

# SMALEI Final Conference: Empowering Adult Learning and Education for a Sustainable Future

26 February 2025

09.00 - 13.00H (Brussels time)

Rue des Deux Églises, 27 - 1000 Bruxelles

Register [here](https://smalei.eu/)



CONFERENCE | SMALEI: SUSTAINABILITY MATRIX FOR  
ADULT EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

## EMPOWERING ADULT LEARNING AND EDUCATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

 26 February 2025  
 09:00 to 13:00 CET  
 Rue des Deux Églises, 27 (Brussels, Belgium)  
 <https://smalei.eu/>

REGISTER NOW >

The **Sustainable Management and Leadership in Adult Education Institutions (SMALEI)** project invites you to its final conference, a pivotal event focusing on the crucial role of sustainability in the future of **adult learning and education (ALE)** in Europe. Taking place on **26 February**, this conference marks the culmination of a comprehensive EU-funded initiative dedicated to promoting sustainable management practices and strengthening leadership within ALE organisations.

### Adult Education: Embracing sustainability for the future

The adult education sector plays a vital role in fostering lifelong learning and empowering individuals to adapt to societal changes. SMALEI recognises the **increasing need for ALE institutions** to embrace sustainability, not only in their operational practices but also in the learning content they deliver. This necessitates a shift in leadership approaches, management strategies, and organisational culture.

Throughout the project's lifespan, SMALEI has developed a range of **valuable resources** to support this transition, including the **SMALEI Matrix, Workbook, MOOC, and Digital Academy**. These tools provide practical guidance and frameworks for ALE institutions to integrate sustainable practices into their core functions.

## A platform for collaboration and dialogue on policy

This final conference serves as a platform to:

- **Engage with policymakers**, engage in discussions with decision makers on how to create supportive frameworks that enable ALE institutions to contribute to Europe's sustainability goals.
- **Showcase SMALEI's achievements**, discover how the project's resources can empower ALE institutions to become drivers of sustainable development.
- **Share best practices**, learn from leading ALE organisations that have successfully implemented sustainable management and leadership models.

By bringing together **ALE organisations, practitioners, policymakers, civil society representatives, and lifelong learning experts**, this conference aims to inspire action and foster a collaborative approach to building a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient adult education sector across Europe.

## AGENDA

09.00	Participant's arrival & registration
09.30	Welcome & Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Inge Gorostiaga Luzárraga</b>, Director General for Digital Transformation and Advanced Learning, VET Vice-Ministry, Ministry of Education, Basque Government</li> </ul>
09.45	Building Sustainability Competences: Insights on GreenComp, Upskilling & Lifelong Learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ulrike Pisiotis</b>, Education Expert Learning for Sustainability, Policy officer at the EU Commission's Directorate General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture</li> </ul>
10.00	Bridging Adult Education and Green Policies: Advancing the EU's Sustainability Goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tatjana Babrauskienė</b>, EESC member, Head of International Relations, Lithuanian Education and Science Trade Union</li> </ul>
10.15	"SMALEI for You": Resources to Improve Sustainability in Adult Education Institutions. An in-depth session introducing the SMALEI Matrix, Workbook, MOOC, and Digital Academy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Andrea Bernert-Bürkle</b>, Adult Education Association Baden-Württemberg, <b>August Nilsson</b> Glokala Folk high school, and <b>Erdem Vardar</b>, YUVA</li> </ul>
11.10	Coffee break
11.25	<b>Workshop:</b> Develop your network and become a peer-mentor for sustainability. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Charlotte Ede</b>, European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA)</li> </ul>
12.25	<b>SMALEI Policy Recommendations:</b> "Bridging the Gap between Politics and Adult Education" - Followed by a Q&A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>TKNIKA representative</b></li> </ul>
12.40	Lessons Learnt: Reflections on the project outcomes, challenges, and future steps to further support sustainable practices in ALE. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Charlotte Ede</b>, European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA)</li> </ul>
12.55	Closing words followed by a networking lunch