

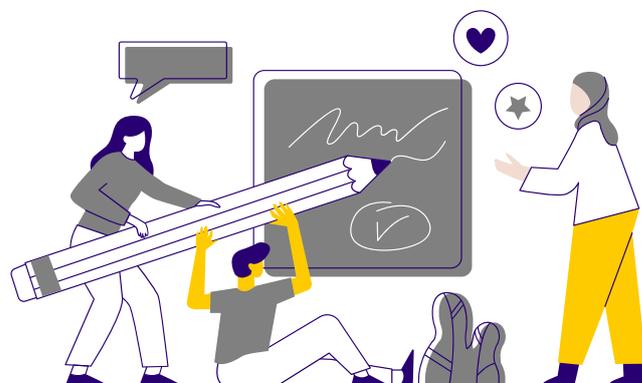


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EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL & LOCAL
AUTHORITIES FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

2026

WORK PLAN



COVERING THE PERIOD FROM NOVEMBER 2025 TO OCTOBER 2026

TOGETHER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING



| www.earlall.eu



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0. Celebrating 25 Years of Lifelong Learning Together: A Milestone for EARLALL



As EARLALL marks its 25th anniversary in 2026, we take this opportunity to reflect on a quarter-century of commitment to regional cooperation, lifelong learning, and inclusive skills development across Europe. Since its foundation in 2001, EARLALL has championed the belief that regions are key actors in building resilient, inclusive, and future-ready learning systems.

This milestone year is not only a moment to celebrate our collective achievements — from impactful projects and policy influence to strong partnerships and knowledge exchange — but also to reaffirm our mission. The 2025/26 Work Plan is anchored in this spirit: looking back with pride, and ahead with purpose.

The anniversary campaign, under the theme “25 Years of Lifelong Learning Together”, will offer space for stories, voices, and events that highlight the human impact of our work. It will also serve as a springboard to renew our strategy and adapt to evolving challenges in education and skills development.

We look forward to building on this legacy with our members and partners, strengthening regional capacities, embracing innovation, and placing learners at the centre of every initiative.

I. Strategic Priorities 2023 - 2028

Following the adoption of EARLALL’s first Strategic Plan in 2023, the 2025–2026 Work Plan builds upon this shared vision by continuing to advance the network’s key priority areas. Now entering its third year of implementation, the Strategic Plan offers a stable yet dynamic framework to guide EARLALL’s activities, ensuring coherence across initiatives while remaining responsive to the evolving European policy landscape.

In the aftermath of the European Year of Skills and the ongoing momentum of the “Union of Skills”, alongside growing recognition of regions as key actors in shaping inclusive and sustainable lifelong learning systems, EARLALL continues to strengthen its visibility and stakeholder cooperation at both EU and regional levels. The Strategic Plan, which extends until 2028, enables ongoing engagement with members and partners to ensure that our activities remain grounded in regional realities and aligned with common challenges and ambitions.

This Work Plan reflects a commitment to shared ownership, collaboration, and impact. It also reinforces the flexibility needed to navigate complex transitions—digital, green, demographic, and territorial—that are reshaping education and labour systems across Europe. Through this annual planning process, EARLALL aims to continue fostering innovation, exchange, and resilience across its network.



Read the full priorities in [this report](#) or in Annex A.

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

As we enter the third year of implementation, the five-year strategic priorities outlined in the 2023–2028 document continue to guide our work through a series of targeted actions. The action plan is updated annually to set clear objectives and define measurable indicators, ensuring effective tracking of progress.

	Actions	Description	Status
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	Review and adjust	Review the internal evaluation and make necessary adjustments according to the internal evaluation.	⏰

Within Year 3 of the monitoring and evaluation plan for the strategic priorities, the following activities are planned:

1. Revise the action points set during the Working Group meeting consultations in Q4 of 2026
2. Propose an action list to all working group members by Q2 of 2026
3. Evaluate the EARLALL Academy sessions following the 2026 Q1 review

III. EARLALL Topics and Planned Actions in 2026

Aligned with the five-year strategic priorities that shape the vision of the EARLALL network, it is essential to define specific themes, actions, and initiatives to advance these goals effectively. For 2025, EARLALL has identified key thematic areas informed by comprehensive consultations with members and Working Group leaders. These focus areas will steer the network's efforts to support and enhance regional and local approaches to education and training across Europe.

1. Enhancing the Attractiveness and Retention in VET and Adult Learning Amidst Demographic Changes

Building on the ongoing focus on Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Adult Learning and Education (ALE), EARLALL will address not only attractiveness but also regional retention of talent, especially in regions facing demographic shifts. The network will work to develop strategies that promote lifelong learning as a career and personal development pathway while addressing challenges related to ageing populations, youth outmigration, and regional skills shortages.

