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EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL & LOCAL
AUTHORITIES FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

Strategic Plan 2023 - 2028

5 Year Priorities
& 2023-2024 Action Plan





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5-Year Strategic Priorities: 2023 - 2028



I. Strategic Priorities

Why the first five-year strategic plan?

This year, EARLALL is introducing the **five-year framework of strategic priorities**, running from 2023-2028. The strategic plan provides a **clear and overarching vision for EARLALL**, outlining its goals and aspirations for the next five years. It comes from the impetus of the EARLALL Regional Exchange in June 2023, which highlighted the will of the network to focus on its core purpose, **establish a sense of direction**, and align its activities accordingly. **A five-year strategic framework was selected as the mandate of the European Commission and other EU institutions is 5 years and members expressed a desire to work in line with the standards and expectations of the key EU institutions.** Moreover, in light of the increased stakeholder cooperation of EARLALL during the European Year of Skills and the increased visibility of the network, the first strategic plan will provide for **greater stakeholder engagement**. Through the strategic plan, EARLALL can gather input from its members, partners, and other stakeholders to ensure that the strategies reflect their needs and interests. This engagement fosters a sense of ownership and collaboration, enhancing each annual action plan's chances of successful implementation. Finally, strategic plan will increase the **adaptability and flexibility** of our actions, all the more important in the face of the digital and twin transition, demographic changes, and uncertainty that many lifelong learning systems are coping with.



EARLALL Strategic Priorities 2023 - 2028

Strategic Priority 1: Working towards skills for the future at the regional level, through innovation in lifelong learning



This priority seeks to align the goals of sustainability, digitalisation and other skills trends with lifelong learning by promoting innovative practices and policies. **It aims to equip individuals with the necessary knowledge, skills, and competencies to contribute to the green economy**, adapt to technological advancements, and participate actively in a rapidly changing society. By combining these elements, it aims to drive economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability, at the regional and local levels. It involves exploring new approaches, methodologies, and practices that can enhance the effectiveness, relevance, and accessibility of lifelong learning opportunities. This can include initiatives such as competency-based learning, flexible learning pathways, individual learning accounts and micro-credentials, recognition of prior learning, and the promotion of innovative learning environments and methods in VET, apprentices and adult learning.

The priority aligns with the European Skills Agenda, by promoting upskilling and reskilling throughout individuals' lives to meet the evolving demands of the labour market. The priority's emphasis on equipping individuals with knowledge, skills, and competencies aligns with this agenda. It also is linked to the Digital Education Action Plan which seeks to harness the potential of digital technologies for learning and skill development. Moreover, the priority's focus on digitalization and promoting innovative learning practices aligns with the European Framework for the Digital Competence of Educators (DigCompEdu). This framework provides a reference for the digital competencies that educators need to possess to effectively integrate digital technologies into teaching and learning.

Strategic Priority 2: Facilitating mobility and internationalisation across the EARLALL network and outreach



This priority aims to enhance the mobility of individuals and ideas, promote international collaboration, foster networking and knowledge exchange, and influence policies in the field of education, training, and lifelong learning. By facilitating mobility and internationalization, the EARLALL network can expand its reach, enhance its impact, and contribute to the development of a more interconnected knowledge base of lifelong learning systems. This priority seeks to empower EARLALL members to become more inclusive and international, through increased exchange among the membership, work to recognise lifelong learning and qualifications obtained in each region and increased efforts to boost the attractiveness of their lifelong learning structures to other regions.

The strategic priority 2 aligns with several initiatives of the European Commission. The priority relates to the European Quality Framework (EQF) objective of facilitating the recognition and

comparability of qualifications across different countries and systems. The EQF Recommendation promotes transparency and understanding of qualifications, supporting mobility and lifelong learning. It also aligns with the broader vision of the European Education Area (EEA), which aims to strengthen European cooperation in education and training. The European Commission's Communication on the EEA also highlights the importance of mobility, internationalization, and cooperation in building a European knowledge base. It also links to the European Skills Agenda, which focuses on enhancing skills development, recognition, and mobility across Europe. The Skills Agenda aims to facilitate the transferability of skills and promote lifelong learning, supporting individuals in adapting to changing labour markets.

