

European Commission accompanies us into third phase of EAAL

We have already reported (in the [E-bulletin LP 2015](#) and [EPALE](#)) that 1 November marks the start of the third phase of EAAL implementation. To this end the European Commission and the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) invited national coordinators (NC) that registered new projects to a 'kick-off' meeting on 12 and 13 November, so we could have a look at the results of the latest one-year phase and agree on action and cooperation for the future.

We found this out from the Commission:

- In the new [Joint Report](#) adult education has its own place with four priorities: governance, supply and take-up, flexibility and accessibility and quality. Improving all four areas should also be reflected in the EAAL project. The main topic of the newly appointed expert working group will be 'education in the workplace'.
- Martina Ní Cheallaigh, who heads our work, reported on the substantive highlights of our applications, while H el ene Barry along with EACEA colleagues presented the administrative and financial aspects.
- G eraldine Libreau presented the development of EPALE and announced that in future the NCs would have our own closed group on this platform.



Then we had a turn to speak, and the NCs from the UK, France and Slovenia were invited to share our good practices with participants. Joyce Black spoke about how they measure the impact of adult education; Berenice Cappe talked about setting up and maintaining a permanent coordination body for EAAL, and I presented our information flows, since on the European level our website has earned continuous accolades. I pointed out: 'Personal contacts and the involvement of all stakeholders in "bottom-up" and "top-down" approaches are vital for information flow.' We discussed these three topics in working groups, since they are of vital importance in the new project period.

On the second day we were invited to cooperate with three large associations – [EAEA](#), [EBSN](#) and [Public Libraries 2020](#) – as there should be the highest possible collaboration with non-governmental organisations on the national and European levels. Graciela Sbertoli, secretary of the EBSN, concluded her presentation with an invitation to the general assembly and conference we are holding from 1 to 3 June 2016 in Ljubljana through our pooled resources.



Each country also reported on current developments concerning adult education policy and on the latest hot topic: the response of (adult) education to the refugee crisis. There are therefore always a lot of challenges, and we will be better able to meet them if we stay connected. In my conclusion I therefore announced the meeting of NCs of the countries of former Yugoslavia at the conference [Building Bridges in Adult Education](#).

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