erasmus+ Accreditation. The Academy has been launched to best fulfil EARLALL's ambitious work plan and to continue to support its members in their capacity-building at the local and regional level of lifelong learning. In each MasterClass, we will invite a new speaker to give an in-depth lesson on transversal themes and topics pertinent to the whole network. The online classes will be learning opportunities tailor-made for the needs of EARLALL's members. The second session was held on the New European Bauhaus.

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EARLALL Director meets the Region Murcia in Brussels | March 2023



On March 8, EARLALL Director, Noelia Cantero, met with the Region Murcia in Brussels to discuss education, employment and skills. The discussions set to strengthen EARLALL's cooperation with regions beyond its current network and to encourage regions to be engaged in lifelong learning.

EARLALL exchanges with the Centre Val-De-Loire Region | March 2023

On March 29, François Bonneau, President of the Centre-Val de Loire Region, Karine Gloanec Maurin, Regional Councillor for Europe and member of the European Committee of the Regions, Florence Peleau-Labigne, DGS and a delegation of directors and general managers, met with Noelia Cantero. This time of exchange allowed the Guidance, Vocational Training and Employment Directorates in particular to discuss regional priorities, their interest in EARLALL's work and their willingness to cooperate with the network's member regions.

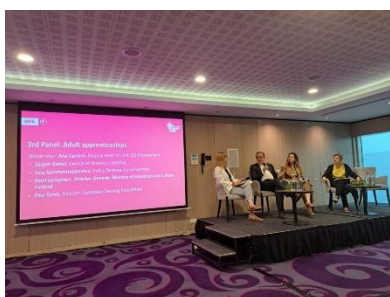


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EARLALL becomes coordinator of the EAfA Community on the Role of Regions and Cities for Apprenticeships | May 2023

In 2023, **EARLALL will be co-coordinating the new European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAfA) community on the Role of Regions and Cities in Apprenticeships.** An EAfA Community is a group of EAfA members who share a common interest in a topic and who come together to fulfil both individual and group goals. Communities are expected to rely on web-based collaborative environments to communicate and connect, with a focus on sharing best practices and creating new knowledge.

EARLALL joins the European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAfA) in celebrating its 10th Anniversary | June 2023



On 26 and 27 June 2023, the EAfA members and organisations interested in apprenticeship schemes gathered in Brussels to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Alliance and the 5th anniversary of the European Framework for Quality and Effective Apprenticeships. It was a great occasion to take stock of recent developments in the participation of adults and apprentices as agents of change in the twin transition, mobility and social inclusion, among other topics. During the Get-

Together session, **Noelia Cantero, EARLALL Director, was invited to report to the plenary about the main messages drawn from the panels** and to present the upcoming EAfA community of interest dealing with 'The role of regions and cities for apprenticeships' that the association will coordinate and that will start its activities in autumn 2023. Participation in the discussions is open to all EAfA members who are interested in exchanging information and practices regarding apprenticeships.

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Empowering Education Providers to become more innovative, inclusive and international

The 2022 – 2023 Work Plan acknowledged the importance of inclusivity and internationalisation in the network's strategy, in line with the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan (March 2021). The work plan set out to work in the following areas under this priority:

- New European Bauhaus Information Session | **Complete**
- Erasmus+ KA1 Information session | **Complete**
- Mobility Matchmaking Tool for EARLALL Members | **Scheduled for 2023 - 2024**
- Evaluation of Mobility within EARLALL Regions | **Scheduled for 2023 - 2024**
- Joint needs analysis among working groups | **Scheduled for 2023 - 2024**
- Training Workshop on Dissemination | **Scheduled for 2023 - 2024**
- Running and participating in the Gender Equality Task Force with EFVET and EAEA | **Ongoing**

Due to the technical difficulties of launching the Mobility Matchmaking tool and evaluation of mobility, these activities, in addition to facilitating bilateral mobilities between EARLALL members, have been postponed to the 2023 – 2024 work plan. In addition to the completed activities above, the following activities have been led by EARLALL in this field:

Events:

EARLALL participates in the first International Seminar on Mobility and Cooperation Projects | November 2022



On 30 November 2022, the Department of Education (International Mobility Unit) of the Government of Catalonia organised the first International Seminar on Mobility and Cooperation Projects, gathering over 200 participants, consisting mainly of teachers and trainers, coming from 16 different countries. EARLALL was invited by its member region to moderate the project matchmaking session in the afternoon.