Strategic Priority 3: Supporting the resilience of lifelong learning structures in the face of demographic and societal changes



This priority aims to strengthen the resilience of lifelong learning structures by addressing demographic changes, supporting active ageing, integration of migrants into the labour market and advancing equal access to lifelong learning. By addressing the challenges posed by demographic and societal changes, EARLALL can contribute to the creation of sustainable and adaptable lifelong learning systems that meet the diverse learning needs of individuals throughout their lives. Particularly important to EARLALL members are the shifts in demographics including ageing populations and engaging youth in rural areas, and ensuring that their populations have the right skills to support Europe's changing industries. It also emphasises **gender equality in lifelong learning**, as work-based skills affect the gender dimension of the working population and their engagement in lifelong learning.

This priority seeks to align itself with the European Pillar of Social Rights, which highlights the right to lifelong learning to enhance employability and social inclusion. The priority's focus on resilience and addressing demographic changes aligns with the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, particularly concerning skills development and access to lifelong learning opportunities. Moreover, it is in line with the EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025, which **through different policy actions aims to make significant progress by 2025 towards a gender-equal Europe**. The priority's emphasis on gender equality in lifelong learning aligns with the goals of the strategy, recognizing that work-based skills and engagement in lifelong learning can impact the gender balance in the workforce.

Strategic Priority 4: Remaining at the forefront of policy development at the EU level



This priority seeks to ensure that EARLALL is actively engaged in relevant policy discussions and consultations at the EU level. This involves staying informed about and participating to initiatives related to new programs, recommendations, and reports from the European Commission, the European Parliament, and other EU bodies. By closely following policy trends, EARLALL can proactively respond and shape discussions. It also involved strengthening cooperation with strategic partnerships and alliances with other relevant stakeholders, such as European networks, educational institutions, NGOs, and industry associations. Collaborating with like-minded organizations allows for collective advocacy and increased influence in shaping EU policies. Through networking, EARLALL can also access and share best practices, knowledge, and resources.

II. Monitoring and Evaluation of the implementation of the strategic priorities

The implementation of the five-year strategic priorities will be defined through a series of specific actions. The action plan will be updated annually. The goal of the action plan is to **establish clear objectives and indicators**, to be used to effectively measure progress. To monitor and evaluate these action points, regular reporting and stakeholder consultation (within and outside of the EARLALL network) will be established. In line with this, the following monitoring and evaluation timeline for the implementation of the 2023 – 2028 priorities will be established:

	Action	Description
YEAR 1	Internal Evaluation	EARLALL internal survey launched on the relevancy of Working Groups, transversal task forces and actions to meet the strategic priorities
YEAR 2	Review and implementation	Review the internal evaluation and make necessary adjustments according to the internal evaluation
YEAR 3	Mid-term External Stakeholder Evaluation	EARLALL Stakeholders (partners in EU institutions, partner organisations, CSOs etc.) evaluation of the perception of the role and actions of EARLALL in meeting the strategic goals
	Review and adjust	Make adjustments as needed based on the findings and recommendations from the evaluation reports. Continuously learn from the monitoring process and apply the insights to improve the implementation of the strategic priorities.
YEAR 4	Internal Evaluation	EARLALL internal survey launched on the relevancy of Working Groups, transversal task forces and actions to meet the strategic priorities
	Review and implementation	Review the internal evaluation and make necessary adjustments according to the internal evaluation
YEAR 5	Final External Stakeholder Evaluation	EARLALL Stakeholders (partners in EU institutions, partner organisations, CSOs etc.) evaluation of the perception of the role and actions of EARLALL in meeting the strategic goals
	Review and adjust	Make adjustments to the next five-year strategic plan as needed based on the findings and recommendations from the evaluation reports.

Action Plan: 2023 - 2024



III. Actions led to meet these strategic priorities 2023-2024 (Year 1)

In line with the first five-year strategic plan that seeks to guide the vision of the EARLALL network, it is necessary to set specific actions and initiatives in place to ensure these priorities are met. To this end, the annual work plan for 2023-2024 sets out actions to work towards these goals, within the remit of the following activities: **capacity-building; responding to policy development; outreach and cooperation and communication and dissemination.**

Action 1: Capacity-Building

Capacity-building actions relate to actions that improve our members' ability to implement their lifelong learning strategies, at the local and regional level. EARLALL as a network facilitates this through training and workshops, knowledge sharing and best practices and networking and collaboration. These capacity-building actions can help strengthen the expertise, knowledge, and skills of EARLALL members, enabling them to effectively implement their strategic priorities and contribute to the development of lifelong learning systems in their respective regions.







