

LIFELONG LEARNING PLATFORM

EUROPEAN CIVIL SOCIETY FOR EDUCATION



Annual Activity Report

2019

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INTRODUCTORY WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT



FOREWORD

2019 has been a year full of challenges and opportunities, marked by the European elections, which gave us a new Parliament and a new Commission. We view the year 2019 as one of development and outlook on the future, and we can look back upon this year's accomplishments with pride.

The EU elections brought new faces to the scene. While European Commission President Ursula Von der Leyen placed great emphasis on economic growth and jobs in her mission letter to Commissioner Mariya Gabriel. **Thanks to the action of LLLP, Ms Gabriel's portfolio now bears a renewed focus on education**, as she will chair the values of Innovation, Research, Culture, Education, and Youth. The visibility for lifelong learning and education in the Commissioner's mission remains a crucial issue for LLLP, as we highlighted in our bilateral meeting with Commissioner Gabriel. In 2019, we seized the opportunity of a new Commission to strengthen our relations with the European Institutions.

Drawing from our society's tendency to take democracy for granted, **we launched a campaign with the European Citizen Action Service (ECAS) to raise awareness about the need to go back to the foundation of our democratic societies, while simultaneously increasing the role of education in our lives.** We believe that citizens should feel empowered to share their own EU story in an attempt to share reasons to develop the learning dimension of our societies



and wake mindfulness throughout the continent.

Aware of the multiple types of learning throughout society today, we capitalised on our membership's expertise and compiled a position paper to share important insights on all learning environments. We dove into the ideas of building the environment around the individual learner, in addition to making sure that all types of learning are visible to educators across the planet. This position paper strengthened our take on sustainable lifelong learning, where multilevel cooperation and collaboration are key.

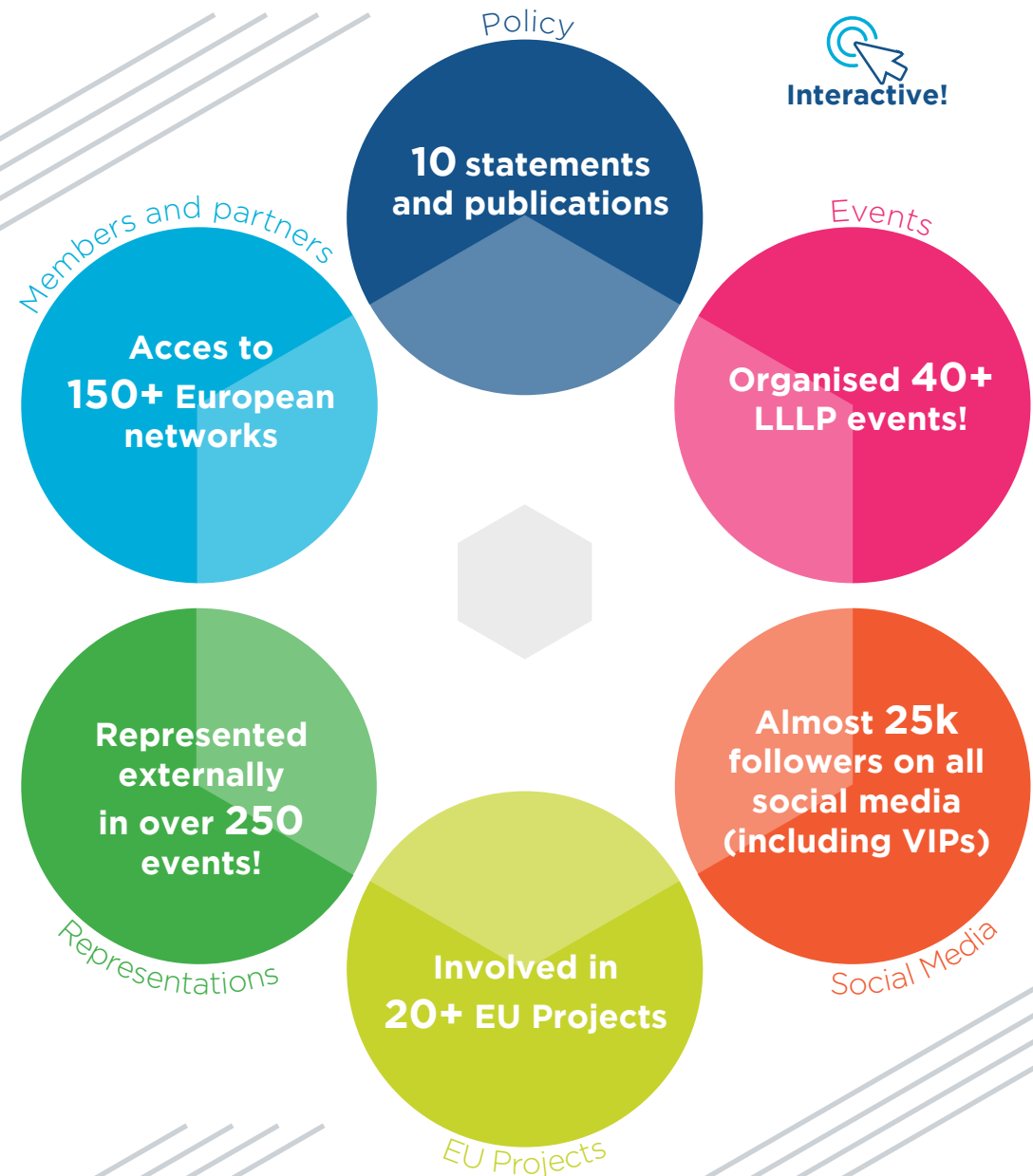
As the European Civil Society Platform for Education, we know that **lifelong learning must be at the centre of European society.** 2020 has already manifested several challenges to our education systems but, as a wise man once said, in every challenge lies an opportunity; our stakeholders can rest assured that LLLP will seize these opportunities to promote its values of inclusive societies.