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Webinar on the New European Bauhaus (The EARLALL Academy) | March 2023

On March 16 2023, the EARLALL Academy held its second session on the New European Bauhaus. The Masterclass was held by Anna Gunnarsson, educator, project manager and developer at the Navet Science Center in Borås. The Hub Science Centre works primarily with education in mathematics, science, sustainable development and technology. During the session, participants gained an overview of the New European Bauhaus as the 'soul' of the European Green Deal, the role of collaboration and the ways in which the Bauhaus encourages formal and informal learners to reconsider their own working patterns and spaces for a sustainable future. These topics are highly pertinent for many of EARLALL's regions as they tackle the twin transition with a collaborative, sustainable and multilevel approach, during all stages of formal and informal learning. Ms Gunnarsson emphasised how transversal the New European Bauhaus is



across different borders and ages, adding that “we can’t do things in the old ways and we can’t have new ideas flourishing if we try to do things by old rules. We need to innovate how we innovate”.

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GO! Visits the Basque Country for Annual Study Visits | May 2023



GO! organises education in the Dutch-speaking part of Belgium. It has a central body in Brussels and 26 regional school clusters evenly spread over Flanders and Brussels. It is also an EARLALL associate member. Each year the management team visits another country to get to know the education system, reflect on policy and get a better perspective of their own approaches. In May 2023, the destination was the Basque Country (an EARLALL member),

with an introduction to general education and a special interest in some issues like staff management and digital transition but also with a specific focus on Basque Vocation Education and Training.

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Discussion on Innovation and Discussion on Learning Mobilities and Internationalisation Strategies during the EARLALL Regional Exchange | June 2023

During the EARLALL Regional Exchange, the second discussion held among the network and with external guests was about innovation in lifelong learning. This session was facilitated by Mr Rikardo Lamadrid Intxaurreaga, Director of Technology and Advanced Learning at the Department of Education of the Basque Government, with input from Mr Kenny Muscat, UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for TVET and Ms Solange Mifsud, Economic and Policy Analyst, Innovation Policies and Impact, Joint Research Centre.

Moreover, the third discussion was about learning mobilities and internationalisation strategies. It was facilitated by M. Mercedes Chacón Delgado, Director, General for Vocational Education and Training at the Ministry of Education of the Government of Catalonia and Susana Díaz, Deputy Director of Active Employment, Policies of the Public Employment Service of Catalonia (SOC), Ministry of Business and Labour of the Government of Catalonia. It was opened with context-setting speeches from Mr Georgios Zisimos, Head of Policy advice and EU programming unit at the European Training Foundation (ETF) and Ms Kozak Malgorzata, Erasmus+: Schools, vocational education and training, skills and Adult education, DG EAC, European Commission.

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Initiatives

Launch of the Gender Equality Task Force | January 2023

On 24 January 2023, the European Association for Regional and Local Authorities for Lifelong Learning (EARLALL), the European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (EFVET) and the European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA) jointly launched the work of dynamic Gender Equality Task Force. It launched its first campaign on the occasion of March 8, International Women's Day. A brainstorming session and informal survey were created, leading the three organisations to plan their work for the upcoming year.