EARLALL Initiatives

➤ EARLALL Academy




The EARLALL Academy was an initiative laid out in the context of the Work Plan for 2023. To continue to support our members in their capacity-building at the local and regional level of lifelong learning, the Academy aims to offer 6 webinars **from** 2023-2024, which will cover transversal themes and topics pertinent to the whole network. The webinars will be learning opportunities tailor-made for the needs of EARLALL's members.


Upcoming Webinars in 2023-2024

-  September 14 2023, Media and Information Literacy
-  October 2023, Erasmus+ KA2 Webinar on small-scale partnerships, target group of newcomers
-  December 2023, Introducing the EU to the local level
-  January 2024, Promoting Youth Participation in the European Parliament Elections, at the regional level
-  February 2024, Dissemination and Communication
-  2024 (TBC), Fostering sustainability in lifelong learning regional projects



 2024 (TBC) Mobility Guidance Course, in cooperation with EARLALL Working Group on Guidance

 2024 (TBC) Erasmus+ KA1 Short Term Project – target group of newcomers


 2024 (TBC) How to Write a Europass CV


➤ Skills analysis across sectors key to EARLALL Members

Working Group: Skills and Labour Market




Through bilateral discussions with EARLALL members in 2023, it became clear that our members are interested in understanding the skills profiles and need across different key sectors. In this light, the secretariat will coordinate four online webinars on skills analysis across member regions:

 Agriculture (Autumn 2023)

 Health (Winter 2023)

 Battery and Technological (Spring 2024)

 Automotive Sector – in cooperation with the Automotive Skills Alliance (Summer 2024)

➤ Running the EAfA Community on the “Role of Regions and Cities for Apprenticeships”

EARLALL Secretariat



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.



➤ Dissemination and Communication Workshop



Within the context of the LCAMP project and the EARLALL Academy, the EARLALL Secretariat will offer a workshop on dissemination and communication tools and best practices. The goal is to support EARLALL members and those involved in projects that EARLALL is a member of, to increase their digital competencies and confidence in effective and targeted online and offline communication.

➤ Survey and Mapping the State of Play of Apprenticeships in EARLALL Members and Regions

Working Group: Skills and Labour Market **and** Youth Policies



To create common knowledge and exchange on the state of apprenticeships (from a legal and societal perspective) in EARLALL regions, two working groups propose to create a survey and map the similarities and differences in apprenticeship systems across the network.

➤ Mapping Youth Policies across the EARLALL Membership

Working Group: Youth Policies



This initiative seeks to understand the different policies towards youth and lifelong learning different EARLALL members have, to create common knowledge and avenues for discussion.

Participation in external initiatives

European Vocational Skills Week, 23-27 October



Participation and follow-up of the annual EU Vocational Skills Week, in Seville, Spain.



Lifelong Learning Platform's Lifelong Learning Week, 27 November – 1 December



Participation in the Lifelong Learning Platform's Lifelong Learning Week 2023, through the contribution of two workshops in the context of REGALE and NEETs For NEETs projects, in Brussels



Education Summit, 1 December



Follow-up and attendance of the annual Education Summit in Brussels.



Action 2: Responding to Policy

To meet the strategic priority of “remaining at the forefront of policy development at the EU level”, our actions must relate to EU-level initiatives, Recommendations and policy developments. From May 2023- May 2024, the guiding EU-level initiative is the European Year of Skills. In this light, EARLALL organised 2023 the high-level regional exchange ‘Policies and Practices in lifelong learning’ and launched a dedicated area on our website for the Year of Skills. To continue the cooperation that EARLALL has had in 2023 with EU institutions and key international institutions that set frameworks and policies related to lifelong learning, EARLALL will lead a series of actions relating specifically to responding to these policy evolutions.

Important policy developments at EU Level

➤ Follow-up on the ILO Recommendation for apprenticeships and the European Framework for Quality and Effective Apprenticeships



Building off the momentum and synergies that were built between EARLALL and the ILO during the Regional Exchange (June 2023), in the upcoming year, EARLALL will seek to follow the developments of the ILO Recommendation and European Framework.