Luis Costa,
President of the LLLPlatform

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019

OUR YEAR IN A NUTSHELL

2019 IN A NUTSHELL



JANUARY

EU Campaign
This Time I'm Voting

EU Events
Forum on the Future of Learning

FEBRUARY

EU Campaign
Learning Democracy & #myEUstory

Publication
Erasmus+ Implementation Survey Report

MARCH

LLL Events
Extra GA!

LLL Events
«Working together to support the 43%»

APRIL

LLL Events
PLA on «Common values and inclusive education»

Publication
EU Study on Youth perception about the EU

MAY

EU Events
VPL Biennale

LLL Events
Community Lifelong Learning Centres!

JUNE

EU Events
European Civil Society Days

LLL Events
Annual Conference

LLL Events
General Assembly: EMDR Europe joins the LLLP family!



DECEMBER

LLL Events
LLLAwards 2019

LLL Events
LLLWeek 2019

Reaction
PISA Results 2018

Representation
Bilateral meeting with CULT Chair MEP Verheyen

NOVEMBER

Reaction
Education and Financial Ministers' Meeting

LLL Events
COMANITY Final Conference

EU Events
Envision 47

UN Events
UNESCO UIL Learning Cities

OCTOBER

Position Paper
21st Century Learning Environments

SEPTEMBER

Reaction
«Ursula, where did you hide education?»

Reaction
«Will the EU reach its ET2020 targets?»

POLICY LLL, A KNOWLEDGE HUB

POSITIONS AND STATEMENTS

In 2019, the LLLPlatform released five main statements and reactions on a number of EU policy initiatives to highlight civil society's views on the issues at stake. Most of the LLLP advocacy activity was centred on **EU elections** in May, and in particular on the important of citizenship education. The Lifelong Learning Platform also produced a spot-on highlight: its **position paper on 21st Century learning Environments**. All LLLP statements are produced in constant consultation with the membership and contribute to the shaping of LLLP's own political identity.



POLICY FOCUS

LEARNING DEMOCRACY

LLLPL engaged in two EU-wide campaigns for the European elections: the first one in support of the European Parliament for its **'This Time I'm Voting'** campaign; the second one as an own initiative in partnership with the European Citizens Action Service, **'Learning Democracy and #myEUstory'**, where with a series of videos we call on European citizens to keep on learning about their society and not to take for granted our democracy.

This topic transversally informed the **Annual Conference**, held in Brussels on 6-7 June 2019 to take stock of the results of the European elections. LLLPL engaged with European decision-makers, NGO representatives and practitioners to assess the needs of citizenship education and formulate recommendations for the next EP mandate.

The yearly topic of «Learning Democracy, Values and Participation» was also the opportunity to celebrate the best practices in a topic too often overlooked: the **LLLAwards** were an absolute contest this year, with an outstanding Jury to award three best practices in the three different subtopics.

At the end of 2019, the **LLLWeek** rounded up the contribution of civil society organisations. Organised in the European Parliament for maximum exposure and to engage policy-makers, the LLLWeek address burning questions: what more can the EU do to empower education providers to build more robust European societies? How can non-formal education contribute?



