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EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL & LOCAL  
AUTHORITIES FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

# **EARLALL at the Lifelong Learning Week 2023**

# Introduction

In the 2023 edition of the Lifelong Learning Week, from Monday 27 November – Friday 1 December, EARLALL and its members took part in multiple activities, both within and outside the week's framework. During the week, **EARLALL organised two conferences** and **attended** many other events, ensuring the network's visibility and leadership in lifelong learning in Brussels.

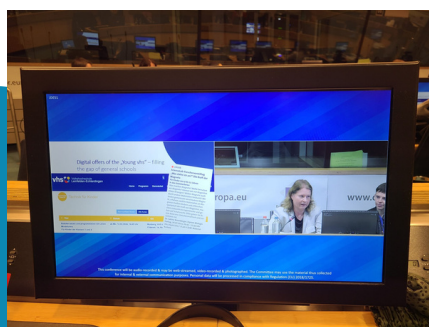
## Equality between Women and Men in the Digital Sector: Regions Innovate!



On November 27, the Centre-Val de Loire region, an EARLALL Member, hosted a session at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels entitled 'Equality between Women and Men in the Digital Sector: Regions Innovate!' The conference aimed to showcase regional examples, including Baden-Württemberg (Germany) and Basque Country (Spain) from the EARLALL network, demonstrating measures taken to ensure gender equality in the digital sector within the context of European initiatives in this field.



- The President of Centre Val de Loire, Francois Bonneau, confirmed the region's commitment to ensuring gender equality in the digital sector
- Andrea Bernert-Bürkle, EU Project Manager at vhs BW, Baden-Württemberg Adult Education Association, shared initiatives like the "Young vhs" scheme, providing non-formal digital education to children
- Esther Elexgarai, Executive Director of the Iurreta Integrated Center, and Josune Irazábal, Digital Promoter of the Miguel Altuna Integrated Center (Basque Country), discussed strategies to address the low participation of women in STeAM industrial training in their region



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# Lifelong Learning Stakeholders' Forum - Lifelong Learning Awards Ceremony and evening reception



On 27 November, during the European Lifelong Learning Stakeholders' Forum, hosted by LLLP with the support of the Directorate General for Education, Youth, Culture and Sport, the Lifelong Learning Awards ceremony took place. EARLALL Secretariat was pleased to attend and be joined by our members from Varaždin County Council, VHS – Baden Württemberg and Camilla Winter.



The awards are an excellent opportunity to highlight the major achievements of learners and organisations and to celebrate outstanding practices in lifelong learning. The ceremony was preceded by the Stakeholders' Forum. The Forum is the occasion for civil society networks and education and training providers to take stock of the EEA achievements and the way forward for lifelong learning in Europe. It also set the course for the European Education Summit which took place a few days later.

# Capacity-Building in Adult Learning and Education: What regional strategies and tools for success?



On November 28, EARLALL and EAEA co-organised the final conference for the Erasmus+ REGALE – Regional Capacity for Adult Learning and Education – project. The event welcomed over 60 people and was focused on presenting the tools and strategies which make development in Adult Learning and Education (ALE) initiatives possible at the regional level. The event was hosted and opened by the Tuscany Offices in Brussels, a vice president of the EARLALL network.



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## Highlights include:

- Anne Rudisuhli, Committee of the Regions Rapporteur, Mentoring: a powerful and meaningful tool for the Europe of Tomorrow and Member of the Bouches-du-Rhône Departmental Council, presented a keynote speech on mentoring as a powerful tool of lifelong learning.
- Elisabeth Verniers, Advocacy Manager at Duo for a Job, a mentoring organisation based in Brussels, shared her practical experience of working with mentoring
- Francesca Torlone, professor at the University of Florence, summarised the key lessons from the RegALE project, taken from the publication of the project, 'Adult Learning Policies in Europe. An Insight of Regional and Local Stakeholders'.
- A roundtable entitled 'How do policy/strategies impact the implementation of cooperation between public authorities, CSOs and Education providers on learning territories at the regional level?' moderated by Ms Naomi Philips (Deputy Chief Executive Learning and Work Institute, UK) with the following speakers: Ms Andrea Bernert-Bürkle, Head of EU Projects, VHS Baden Wurttemberg; Mr Sulev Lääne, ENAEA; Ms Margit Düüna, Chairman of the Board of Estonian Non-Formal Adult Education Association; Dr Kate Smyth – Strategic Communications Officer, AONTAS; Dr. George A. Koulaouzides, Assistant Professor of Adult Education at the Hellenic Open University and Mr. Miguel Fernandez Diaz, Adult Skills Policies, European Commission.

You may click on the following links to **access the conference documents:**

1. [Conference Presentation](#)
2. [Presentation on the Pact For Skills](#)



# NEETs for NEETs: Youth-run conference concludes the project on co-creating social sustainability



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

On November 29, 2023, the Erasmus+ NEETs for NEETs project came to a close with a final conference organized at the offices of the Region Västra Götaland in Brussels by EARLALL. The project aimed to enhance inclusive methods empowering young adults and thereby improving the conditions of NEETs (young people not in education, employment, or training). Region Västra Götaland coordinated the project in collaboration with the Support Group Network; Borås Stad; City of Stuttgart; Save the Children organization (Sweden); Volkshochschulverband Baden-Württemberg; Oslo Adult Education Rosenhof; NAV Bjerke; and EARLALL.

Highlights included:

- A video address by Swedish MEP David Lega
- Haya Iskander, from Sweden, shared her story of resilience and expressed hope that young people would not give up on themselves.
- Amal Taifour, presented her future project idea on global youth entrepreneurship titled 'Global Spark: Igniting Youth Entrepreneurship'

Download the [presentation](#) and the [video on LTTAs in NEETs for NEETs](#)



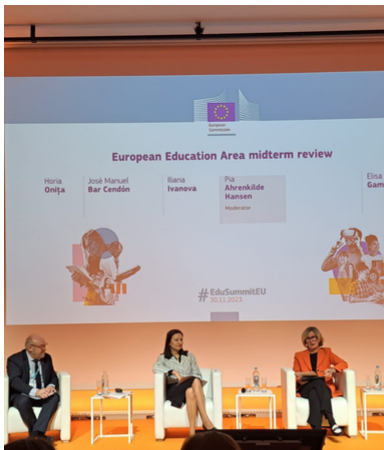
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# Sixth European Education Summit – 'The European Education Area (EEA): A reality for all'



On November 30 2023, the Education Summit, the annual flagship event of the European Education Area (EEA), brought together more than 600 participants, including policy-makers from EU institutions and beyond, and the European education and training communities. **Ms. Pia Ahrenkilde Hansen** - Director-General, DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission welcomed participants and highlighted the need for an inclusive and high-quality education and training system in Europe. In line with this, **European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Ms Iliana Ivanova** in her opening keynote speech, reminded the two EU Council Recommendations to support citizens cope with the digital transition that were approved by the Education Council during its last meeting and praised the Erasmus+ programme for having funded more than 26.000 projects and reached more than 1,2 million learners (170.000 of them coming from disadvantaged backgrounds).



Ms Ivanova highlighted three aspects of the 'Learning Mobility' package, including:

- The need to grow mobilities in all areas, especially more teachers and apprentices should benefit from a learning and training experience abroad.
- The need to reach more people, with targets that are 25% for higher education students and 15% for VET learners. Mobility should be part of all learners' experiences.

Finally, the event was an occasion to present the annual Education and Training Monitor. The 2023 edition includes a special focus on the teaching profession, specifically on teacher shortages across the EU countries and on various efforts to raise the attractiveness of the profession. You can find it [here](#).



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