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Projects

Submission of SALAM: Sustainable Accessibility to the LABour Market

EARLALL submitted the SALAM Interreg Europe proposal, whose goal is to foster the effective inclusion of migrants and EU citizens with a migrant background into the labour market. The project focuses on the active collaboration of a variety of actors including public authorities -like regional ministries of social affairs, labour and education from 6 EU countries-, local, regional, national and EU stakeholders -like small municipalities (ie Mark/Sweden), big cities (Stuttgart/Germany, Firenze/Italy, Timisoara/Romania), national agencies (Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge/Germany, ADR/Romania), schools, civil society organisations, labour market services, economic and social partners, and employers and EARLALL

NEETs for NEETs: Co-creating Social Sustainability



With the NEETs for NEETs Erasmus+ project, partners from Sweden, Germany, Norway and Belgium aim to exchange best practices and commonly improve new and innovative instruments and activities created together with the NEETs and the Adult Educators. Based on an existing example of good practice, the project will broaden and modify the ReAct Self-Empowerment model, developed by the refugee organisation Support Group Network (SGN) and implemented by Save the Children (Sweden). The NEETs for NEETs project will learn from these experiences and practices, adapting them to the challenges and possibilities offered. From 2022-2023, the following progress was made in the project:



- The first Training Workshop for NEETs was held in Stuttgart
- The second Learning, Teaching and Training Activity is held in Borås, Sweden

- Youth who benefitted from the training sessions were interviewed and their experience shared
- The NEETs for NEETs project was selected for the CEDEFOP NEETs best practices catalogue
- Project partners met in person in Stuttgart

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Vocational Excellence, Skills Ecosystems and the Quadruple Helix

The 2022 – 2023 work plan acknowledged that 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. The following specific targets and activities were set:

- Participate in the EU Vocational Excellence Forum | **Complete**
- Joint needs analysis among Working Groups | **Scheduled for 2023-2024 Work Plan**
- Validation, microcredentials, ILAs, EQF | **Complete**
- Participation in the European Year of Skills events | **Ongoing**
- New CoVEs proposal | **Pending (in the pipeline)**
- Participation in the Apprentices Support Services | **Ongoing**
- Participation at the Exchange Meetings with the European Commission | **Ongoing**
- CoVEs Community of Practice follow-up | **Ongoing**
- SKYLA project submitted | **Completed and approved**
- LCAMP project first year completed | **Ongoing**

Events

EU Vocational Excellence Forum 2022 held in the Basque Country and EARLALL participates | November 2022

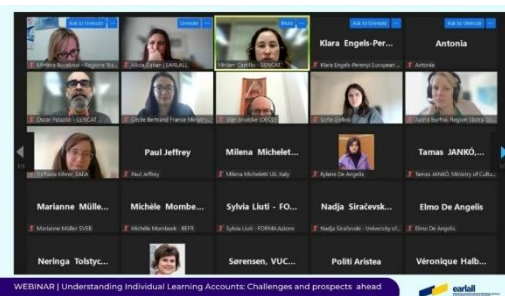
On 15 and 16 November 2022, EARLALL participated with more than 260 participants in the EU Vocational Excellence Forum 2022. The Forum was jointly organised by the European Commission and the Basque government – EARLALL member – with the support of the European Training Foundation (ETF), Cedefop and EACEA, as well as the Community of Practice on CoVEs, Katapult and Tknika. The first edition of the EU Vocational Excellence Forum 2022 – Global Partnership for Vocational Skills was the opportunity to discuss the latest developments in the European initiative on Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs)



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Webinar on Individual Learning Accounts | February 2023

On February 9 2023, EARLALL's Working Group for Skills and Labour Market hosted a successful webinar 'Understanding Individual Learning Accounts: Challenges and Prospects Ahead', welcoming over 60 online participants, to learn from a range of policy and regional perspectives about Individuals Learning Accounts (ILAs) in Europe. The online event was organised as a followed up to the webinar "European Approach to Micro-Credentials" in May 2022.



WEBINAR | Understanding Individual Learning Accounts: Challenges and prospects ahead

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EfVET and EARLALL Networking Event | June 2023



In June 2023, EfVET (the European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training) and EARLALL held an after-work networking event. During the event, both associations presented their networks and their projects relating to VET. In the case of EARLALL, the LCAMP project was shared.