2. Strengthening Governance and Cross-Border Recognition in VET and Lifelong Learning

Fragmented governance and certification across local and regional territories pose barriers to learner and worker mobility. EARLALL will promote improved cooperation among local authorities, educational institutions, and employers to streamline governance models. A key focus will be on advancing initiatives such as joint VET diplomas and mutual recognition frameworks that enhance transparency and portability of qualifications across regions and countries.

3. Navigating the Future of EU Funding: MFF, Cohesion Policy, and Competitiveness Funds

With the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) coming into effect and emerging EU funds like the Competitiveness Fund, EARLALL aims to actively engage in policy dialogues to shape funding priorities that respond to regional lifelong learning needs. The network will advocate for sustained investment in inclusive education, digital and green skills, and innovative training systems that foster social cohesion and regional economic development.

4. Contributing to the "Union of Skills"

EARLALL will actively engage with the implementation of the "Union of Skills", ensuring that the perspectives and needs of regions and local authorities are represented. The network will foster alignment between EU-level skills policies and regional lifelong learning ecosystems, supporting collaborative actions that enhance skills development, upskilling, and reskilling in line with European priorities.

5. Promoting Democratic Engagement, Citizenship, and Social Inclusion in Lifelong Learning

Recognising the role of education in fostering democratic values and social cohesion, EARLALL will support regional initiatives that strengthen citizenship education, enhance engagement of vulnerable communities—including young people not in education, employment, or training (NEETs), migrants, and early school leavers—and promote equal access to learning opportunities. This priority also aligns with mobility programs designed to reach learners with fewer opportunities and enhance their integration.

6. Advancing STEM and Gender Equality in Regional Lifelong Learning Ecosystems

EARLALL will continue to promote gender equality and increased participation in STEM fields through lifelong learning and training opportunities. Supporting targeted actions to close gender gaps, raise awareness, and empower women and girls will remain essential to building inclusive and competitive regional economies.

7. Fostering Innovation in Education through AI, Digital, and Green Transitions

In response to rapid technological changes and sustainability challenges, EARLALL will facilitate knowledge exchange and pilot initiatives on integrating AI and other innovative technologies in lifelong learning. The network will also support strategies to embed digital and green skills within regional education and training systems, preparing learners and workers for future labour market demands.

8. Supporting Quality and Recognition of Apprenticeship Systems

Recognising apprenticeships as a key pathway for skills development and employment, EARLALL will work to enhance the quality, accessibility, and cross-border recognition of apprenticeship schemes. This includes fostering collaboration among stakeholders to share best practices and improve apprenticeship frameworks aligned with labour market needs.

Aligned with the Strategic Priorities and 2026 main themes, the annual work plan for 2026 sets out specific actions to achieve 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 aim to enhance our members’ ability to design and implement lifelong learning strategies at the local and regional level. As a network, EARLALL supports this by offering training opportunities and workshops, fostering knowledge exchange and sharing of best practices, as well as promoting collaboration and joint initiatives. Over the past years, these activities have proven to be highly valuable for our members, which is why we will continue the ones already in place while also looking forward to introducing new initiatives that can further enrich our members’ work. Through this approach, EARLALL helps strengthen the expertise, skills, and capacities of its members, empowering them to successfully advance their strategic priorities and contribute to the development of resilient and inclusive lifelong learning systems across their regions.

EARLALL Initiatives



The EARLALL Academy was first introduced in the Work Plan 2023–2024 as a dedicated capacity-building initiative for our members. To further support their efforts in strengthening lifelong learning at the local and regional level, the Academy will continue in 2025–2026 with a series of seven webinars. These sessions will address transversal themes and topics relevant to the entire network and will be designed as tailor-made learning opportunities to respond directly to the needs of EARLALL members.

Upcoming Webinars in 2024 - 2025	Period
 Strategies to Make Less Attractive Industries More Appealing	December 2025
 UNESCO’s Global Network of Learning Cities	February 2026
 Micro-credentials and Individual Learning Accounts	April 2026
 European Commission Tools for Learning and Skills (e.g., Europass)	June 2026
 Demographic Challenges and Their Impact on Skills	September 2026
 Effective Communication within the EU Context	November 2026

Skills analysis across sectors key to EARLALL Members

Working Group: Skills and Labour Market



Following on from three successful skills sectoral analysis webinars held from October 2024 to September, focused on Textiles, Clothing, Leather, and Footwear (TCLF) Industries, Cultural and Creative industries, Advanced Manufacturing and Tourism.

EARLALL's working group on skills and the labour market plans the following sectoral skills analysis webinars:

Upcoming Webinars in 2025-2026	Period
 Applied Arts & Craftsmanship	December 2025
 Battery industries	Winter 2026
 Energy	Spring 2026
 Construction	Autumn 2026

Participation in the Apprenticeship Support Services

EARLALL Secretariat



EARLALL is a member of the Apprenticeship Support Services, where it contributes to drafting the annual action plan and takes part in expert stakeholder group consultation meetings twice a year. This role is particularly relevant now, as EARLALL and its members are also engaged in the QUEEN project, which specifically addresses apprenticeships.