➤ Quality Apprenticeships, regional cooperation and the Case of LIDL Italia | Webinar

Working Group: Youth Policies



The Region of Tuscany has been cooperating with the Italian-German Chamber of Commerce (AHK), with the idea of developing the Italian Dual System of Apprenticeships, based on the German experience. Through these exchanges, Tuscany is the second region in Italy to test a specific apprenticeship pathway at LIDL (Italy), which has the goal of achieving the ITS Made in Italy diploma, a Level 3 Apprenticeship. This testing involves Tuscany and other regions. Within this context, EARLALL proposes to explore further the ILO's recommendation on quality and effective apprenticeships, with the example of the cooperation between Italy and Germany in AHK and the practical example of LIDL, in Tuscany and other EARLALL regions.

➤ Follow up on the Consultation for the Quality Traineeship Framework

Working Group: Skills and Labour Market and Youth Policies



On 11 July 2023, the European Commission launched its first stage consultation of social partners on reinforcing the EU Quality Framework for Traineeships. The following steps will be the review of this consultation stage, followed by a second and eventually an update of the framework

➤ Follow-up on the Pact for Skills and the European Alliance For Apprenticeships

Working Group: Skills and Labour Market



Within the context of EARLALL's continued cooperation with the Pact For Skills Initiative and the EAfA, this action seeks to strengthen our working partnership and remain at the forefront of policy development.

➤ Committee of the Regions Publication on Skills at the Local and Regional Level

Working Group: Skills and Labour Market



2022-2023 showed continued cooperation between EARLALL and the Committee of the Regions. Continuing this trend, EARLALL seeks to be involved in the upcoming Committee of the Region's publication on skills at the local and regional level, providing their experience and opinions when required.



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. As such, EARLALL has engaged in the year, understanding that it acts as an impetus for lifelong learning, creating a new momentum to reach the EU 2030 social targets of at least 60% of adults in training every year, and at least 78% in employment. It will also ensure that the European workforce is equipped to deal not only with the twin digital and green transition but also with a just skills revolution.

In the first half of 2023 alone, EARLALL contributed to the Year of Skills through key initiatives including participation by 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 and 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 main goal of EARLALL's 2023-2024 engagement is to build on the momentum created in the first half of the year and to build upon the exchanges between the EU institutions and the network's regions. Specific activities are to include:

- Follow up on the Committee of the Region's Publication on mentoring, Autumn 2023 and collaboration during the Lifelong Learning Week
- Development of the Regional Element of the Pact of Skills Initiative (end of 2023)
- Participation in the Committee of the Region's Year of Skills Event (December 2023)

Action 3: Outreach and cooperation

To achieve EARLALL's ambitious strategic targets, particularly that of facilitating mobility and internationalisation across the network, it is important that EARLALL works with international organisations, European and non-European associations, CSOs and other key actors. The goal of outreach and cooperation actions is for EARLALL to actively seek to build and enhance connections with stakeholders in lifelong learning, through, for example, meetings, conferences and relationship-building activities. These actions prioritise the exchange of knowledge, experiences and practices, to promote collaborative initiatives between its members and external partners. Overall, within outreach and cooperation actions, EARLALL would aim to contribute to a collaborative ecosystem in the field of lifelong learning, leveraging the collective knowledge, resources, and expertise of its members and partners to drive positive educational outcomes and promote lifelong learning opportunities.

➤ Workshop on "Making VET more attractive to Young People"

Working Group: Mobility



Within the context of a regional delegation visiting Brussels, the Region of Västra Götaland proposes an exchange between EARLALL members and external stakeholders on increasing the attractiveness of Vocational Education and Training to young people.

➤ EARLALL Mobility Scheme - Planning

Working Group: Mobility and Lifelong Guidance & Ageing Societies

In 2022-2023, the Working Groups on Mobility and Guidance and Ageing Societies initiated the idea of creating a privileged network of mobilities among EARLALL members. This concept will be defined and implementation stages will be planned.

➤ EARLALL Mobility Platform

Working Group: Mobility



The EARLALL Mobility Platform, having been launched at a conceptual level during the Working Group on Mobility, now needs to be put into place with technical considerations.

➤ EARLALL Mobility Scheme – Planning and Facilitation of bilateral exchanges

Working Group: Mobility and Lifelong Guidance & Ageing Societies



In 2022-2023, the Working Groups on Mobility and Lifelong Guidance & Ageing Societies initiated the idea of creating a privileged network of mobilities among EARLALL members. This concept will be defined and implementation stages will be planned.