Projects

Successful project submission TRAILS: Enabling Data Analytics for Actions Tackling Skills Shortages & Mismatch

EARLALL will be a partner in the successfully submitted **TRAILS - Enabling Data Analytics for Actions Tackling Skills Shortages & Mismatch project**, submitted under the HORIZON-CL2-2023-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-07 call for the topic of 'Tackling European skills and labour shortages'. The project aims to provide new insights and innovative tools for bridging the gap between labour supply and demand in terms of the awareness and co-development of skills based on a common awareness of the needs and conditions of the future European labour markets. It will propose new ways of measuring skills mismatch, eliciting motivations and attitudinal parameters by individuals, enhancing skill profiling and intelligence, and supporting adult learning (AL) and vocational education and training (VET) in technology-enhanced sectors. EARLALL will be leading WP6: Dissemination and Business Planning.

LCAMP: Learner-Centric Advanced Manufacturing Platform

The LCAMP project aims to support and empower regional Advanced Manufacturing Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs) to become more resilient, innovative and better equipped to train, upskill, and reskill young and adult students to successfully face the digital and green transitions. In the context of LCAMP, you will find from the development of skills and competencies to their provision; in addition to the design of learning pathways, micro-credentials, active methodological approaches, articulation of services and innovation for SMEs. During the last 12 months, the following advancements in the project were made:

- LCAMP partners met in person in Toulouse (France) (January 2023) and Kocaeli (Turkey) (June 2023)
- LCAMP was presented during the EU Vocational Education Forum, at the 13th CLF in Germany, at the WFCP Congress and the Making Skills Count events.
- Progress in all the WPs, notably including the strategic plan of the Alliance (WP2, led by EARLALL) being released
- Two newsletters about the project have been released
- The LCAMP website is live



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Adult Learning and Education to build resilient regions

Part of EARLALL's priorities for 2022 – 2023 included building resilient regions by boosting Adult Learning and Education. EARLALL recognised it had boosted capacity building at the regional levels 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 continued in 2022-2023, based on strong cooperation with ALE providers and the administration and policy levels, along with stakeholders at the European level, such as the EAEA. The specific key targets set in this regard were:

- RegALE: Regional Capacity for Adult Learning and Education project policy recommendations ready | **Ongoing**
- Online and offline training workshops for Members | **Ongoing**
- Participation in CEDEFOP events | **Ongoing**
- Monitoring European initiatives for ILA | **Completed**
- Mobility Guidance course online | **Scheduled for 2023 – 2024 Work Plan**
- Revision of CEDEFOP Guidelines on Validation of Prior Learning | **Completed**
- European Validation Festival 2023 | **Date TBC**
- Increased presence on EPALE platform | **Ongoing**

Working Group on Guidance: Meetings in 2022 - 2023

In February 2023, Working Group Leaders met to discuss their planning for the upcoming year. The Working Group on Guidance and Ageing Societies planned the following activities in this session:

- Mobility Scheme (in coordination with the working group on mobility)
- Launching a small Erasmus+ project on the digital integration of seniors (submitted)
- Resubmission of Dual Plus 3.0



Gender Equality Task Force Meeting on Gender and Guidance | January 2023

On March 13 2023, the second informal meeting of the Gender Equality Task Force (led by EARLALL, EfVET and EAEA) tackled the topic of Guidance services' approaches to gender issues. The discussion was led by Sylvia Liuti, honorary member of the Task Force. She highlighted that Gender Equality is about professionalism and gave practical examples of job applications linked to gender-associated traits.



Active participation in the work of CEDEFOP and Micro-Credentials



Throughout 2022 – 2023, EARLALL has been following the work and evolutions of CEDEFOP, particularly in regard to Micro-Credentials. This culminated in the webinar in June 2023 'Micro-Credentials: A Labour Market Megatrend'. In 2023, EARLALL will attend the CEDEFOP Events:

- Skills! Skills! Skills! As engaged actors in the European Year of Skills, the European Parliament together with the five EU Agencies under the remit of DGEMPL will share their insights and discuss with MEPs and policymakers the challenges and opportunities involved in addressing skills shortages in the EU workforce necessary to promoting the EU's development and competitiveness - 20 September 2023
- Mind the gaps - Skills and learning in a changing world of work - European Year of Skills flagship event - 12 October 2023.