POLICY FOCUS

LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Learning can happen anytime, anywhere, and **the spaces where this learning occurs are incredibly and increasingly diverse**. Education systems are undergoing a paradigm shift in the struggle to meet the needs of learners in a world that is rapidly changing from a technological, demographic, societal and environmental perspective. The rich diversity of learning environments, whether within the formal education system or beyond in the local community, workplace or civil society, is more valuable than ever to meet these rapidly evolving needs. Learning takes place across a combination of these environments, hence why we see increasing reference to the term 'lifewide' learning - where people engage simultaneously in different forms of learning at the same stage of their lives.

However, **these diverse learning opportunities are not equally available to all sections of society** and, even when available, the outcomes of learning outside formal settings are often not regarded in the same way as those produced within them. Even the outcomes of formal learning can be difficult to transfer from one system to another, if a robust strategy for the recognition of prior learning is not in place. This clashes with the fact that the sheer pace of change in the 21st century compels us to continue learning throughout and in many different areas of our lives if we truly wish to understand, adapt to and, most importantly, shape the world around us. This demands that we **designate equal value to all learning environments** - whether categorised as formal, non-formal, informal or combining varying degrees of (in)formality - and reflect on how to build cooperation and seamless transitions between them.



PROJECT COOPERATION

THE NETWORK FOR EU PROJECTS



THE NETWORK FOR EU PROJECTS



The Lifelong Learning Platform is a special network where **capacity-building** and **knowledge-sharing** happen daily! We leverage on the strengths of our network to create a true knowledge hub, envision

projects, share results, reinforce each other claims, and build bridges to work together in the future. We stimulate our members to create common goals and empower them to achieve them.

PROJECT COOPERATION ADVOCACY THROUGH ERASMUS+

DIGIT promoted and boosted digital competences for a responsible use of online identity by adults. DIGIT produced a training strategy for educators and a DIGIT Manifesto for digital learning.

Through **COMANITY**, LLLP helped develop a new 'Community Animateur' role and training programme, to bridge the gap between marginalised young people and public institutions such as youth services.

What has the EU done to validate volunteering experience? A synthesis of this work is the objective of **ImproVal**, that will bring together the best practices from previous successful EU projects.

Mindful of inclusion issues, LLLP is partners in **TaMPADA**, that aims to develop an outreach mechanism to track long-term outcomes of disadvantaged adult learners' participation in education and training.

Through the **IN-QUAL** project, LLLP supports the implementation of quality assurance mechanisms within training and work-based learning pathways for entrepreneurship education.

LLLP's project **Job Bridge** will improve the recognition and the validation of volunteers' experiences and competences in a valuable way for employers too.

In a world where news travel fast, **Open Your Eyes** seeks to improve the digital literacy of adult learners by providing them with tools to identify and fight the spread of online disinformation.

Robotics as a first channel to coding is the focus of **CODESKILLS4ROBOTICS**, a project that seeks to facilitate the development of programming in primary schools.

DIMELI4AC is a project that will develop a toolbox to boost digital media competences, critical thinking and democratic values among students aged 10 to 15.



Interactive!

