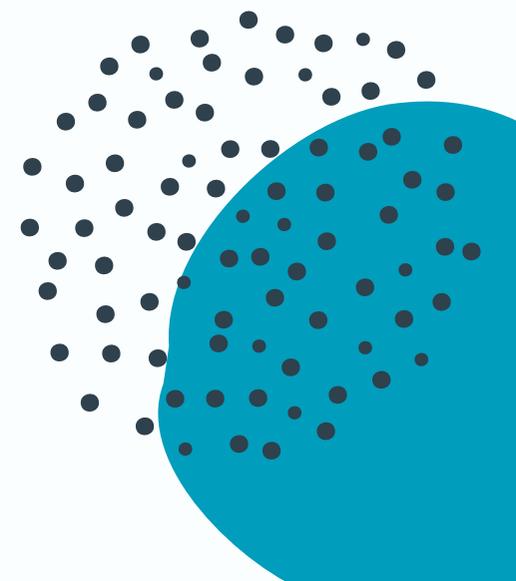


# MAKING YOUR VOICE HEARD AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL

Information package for members about the  
developments leading up to CONFINTEA VII

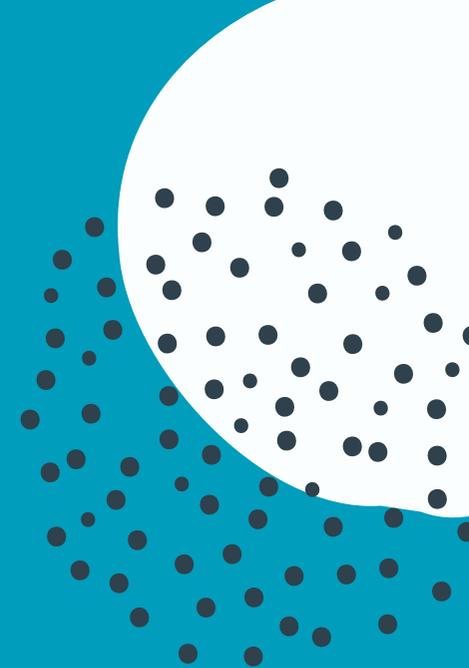


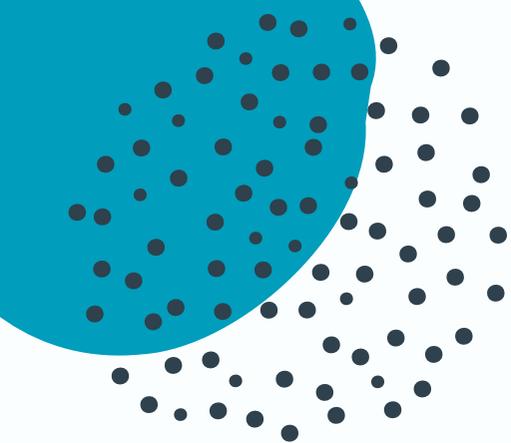
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR  
THE EDUCATION OF ADULTS



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CONFINTEA stands for the **International Conference on Adult Education**, organised every 12 years since 1949 by UNESCO. Every conference concludes with recommendations for further action to improve ALE.

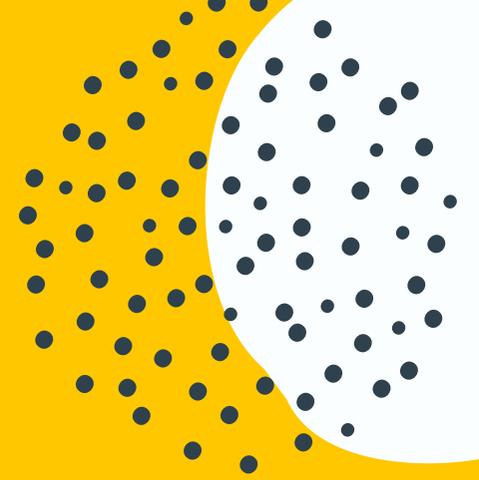
The last conference, CONFINTEA VI, took place in **Belem, Brazil in 2009**; its mid-term review was held in Suwon, South Korea in 2017. There are still two years left until the next CONFINTEA, but the preparation process has already started.

# What is CONFINTEA?

*"It is true to say that the life of each of us, in all its aspects and stages, is a continual apprenticeship".*

*(Opening words of the report from the first CONFINTEA, Elsinore, Denmark, 1949)*

# Why is it important, and why get involved?



## **VISIBILITY FOR ALE**

CONFINTEA is the only global process that is focused on adult learning and education (ALE). We need to make sure that it continues this way, as ALE is not visible enough in the SDGs, and risks to disappear from global agendas.