Running the EAfA Community the Role of Regions and Cities for Apprenticeships

EARLALL Secretariat



In 2023, the European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAfA) Community was launched. EARLALL, as a co-leader of the Community, has planned the following activities:



- Bimonthly Community Meeting: Presentations of best practices, Exchanges with stakeholders
- Collaborative Research and Data Collection: Disseminate the survey and collect valuable data to share with the EAfA
- Push networking across countries, learning platform: Keep connecting and sharing resources to strengthen the community and make our digital hub stronger
- An in-person event in Rome in Spring 2026

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

Working Group: Youth Policies and Skills and Labour Market



To build common knowledge and results that can be shared — and to create synergies with the QUEEN project — two working groups propose to carry out a survey and map the similarities and differences in apprenticeship systems across the EARLALL regions. This work will provide a basis for exchanging insights on the state of apprenticeships, both from a legal and societal perspective.

EARLALL Mobility Matchmaking tool

Working Group: Mobility



This initiative comes from recognising the benefits of cross-border exchange within the EARLALL network. It is an online form where EARLALL members can propose receiving or sending initiatives, and the secretariat will match opportunities. EARLALL is facilitating the following exchanges:

Upcoming potential exchanges	Period
Working Life Department of Borås Short Term mobility project: 5 spots for a job shadowing to Vestland, as well as 7 to Centre Val De Loire, 8 to Baden-Württemberg and 10 to Catalonia.	2026
Mobility exchange on Inclusion / NEETs Region Västra Götaland delegation hosted in Basque Country	Winter 2025
Potential exchange on Regional Digital Councils – Centre-Val de Loire delegation hosted in Tuscany Region	Winter 2025/26
Potential exchange on Events for discovering careers and guidance, Centre-Val de Loire delegation hosted in Baden-Württemberg	Spring 2026

EARLALL Lifelong Learning Mobility Promoter

Working Group: Mobility



EARLALL Lifelong Learning Mobility Promoters is an initiative that highlights and gives visibility to individuals across the network who actively promote educational mobility. Recognising the essential role of these “mobility ambassadors,” who dedicate their time and effort to making learning mobility opportunities happen, EARLALL will strengthen and expand this initiative in the upcoming year with the support of the Working Group on Mobility.

Participation in external initiatives

European Education and Skills Summit – 13 November 2025

Organised by the European Commission



EARLALL will actively participate, sharing insights from its network on lifelong learning strategies and regional initiatives. The Summit will also offer opportunities to strengthen partnerships and explore new collaborations across the European education landscape.

Lifelong Learning Platform's Lifelong Learning Week, 8-12 December 2025

Organised by the Lifelong Learning Platform

Participation in the Lifelong Learning Platform's Lifelong Learning Week 2025.

European Week of Regions and Cities - October 2026

Proposed by the EARLALL Secretariat



EARLALL will actively participate in the event through sessions designed with our members and partners.

Action 2: Responding to Policy

EARLALL's actions will be closely aligned with key EU initiatives, including the Multiannual Financial Framework, Cohesion Policy, Competitiveness Funds, and the implementation of the Union of Skills. EARLALL will also monitor and contribute to discussions in the European Parliament Intergroup on the Future of Education and Skills for a Competitive Europe, and stay actively involved during the upcoming EU Presidencies of Cyprus (first half of 2026) and Ireland (second half of 2026). In addition, EARLALL will continue its active participation in the DG Regio Harnessing Talent Platform working group on research and innovation, ensuring that regional perspectives are embedded in policy dialogue and knowledge exchange. Through this work, EARLALL aims to ensure that the perspectives and needs of its members are represented in European policy, supporting the development of effective lifelong learning strategies at the regional and local level.

Important policy developments at EU Level

Follow-up on the Multiannual Financial Framework and Union of Skills discussions



EARLALL will monitor EU developments, including the Union of Skills consultation this autumn 2026 and discussions on the MFF.

The network will ensure regional priorities are represented and support members in aligning with EU skills and education strategies.

Multiannual Financial Framework: Key Priorities for the Coming Work Plan Year

- Mid-2025 to late 2026: Negotiation among EU Member States and the European Parliament. If approved, the new budget takes effect January 2028
- Erasmus+ will continue promoting mobility and inclusion with a stronger focus on skills for the green and digital transitions. Pillars instead of key actions: mobility and capacity building (latter = merger of KA2 and KA3)
- Erasmus+: Boosted to €40.8 billion, advancing lifelong learning and inclusion (50% "budget increase)
- ESF+ remains vital for social investment and upskilling, but within broader partnership envelopes.
- Integration of programmes like the European Solidarity Corps into Erasmus+ needs careful design
- The balance between centralised EU programmes and devolved national/regional responsibilities remains to be clarified
- AgoraEU: New programme to support civil society, culture, and media

Union of Skills: Key Priorities for the Coming Work Plan Year

- Basic Skills Support Scheme (pilot) - 2026
- 2030 Roadmap on the future of digital education and skills and DigComp - Q4 2025
- AI in education initiative - 2026
- EU Teachers and Trainers Agenda - 2026
- European Strategy for VET and European VET Diploma - targeted consultation this autumn / 2026
- Skills Portability Initiative - 2026, but already talks of a legislative proposal
- European Schools Alliances - 2026
- Advocate for a High-Level Skills Board that is not open only to national governments and businesses

In addition, EARLALL will monitor negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and related EU funding programmes to ensure that the interests and priorities of its members are represented.