As a pilot, EARLALL will seek to facilitate bilateral study visits and delegation exchanges across the membership.

➤ EARLALL – ETF – DVV – Ukrainian Capacity-Building Initiatives

Working Group: All Working Groups



In July 2023, European Training Foundation (ETF), DVV International, EARLALL and representatives from the region of Poltava, Ukraine, met to discuss a possible collaboration between the organisations on lifelong learning and CSOs in the recovery of Ukraine. As a result of these initial discussions, the 2023 – 2024 work plan envisages many possible avenues of cooperation, including:

- Integration of Poltava and other Ukrainian local and regional authorities' staff into the EARLALL Working Groups.
- Possible visits to Volkshochschulverband Baden-Württemberg to learn about lifelong learning strategies, offers and networks in Baden-Württemberg. Possible involvement of local schools and municipalities in Leinfelden-Echterdingen, Filderstadt and Ostfildern which are partner/twin cities of the city of Poltava.
- Hybrid roundtable on Local and Regional Authorities and CSOs with a focus on lifelong learning (November 2023, TBC)

➤ Gender Equality Task Force Activities

Gender Equality Task Force with EfVET, EARLALL and EAEA

Following the launch of the Gender Equality Task Force between EAEA, EfVET, and EARLALL in January 2023, the 2023 – 2024 Work Plan seeks to build on these activities and continue the momentum of the activity which seeks to promote a gender-balanced approach to lifelong learning. Activities in the pipeline for 2023 – 2024 include:



Micro-credentials as a regional ALE Strategy: ensuring equality in the green transition? Workshop during the Committee of the Region's Week of Regions and Cities, October 11 2023

This session proposes to explore the potential of micro-credentials in upskilling and reskilling the population in green skills needed for the future, in a targeted manner at the regional level, to ensure also a gender balance in the future green sectors.

Regular Gender Equality Task Force meetings will be set to discuss the following:

- Safe Spaces for LGBTQAI+ Learners and Teachers in lifelong learning, Autumn 2023
- Presentation of Centre Val De Loire's Gender Equality Strategy, Winter 2023
- Participation of men and non-binary individuals in certain sectors
- A gender-sensitive approach to guidance policies
- Further development on gender trends in the digital and green transition

Action 4: Projects and project events

Projects form a key component of the sector and topic-specific actions across the EARLALL network. The following provides an overview of the projects in which EARLALL, along with its membership, are partners, and the upcoming activities and steps in each project.

Ongoing

RegALE - Regional Capacity for Adult Learning and Education



Coordinator: EAEA (European Association for the Education of Adults)

Erasmus+ KA3
Jan 2021 – Dec 2023

EU total grant: 623,937 €
EARLALL budget: 76,147 €

Project partners: Varaždin County, Vestland County Council, Hellenic Adult Education Association (HAEA), AONTAS, Estonian Non-Formal Adult Education Association, Learning and Work Institute, vhs Baden-Württemberg, Vuxenutbildningen Borås, University of Florence, EARLALL.



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.

Project events 2023-2024

 **Week of Regions and Cities 2023, Policy Workshop, 'Lifelong Learning for Local and Sustainable Growth: Policy and Practices for the Green Transition'**
11 October, 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.

Final conference: Capacity-Building in Adult Learning and Education: What policies and tools for success?

28 November, Brussels | Coordination with the Committee of the Regions

As the REGALE project draws to a close, it has become clear that each territory is facing unique demographic issues from a societal and labour-market perspective, which in turn, hinder the capacity of the regions to provide adult education and learning. With this in mind, this policy debate session hopes to expand upon the opportunities, tools and skills for intergenerational learning, mentoring and on-the-ground exchanges as a means to shift the cultural mindset towards a lifelong learning perspective, creating resilient lifelong learning societies at the regional level.



**Capacity-Building in Adult Learning and Education:
What policies and tools for success?**
Final Conference
28 November
Brussels



SMALEI – Sustainability Matrix in Adult Learning and Education Institutions



Coordinator: EAEA (European Association for the Education of Adults)	Erasmus+ KA2 specific call for European networks Mar 2022 - Feb 2025	EU Total Grant 400,000 € EARLALL budget: 66,900 €
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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.