PROJECT COOPERATION NEW PROJECTS IN 2019

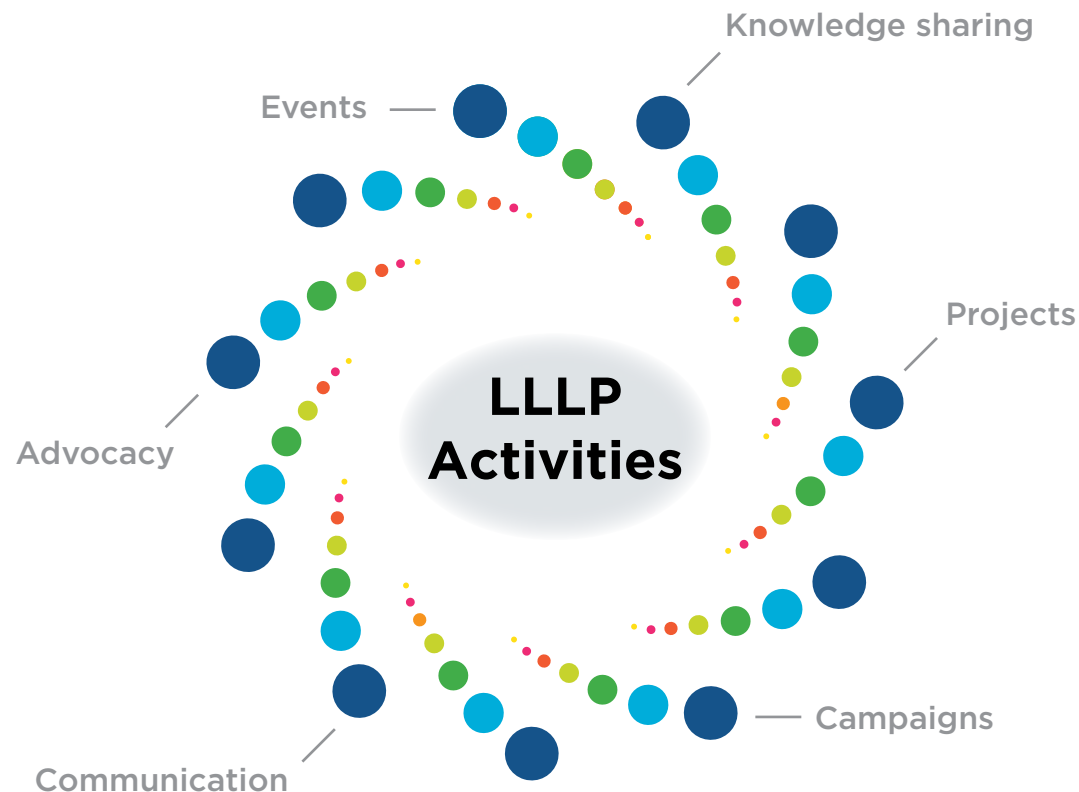
INSCOOL will foster inclusive education principles in schools' management through the emergence of a community of leaders such as managers, teachers and students.

LEAD! «specific LEARNING Disorders no more!» aims to increase and promote social inclusion, in school education, and ultimately decrease early school leaving.

Upskilling in the field of guidance is more needed than ever! This is the aim of **KEEP IN PACT**, that seeks to developing an innovative ecosystem approach.

EVENTS

RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT LLL



LLLP events are key bricks in our policy strategy: they step up our work and help us raise awareness of lifelong learning vis-à-vis relevant stakeholders.

At the LLLPlatform, we carry out all our activities in a holistic way that makes them deeply interconnected, so that we can leverage on the different strenghts of the network to achieve our goals. Because of this, events are a transversal and crucial tool for our activities, and help us capitalise on the knowledge built by LLLP and its members. Events serve

as focal point to then transfer this knowledge on to influence the policy work of the European institutions.

As varied as they come, events stem from the large Annual Conference to restricted policy meetings, from informal gatherings to the iconic LLLWeek. Some events are organised and implemented solely by the LLLPlatform, some others can benefit from fairtful partnerships. Each of them has a unique purpose and each of them is a tool that we exploit to make sure our mission is fulfilled.

In March 2019 we organised, together with ALL DIGITAL, a European debate on «**Working together to support the 43%**» of Europeans that lack digital skill.



LLLPL's **Annual Conference** was held in June, on the topic of «Learning Democracy, Values and Participation», to take stock of the European elections with civil society organisations, and European policy-makers.

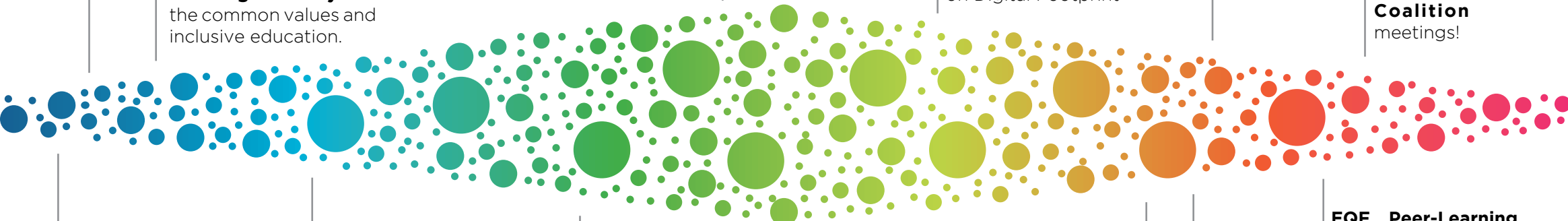


The **LLLWeek19** took place on 2-6 December in the European Parliament. A record number of 15 events on the different aspects of «Learning Democracy, Values and Participation», were organised, with a great turnout of public and MEPs: the perfect humous to advocate for a holistic approach in our yearly topic.

In April, we flew to Zagreb for a **Peer-Learning Activity** on the common values and inclusive education.