Follow-up on the European Parliament committees and Intergroup on Skills

EARLALL Secretariat



EARLALL will monitor developments in the European Parliament, including the new “Intergroup on the Future of Education and Skills for a Competitive Europe”, and share key insights with members through the Lifelong Learning Platform and EARLALL Academy sessions.

Follow-up on Cedefop Foresight Study on Continuous Skills Development in the Next 15-20 Years.

EARLALL Secretariat



EARLALL participates in the expert workshops for the development of the Cedefop Foresight Study on Continuous Skills Development in the Next 15-20 Years. The Cedefop Foresight Study is an essential initiative aiming to define a long-term strategy for skills development up to 2040. By developing alternative scenarios and action plans, the study will provide valuable guidance for policymakers and stakeholders seeking to future-proof Europe’s workforce.



Follow-up on Cedefop Regional Skills Ecosystem Index (REST)

EARLALL Secretariat and Working Group on Skills and Labour Market



Cedefop has presented a new initiative tailored to support regional skills strategies to EARLALL’s members. The RESET aims to address this gap by creating a composite index that measures the health of regional skills ecosystems across the EU. The index is built around four core pillars: skills supply, skills demand, challenges, and the enabling environment. EARLALL members are invited to explore the tool, share their insights, and help ensure that it reflects the realities and needs of Europe’s diverse regions.

European Alliance for Apprenticeships – Factsheet on higher-level apprenticeships

Working Group: Lifelong Guidance and Ageing Societies / Youth Policies



EARLALL is a member of EAfA and will actively contribute to the factsheet on higher-level apprenticeships to be published by EAfA in December 2025. Additionally, EARLALL will participate in related activities, including the publication of a toolkit on apprenticeships for adults (October 2025) and the webinar on addressing gender stereotypes in apprenticeships (November 2025).

Follow-up on Quality Framework for Traineeships, Council and Committee of the Regions

EARLALL Secretariat and Working Group for Youth Policies / EU-funded project QUEEN



The Council discussed the Directive on Traineeships in June 2024. In 2025, the CoR SEDEC Committee is drafting an opinion on a Reinforced Quality Framework for Traineeships, which EARLALL is following closely through its work in the QUEEN project to strengthen the quality and recognition of apprenticeships.

Evaluation of the Digital Education Action Plan, European Commission *EARLALL Secretariat and Working Group on Skills and the Labour Market*



In 2025/2026, EARLALL will closely monitor the European Commission's evaluation of the Digital Education Action Plan and the development of the forthcoming 2030 Digital Education Roadmap. Through its participation in the Lifelong Learning Platform, EARLALL will contribute to discussions on the relevance and effectiveness of EU digital education policies, highlight gaps or areas for further strengthening, and ensure that the perspectives and needs of its members are reflected in EU-level initiatives.

DG Regio Harnessing Talent Platform Working Group on Research and Innovation *EARLALL Secretariat*



EARLALL is in the subgroup on place-based innovation strategies and skills development. The next steps and activities include:

- Recommendation paper on assessing skills needs and addressing skills development in place-based innovation strategies
- Toolkit on knowledge valorisation
- In-person plenary meeting of all WGs on DG REGIO premises to present and gather feedback from other stakeholders on the draft recommendation paper, November 2025
- Finalisation of the paper for publication, December 2025

European Youth Week 2026

Working Group on Youth Policies



European Youth Week is held every two years, with the next edition planned for 2026, although specific dates in June have not yet been announced. It promotes youth engagement and citizenship through events organised across Europe by Erasmus+ National Agencies and Eurodesk. This is an opportunity for EARLALL's working group to organise a session or campaign about the role of regions and cities in youth promotion for lifelong learning.

European Week of Regions and Cities 2026

EARLALL Secretariat



Each year, the Committee of Regions organises the European Week of Regions and Cities in October in Brussels. EARLALL will propose sessions during this week.

Action 3: Outreach and cooperation

To achieve EARLALL's ambitious strategic targets—particularly in facilitating mobility, internationalisation, and collaboration across the network—it is essential to work closely with international organisations, European and non-European associations, Brussels-based networks (such as EfVET, the Erasmus+ Coalition, and the informal network of European regional offices), CSOs, and other key actors.