Project events 2023-2024



Piloting the first draft of the MATRIX



SMALEI in the EU Green Week 2024

LCAMP – Learner-Centric Advanced Manufacturing Platform



Coordinator: TKNIKA, Basque VET Research Centre	Erasmus+ CoVEs June 2022 - May 2026	EU grant: 3,999,988.00 € EARLALL budget: 287.200 €
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The LCAMP project aims to support and empower regional Advanced Manufacturing Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVE) 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. LCAMP aims at becoming the European reference platform for knowledge, generation and exchange, collaboration and service provision for VET/HVET centres and companies working in the Advanced Manufacturing

sector

Project events 2023-2024

-  Local stakeholder events across the partnership (Autumn 2023)
-  CoVEs partnership event, the Netherlands (September 2023)
-  EU Vocational Forum 2023, Basque Country (November 22-23 2023)
-  EU Vocational Skills Week 2023, Seville
-  Project Transnational Partners' Meeting, , January 2024
-  First Conference for the Alliance of LCAMP, Germany, June 2024

Stride For Stride – Stride for stride, skills adaptation/anticipation in European regions



Coordinator: Brittany Region	Erasmus+ KA2 October 2020 – September 2023	EU grant: 139,463 € EARLALL budget (24 months): 10,072 €
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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 through exchanging their experiences (both through workshops and study visits) and taking part in multi-stakeholder open discussion hubs.

Project events 2023-2024

EARLALL General Assembly and Stride for Stride visits, Tuscany, September 2023



EARLALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023

25-28 SEPTEMBER 2023
TUSCANY, ITALY



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



WITH STUDY
VISITS IN THE
FRAMEWORK OF



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

NEETs FOR NEETs – Co-creating social sustainability



Coordinator: Region Västra
Götaland

Erasmus+ KA2
Jan 2022 - Dec 2023


EU grant:
EARLALL budget 21,876 €



To facilitate conditions for NEETs to finish school or obtain long-term employment, the main project idea is to solve the problems together with the ones affected by them. With the NEETs for NEETs project, partners from Sweden, Germany and Norway aim to exchange best practices and commonly develop/improve new and innovative instruments and activities - formed together with the target group.

Taking its starting point in best practice, the project will broaden and modify the ReACT Self-Empowerment model, developed by Save the Children Sweden and the refugee organisation Support Group Network (SGN). The purpose of this model is to support self-organisation and strategic collaboration for better integration.

Project events 2023-2024

 Final conference for NEETs, co-creating social sustainability, November 30, Brussels



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



**Co-Creating Social Sustainability
FINAL CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 30
BRUSSELS
More details to follow!**

SKYLA – Smart Specialisation Skills Ecosystems for the Twin Transition

 Interreg
Europe

 Co-funded by
the European Union

SKYLA

Coordinator:
ASEV/RESOLVO Tuscany

Interreg Europe
March 2023 - March 2027

Grant: 1,61 million €
EARLALL Budget: 153 286 €


SKYLA: Smart Specialisation Skills Ecosystems for the Twin Transition is a project funded under the Interreg Europe program. 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. The project will last four years, split into three stages: Identifying Policy Needs; Implementing Policy Solutions and considering policy solutions.

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.

Project events 2023-2024



Second in-person transnational partners' meeting in Fingal Ireland, November 2023



Phase 2 of the project is launched

TRAILS - Enabling Data Analytics for Actions Tackling Skills Shortages & Mismatch



Coordinator: Democritus University of Thrace (Greece)	HORIZON-CL2-2023-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-07 call for the topic of 'Tackling European skills and labour shortages' Duration: 36 Months	Grant: 2 994 403,75 € EARLALL Budget: 296 250 €
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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

Project events 2023-2024



- Creation of visual material, logo and project website
- Creation of dissemination and communication plan M9
- Kick-Off Meeting (TBC)

Submitted

Project Title	Key themes	EU Funding Program	Working Group or Lead partner
Break-through digital and green skills for vulnerable youth	Digital and Green Skills, Youth, Needs	Erasmus+	Tuscany
SALAM – Sustainability of Access to the Labour Market	Integration of newcomers, social insertion	Interreg Europe	Tuscany
Lifelong Guidance 5.0	Developing Hybrid Strategies in Guidance Services in Europe	Erasmus+ KA2 – Cooperation Partnership for innovation	Landesnetzwerk Weiterbildungsberatung Baden-Württemberg and Universität Heidelberg
TRAILS	Enabling Data Analytics for Actions Tackling Skills Shortages & Mismatch	HORIZON 2020	Democritus University of Thrace (Greece)

