

25 YEARS OF LIFELONG LEARNING TOGETHER



earlall
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL & LOCAL
AUTHORITIES FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

EARLALL 25th Anniversary

REGIONS LEARNING TOGETHER

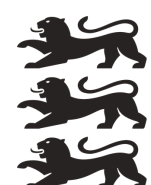
EVENT REPORT

Brussels, 11 June 2026

An initiative of:



Supported by:



Baden-Württemberg
Ministry of Education



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25 Years of Lifelong Learning Together



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WELCOME

On 11 June 2026, more than 100 representatives from European regions, institutions, education providers, practitioners and partner organisations gathered in Brussels to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the European Association of Regional and Local Authorities for Lifelong Learning (EARLALL). Hosted at the Representation of the State of Baden-Württemberg to the European Union, the event honoured a quarter century of regional cooperation while opening a forward-looking dialogue on the future of lifelong learning in Europe.



Europe's future is shaped by where people live their lives – in regions and local communities. Our future competitiveness depends on skills, and regions are the ones building the European Union every day.

MADELEINE JONSSON

President of EARLALL and Chair of the Environment and Regional Development Committee of Region Västra Götaland



Investments in continuing education are investments in Europe's future viability. Those who want to shape this change must create opportunities for people all across Europe to develop and acquire new skills continuously.

BODO LEHMANN

Head of the Baden-Württemberg State Representation in Brussels

AT A GLANCE



+ 100
PARTICIPANTS



15
COUNTRIES



26
REGIONS



14
SPEAKERS



08
EXIHIBITION
STANDS



04
WORKING GROUP
SESSIONS



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

LEARNING REGIONS FORUM PROGRAMME - AFTERNOON

Welcome and opening

“Lifelong Learning through the regions”
exhibition stands

Parallel working groups sessions (I):

- Lifelong Guidance and Ageing Societies
- Youth Policies

Parallel working groups sessions (II):

- Mobility
- Skills and Labour Market

Networking and Exchange

LEARNING JOURNEYS ACROSS REGIONS - EVENING

Music performance by GO! Muziekacademie
Etterbeek

Institutional welcome

Keynote contributions

25 Years Ahead: Future Scenarios for Learning
Regions

Presentation of the 25th anniversary video
and closing remarks

Celebratory cocktail reception - Feel the
Rhythm of the Regions



LIFELONG LEARNING THROUGH THE REGIONS

The afternoon's "Lifelong Learning through the regions" exhibition showcased this diversity of regional action. Throughout the day, participants learnt about innovative initiatives and European cooperation projects from across the network.

- **Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Education:** European project Lifelong Guidance 5.0; Baden-Württemberg State Network for Continuing Education Counselling and the up PAMINA vhs.
- **Basque Country** shared experiences from its Department of Education and Vocational Training, together with LCAMP.
- The **Tuscany Region** highlighted the QUEEN and SALAM projects.
- **Catalonia** showcased regional initiatives connecting education, vocational training and employment services.
- **Centre-Val de Loire** presented innovative approaches to career discovery for students and young job seekers, featuring two interactive tools.
- **GO! and Crescendo CVO Mechelen.**
- **Horizon Europe projects SkillsPulse and TRAILS.**



WORKING GROUP SESSIONS



LIFELONG GUIDANCE AND AGEING SOCIETIES

Chaired by **Andrea Bernert-Büerke** (Baden-Württemberg), explored inclusive lifelong guidance approaches supporting migrants, adults and vulnerable groups, highlighting the importance of accessible and personalised support throughout life transitions.

 [Presentation](#)



YOUTH POLICIES

Chaired by **Miriana Bucalossi** (Tuscany Region), and with an introduction by **Alberto Lenzi** (Regional Minister for Labour, Vocational Training, Active Labour Market Policies and Technological Innovation, Tuscany Region), participants discussed operational pathways for intergenerational fairness, examining how policies can better address the needs and aspirations of different generations.

