



2025

EARLALL ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

5-7 NOVEMBER 2025, MECHELEN (BELGIUM)

Kindly hosted by



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EARLALL Annual Meeting 2025, Mechelen (Belgium)

Focusing on the Attractiveness of VET Systems

From 5–7 November 2025, EARLALL's Annual meeting took place in Mechelen, kindly hosted by GO! Education of the Flemish Community and Crescendo CVO, and led by EARLALL's Presidency, Region Västra Götaland (VGR). This year's theme focused on the attractiveness of Vocational Education and Training (VET) systems, a topic widely discussed at the European level.

The Annual meeting serves as an opportunity for the network to reflect on the past year, present upcoming activities and plan future work. This year's meeting was opened by **Marleen Mast**, Director of Crescendo CVO, followed by **Madeleine Jonsson**, President of the Environment and Regional Development Committee of Region Västra Götaland and current EARLALL President.

Jonsson underlined the importance of **strengthening the attractiveness of VET systems** through a video message, reaffirming EARLALL's commitment to influencing policy. Jonsson continued by highlighting EARLALL's upcoming 25th Anniversary, to be celebrated in June 2026 in Brussels.



EARLALL members and stakeholders at the Crescendo CVO Mechelen



◆ [EARLALL General Meeting 2025 highlights video](#)

EARLALL General Assembly 2025

The General Assembly was chaired by Astrid Burhöi, on behalf of Region Västra Götaland (EARLALL President) and Ms Noelia Cantero, EARLALL Director.



Introduction of New Vice Presidential Structure

EARLALL has introduced three new Vice Presidencies—Policy and Advocacy, EU Projects and Activities, and Membership and Outreach—to strengthen its strategic leadership. Tuscany will lead the Membership and Outreach portfolio, while the Basque Country and Catalonia will alternate responsibility for Policy and Advocacy, with the Basque Country serving until Autumn 2026. Catalonia will also take on the Activities and Projects portfolio until the General Assembly in Autumn 2026.

◆ Membership and Outreach Vice Presidency

"Together, we can strengthen EARLALL's reach across Europe and build an even more dynamic and impactful network."

Miriana Bucalossi on behalf of the Tuscany Region



◆ Policy and Advocacy Vice Presidency

"Europe's Union of Skills should also be a Union of Regions, People, and Opportunities — ensuring regions remain central to shaping lifelong learning and skills policy."

Inge Gorostiaga Luzarraga on behalf of the Basque Country

◆ EU Projects and Activities Vice Presidency

"EARLALL's strength lies in action — turning shared ideas into real results on the ground and ensuring our regions lead the way in VET and lifelong learning."

Miriam Castillo on behalf of Generalitat de Catalunya



2025 Activity Report and 2026 Work Plan

2025 Activity Report, approved ✓

The EARLALL Secretariat presented the [2024–2025 Activity Report](#), highlighting key achievements in capacity-building, policy engagement, cooperation, project development, and communication. The network advanced its role in supporting regional lifelong learning through successful initiatives, strengthened EU-level advocacy, new partnerships, and an expanded project portfolio. Representatives also viewed video highlights summarising the year's main accomplishments.

◆ [EARLALL Highlights Annual Report 2025 - video](#)

Work Plan 2026, approved ✓

A key part of the meeting was the presentation of [EARLALL's Work Plan 2025/26](#), which is based on the [5-year priorities](#) and a detailed action plan for the year ahead. The plan focuses on sustainable development, digital transformation, and inclusive education, with targeted measures to support upskilling, reskilling, and workforce adaptability. Members explored how these priorities can help regions address skills gaps and demographic challenges, reinforcing EARLALL's role in promoting innovation in regional education and training.