ULISES	Overcoming Policy Barriers to Access and Remain in Education	Interreg Europe	Region of Murcia
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In the pipeline

Key themes	EU Funding Program	Working Group to develop the concept
Follow-up for Stride-For Stride with the theme of Skills Anticipation and Quality Traineeships and Apprenticeships for Young People	Horizon Europe/Erasmus+	Working Group on Youth Policies
General life skills for Seniors in a digitalised world	Erasmus+	Working Group on Guidance and Ageing Societies
Closing the Gender Gap in Traditional Sectors	Erasmus+ CoVEs	Working Group on Skills and the Labour Market, in cooperation with the Gender Equality Task Force
Resubmission of DUAL EDUCATION 3.0 Plus	Erasmus+ Alliances for Innovation	Working Group on Guidance and Ageing Societies
Innovation, guidance and permeability of education connected with the world of work		

Action 5: Communication and Dissemination

Communication and Dissemination are critical transversal activities of the EARLALL network that will complement the key action areas laid out above. The 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 providing opportunities for networking and engagement. These activities are needed to widen the outreach of the network's activities, promote knowledge exchange and capacity-building and be effective advocates in policy issues.

Key Targets

To ensure that EARLALL's communication and dissemination efforts are effective, it is important to continue to grow our online presence and engagement rates in online and offline activities. To this end, the following targets have been set for the year 2023 – 2024:

Social Media	Website	Newsletter
Twitter 2050 followers (1971 as of 10/07/2023)	1 post per month on member activities	Release "EARLALL Insights Newsletter" 4 times in 2023-2024
LinkedIn 1400 followers (1189 as of 07/09/2023)	1 post per month on project activities	Online campaign 4 times before the "EARLALL Insights Newsletter" to increase audience
Engage regularly with regions outside of the EARLALL membership	1 post per month on EARLALL-wide activities	Disseminate member activities from the "EARLALL Insights Newsletter" on social media

Moreover, from the Annual Report of 2022 – 2023, it can also be suggested that in 2023, EARLALL should launch a strategic campaign to increase the audience of the "INSIGHTS newsletter", ensuring that new partners and potential stakeholders are accessing the quarterly publication.

Key initiatives

In addition to the targets set above for increasing audience and engagement across EARLALL's online communication and dissemination channels, the following initiatives are highlighted and should be monitored and followed up by EARLALL:

Initiative	Initiating Organisation	Potential Impact
#TogetherForLifelongLearning	EARLALL Initiative	Continue the momentum of the European Year of Skills online visibility, specific to the network
#IAmALifelongLearning	UNESCO Lifelong Learning Institute	Increase personal story engagement from the network
Spanish Presidency on Social Media	Spanish Presidency	Increase awareness of political priorities of the Spanish Presidency (until December 2023) in lifelong learning
Project stories (notably LCAMP, NEETs For NEETs)	EARLALL	Engage the audience on projects further
ALL Digital partnership	All Digital	Continue partnership, raising awareness of initiatives to bridge the digital skills gap in Europe
EPALE Engagement	EPALE	Share stories of EARLALL member regions (also in the Insights newsletter) on EPALE to increase visibility

European Parliament Elections 2024

The next elections to the European Parliament will take place from 6 to 9 June 2023. EARLALL attended the European Public Communication Conference in 2022, which highlighted the importance of creating clear communication goals around the European Parliament elections. As a member of the Lifelong Learning Interest Group in the European Parliament, EARLALL seeks to be engaged in the elections through dissemination and communication activities. EARLALL seeks to communicate the importance of:



- Participation in EU elections, particularly for young people
- Bringing the EU and EU policies closer to local and regional levels
- Increasing knowledge and awareness about the European Union

EARLALL's main engagement will come through participation in the Lifelong Learning Interest Group as aforementioned, ensuring our messages are clear and in line with our Brussels stakeholders. Moreover, through the EARLALL Academy initiative and online promotion, EARLALL seeks to host two sessions: Promoting Youth participation in the European Parliament Elections (Winter 2023) and Introducing the EU to the local and regional level (Autumn 2023).



