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EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL & LOCAL
AUTHORITIES FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

EARLALL

Annual Meeting 2024

REGIONS FOR GENDER-INCLUSIVE
EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Barcelona, Catalonia
13-15 November 2024

Kindly hosted by



**Generalitat
de Catalunya**



TOGETHER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING



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EARLALL Annual Meeting 2024

Strengthening Strategic Vision and Governance

From 13 to 15 November, EARLALL's Annual Meeting 2024 brought together representatives from its member regions and associate members in Barcelona. The 2024 EARLALL Annual Meeting theme was "Regions for gender-inclusive education and employment".

The annual meetings are the network's opportunity to take stock of the year before and to approve the work plans and priorities of the year ahead. Hosted by the Government of Catalonia, the event featured political representatives, including **Mr. Ricard Coma Montoro** Director General of Vocational Training within Department of Education and VET the and **Mr. Juan José Torres**, Director of the Catalan Public Employment Service within the Department of Employment. In their opening addresses, they reaffirmed Catalonia's dedication to strengthening vocational education and lifelong learning to develop a workforce equipped for Europe's dynamic labour market. They also emphasised the importance of regional collaboration to sustain joint initiatives and explore new opportunities for cooperation.



EARLALL members at the Department of Education and Vocational Education and Training, Barcelona



Noelia Cantero, Inge Gorostiaga Luzarraga and Juan José Torres

"The European spirit of collaboration and learning between regions is all about sharing experiences of good practices that enrich us mutually."

Mr. Juan José Torres

[Read the full speech here.](#)



Susana Diaz Martinez, Inge Gorostiaga Luzarraga and Ricard Coma Montoro

"Through EARLALL, we are united by a shared vision: to create a more inclusive, innovative and interconnected educational landscape that responds effectively to both local global needs".

Mr. Ricard Coma Montoro

[Read the full speech here.](#)

EARLALL General Assembly 2024

Strengthening Strategic Vision and Governance

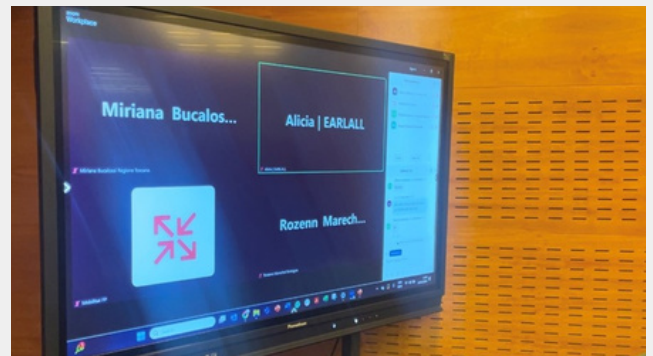
The General Assembly was chaired by **Ms Inge Gorostiaga Luzarraga**, Director of Digital Transformation and Advanced Learning , Regional Ministry of Education, Basque Country (EARLALL President).

Ms Gorostiaga addressed the participants. Speaking as the outgoing President, and on behalf of the Regional Ministry of Education, Basque Country, she expressed her gratitude and pride on behalf of the Basque Country, stating:

“As we near the end of the Basque Country’s presidency of EARLALL, we reflect with gratitude and pride on the journey we have undertaken together since 2015. EARLALL is now stronger, more agile, and better positioned to fulfil its mission. During our presidency, we have fostered closer collaboration with key EU institutions and international organisations, including the Committee of the Regions, UNESCO, the OECD, and European networks. We are proud of what we have achieved together and look forward to supporting the next chapter in EARLALL’s journey as a vital player in Europe’s skills and education ecosystem.”



[Read the full speech here.](#)



EARLALL former Board members (from right to the left: Miriam Castillo (Catalonia Department of Education and VET), Kiriakoula Damoulakis (Baden-Württemberg), Juan José Torres (Catalonia Department of Employment) and Inge Gorostiaga Luzarraga (Basque Country), only missing in the picture Tuscany and Britany representatives that participated online)