## **ADVOCACY ON DIFFERENT LEVELS**

Although CONFINTEA is a global conference, it includes several processes at the national and regional level, which gives you an opportunity to make your voice heard.

## **ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE POLICY LEVEL**

The outcome document of each CONFINTEA is a commitment taken by all UNESCO Member States – which means that your government should also take action.

# HOW DOES IT WORK?

Each of the five UNESCO regions holds a conference in preparation for the next CONFITEA

CONFITEA takes place, an outcome document is drafted, discussed and adopted

National reports are drafted to take stock of what has been achieved

Member States work towards achieving the commitments made; ongoing review (GRALE)

Mid-term review: regional reports lead up to a global event and statement

# What has been EAEA's role so far?



We provide **visibility** for the process for example by co-organising the launch of GRALE IV in Brussels, and the regional conference in Budapest in 2008.



As members of ICAE, the global voice for adult education, we contribute to the Civil Society Forum preceding the conference, **strengthening the role of civil society** in the CONFINTEA process.

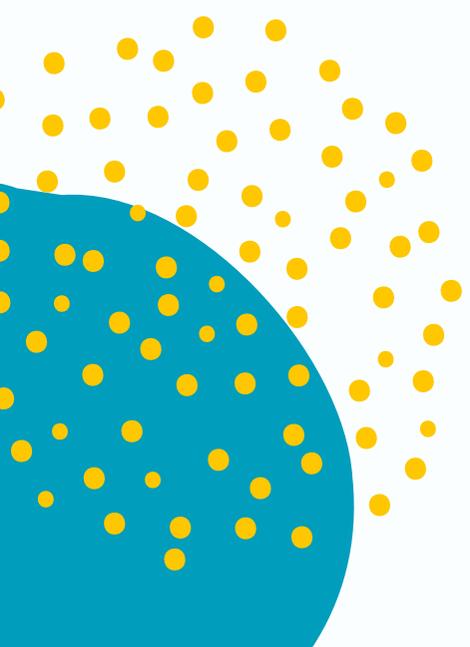


At the request of UIL, we have shared our expertise and recommendations by **leading the review process** for Europe and North America, most recently in 2017 (see our [report](#)).



With members at local, regional and national level, and as a partner of the EU institutions, we **build bridges** between different levels and structures in Europe throughout the process.

# FROM THE LAST CONFINTEA UNTIL TODAY



WHAT WAS AGREED ON IN THE BELEM  
FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION (BFA) IN 2009,  
AND WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE THEN



# AREAS OF THE BFA



## FINANCING

"Significant financial investment is essential to ensure the quality provision of adult learning and education."



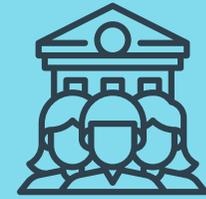
## POLICY

"Policies and legislative measures for adult education need to be comprehensive, inclusive and integrated within a lifelong and life-wide learning perspective (...)."



## PARTICIPATION, INCLUSION AND EQUITY

"There can be no exclusion arising from age, gender, ethnicity, migrant status, language, religion, disability, rurality, sexual identity or orientation, poverty, displacement or imprisonment."



## GOVERNANCE

"Representation by and participation of all stakeholders are indispensable in order to guarantee responsiveness to the needs of all learners, in particular the most disadvantaged."



## QUALITY

"Quality in learning and education is a holistic, multidimensional concept and practice that demands constant attention and continuous development."

# WHAT HAVE BEEN THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE PROCESS?

## Belém Framework for Action

Harnessing the power and potential of adult learning and education for a viable future



## BFA AS A COMMITMENT

The [outcome document](#) of the last CONFINTEA (2009) is a series of commitments, adopted by 144 Member States of UNESCO.

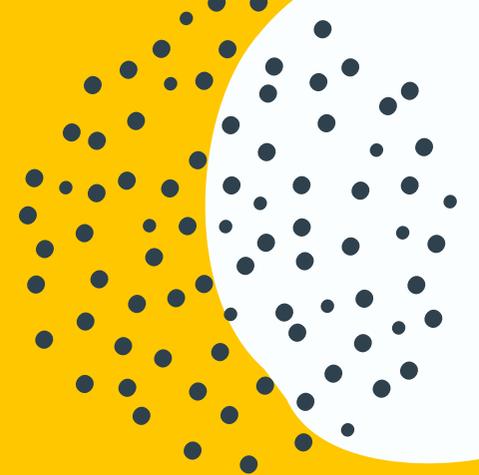
## GRALE AS A MONITORING TOOL

The Global Report on Adult Learning and Education, published every three years, monitors to what extent the commitments of the BFA are taken up by Member States. The [last one](#) was published in December 2019.