DIGIT final conference: «European Conference on Digital Footprint»

... and 10 **Erasmus+ Coalition** meetings!



In 2019, LLLPL held 7 internal **Working Group** meetings and one **extraordinary General Assembly!**



In May, we partnered with Cedefop and the Romanian Presidency for the presentation of a joint Briefing Paper on **Community Lifelong Learning Centres!**

In May, we actively participated to the **VPL Biennale** in Berlin, drafting its declaration.



Interactive!

In June, LLLPL organised a workshop during the **European Civil Society Days**.

In November, in Helsinki, LLLPL participated in the Bridge 47 event «**Envision 47**», where civil society organisations drafted the roadmap to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal 4 and its target 4.7.



EQF Peer-Learning Activity on VNFIL in Vilnius

COMANITY final conference: «Skills for the Future of Youth Work»

ABOUT LLLP

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

WHO WE ARE

The Lifelong Learning Platform is the **unique non-profit umbrella organisation** representing European Civil Society for Education. We bring together **42 European and international organisations active in the field of education and training** promoting a holistic approach to education. Currently, these networks represent more than 50 000 educational institutions and associations covering all sectors of formal, non-formal and informal learning. We carry out our work and promote the work of our members vis-à-vis European institutions, and beyond.

LEARNING
EDUCATION
TRAINING

FORMAL

NON
FORMAL

INFORMAL

OUR VISION

The LLLPlatform promotes a **holistic vision of lifelong learning**: we believe education is the key to foster equity, social cohesion and active citizenship. **The objectives of education and training should not only be described in terms of employability** or economic growth but as a framework for personal development. LLLP believes education should not be limited to formal systems and we emphasise non-formal and informal learning as well.

INCLUSIVE
SOCIETIES

ACTIVE
CITIZENSHIP

SOCIAL
COHESION

OBJECTIVES

1. Pursue an active dialogue with European institutions
2. Enable exchanges of best practice, experiences and expertise
3. Disseminate information on key issues in the lifelong learning sector
4. Organise events and develop activities on transversal lifelong learning topics
5. Promote a more democratic, civic and social Europe.

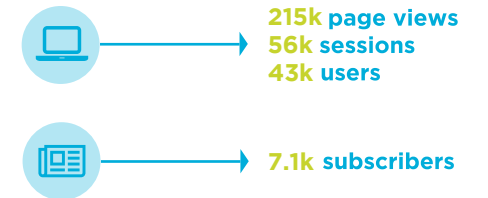
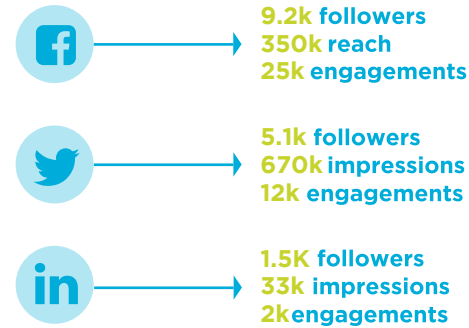
PARTNERSHIPS

BROADENING THE HORIZONS



LLLP IN NUMBERS

OUTREACH



FUNDING

Income	482.376
Grants	223.000
Membership fees	65.255
Projects	194.121



Expenditures	480.400
Personnel	221.466
Administration	62.595
Others	198.049



THE LLLPLATFORM AND OUR STRUCTURE

THE LLLPLATFORM A GROWING GALAXY



EMDR Europe joined LLLP to reach out to **European communities** of all ages, to provide opportunities for training programs and specialization in social policies and psychotherapy, to keep at pace with the qualitative changes in the structure and framework of the European society and mental health, in an ever-so-rapidly changing and knowledge-increasing world. EMDR Europe aims at collaborating and being updated on **knowledge exchanges** with other European partners on the importance of lifelong learning as a service to general wellness in today's society, as well as spreading the word on how specialized training, ongoing education and sharing knowledge on mental health, has a **pivotal role** in modernizing, yet vulnerable societies.