2024 Activity Report and 2025 Work Plan

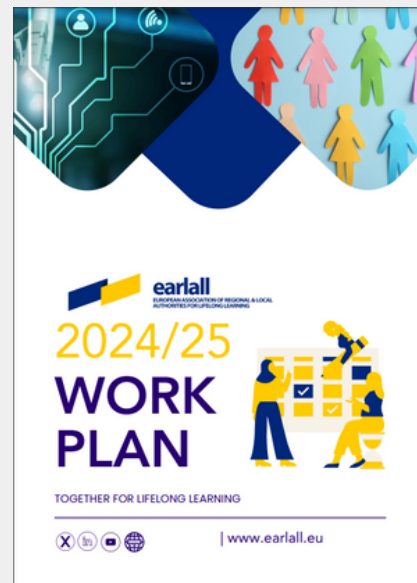
The EARLALL Secretariat presented the [2024 Activity Report](#), showcasing achievements in promoting VET and adult education initiatives across member regions. Highlights included successful projects, partnerships with EU institutions, and efforts to align member strategies with the EU's green and digital transition goals. In addition to the Annual Report, EARLALL representatives were able to view the video highlights of the annual report.

»»» [EARLALL Highlights Annual Report 2024 video](#)



»»» [Download the Annual Report 2024](#)

A core component of the meeting was the introduction of [EARLALL's Work Plan 2025](#), which outlined five-year priorities and an action plan for the upcoming year. This roadmap focuses on driving sustainable development, digital transformation, and inclusive education, with targeted actions to support upskilling, reskilling, and workforce adaptability. Members discussed the potential of these priorities to help regions address pressing skills gaps and demographic shifts, reinforcing EARLALL's role in fostering regional innovation in education and training.



»»» [Download the 2024/2025 Work Plan](#)





Welcome to new members

EARLALL also officially [welcomed Castilla y León \(Spain\)](#) as a full member, along with two new associate members: talent.brussels (Belgium) and JCMM (Czech Republic).



Junta de Castilla y León **Full member**

Castilla y León is committed to advancing vocational education to meet the region's workforce and economic needs. The region has strategically aligned its VET programs with priority industry sectors, including advanced manufacturing, energy, agriculture, and digital technology. Emphasizing hands-on, industry-relevant training, Castilla y León works closely with local businesses to design curricula that equip students with essential skills and real-world experience, ultimately enhancing job placement and career readiness for graduates.



Patricia Díez Rubio

»»» [Download Castilla y León \(Spain\) presentation](#)



talent.brussels **Associate member**

Created in 2018, talent.brussels is the Brussels-Capital Region's regional public administration responsible for recruiting statutory employees and top managers for Brussels' regional public bodies. It serves as a link between candidates and public employers in the Brussels-Capital Region. In addition to recruiting new talent, talent.brussels is the HR expertise centre for its regional partners. It provides HR, recruitment, career, well-being and diversity services to business units. It supports its partners in their organisational development challenges.



Virginie Discart

»»» [Download talent.brussels \(Belgium\) presentation](#)



jcmm **Associate member**

JCMM (the South Moravian Center for International Mobility) is a specialized non-profit interest association of legal entities (4 universities and the Office of the Region) in the South Moravian Region. We provide our services both to pupils, students and their parents, as well to teachers and school principals. We strive for smart and skilled people to work on the future of South Moravia. And that is not possible without quality education. At JCMM, we make sure that people who have the potential to move our world forward and make it a better place to live for all of us can fully develop their abilities. We provide various services for residents of the region, from primary schools to retirement age such as career counseling and lifelong learning, science and talent support.



Miloš Šifalda

»»» [Download JCMM \(Czech Republic\) presentation](#)



EARLALL Welcomes New Presidency and Board

A highlight of the General Meeting was the election [of new Board members](#). Following the votes cast by EARLALL's full members, the Board is now composed of representatives from the Region Västra Götaland, Basque Country, Tuscany, Baden-Württemberg, Catalonia, and Varaždin County. Subsequently, the newly elected Board appointed Region Västra Götaland as the new Presidency.

Madeleine Jonsson, Region Västra Götaland, President of the Environment and Regional Development Committee, on behalf of the Presidency, said

"I am both proud and thrilled that the Region of Västra Götaland is taking over the presidency of the EARLALL network. As an industrial region, we work intensely with policies to support the green transition. Up-skilling and re-skilling of the workforce is key to ensure the green transition and by working together with other regions and partners within EARLALL we can scale up this work even further. We want to continue the great work done by the former presidency, the Basque Country, to enhance knowledge sharing and European cooperation on lifelong learning."