In 2026, EARLALL will also deepen its cooperation with municipalities, recognising their pivotal role in shaping education and training on the ground. Local authorities often lead innovative initiatives that directly respond to community needs. By strengthening ties and sharing best practices, EARLALL aims to scale up successful local solutions across regions, leveraging this local know-how to build inclusive, accessible, and impactful learning ecosystems.

Outreach and cooperation efforts will therefore focus on building and reinforcing connections through meetings, conferences, and relationship-building activities, including welcoming delegations from member regions and presenting EARLALL to visiting territories.

A special opportunity for visibility and outreach will come with the 25th anniversary celebrations in 2026, which will gather partners and stakeholders to highlight 25 years of regional cooperation in lifelong learning. Overall, these efforts will prioritise knowledge exchange, joint initiatives, and the promotion of a collaborative ecosystem that harnesses collective expertise to drive positive educational outcomes.

Advisory Board for the SMARTageCARE project

Working Group: Lifelong Guidance and Ageing Societies



SMARTageCARE aims at building a Smart Ageing Ecosystem to effectively deal with changes associated with ageing (health, participation, resources, lifestyle, capabilities). This Ecosystem is composed of an Ambassadors' Network, a European Advisory Board, and an Ikigai Toolkit (Manifesto, Training Program, Digital Platform).

Advisory Panel for the RALExILA project

EARLALL Secretariat



RALExILA is a forward-looking project aiming to develop and deliver a model for an integrated information system of the national registries for training, focusing on ALE (Adult Learning and Education), to support the implementation of Individual Learning Accounts. With a methodology based on interoperability, accessibility and inclusiveness, the RALExILA model should include a soft framework (including quality assurance and governance frameworks for the ALE system) and a hard framework (information model and guidelines for its implementation). The information model prioritises a collaborative design approach, focusing on accessibility and user experience. It addresses common challenges such as integrating quality assurance criteria, sustainability, and providing effective guidance.

EARLALL Mobility Matchmaking Tool – Planning and Facilitation of bilateral exchanges

Working Group: Mobility and Guidance and Ageing Societies



Building on the work initiated by the Working Groups on Mobility, Guidance, and Ageing Societies in 2022–2023, EARLALL will continue to develop the concept of a privileged network of mobilities among its members. In 2025/2026, the network will be further defined, and implementation stages will be planned. EARLALL will continue to facilitate bilateral study visits and delegation exchanges across the membership, fostering mutual learning and strengthening regional lifelong learning strategies.

Pact for Skills – Regional Skills Partnership for Lifelong Learning Mobility

Working Group: Mobility



The partnership has been reaching new members and remains open to further development. Launch activities in 2025/2026 will include:

- 1-2 page brief on fewer opportunity mobilities
- Developing Lifelong Learning Mobility Promoters

In addition, EARLALL participated in a survey aimed at expanding the Partnership's membership and facilitating connections with other relevant regional upskilling and reskilling initiatives.

Gender Equality Task Force Activities

Gender Equality Task Force

For equality in lifelong learning



Gender Equality Task Force with EfVET, EARLALL and EAEA

The Gender Equality Task Force 2025 Work Plan will focus on advancing gender equality in lifelong learning. EARLALL will participate in the Online Marketplace to explore Erasmus+ opportunities for gender equality initiatives and help shape the agenda, making 2025 a transformative year in this area. Key focus areas for 2025/26 include:

- Advancing Gender Equality in the Digital Age
- Building Capacity in Adult Education for Gender Equality
- Monitoring the European Gender Equality Strategy Revision

Action 4: Projects and project events

Current

◆ LCAMP – Learner-Centric Advanced Manufacturing Platform

<https://lcamp.eu/> | [LinkedIn](#) | [X](#)



Coordinator: Coordinator:
TKNIKA - Basque VET
Applied Research Centre

Erasmus+ CoVEs
June 2022 - May 2026

EU grant: 3,999,988.00 €
EARLALL grant: 247, 000 €

Project events 2025-2026:

 LCAMP Partners Meeting and Project Camp, 27-29 January 2026, Belgium

 LCAMP Conference 2026 and Final TPM meeting, 21-23 April 2026, Basque Country

◆ Lifelong Guidance 5.0: Upscaling Guidance Services in Europe

<https://lifelong-guidance.eu/> [LinkedIn](#)



Coordinator:
Volkshochschulverband
Baden-Württemberg (VHS
BW)

Erasmus+ KA2
December 2023 – December
2026

EU Grant: 400, 000 €
EARLALL grant: 35, 000 €

Project events 2025-2026:

 Webinars series focused for Lifelong Guidance Counsellors 5.0, Winter 2025/26

 Project partners' meeting in Sweden, January 2026

 Project partners' meeting and conference, Austria, 23-24 March 2026

 Final Project Meeting, Brussels, June 2026

◆ SKYLA – Smart Specialisation Skills Ecosystems for the Twin Transition

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/skyla> | [X](#)