Upcoming Events

- ◆ **Skills! Skills! Skills!** 20 September 2023, Brussels (*Organised by CEDEOP, the European Parliament and five EU agencies*)
- ◆ **EU Forum on Vocational Excellence 2023**, 25-26 September 2023, Amsterdam
- ◆ **EU Industry Days**, 4-6 September 2023, Malaga, Spain
- ◆ **Committee of the Region's Week of Regions and Cities**, 9-12 October, Brussels
 - ◆ **'Lifelong Learning for Local and Sustainable Growth: Policy and Practices for the Green Transition'** – EARLALL Policy Lab in the context of the REGALE Erasmus+ project, **11 October 2023**
 - ◆ **'Micro-credentials as a regional ALE Strategy: ensuring equality in the green transition?'** – Workshop with the Gender Equality Task Force, **11 October 2023**
- ◆ **Mind the gaps** - Skills and learning in a changing world of work - European Year of Skills CEDEFOP flagship event, 12 October 2023, Brussels
- ◆ **European Vocational Skills Week**, 23-27 October 2023, Brussels and Seville
- ◆ **ETF- DVV – EARLALL Webinar on Ukrainian Lifelong Learning**, 15 November 2023 (TBC)
- ◆ **Education for Climate Day**, 15 November 2023, Brussels
- ◆ **Employment and Social Rights Forum**, 16 November 2023, Brussels
- ◆ **EU Vocational Forum**, 21-23 November 2023, Basque Country
- ◆ **European Lifelong Learning Stakeholders' Forum**, , 27 November 2023, Brussels (*Organised by the Lifelong Learning Platform*)
- ◆ **Lifelong Learning Platform's Lifelong Learning Week**, 27 November – 1 December 2023
 - ◆ **RegALE Final Conference: Regional Capacity for Adult Learning and Education (REGALE) Policy Debate**, 28 November 2023
 - ◆ **NEETs For NEETs Final Conference: Skills to Co-creating social sustainability with youth**, 30 November 2023
- ◆ **European Education Summit**, 30 November 2023
- ◆ **Committee of the Region's European Year of Skills Event** (December 2023)
- ◆ **Belgium takes over the Presidency of the Council of the EU**, 1 January 2024
- ◆ **Presidency of Belgium Education Forum**, 16 April 2024 (TBC)
- ◆ **Closing event of the European Year of Skills**, May 2024
- ◆ **European parliamentary elections**, 6-9 June 2024
- ◆ **Hungary takes over the Presidency of the Council of the EU**, 1 July 2024



Upcoming Policy Initiatives

- ◆ **Mid-Term Evaluation of the Erasmus+ Programme:** European Parliament Own Initiative Report to be discussed in the CULT Committee meeting in September 2023, with the report published in November 2023.
- ◆ **Civil society at the heart of the 2024 European Elections:** Online information sessions to present the campaign from Social Platform and Civil Society Europe being held regularly, with sessions held on September 5 and 7 2023.
- ◆ **Validation of Non-Formal and Informal Learning:** the Inventory of Non-Formal and Informal Learning by the European Commission, in the framework of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) Advisory Group, will be released in December 2023.
- ◆ **Harnessing Talents in Europe's Regions:** the European Parliament is preparing its Own Initiative Report on Harnessing Talents in Europe's regions, with final inputs being considered until August 2023.
- ◆ **Mentoring:** The SEDEC Commission of the Committee of the Regions adopted a draft opinion on 'Monitoring: a Powerful and Meaningful Tool for the Europe of Tomorrow', that will be voted on in the plenary of October 2023.
- ◆ **European Learning Model:** The European Commission's Advisory Group discussed in June 2023 the upcoming European Learning Model that will be connected to Europass.
- ◆ **European Digital Skills Certificate:** As of June 2023, the European Digital Skills Certificate (EDSC) is being piloted and the European Commission is looking at the preliminary results of the Feasibility Study. The mandate of the pass is to "develop a European Digital Skills Certificate (EDSC) that may be recognised and accepted by governments, employers and other stakeholders across Europe. This would allow Europeans to indicate their level of digital competences, corresponding to the Digital Competence Framework proficiency levels'.

Together for lifelong learning



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