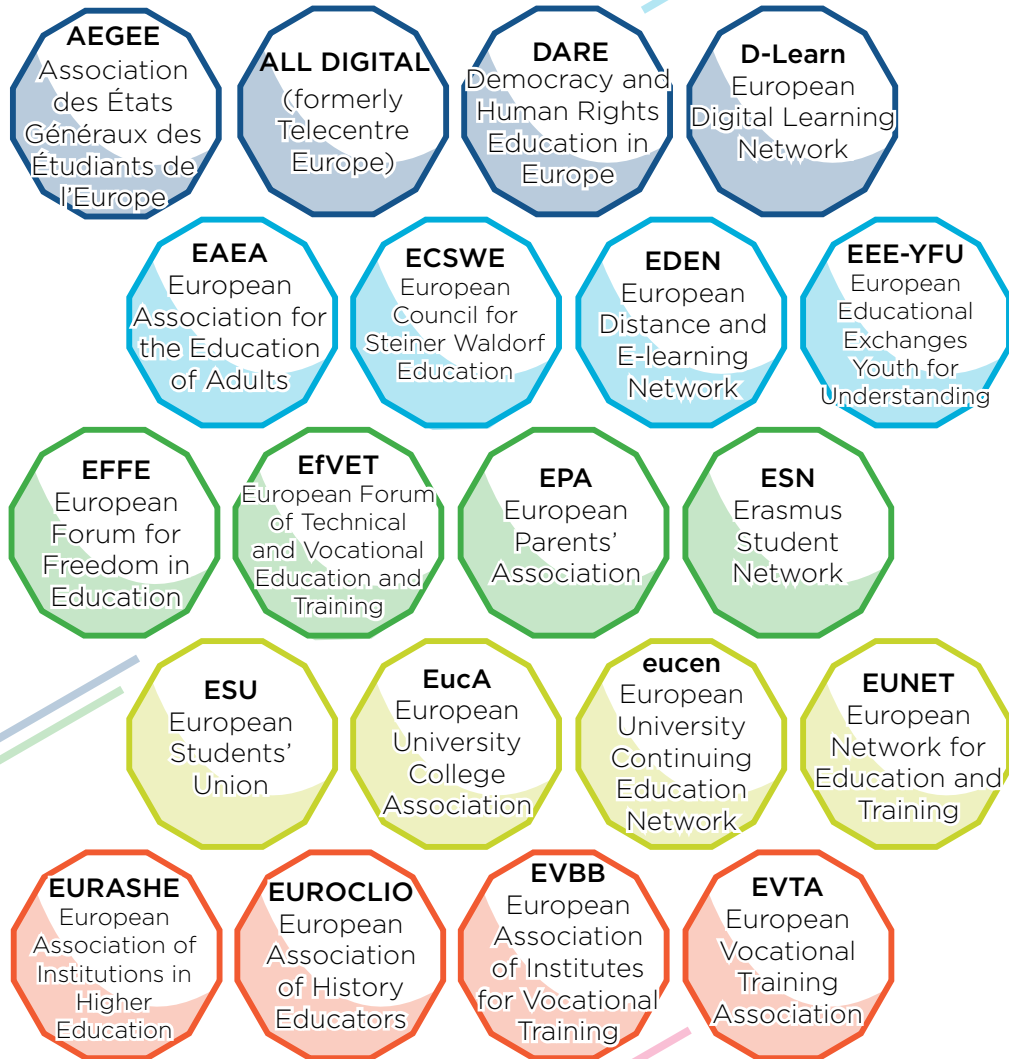


Isabel Fernandez, President of EMDR Europe, new member

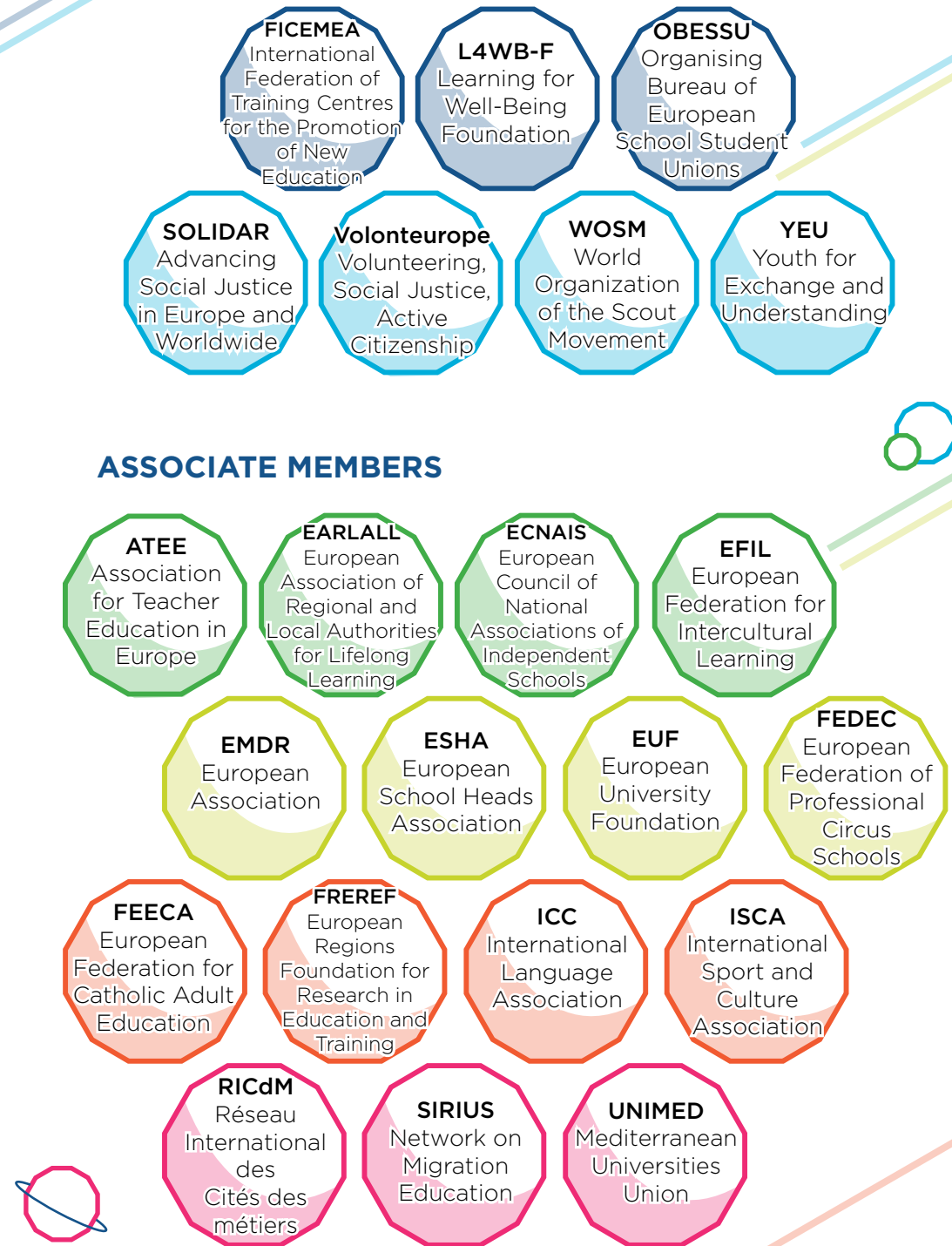
THE PLATFORM

OUR MEMBERSHIP

FULL MEMBERS

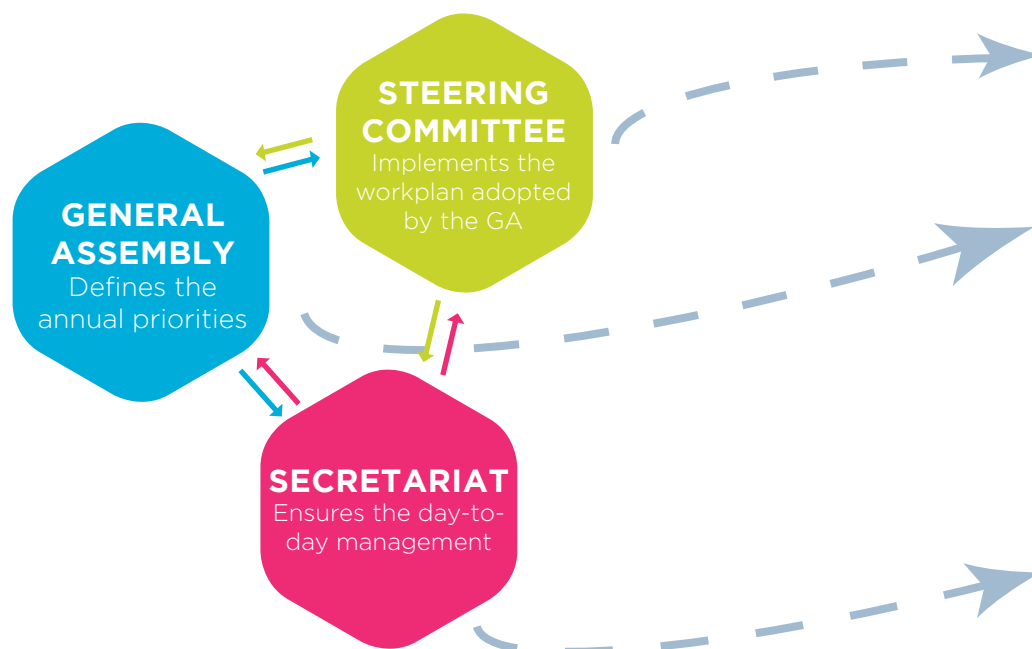


ASSOCIATE MEMBERS



THE PLATFORM OUR STRUCTURE

The LLLPlatform relies on three main bodies and their tight relation: the General Assembly, the Steering Committee and the Secretariat. The **General Assembly** is the highest body of the association, it defines the annual priorities and objectives of the LLLPlatform and its work programme. Headed by the President, its annual meeting is attended by all the members.