Coordinator: ASEV/RESOLVO Tuscany	Interreg Europe March 2023 - March 2027	EU Grant: 1,61 million € EARLALL grant t: 109,986 €
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Project events 2025-2026:

-  2 online workshops are planned for semester 7
-  Project Partners meeting in Athens, 2026
-  Final Project Event, held in Sofia (Bulgaria) and online (hybrid event), 2026

◆ SALAM – Sustainability of Access to the Labour Market

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/salam>



Coordinator: University of Florence	Interreg Europe program April 2024 - June 2028	EU Grant: 1,792,903 € EARLALL grant: 123,549 €
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Project events 2025-2026:

-  Newsletter 3, October 2025
-  Fourth in-person meeting, Timisoara, 27-28 January 2026,
-  Newsletter 4, January 2025
-  Fifth in-person meeting, Region Västra Götaland, Autumn 2026
-  Newsletter 5, October 2026

◆ **QUEEN – Quality apprenticeships for evolving labour needs**

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/queen>



Coordinator: ASEV/RESOLVO Tuscany	Interreg Europe program May 2025 – July 2029	EU Grant: 1,89 million € EARLALL grant: 126,123 €
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Project events 2025-2026:

-  26-27 November 2025, Second partners meeting, Basque Country
-  Semester 3 in person meeting, Southwest Finland, Spring 2026

◆ **LeadEX – Learning about the Educational Approach to Develop Excellence**

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/leadex>



Coordinator: Regional Ministry of Education, Vocational Training and Employment - Region of Murcia	Interreg Europe May 2025 – July 2029	EU Grant: 1,77 million € EARLALL grant: 153.000 €
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Project events 2025-2026:

-  Second partners meeting, Estonia, Winter 2026
-  1st Interregional Educational Seminar about teachers' training needs, organised by Varaždin County, Autumn 2025/Winter 2026
-  Publication of 2 dedicated newsletter, Autumn 2025/Winter 2026
-  2nd Interregional Educational Seminar, organised by Montenegro, Spring 2026

◆ WISE – Supporting Ukrainian (UA) Refugee Women’s Socio-Economic Integration and Wellbeing



Coordinator: Fondazione International Rescue Committee Italia ETS

European Social Fund + April 2025 – October 2026

EU Grant: 673,677 €
EARLALL grant: 38.000 €

Project events 2025-2026:

 Final Conference, Brussels, 16 September 2026,

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

 <https://www.trails-project.eu/>  [LinkedIn](#) 



Coordinator: Democritus University of Thrace (Greece)

HORIZON-CL2-2023-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-07 call for the topic of ‘Tackling European skills and labour Shortages’ | January 2024 - January 2027

EU Grant: 2, 994 403,75 €
EARLALL grant : 296,250 €

Project events 2024-2025

 TRAILS portal launch, Winter 2025 /2026

 TRAILS Workshop / Conference, 10-11 September 2026, Naples (Italy)

Submitted for 2025 – 2026

Project Title	Key themes	EU Funding Program /	Working Group or Lead partner
Corporate Digital Responsibility Skills (CROCODILES)	CDR, SMEs, sustainable digitalisation, Ethical AI/digitalisation, digital inclusion	ERASMUS-EDU-2025-PI-ALL-INNO-EDU-ENT -Alliances for Innovation	RESOLVO SRL, Lifelong Guidance and Ageing Societies WG
Smart Agriculture: Digital Transformation in an inclusive VET (SmAgDI)	Digital agriculture techniques, VET	KA220-VET - Cooperation partnerships in vocational education and training	Basque Country (Bitoriano Gandiaga Fundazioa), Skills and the Labour Market WG
Leveraging Silver Capacities for the Retail Sector (SiRe)	Adult Education	KA220-ADU - Cooperation partnerships in adult education	Barcelona Chamber of Commerce, Lifelong Guidance and Ageing Societies WG
Excellence in Vocational Education and Training for Responsible Tourism (EVERET)	Centers of Vocational Excellence, Tourism	ERASMUS-EDU-2025-PEX-COVE - Centres of Vocational Excellence	Castilla y Leon, Skills and the Labour Market WG
CARE Education and Reinforcing Skills (CAREERS)	Upskilling and reskilling, Care sector	ERASMUS-EDU-2025-PI-FORWARD-ADULT-PS -Adult Learning: Support to the Pact for Skills	Barcelona Activa, Lifelong Guidance and Ageing Societies WG
Enabling Learning and Validation for Adults Talent and Employability (ELEVATE)	Career guidance, upskilling and reskilling	ERASMUS-EDU-2025-PI-FORWARD - Forward-Looking Projects	Huis van het Leren West-Vlaanderen HvL Lifelong Guidance and Ageing Societies WG
Lifelong and Lifewide Learning - Skills Partnerships for the Twin Transitions (LLL-PACT)	Pact for Skills, skills for the labour market, adult learning	ERASMUS-EDU-2025-PI-FORWARD — Adult Learning: Support to the Pact for Skills	Lifelong Learning Platform Lifelong Guidance and Ageing Societies WG
Joint European Vocational Education and Training Qualifications (EUROVETQUAL)	Qualification, Automatic Recognition, VET	ERASMUS-EDU-2025-PI-FORWARD-VET-QM - Development of joint VET qualifications and modules	Basque Country , Youth Policies
DigitalCity — Empowering migrants to navigate digital life in Europe (Digital City)	Digital Skills for Employment, Specialised training to help migrants gain IT-related skills	AMIF-2025-TF2-AG-INTE-03-DIGITAL- Improving digital skills among migrants	The Lifelong Learning Foundation - Kvs Foundation (Finland) Lifelong Guidance and Ageing Societies WG
MIRAL - Migrant women Integration, Resilience, Advancement & Learning	Support measures for migrant women's integration	AMIF-2025-TF2-AG-INTE-01-WOMEN - Support measures for migrant women's integration	University of Florence (Italy) Lifelong Guidance and Ageing Societies WG