Conference on "Civil society for lifelong skills development in Europe and partner countries" | May 2023



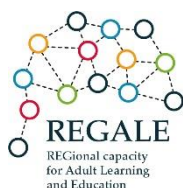
Within the framework of the European Year of Skills, a conference on "Civil Society for Lifelong Skills Development in Europe and Partner Countries" was held in Brussels on 23 May 2023, at the initiative of the European Training Foundation (ETF), the Lifelong Learning Platform (LLLP) and the European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA), who have joined forces to promote policy dialogue and partnerships between governments and civil society organisations (CSOs) active in skills development and lifelong learning. The focus of the third session was on CSO engagement in the skills arena at the local, national and international levels, in which Camilla Winter AB (Associate Member) represented the EARLALL Network and its interest in this topic.

ETF-DVV- EARLALL Ukraine Support Initiative Planning | July 2023

The ETF study on the role of Ukraine's Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in human capital development (HCD), specifically non-formal and informal learning and support to employment, was carried out in 2020-21. The ETF study results were discussed at an online workshop with the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES), the EU Delegation (EUD), CSOs, experts and other stakeholders, in May 2021. In 2023, DVV-International is active in the country and has run intensive workshops in several regions including Poltava, Nikopol, Melitopol, Sumy, Lviv, Vinnytsia, Mykolaiv, Kyiv (Free Zone). On July 6, EARLALL, DVV and ETF met to discuss the possibility of a joint initiative between the organisations, aimed at building the capacity of Ukrainian public and local authorities in lifelong learning.



Ongoing RegALE: Regional Capacity for Adult Learning and Education



RegALE (Regional Capacity for Adult Learning and Education) aims to set up or reinforce networks of adult education organisations and to create synergies with regional/local authorities in order to increase their impact and sustainability. This will be achieved by increasing the partners' capacity (and of their networks, stakeholders, partners and members at their level of action) to respond to their challenges, build cooperation structures, and promote an adult education culture in communities, cities and regions. RegALE will contribute to reinforcing adult education provision at regional and local levels and to bringing stakeholders together to build dialogue and cooperation. The project will support adult education associations to react to challenges and to embrace present and future opportunities. Advancements from 2022 – 2023 in the project include:

- **Successful submission for the European Week of Regions and Cities 2023, Policy Workshop, 'Lifelong Learning for Local and Sustainable Growth: Policy and Practices for the Green Transition'.** 11 October 2023, 11.30-12.30, Brussels | Organised with EAEA, EARLALL and Skillnet Ireland. *The workshop will propose an exchange on initiatives that empower local & regional authorities, businesses, and communities to develop the skills needed to achieve a carbon-neutral local economy. Participants will reflect upon a roadmap for building capacity in Adult Learning Education that was piloted in Europe in the context of the REGALE project, in addition to hearing from practices on building good public-private partnerships, including the example of Skillnet Ireland and Cork City.*
- **Planned Final conference during the Lifelong Learning Week 2023:** "Capacity-Building in Adult Learning and Education: What policies and tools for success?" 28 November, Brussels | In cooperation with the Committee of the Regions
- **Publication and dissemination of Adult Learning Policies in Europe. An Insight of Regional and Local Stakeholders**
- EARLALL and EAEA host REGALE Pilot Focus Group on Capacity Building in ALE, March 2023



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Ongoing Project **STRIDE FOR STRIDE** - skills adaptation/anticipation in European regions

