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**WORK-PLAN 2013**

**Brussels, January 2013**



# WORK-PLAN 2013

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## Introduction

The consequences of the financial crisis have been at the top of regional/national and European agendas in 2012, and Local and Regional Authorities (LRAs) are struggling to reconcile the availability of less financial resources with good service to their citizens. Once again Earllall calls for new EU programmes 2014 – 2020 to respond to the need for regional development; the EU programmes, in particular the ones addressed to LRAs, should give concrete means to design regional policies that respond to the citizens' needs. The Multiannual Financial Framework should allocate resources taking into account the citizens and development of the EU and its countries and regions. Earllall's members and Earllall have also been affected by this difficult situation and have worked in order to improve activities with stagnant financial resources. It is in particular crucial that Earllall offers services with concrete added value to its members. It was in this respect that a development plan was produced in 2012 (see below).

It is also important to seek new members in order to expand the activities and the geographical area covered by the association. Earllall members and the Business Manager have been active in promoting the association and its activities to external regions and partner regions, thus those efforts should be reiterated next year.

2012 also saw the early departure of our friend and colleague Karl-Heinz Dullmaier, who died in July. The Östersund General Assembly in October 2012 was dedicated to him and he will be remembered by all Earllall members not only for the high level professional contributions, but especially for his personal qualities.

## Overall aims

Remembering the general aims of the Association is a way to reinforce its activities and the short term objectives of the activities:

- Seeking to bring regional perspectives to the European debate of Lifelong Learning and trying to influence it;
- Offering a platform for members to share information, exchange experience and the transfer of good practice;
- Enhancing Regional cooperation through projects and other activities;
- Encouraging the development of joint projects among members, with the participation of Earllall itself, founded by EU programmes.

## EARLALL in 2012

2012 was an exciting year for Earllall as many initiatives and projects started and were implemented with good results.

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Two General Assemblies were organised: one on the 7<sup>th</sup> March in Brussels and one on the 12<sup>th</sup> October in Ostersund (Jamtland). The board members met on the occasion of the GAs and also in June in Rennes (Bretagne) where the Development Plan was discussed and approved with the aim of improving the association's activities; the plan was based on three main points: providing members with new services, improving external and internal communication; attracting new members.

The first results of the Plan were the evaluation of Earllall's current communication and the design of a new strategy; a new working group facilitating the meeting between Earllall members of European Institutions.

Traditional working groups have worked hard and many of them decided to apply to European funding in order to finance their activities. A new group was created on lifelong learning and active ageing. A brief summary of activities carried by the working group in 2012 follows.

### *1. Youth policies*

For the last two years the group of Regions active in youth policies has been analysing and comparing measures dedicated to youth in different policy sectors with a transversal perspective. The Regions met in Brussels on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March and conducted study visits in partner regions, and with support have transferred successful measures.

All Earllall members have been involved in the process through the participation of two dedicated seminars: one took place on the 7<sup>th</sup> march 2012 in Brussels at the Committee of the Regions and was entitled "*Youth: One step ahead*"; the other one will be organised on the 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2013 with the title "*A Guarantee System for Youth Policies - One Step Ahead towards Employment and Autonomy*".

Regions directly involved: Tuscany Region (leader), Baden-Württemberg, Basque Country, Jämtland, Welsh Government.

### *2. Mobility*

The group on mobility met on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March in Brussels at the representation of Baden-Württemberg to compare the different regional structures dedicated to mobility and decided to organise a seminar in Esslingen also involving the business sector.

Regions directly involved: Baden-Württemberg (leader), Basque Country, Catalunya, Tuscany Region, Region Västtra Götaland, Wales.

### *3. Lifelong Guidance*

The working group dedicated to lifelong guidance met 3 times in 2012. Firstly, on the 6<sup>th</sup> March a seminar was organised in Brussels at the representation of Brittany Region to compare the regional structures dedicated to guidance and to discuss the results of a survey conducted by Brittany and the partners on this subject.

Secondly, in Rennes in June 2012, the involved regions participated in a seminar and study visit to a guidance centre where they could meet guidance practitioners; the discussion was focused on quality and governance of guidance as a public service.