EARLALL outgoing and newly elected Presidency, representatives from the Basque Country (Inge Gorostiaga Luzarraga on the left) and from Region Västra Götaland (Madeleine Jonsson in the center and Carina Gullberg on the right).



EARLALL newly Board members (from right to the left: Varaždin County (Miroslav Huđek), Catalonia (Miriam Castillo, Esther Estany and Susana Diaz Martinez), Basque Country (Inge Gorostiaga Luzarraga , Region Västra Götaland (Madeleine Jonsson and Carina Gullberg) and Baden-Württemberg (Kiriakoula Damoulakis), only missing in the picture Tuscany representatives that participated online)

The new Board is expected to bring fresh perspectives to the organization, building on the foundation laid by previous leadership while pursuing the priorities outlined in EARLALL's Strategic Plan. EARLALL network would like to extend its gratitude to the Basque Country, which has led EARLALL with dedication as the outgoing Presidency since 2015, helping to further the Association's mission to enhance lifelong learning opportunities across European regions.





Exchange session in the afternoon

EARLALL also offered its members the possibility to engage in the exchange of good practices, fostering knowledge-sharing and collaboration. These efforts aim to strengthen the cooperative framework among EARLALL members, ensuring mutual enrichment and progress in tackling key issues such as lifelong learning and equal opportunities.



Inputs from EARLALL Members

The EARLALL Secretariat, in collaboration with Andrea Bernert-Bürkle (Volkshochschulverband Baden-Württemberg e. V.), hosted a seminar to validate a set of policy recommendations developed as part of the SMALEI EU-funded project. This initiative aims to enhance the sustainability of adult learning and education (ALE) providers and organizations across Europe, equipping them to play a pivotal role in addressing future societal challenges. EARLALL's political representatives and associate members reviewed and endorsed the proposed recommendations, highlighting their significance in empowering Adult Education Institutions to foster a more sustainable future.



»»» <https://smalei.eu/>



Taith Introduction

Following the seminar, Susana Galván Hernández, Executive Director of Taith, introduced Wales' international exchange program. She emphasized the importance of connecting Wales with European and global initiatives to promote internationalization while ensuring that exchange programs are inclusive and accessible to all.



Susana Galván Hernández

»»» [Download Taith presentation](#)

Joint Working Groups session and the EARLALL Academy

The second half of the meeting featured the Joint Working Groups session, which facilitated collaborative discussions on best practices and project ideas in areas such as vocational education, adult learning, workforce development, mobility, youth policies, lifelong guidance, ageing societies, and skills and labour market dynamics. Working Group leaders shared their ongoing activities and outlined their plans for the year ahead. Additionally, Camilla Winter (Camilla Winter AB) provided an overview of the upcoming webinars planned for the EARLALL Academy. This capacity-building initiative, launched during the European Year of Skills, aims to strengthen expertise and knowledge sharing across the network.



Camilla Winter

»»» [Download presentation](#)





Study visits: Engaging in Gender-Inclusive Education and Employment Initiatives

Following the successful General Assembly on 13 November, the EARLALL Annual Meeting 2024 continued on 14–15 November with engaging study visits, offering delegates first-hand insights into regional initiatives advancing gender-inclusive education and employment.



[Institut Escola del Treball de Barcelona](#)



The first visit took place at the [Institut Escola del Treball de Barcelona](#), where participants explored innovative programs promoting gender equality in vocational education and training (VET).

The study-visit also included a guided tour of the historical Escola del Treball de Barcelona building, which serves approximately 3,000 students across 10 VET disciplines.





Co-education in Vocational Training: Success Stories from Educators

- The morning session focused on raising awareness among VET learners about the critical importance of gender equality in education. Led by gender equality training experts **Anna Sánchez Moix and Anna Belén Fernández Viciano** from CRP-FP, Department of Education, the session highlighted practical approaches for integrating gender-sensitive practices into the classroom.