 [Presentation](#)



MOBILITY

Co-chaired by **Nicholas Waller** (City of Borås) and **Julia Burkhard** (Movetia), the session focused on approaches to promote inclusive mobility across Europe, emphasising the importance of ensuring that international learning opportunities are accessible to diverse groups of learners.

 [Presentation](#)



SKILLS AND LABOUR MARKET

Chaired by **Miriam Castillo** and **Òscar Martorell Aleman** from Catalonia's Regional Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, examined how micro-credentials can help bridge the gap between labour market demands and skills systems, supporting more flexible and responsive learning pathways.

 [Presentation](#)



*If you would like to become a member of one of the Working Groups, you can send an email to the Secretariat.
(only for EARLALL's network members)*

LEARNING JOURNEYS ACROSS REGIONS

- Music performance by GO! Muziekacademie Etterbeek
- Institutional welcome by Madeleine Jonsson
- Greeting video by Ylva Johansson, Chair of the European Skills High-Level Board (Governing Body of the Union of Skills)
- EU Perspective “Skills for Europe’s future” Ann Branch (European Commission)
- Europe Starts in Its Regions: Csaba Borboly (European Committee of the Regions)
- Insights on Erasmus+ and EU Cultural and Education Policy – MEP Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski
- Igniting the Desire to Learn: Making Lifelong Learning a Living Experience for All Dr Pieter Sprangers
- EARLALL Discussion Session: 25 Years Ahead: Future Scenarios for Learning Regions
- Presentation of the 25th anniversary video and closing remarks
- Celebratory cocktail reception - Feel the Rhythm of the Regions



KEYNOTE CONTRIBUTIONS



You are closest to education and training providers, to businesses and, most importantly, to citizens. That puts you in a privileged position to design and deliver skills strategies that work in practice.

YLVA JOHANSSON 

Chair of the European Skills High-Level Board
(Governing Body of the Union of Skills)



The future of work is not only about technology. It is about people having confidence, opportunities and the ability to continue learning throughout their lives.

ANN BRANCH

Head of Unit, Union of Skills, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission



KEYNOTE CONTRIBUTIONS



This anniversary is not only a celebration; it is also a message. Regions are not only the implementers of European policy – they are co-authors.

CSABA BORBOLY

Vice-president of the Harghita County Council -
Member of the European Committee of the Regions



Erasmus+ is a great European success, but its impact becomes tangible in our regions, where schools, universities, training centres and employers work together to create real opportunities for learners and communities.

MEP BOGDAN ANDRZEJ ZDROJEWSKI 

Member of the European Parliament / Vice-Chair of
the European Parliament's Committee on Culture
and Education (CULT).



IGNITING THE DESIRE TO LEARN: MAKING LIFELONG LEARNING A LIVING EXPERIENCE FOR ALL



Dr Pieter Sprangers (University of Antwerp) challenged participants to rethink traditional understandings of education, arguing that lifelong learning should be seen not as a luxury but as **"the infrastructure of a resilient society."**

He called for a shift towards flexible, learner-centred ecosystems that support continuous development throughout life. Highlighting the **role of communities, cities and regions as powerful learning environments**, he emphasised that while technology and AI offer new opportunities, human connection, motivation and belonging remain essential to meaningful lifelong learning.



Lifelong learning is no longer a luxury — it is the infrastructure of a resilient society. It is striking to see how European regions are joining forces within EARLALL to shape the future of learning.

DR PIETER SPRANGERS (PHD)
University of Antwerp (Belgium)



25 YEARS AHEAD: FUTURE SCENARIOS FOR LEARNING REGIONS



Invest in inclusive lifelong learning systems



Make learning pathways more flexible and supportive



Renew governance for a "new learning welfare"



Provide personalised support and equal opportunities



The future of lifelong learning in Europe depends on systems that are more flexible, more inclusive and more deeply connected to the communities they serve.



FEEL THE RHYTHM OF THE REGIONS

Closing the event, **Madeleine Jonsson** and **Noelia Cantero**, Director of EARLALL, unveiled the network's 25th anniversary video and reflected on the collective journey undertaken by the association and its members.