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The last meeting was held 2<sup>nd</sup> of October in Brussels, at the representation of Baden-Württemberg; the possibility to apply for a project in the framework of the LLP was discussed and approved by participants. Prof. Schiersmann from University of Heidelberg and representatives from the Cyprus Presidency, Mr Costeas and Mr Gehringer, and from the European Commission Mr Nomden participated.

As for the commitment of Brittany Region in linking the working group with other European networks, Miss Buiarelli, Earlall Business Manager, had been invited to represent the working group on lifelong guidance to ELGPN Plenary Meeting in Cyprus in October 2012 and to ELGPN France Seminar in Sèvres in November 2012.

Members directly involved: Brittany Region (leader), University of Southern Brittany, Baden-Württemberg, Catalunya, Region East Sweden, Region Jämtland, Piedmont Region, Autonomous Province of Trento, Tuscany Region.

#### *4. Flexible Learning*

The group, coordinated by Västra Gotland and VKF, presented a proposal for a project with Earlall members and VKF Universities at the Brussels' GA in March.

The group met in Östersund after the GA on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2012 to discuss project details and activities as well as the timeline for participating with the Erasmus call for proposals.

Members directly involved: Västra Gotland (leader), Baden-Württemberg, Adapt. Universities based in member regions and other bodies are also involved.

#### *5. Lifelong Learning and ageing population*

In recognition of the European Year of Active Ageing, Jämtland proposed to set up a new group to work on issues related to the ageing of the European population. The group met in Östersund after the GA on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October and involved Earlall members and other bodies such as universities and external regions. A questionnaire was distributed in December in order to collect information on regional actors involved in activities dedicated to older adults.

Members directly involved: Jämtland (leader), Baden-Württemberg,

#### *6. Coordination group of Regional Offices in Brussels*

As consequence of the approval of the Development Plan, the Business Manager set up a group including Brussels representatives of Earlall members with the aim of facilitating contacts and meetings with European Institutions on topics chosen for their relevance by involved Regions.

The group was launched on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September with a meeting to assess interest and discuss possible initiatives; a meeting with Mrs Degen, DG EMPL – Youth Unit, was organised in October to discuss the forthcoming Youth Employment Package and the proposal for a Council recommendation on Youth Guarantees.

All members are always invited to take part in the events: their participation depends on interest on a particular issue.

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## **EARLALL in 2013**

Earlall wants to emphasise in 2013 its engagement for improving regional cooperation in fields related to lifelong learning; this will be done through the working groups, the traditional General Assemblies, by European projects and by facilitating bilateral agreements among Regional Governments.

Together with the support of regional cooperation, Earlall will continue its efforts in promoting at European level what regions do internally, and lobbying the European institutions for the recognition of the added value regional policies have on lifelong learning policies.

Lifelong learning is of course at the heart of Earlall concerns and all the activities and initiatives aim to improve policies and measures on lifelong learning and the offers to the citizens.

The working groups will have a strong role in implementing activities for reaching those aims.

### *1. Youth policies*

#### **Activities foreseen:**

Conference "A Guarantee System for Youth Policies - One Step Ahead towards Employment and Autonomy" to share the results of the study and to discuss a document with recommendations on successful youth policies (February);

Dissemination of the document among external regions and European Institutions by email and organisation of meetings with EU representatives (Spring – Summer).

#### **Expected results/outcomes:**

Lobbying for EU and national policies and programmes able to respond to the youth unemployment challenge.

### *2. Mobility*

#### **Activities foreseen:**

Seminar on "Developing Mobility Projects - Creating Networks" on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> April 2013. Venue: State Academy for in-service training of teachers, Esslingen (Baden-Württemberg), Germany  
<http://lehrerfortbildung-bw.de/lak/es/>

#### **Expected results/outcomes:**

The "Developing Mobility Projects - Creating Networks" seminar intends to bring together key players at an operational level, who are involved in the planning and implementation of mobility projects and wish to expand their transnational networks.

### *3. Lifelong guidance*

#### **Activities foreseen :**

Presentation to National Agencies of the Leonardo da Vinci project proposal on guidance (February);

Presentation and analysis of ELGPN toolbox as the basis of the work to be carry in the project (March);

Invitation to Conference on Regional Service on Guidance organised by Brittany Region (June);

Response from the National Agencies on Leonardo project and first study visit (Autumn).

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**Expected results/outcomes:**

The group expects to organise study visits on the framework of the Leonard project – if accepted – and to analyze and implement the ELGPN toolbox.