◆ Download the [2024–2025 Activity Report](#)



◆ Download the [EARLALL's Work Plan 2025/26](#)



2026 Strategic Priorities

The Work Plan for 2026 will focus on monitoring and evaluating the implementation of EARLALL's strategic priorities and will introduce **eight key themes for the year ahead**:

1. Enhancing the Attractiveness and Retention in VET and Adult Learning Amidst Demographic Changes
2. Strengthening Governance and Cross-Border Recognition in VET and Lifelong Learning
3. Navigating the Future of EU Funding: MFF, Cohesion Policy, and Competitiveness Funds
4. Contributing to the "Union of Skills"
5. Promoting Democratic Engagement, Citizenship, and Social Inclusion in Lifelong Learning
6. Advancing STEM and Gender Equality in Regional Lifelong Learning Ecosystems
7. Fostering Innovation in Education through AI, Digital, and Green Transitions
8. Supporting Quality and Recognition of Apprenticeship Systems

Working Group activities

The respective leaders of the four EARLALL Working Groups took the floor to introduce their work in 2024 and to present 2025/6 upcoming activities. The **EARLALL Academy, coordinated by Camilla Winter AB**, successfully delivered five seminars this year and will continue with seven more addressing transversal themes and emerging topics, offering ongoing learning opportunities for members.

- **Working Group on Mobility:** Co-led by Borås Stad and Region Västra Götaland, in cooperation with Movetia. The WG delivered four mobility actions under the Regional Skills Partnership for Lifelong Learning Mobility and compiled a collection of good practices focused on opportunities for learners with fewer opportunities.
- **Working Group on Skills and Labour Market:** Led by the Department of Education of the Catalan Government. The WG advanced sectoral skills analysis through three thematic webinars on Cultural and Creative Industries, Advanced Manufacturing, and Tourism. It continued its participation in the DG REGIO Harnessing Talent Platform and supported projects including TRAILS, LCAMP, and EXCEED.
- **Working Group on Youth Policies:** Led by the Tuscany Region. Key achievements included launching the survey "Mapping the State of Play of Apprenticeships in EARLALL Regions" (in cooperation with the Mobility WG) and contributing to initiatives under the Pact for Skills and the European Alliance for Apprenticeships. The WG also engaged in the SKYLA and QUEEN projects.
- **Working Group on Lifelong Guidance & Ageing Societies.** Led by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of Baden-Württemberg, in cooperation with Camilla Winter AB. The WG contributed to the European Alliance for Apprenticeships through a factsheet on "Awareness Raising and Guidance for Apprenticeships" and supported several projects, including SALAM, Lifelong Guidance 5.0, LeadEx, and WISE. It also developed two AMIF proposals on improving digital skills among migrants and joined the Advisory Board of the SMARTageCARE project.



EARLALL 25th Anniversary celebration

In 2026, EARLALL will **celebrate its 25th anniversary**. Throughout 2025, the Secretariat and the Board prepared a dedicated anniversary package. Thanks to the support of Baden-Württemberg, the main celebration will take place in **Brussels on 11 June 2026**.

EARLALL will also encourage member regions to highlight the 25th anniversary within their regional and local activities.

The anniversary year aims to strengthen EARLALL's profile at both European and regional levels, celebrate 25 years of cooperation, and showcase the achievements and engagement of its members.

Forward Planning and Key Announcements

The General Assembly discussed several forward-looking items relevant to the network's activities in 2026. The **Region of Västra Götaland confirmed its invitation to host the next EARLALL General Assembly in 2026**, continuing the network's tradition of rotating its annual meeting among member regions.

The Assembly also received an update on the conclusion of the **LCAMP: Learner Centric Advanced Manufacturing Platform for Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs) project**, coordinated by the Basque Government with EARLALL as a partner. As the project ends, partners are launching the **LCAMP Alliance**, a permanent platform to continue advancing excellence in advanced manufacturing VET. **EARLALL regions and their VET centres are encouraged to join. The next LCAMP Conference and Student Hub will take place on 21–23 April 2026 in Vitoria-Gasteiz.**

The meeting concluded with an invitation to take part in the upcoming workshop and study visits hosted in Flanders.



EARLALL workshop “Empowering Futures: Boosting VET and ALE Attractiveness Across Regions”

The event, held as part of the EARLALL Annual Meeting and moderated by **Miriam Castillo González**, united EARLALL regions, authorities, the Commission, and VET/ALE experts.

Opening the event, **Sabe de Graef**, Councillor of the City of Mechelen, highlighted the crucial role of local authorities in creating inclusive learning environments and presented the “Learning Shop of Mechelen,” a 160-partner network that has supported 150 to 1,300 individuals over four years in returning to education and completing secondary qualifications.

Jens Vermeersch and **Marleen Mast** then presented Flanders’ “Attractiveness” initiatives, showing how the region is boosting the image of VET through quality teaching, enterprise collaboration, and flexible learning paths.