[25th anniversary video](#)



[Feel the Rhythm of the Regions](#)



LEARNING JOURNEYS IN ACTION

*EXPLORING EUROPEAN COOPERATION
BEYOND THE CELEBRATION*

The celebration continued beyond Brussels on 12 June, offering participants the opportunity to experience European cooperation in practice.

Through study visits to the **European Parliament** and the **European Committee of the Regions**, as well as participation in the initiative **“Expanding Horizons: Celebrating 5 Years of Ambassador of Mechelen”** and **“Building International Connections”**, organised by GO! Education of the Flemish Community and Crescendo CVO Mechelen, participants explored how dialogue, partnerships and lifelong learning are translated into action across different contexts.

📄 [Handout 5 years of Ambassador Mechelen](#)

📄 [Presentation 5 years of Ambassador Mechelen](#)



Study visits to the European Parliament and the European Committee of the Regions



Participation at the “Expanding Horizons: Celebrating 5 Years of Ambassador of Mechelen” and “Building International Connections” in Mechelen (BE).

EVENT MATERIALS



[Event article](#)



[Event photo gallery](#) by Jose Huedo



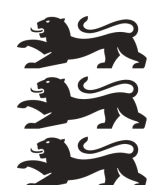
[Event video](#) by Jose Huedo



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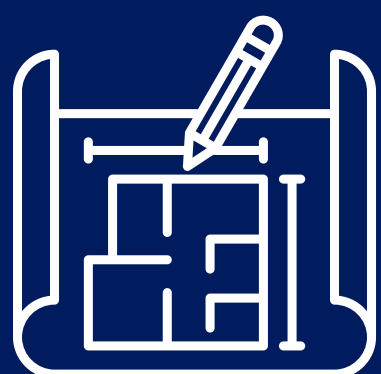
Be part of the only European regional network focused on lifelong learning.



Influence EU policies on lifelong learning.



Share knowledge, solutions and good practices.



Participate in EU-funded projects.