*4. Flexible learning*

**Activities foreseen:**

Finalising an improved project application and approval of all participating parties (Spring);  
Sending the project application for the call for proposal “Erasmus KA3 ICT” (Autumn – deadline for applications to be confirmed);  
If the project is successful the start-up is foreseen for 2014.

**Expected results/outcomes:**

Cooperation should produce a successful project to be presented in the framework of the LLP.

*5. Lifelong learning and ageing population*

**Activities foreseen:**

Regional workshops gathering information for filling in the questionnaire sent in late 2012 (February – March)  
Analysis of questionnaires received (April – May)  
Workshop presenting results of survey and discussion for further work (October).

**Expected results/outcomes:**

Develop knowledge on stakeholders and activities implemented at regional and local level dedicated to older adults; such material should represent the bases for further cooperation.

*6. Coordination group*

**Activities foreseen:**

Meeting representative of DG EAC for a presentation on “Rethinking Education” initiative (January);  
Meeting representatives of Irish Presidency for education/training and employment (Spring);  
Dissemination of successful projects of Earllall members on lifelong learning (June);  
Working session on funding possibilities for education/training in EU programmes in 2014-2020 (Autumn).

**Expected results/outcomes:**

Establish a continuous dialogue between Earllall members and European Institutions and keeping members updated on European policies and programmes in fields related to lifelong learning.

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## **Provisional Calendar of events and activities - 2013**

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY/PARTICIPATION</b>
JANUARY	Coordination group meeting: Rethinking Education by DG EAC	Business Manager
FEBRUARY	Board meeting	Board of directors, Business Manager
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Earlall General Assembly	Board of directors, Earlall members, Business Manager
21 <sup>st</sup> and 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Conference "A Guarantee System for Youth Policies - One Step Ahead towards Employment and Autonomy"	Tuscany Region, Working group on youth policies
	Audit project SMOC	Business Manager, project partners
	Presentation to National Agencies of Leonardo da Vinci project proposal on guidance	WG lifelong guidance, Brittany Region
	Monthly Newsletter	Business Manager
MARCH	1 <sup>st</sup> March: Deadline for sending questionnaires on lifelong learning and ageing population	Earlall members, WG on ageing population
	Follow-up February events	Business Manager
	Dissemination of document on youth policies	Business Manager, WG on youth policies
	Payment of 2013 membership fees (request send December 2012)	Earlall members
	Meeting WG lifelong learning guidance	WG lifelong guidance

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	Monthly Newsletter	Business Manager
APRIL	Coordination group: meeting with Irish Presidency	Business Manager
	Analysis of questionnaires on ageing population	Jämtland, Working group on ageing population
15 <sup>th</sup> and 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Seminar “Developing Mobility Projects - Creating Networks” on Mobility	Baden-Württemberg, WG mobility
	Finalisation of project application on flexible learning with approval of all participants	WG on flexible learning, VFK
	Monthly Newsletter	Business Manager
MAY	Monthly newsletter	Business Manager
JUNE	Coordination group: meeting to disseminate of successful projects of Earllall members on lifelong learning	Business manager, Coordiantion group
	Monthly Newsletter	Business Manager
JULY	Monthly newsletter	Business Manager
AUGUST	Monthly newsletter	Business Manager
SEPTEMBER	Monthly newsletter	Business Manager
	Preparation Earllall GA	Board of Directors, Business manager
OCTOBER	EARLALL General Assembly	Earllall members, Board of Directors, Business manager
	Presentation of Erasmus KA3 ICT project proposal (flexible learning)	WG on flexible learning, VFK

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	Workshop presenting results of survey on ageing population and discussion for further work	WG ageing population, Jämtland
	Results of project proposal on guidance and startup of the project	WG lifelong guidance
	Monthly newsletter	Business Manager
NOVEMBER	Coordination group: working session on funding possibilities for education/training in EU programmes in 2014-2020	Business Manager, Coordination group
	Monthly newsletter	Business Manager
DECEMBER	Board meeting	Business Manager, Board of Directors
	Monthly newsletter	Business Manager

This calendar indicates the main activities planned for 2013 – however further activities may be decided upon and implemented during the year by the board of Directors, the Business Manager, Working Groups and Earllall members.