In the pipeline

Key themes	EU Funding Program	Working Group or Lead partner
NEETs - young adults, with a particular focus on innovation & Micro-credentials	Erasmus+	Youth Policies WG
National Skills Framework for continuous adult learning	/	Working Group on Skills and Labour Market
Rethinking Digital VET	ESF+ Social Innovation	Lifelong Guidance and Ageing Societies WG and Youth Policies WG
Learning cities	/	Lifelong Guidance and Ageing Societies WG

Action 5: Communication and Dissemination

Communication and dissemination remain critical transversal activities for the EARLALL network, complementing the key action areas outlined in this work plan. In 2025/2026, these activities will continue to aim at raising and consolidating the profile of the network in the European lifelong learning arena, promoting its Member Regions' achievements and best practices, and providing opportunities for networking and engagement.

This period will also see the launch of EARLALL's 25th Anniversary Campaign, celebrating the network's long-standing contribution to lifelong learning and highlighting its impact across Europe. Communication and dissemination efforts will be crucial to widen the outreach of the network's activities, foster knowledge exchange and capacity-building, and strengthen EARLALL's role as an effective advocate on key 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 2025-2026:

Social Media	Website	Newsletter
2.000 followers on Twitter (1.972 as of August 2025)	1 post per month on member activities	Release EARLALL Insights Newsletter 4 times in 2025-2026
2.300 followers on LinkedIn (2.063 as of August 2025)	1-2 post per month on project activities	Online campaign 4 times before the Insights Newsletter to increase audience (+63 since 2024)
Engage regularly with regions outside of the EARLALL membership	1 post per month on EARLALL-wide activities	Disseminate member activities from the Insights newsletter on social media

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	Organisation	Potential Impact
★ EARLALL's 25th Anniversary campaign	EARLALL Initiative	The 25th Anniversary campaign in 2026 will enhance EARLALL's visibility, celebrate member achievements, strengthen networking and collaboration, and inspire new initiatives across the lifelong learning community.

Initiative	Organisation	Potential Impact
Regional Pact for Skills Partnership for Lifelong Learning Mobility	EARLALL, network members & other stakeholders	Highlight key initiatives, success stories, and resources that support lifelong learning and cross-border mobility
#TogetherForLifelongLearning	EARLALL Initiative	Continue the momentum of the European Year of Skills online visibility, specific to the network
Project stories (notably QUEEN, LeadEX, SALAM, SKYLA, TRAILS, LCAMP...)	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

EARLALL's 25th Anniversary campaign

In 2026, EARLALL will celebrate 25 years since its foundation. To mark this important milestone, the Secretariat is preparing a dedicated anniversary campaign under the theme: “25 Years of Lifelong Learning Together”.

Planned initiatives include:

25th Anniversary Logo & Visual Identity	Anniversary Video Series: “25 Stories for 25 Years”	Social Media Campaign #EARLALL25
<i>To be unveiled during the General Assembly in 2025</i>	<i>Showcasing inspiring people, projects, and milestones from across the network.</i>	<i>Featuring the hashtag #EARLALL25, along with a communication toolkit and anniversary pack to support member regions in sharing and celebrating.</i>
Special Edition Newsletter(S)	25th Anniversary Celebration Event (2026)	
<i>Dedicated to the achievements, partnerships, and future vision of EARLALL.</i>	<i>To be held in Brussels in 2026.</i>	

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 emerging 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. A key element of this approach is the shift towards STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics), rather than solely STEM, recognising the critical role of soft skills in today's workforce. By integrating the arts, we acknowledge that creativity, leadership, communication, and collaboration are vital in making workers more versatile and better prepared to meet the demands of increasingly complex projects and technologies. Training these skills will ensure professionals are equipped for the future, especially in areas where AI and automation cannot replicate human capabilities.