To align the education and training provision with regional smart specialisation strategies (S3), the Stride for Stride project works on building up the concept of Regional Skills Ecosystems. Six regions (Catalonia, Basque Country, Tuscany, Brittany, Varaždin, and Vestland) in five European countries are improving their capacity to identify skills needs and adapt their training provision accordingly. Four workshops corresponding to the four steps of skills governance (adaptation, anticipation, transmission and use) will be organised between 2020 and 2023, with a double European-regional perspective that allows all the previously mentioned actors to build together skills intelligence systems utilizing exchanging their experiences (both through workshops and study visits) and taking part in multi-stakeholder open discussion hubs. In 2022 – 2023, the following activities have taken place:



- The organisation of Study Visits to Brittany: This Stride for Stride project aims to build the concept of Regional Skills Ecosystems, ensuring regions align their education and training provision with regional smart specialisation strategies (S3). In this context, the Brittany Region hosted the second in-person study visit from 8 to 10 November, proposing engaging knowledge-sharing exchanges with local stakeholders around the idea of 'Answering Local Skills Needs.'
- Organisation of the EARLALL General Assembly 2023 with Stride For Stride Study Visits in Tuscany


EARLALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
2023
 25-28 SEPTEMBER 2023
 TUSCANY, ITALY

 The EARLALL General Assembly 2023 is kindly hosted by the Region of Tuscany.



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Young People Leading Europe's Recovery

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), and the Yespecialists (Promoting entrepreneurship for young people in rural areas) 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. For 2022 – 2023, the following goals were set out:

- MIL Webinar | **Planned Autumn 2023**
- Follow-up activities to the European Year of Youth | **Ongoing**
- YESFestival project in Brussels | **Complete**
- NEETs For NEETs final conference | **Ongoing**
- ULISES Interreg Europe project submitted | **Submitted**
- Participation in the European Migration Forum | **Planned (or upcoming)**
- Follow-up on ILO and EP discussions on quality apprenticeships | **Ongoing**
- Participation in the EAfA and Apprenticeships Support Services | **Ongoing**

In addition to the above activities, the following were led in this priority area:

YesFestival! YESpecialists' Final Conference

On March 2 2023, EARLALL organised the YESFestival! – the final conference to mark the end of the Youth Entrepreneurial Spirit (YES) Specialists project. The project lasted for two years and focused on youth entrepreneurship in rural areas. The YESFestival! was held in a hybrid event at the European Representation of Tyrol-South-Tyrol and Trentino, and welcomed over 40 people to learn about the project's results that are aimed at creating local youth entrepreneurial ecosystems. The event was kicked off with a video keynote speech from David Pejić, a Young entrepreneur, owner of the oldest organic farm in Croatia and winner of the 'Best male organic farmer 2022' by the European Commission's organic awards. The address was followed by a keynote speech from Larry Moffett of JEUNE – the Young Entrepreneurs Organizations of the European Union. Mr Moffett highlighted the importance of trust and paying it forward as key components of entrepreneurship ecosystems. Moreover, he highlighted how important mentorship is to young people.



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NEETs For NEETs: Interviews and Dissemination of young people's results

From April 25-27, the NEETs For NEETs project carried out the second Learning, Teaching and Training Activity in Borås, Sweden. The two-day training event, hosted by Borås Stad, was part of the project that seeks to foster co-creation and empower young people Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEETs). EARLALL interviewed participants from this workshop and the one that took place in November 2022. The results were disseminated on EARLALL's social media networks, highlighting the importance of youths' views in our Erasmus+ projects.



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EARLALL Members give examples during the EAfA Live Discussions and Webinars | December 2023 & May 2023



EARLALL coordinated speakers and regional examples in two of the European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAfA) Live Discussions. The first was 'Promoting apprenticeships to SMEs' (14 December 2022) in which the Tuscany region presented about apprenticeships in the wine sector and 'Apprenticeships in the care sector and social economy' (4 May 2023) for which the Institut

Bonanova (Catalonia) contributed.