A keynote speech by **Hjordis Virgarsdottir Dalsgaard** from the **European Commission’s Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion** provided a broader European perspective. This was followed by insights from **Dr Paul Redmond**, who presented new findings from the **TRAILS project**.

In a panel moderated by **Emeritus Professor Paolo Federighi**, regions including **Baden-Württemberg**, the **Basque Country**, **Tuscany**, **Västra Götaland** and **Switzerland** highlighted how cooperation, skills intelligence, employer engagement and flexible pathways enhance VET and ALE attractiveness.

- ◆ [Read the full article here](#)
- ◆ [Speakers presentations \(all in one\)](#)
- ◆ [Photo gallery](#)

High Participation, Policy Insights, Research & Regional Best Practices



From left to right: Maria Nordh, Julia Burkhard, Marleen Mast, Knut Becker, Miriana Bucalossi, Inge Gorostiaga Luzárraga, Paolo Federighi, Paul Redmond and Miriam Castillo González.



Study visits in Flanders

Attractiveness of Vocational Education and Training (VET) Systems

Study visit to Crescendo CVO, 5 November

Hosted by **CVO Crescendo**, the visit showcased local initiatives, flexible learning pathways, and partnerships with employers and community organisations. Participants had the opportunity to hear from a range of experts and practitioners, gaining insights into how the centre supports learners of all ages and strengthens regional skills development.

Study visit to Technisch Atheneum Keerbergen, 6 November

During the study visit, participants explored how Flanders connects education with innovation and industry. They met with Technisch Atheneum Keerbergen leadership, discovered innovative teaching methods, and joined hands-on workshops — including demonstrations of DiagnoseCar applications used in modern automotive training.

The visit also highlighted broader regional initiatives through workshops led by VOKA (Flanders' Chamber of Commerce and Industry) and VLAIO (Flanders innovation & entrepreneurship), showcasing how Flanders strengthens business–education collaboration, including through the Flanders Technology & Innovation Festival.

- ◆ [KTA Keerbergen: General presentation school](#)
- ◆ [KTA Keerbergen: DiagnoseCar](#)
- ◆ [VOKA \(Flanders' Chamber of Commerce and Industry\) and STEMPact](#)
- ◆ [VLAIO \(Flanders innovation & entrepreneurship\) and Flanders Technology & Innovation Festival](#)

Study visit to Busleyden Atheneum's Stassart Campus: "A Small School with a Big Heart", 7 November

The visit provided insight into the school's pedagogical model, defence and security training, and dual learning pathways. Students from the hospitality program personally brought food, while others engaged with participants, offering a hands-on experience of practical learning. Overall, the study visits gave participants an immersive experience of Vocational Education and Training in Mechelen and showcased innovative ways to make VET attractive.

- ◆ [Speakers presentations \(all in one\)](#)
- ◆ [Introduction to Dual Learning - brochure BA Stassart and BA Nekkerspoel \(dual learning\)](#)



Thank you Flanders for hosting us!

◆ Resources



Articles & Photo gallery

- [Article: EARLALL Annual meeting, 2025 in Mechelen: Focusing on the Attractiveness of VET Systems](#)
- [Article: EARLALL Workshop in Mechelen Highlights Regional Collaboration for Stronger VET and ALE](#)
- [GO! Education brings the European summit on lifelong learning to Mechelen at Crescendo CVO \(NL\)](#)
- [Local news in Mechelen \(NL\)](#)
- [GO! Newsletter \(NL\)](#)

Photo Gallery:

- [EARLALL General Assembly 2025 & Study Visits Photo Gallery](#)
- [EARLALL Workshop: Empowering Futures: Boosting VET and ALE Attractiveness Across Regions: Photo Gallery](#)

Reports & video gallery

- [2025 Activity Report](#)
- [2025/26 Work Plan](#)
- [Video: EARLALL Highlights Annual Report 2025](#)
- [Video: EARLALL 2024 Annual Meeting Highlights in Mechelen](#)

See you in 2026!

The next Annual Meeting will take place in the Autumn of 2026 in Sweden, kindly hosted by Region Västra Götaland.

We are also excited to celebrate our 25th anniversary with all of you on 11 June 2026 at the Representation of the State of Baden-Württemberg to the European Union (Brussels, Belgium)



Together for lifelong learning



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AUTHORITIES FOR LIFELONG LEARNING