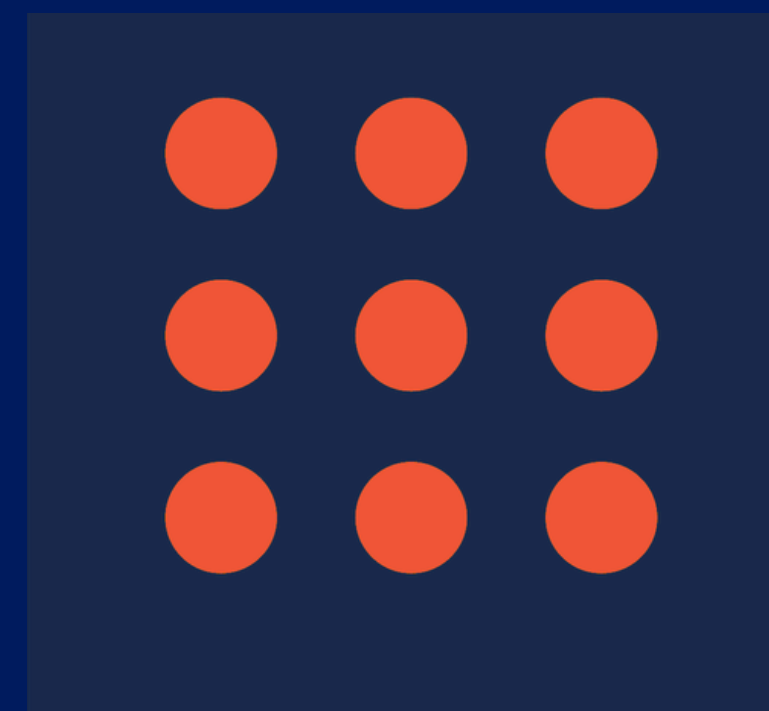
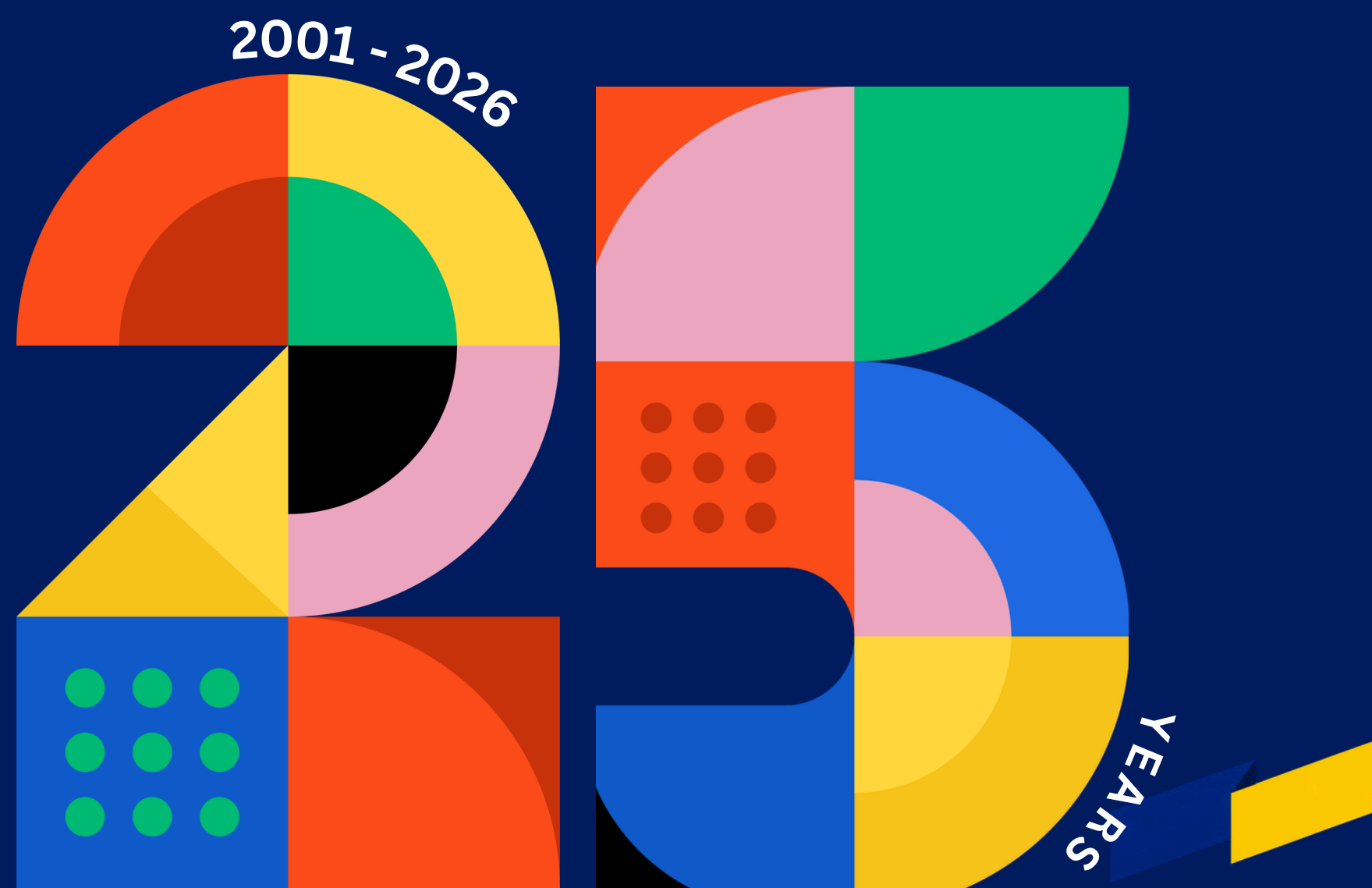
Increase visibility for your regions, municipality or education/ skills organisation.



**Together,
we create stronger
learning
opportunities for all.**



[About us](#)



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EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL & LOCAL
AUTHORITIES FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

**YEARS OF
COOPERATION.
THANK YOU.**

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