This focus on STEAM strengthens lifelong learning by fostering a more holistic skillset, ultimately expanding opportunities for individual growth and career adaptability. It also supports the development of professionals who can thrive in diverse fields, ranging from technical roles to leadership positions, aligning with broader trends in the modern labour market. As Europe seeks to build resilient and versatile workforces, a shift towards STEAM ensures we prepare individuals not only with technical expertise but also with the critical soft skills that will drive innovation and collaboration across industries.

By combining these elements, the priority 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, apprenticeships, 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 a comprehensive set of knowledge, skills, and competencies supports this agenda. It also links 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 digitalisation and promoting innovative learning practices aligns with the European Framework for the Digital Competence of Educators (DigCompEdu), providing a reference for the digital competencies educators need to effectively integrate technology into teaching and learning.

Vocational excellence and the role of VET (new in 2024)

Vocational excellence is key to promoting regional lifelong learning practices at their best and supporting Smart Specialisation Strategies. VET excellence ensures high-quality skills and competencies that lead to specialised employment and long-term career opportunities. EARLALL is committed to this addition to the development of VET excellence across the network.

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.

This priority aligns with several initiatives of the European Commission. The priority relates to the EQF's 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 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, integrating 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 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 as a means 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. 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. This involves staying informed about new initiatives, 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 involves 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 following policy trends, EARLALL can proactively respond and shape discussions. It also involves 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.

Timeline of upcoming activities 2025/2026



September 26'

- (Skills Analysis Webinar) Construction Sector
- (EARLALL Academy) Demographic Challenges and Their Impact on Skills
- Lifelong Guidance Counsellors final meeting , Brussels
- TRAILS Academic Workshop, Naples
- WISE Final Conference, Brussels

October 26'

- European Week of Regions and Cities 2026, Brussels

November 26'

- (EARLALL Academy) Effective Communication within the EU Context
- European Education Summit, Brussels

Annex C

Pact for Skills: Regional Skills partnerships for Lifelong Learning Mobility

What is the Pact for Skills and what is a regional skills partnership?

The Pact For Skills is one of the flagship initiatives of the European Education Area, from the European Commission. **EARLALL, as a network of regions and local authorities, is a member of the European Commission's Pact For Skills Initiative.** Through the Pact for Skills, the European Commission is supporting the development of regional skills partnerships. These partnerships bring together different stakeholders to help working-age people in a region learn new skills or improve existing ones. On 17 September 2024, EARLALL launches a regional skills partnership for **lifelong learning mobility**, as part of the Working Group on Mobility.

What does the Regional Skills Partnership for Lifelong Learning Mobility commit to?

Acknowledging the ambitious targets set in the proposal Europe on the Move, the Regional Pact for Skills for Lifelong Learning Mobility seeks to increase the number of mobilities of Vocational and Educational Training (VET), Apprenticeship, Adult Education, informal education students, in addition to increasing mobilities for those with fewer opportunities. **The Partnership will focus on promoting a culture of lifelong learning and providing opportunities for those with fewer opportunities, by creating solid links between regions in these fields of exchange and by committing to monitoring and evaluating exchanges in these fields.** The Regional Skills Partnership for Lifelong Mobility commits to help to reach the goals of Europe on the Move, with 20% of VET learners by 2030 on mobilities and 20% of all mobilities for those with fewer opportunities and The Partnership commits to networking with regional and local authorities to implement solid cooperation links in the field of VET mobility, with a focus on providing opportunities for apprenticeship mobility and on attracting new members to the Partnership.

What are the planned activities?

- 1 Sharing inspiration and good practices of mobility, particularly for those with "fewer opportunities".
- 2 Defining the meaning of "fewer opportunities" and how to best involve these people.
- 3 Monitoring and tracking mobility opportunities and mobility in implementation across partners of this Pact
- 4 Developing the concept of lifelong learning mobility promoters, working to expand a network of individuals and institutions committed to educational mobility.
- 5 Expanding the scope of a mobility matchmaking tool to new stakeholders, matching high-quality exchanges and, student mobility and also regional and local staff job shadowing.
- 6 Organising one-off or regular project matchmaking events to prepare for joint mobility projects.

What are the next steps and how will EARLALL be involved?

The Working Group on Mobility will use the upcoming working groups to determine the next activities of the Pact for Skills Regional Skills partnership, with the goal of ensuring each meeting has a presentation of best practices and a networking opportunity to interest new members. The EARLALL secretariat will support this planning process and facilitate meetings and networking with new members.

Give your support!

EARLALL is excited for this opportunity to increase the visibility of the network and to continue its commitment to high-quality lifelong learning mobility. Contact communication@earlall.eu and let us know if we can include your logo in official communication about the Pact.

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