The **Steering Committee** is the administrative body of the LLLPlatform. It is composed of a maximum of nine representatives from the network. The Steering Committee is in charge of the administrative tasks of the association and of the implementation of the work programme adopted by the General Assembly. In 2018, Gina Ebner was elected to replace the outgoing LLLP President David López, whom we wholeheartedly thank for its work and dedication.

The **Secretariat** ensures the day-to-day management of the LLLPlatform, and it is based in Brussels. In 2019, the LLLPlatform also created a **Pool of Experts**, who counsels and represents LLLP on selected topics.

WORKING GROUPS



Interactive!

WG EU2020

The LLLP **Working Group on Europe 2020** shares expertise on issues related to the Europe 2020 Agenda.

- On January 23rd, the WG discussed an LLLP proposal for a **shadow report on ET2020 framework**, at the presence of a representative of the Romanian Presidency of the EU.
- On June 21st to mutually update on the **European Education Area**.

WG DIGITAL LEARNING

The LLLP **Working Group on Digital Learning**, aiming to build members' capacity to contribute to the EU's digital agenda, met on:

- March 26th to exchange views on the **agenda on digital learning and media literacy** as well as the **WG work plan for 2018-2020**;
- October 23rd to share **updates** related to the newly formed European Commission, on two PLAs (AI in Education, June 2019; Grassroots innovation, November 2019) and on updates from members on digital education projects.

WG WIDER BENEFITS OF LEARNING

The LLLP Working Group on **Wider Benefits of Learning** seeks to create a space for members to exchange views about the wider benefits of learning, with a strong focus on learners.

- On May 28th, members discussed the visibility strategy for the paper on **Community Lifelong Learning Centres**.
- On December 6th, during the LLLWeek, the WG addressed the next big item on EU agenda, the proposal for a **Child Guarantee**.

VALIDATION TASK FORCE

The **Validation Task Force** brings together members and other partners (CEV, YFJ, EESC, Cedefop) around the topic of validation of non-formal and informal learning.

- On June 21st, during LLLP's General Assembly, the Task Force gathered to discuss the upcoming **Peer-Learning Activity** to be held in Vilnius in November. Members also provided valuable inputs for the work of the LLLPlatform, including an extensive discussion on the position paper on **21st Century Learning Environments** and the need to give them visibility.

OUR PEOPLE

LLLPLATFORM STEERING COMMITTEE



Luis Costa,
President, EfVET



Giuseppina Tucci,
Secretary-General,
OBESSU



Joanna Pankowska,
Treasurer,
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Tamara Gojković
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Susana Oliveira
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Volonteuropé



Arja Krauchenberg,
EPA



Lucie Susova,
SOLIDAR (until
December 2019)



Brikena Xhomaqi,
Director



Maria Farruggia,
Administrative and
HR Officer



Andrea Lapegna,
Communication
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Coordinator



Andrew Todd,
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Pauline Boivin,
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Riccardo Gulletta,
Programme
Coordinator



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Juanma Báez
Ramírez, Policy and
Projects Assistant



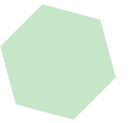
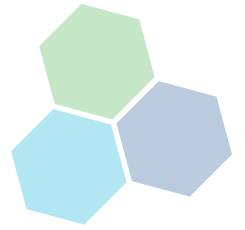
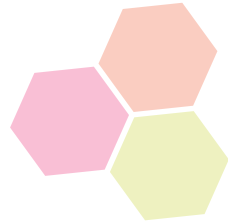
Marina Vitz, Policy
and Research
Assistant

LLLPLATFORM SECRETARIAT

The LLLPlatform would like to thank **Gina Ebner**, **Laurentiu Bunescu** and **Valentina Pomatto**, who terminated their mandates in 2019.

The LLLPlatform would like to thank **Ulla-Alexandra Matti**, Programme and Partnership Manager, who served and left LLLP in 2019.

NOTES



LIFELONG LEARNING PLATFORM

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