Public Employment Service of Catalonia

- **Gendered Employment Policies in the Public Employment Service of Catalonia** with Carmen Mañas, Strategic Planning, Evaluation, and Equality Technician, Technical Secretariat of SOC >>> [Download presentation](#)
- **Rural and Urban Women: Guidance with a Gender Perspective** with Sandra Melús, Coordinator of the WOMEN RURAL & URBAN Program, Fundació Surt >>> [Download presentation](#)



A Gender Perspective in Technology: Innovation for Equality in the Digital and Audiovisual Fields

- **Amani Fadli Dokkali and Alma Azul Colina**, graduated students of the Advanced Vocational Diploma in Multi-Platform Application Development, Video Game Profile, **DonaTIC Award Recipients** showcased two ground-breaking IT projects that they developed: one aimed at identifying online harassment and another integrating gender perspectives into video game design. >>> [Download presentation](#)

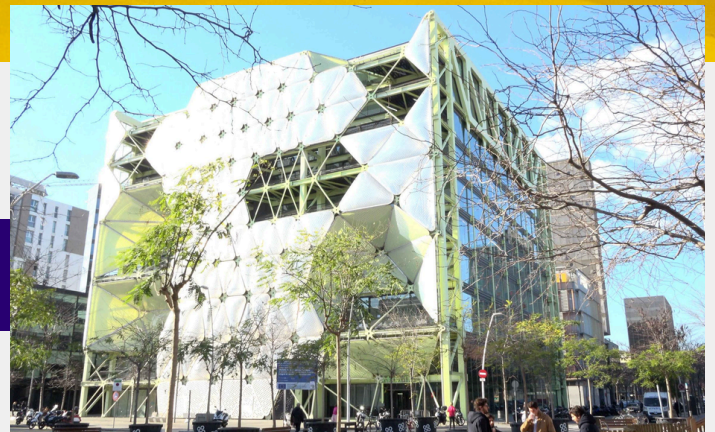


Presentation EdTWomenDays

- Participants also learned about the EdTWomenDays initiative, a programme designed by the centre to attract and support female talent in industrial and digital sectors, particularly those aligned with Industry 4.0. with **Álex Sánchez Vila**, **Communication Manager of EdTWomenDays and Coordinator of Publications, Escola del Treball, Barcelona**
- EdTWomenDays seeks to establish itself as a national leader by fostering a network of female students and alumnae passionate about careers in manufacturing and technology. Through mentorship and targeted training, the initiative empowers women to enter and thrive in technical professions. >>> [Download presentation](#)



The second study visit was hosted by [Barcelona Activa](#), the economic development agency of Barcelona City Council. This visit spotlighted various gender-inclusive programmes aimed at empowering women in entrepreneurial, scientific, and technical careers.



[Barcelona Activa](#) - MEDIATIC Facility





Barcelona Activa Introduction

- Barcelona Activa, the local economic development agency of Barcelona, is dedicated to fostering a sustainable, inclusive, and equitable economic model. Its mission centers on promoting quality employment, encouraging entrepreneurship, enhancing business competitiveness, and diversifying the productive fabric of the city. **Claudia García**, Projects and Institutional Relations Officer, presented their initiatives to support economic growth while prioritizing social responsibility and innovation.

»» [Download presentation](#)



Cibernàrium & the IT Academy

- A standout initiative is the free IT Academy, a digital skills training program accessible to all residents of Barcelona. Delegates had the opportunity to tour Barcelona Activa's state-of-the-art facilities, which host a diverse array of entrepreneurial courses and professional training programs designed to empower individuals and foster innovation across the city.



Presentation of the Lidera Initiative

- Among the highlighted projects was Lidera, a programme dedicated to supporting women entrepreneurs and business leaders by offering tailored training, resources, and networking opportunities. By fostering female leadership in the business sector, Lidera is helping to build a more diverse and inclusive economy.

»» [Download presentation](#)



Thank you Catalonia for hosting us!

Resources

Articles & Photo gallery

- [EARLALL Annual Meeting 2024: Strengthening Strategic Vision and Governance](#)
- [EARLALL Welcomes New Presidency and Board, Strengthening Regional Collaboration for Lifelong Learning](#)
- [EARLALL Welcomes the Spanish Region Castilla y León as a New Member](#)
- [Photo Gallery](#)

Reports & video gallery

- [2024 Activity Report](#)
- [2024/25 Work Plan](#)
- [Video: EARLALL Highlights Annual Report 2024](#)
- [Video: EARLALL 2024 Annual Meeting Highlights in Barcelona](#)



See you in 2025!

The next Annual Meeting will take place in the Autumn 2025 in Belgium, kindly hosted by GO! Education of the Flemish Community.

Together for lifelong learning



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