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EARLALL Attends the 5th Education Summit "Bright Young Minds" | December 2022



On December 1 2022, the European Commission organised this year's Fifth European Education Summit centred around 'Bright Young Minds'. The event focused on discussing how European education and training systems can adapt to allow young people to develop the skills and competencies they need to thrive and innovate. EARLALL was invited to participate in the high-level event which annually gathers representatives from all education and training sectors, including EU member states' ministers of education and experts from international organisations. It is a brilliant occasion to get updates from the EC policy developments in the area and to learn examples of best practices from the grassroots level, as it was highlighted by European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Marija Gabriel in her opening speech.

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Women in Industry



The 8 March was International Women's Day. A 2021 report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) highlights how substantial manufacturing's gender gap truly is. Women hold 47% of all jobs in the U.S., but they account for just 29.4% of manufacturing positions. As LCAMP seeks to address the gap in skills in the advanced manufacturing industry through a learner-centric perspective, the project is engaged to ensure that skill-building opportunities are attractive and available to all, no matter the gender. Moreover, within the context of the

Gender Equality Task Force and with the Centre Val de Loire, EARLALL plans to consider the role of women in green and digital industries during a series of online webinars in 2023 – 2024.

Discussion on Attractiveness during the EARLALL Regional Exchange | June 2023



The session was facilitated by Ms Francesca D'Angelo, Policy Advisor - Research, Innovation, Digitalization, Skills, EU Liaison Office, Tuscany region, with introductory speeches from Ms Anna Barbieri, Vocational Education and Training, CEDEFOP (EMPL.B.3) Unit, European Commission, DG and Ms Anne Hewitt, Associate Professor, Adelaide Law School, The University of Adelaide. During the session, Ms Carina Gullberg, a Member of the Regional Assembly in Region Västra Götaland brought up the example of how the region was using training and upskilling to retain and attract the international workforce to the traditional industrial region, by adapting the battery industry to the green transition.

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Communication and Dissemination Activities

In the 2022 – 2023 Work Plan, EARLALL set out to continue to aim at raising and consolidating the profile of the network in the European lifelong learning arena and promoting its Member Regions' achievements and best practices, along with cooperation projects. In relation to the specific targets set out in the 2022 – 2023 Work Plan, EARLALL's communication and dissemination strategy has surpassed expectations in certain areas and has evolved in others. Notably, concerning the number of engagements and followers on EARLALL's social media:

	2022	Target for 2023	True data 2023 (July 2023)
Twitter Followers	1815	2000	1971 (+156)
Facebook Followers	318	500	340 (+22)
LinkedIn Followers	793	1000	1169 (+376)
Website Users	6000	8000	
EARLALL Insights Subscribers	518	700	523 (+5)

With the above data, it is clear that **LinkedIn is a growing space for EARLALL as a network, and should continue to be prioritised as a primary social media source.** As the rise of Facebook followers is comparatively smaller and due to the unexpected growth in LinkedIn, it can be suggested that EARLALL's communication strategy should not prioritise Facebook as a primary communication channel. It can also be suggested that in 2023, EARLALL should re-launch a social media campaign for the INSIGHTS - to increase the audience, ensuring that new partners and potential stakeholders are accessing the quarterly publication.

In addition to the increase in followers, EARLALL has been highly active in creating engaging content for its membership and public image, including:

	Number (October 2022 – July 2023)
Videos created	7
EU Monitoring Newsletters	9
EU Insights Newsletters	3

:



About SKYLA : Smart Specialisation Skills...



About LCAMP - The Learner Centric Advanced...



EARLALL Annual Meeting 2022 - Highlights

Examples of Videos created and uploaded onto EARLALL's Youtube Channel

Moreover, taking the opportunity of the European Year of Skills as an impetus for renewal, the EARLALL secretariat has ensured to create a coherent visual identity and to continue to increase its efforts in creative content to be shared on its social media channels. Notably, it launched the “Together For Lifelong Learning” branding and has created two new roll-up designs, a network video and various social media graphics following this key message.

EARLALL Network Video Presentation:



Examples of #TogetherForLifelongLearning campaign on social media:



Together for lifelong learning



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