## MID-TERM REVIEW FOR A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Mid-way through the process, a series of regional reports took stock of the situation. EAEA prepared the [report](#) for Europe and North America in 2017.

# What else has happened?



## NEW EU STRATEGIES

Several EU policy frameworks adopted since 2009 take ALE into account: from the European Agenda for Adult Learning (2011) to Upskilling Pathways (2016). However, the overarching Education and Training Framework 2020 (ET 2020) is about to end, and its future is uncertain. More in our [background paper](#).

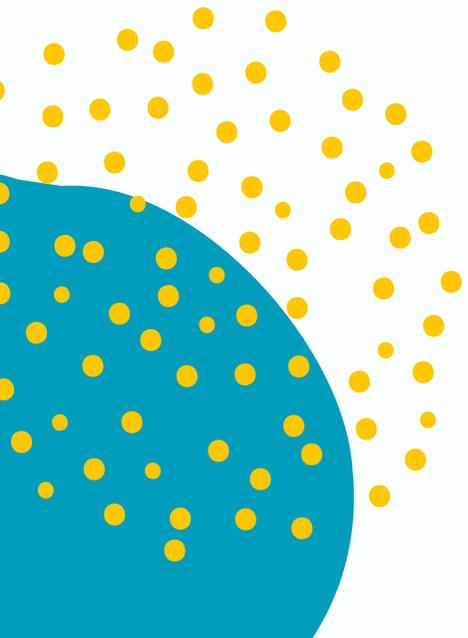
## SDGS ADOPTED

The Sustainable Development Goals were adopted by the UN in 2015; their importance is increasingly acknowledged at the European level. ALE is not explicitly mentioned in any of the goals to be achieved by 2030, but has an important role to play transversally. Read our [background paper](#) to find out more.

## ANOTHER CRISIS?

Having recovered from the economic crisis of 2007–08, Europe and other continents might soon be facing the consequences of a global pandemic. COVID-19, officially declared a pandemic in early 2020, is likely to have a strong impact on future ALE policies globally. Check [EAEA website](#) for regular updates.

# ROADMAP TOWARDS CONFINTEA VII



WHAT WILL HAPPEN AND HOW YOU  
CAN GET INVOLVED

## APRIL - JULY 2020

National governments are asked to designate national focal points for the preparation of **national reports**, which is channeled through UNESCO national commissions. The guidelines for national reports are provided by UNESCO.

## JULY 2020 - JUNE 2021

National reports are prepared by Member States of UNESCO. They should be drafted **in consultation** with civil society and ALE providers.

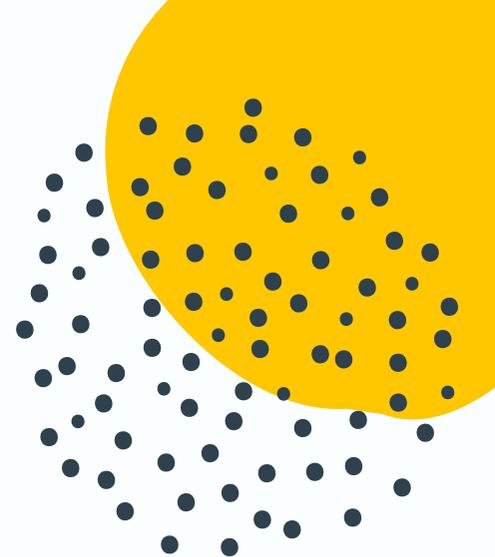
## 2ND HALF OF 2021

National reports are synthesized in the form of **regional reports**. **Regional conferences** take place to discuss the results and to prepare for the upcoming CONFINTEA VII. EAEA might contribute to the report and/or the event for Europe and North America.

In parallel, **GRALE V**, most likely with a special focus on active citizenship, is prepared and published by UNESCO UIL.

## JUNE/JULY 2022

CONFINTEA VII takes place in Morocco.



TIMELINE



# HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

- ✓ Contact the UNESCO national commission in your country to **signal your interest in participating in the national review**. Highlight that you can support it by providing the civil society perspective and the expertise of your network.
- ✓ If there is little interest in the process at the policy level, build up the momentum yourself: **an online campaign or an event** might draw attention to it. Show the support you have internationally by using European documents and arguments, such as the [EAEA Manifesto](#), or the global visual identity for ALE, which is about to be launched.
- ✓ Advocate for the civil society participation in **national and regional delegations** to CONFINTEA VII: some parts of the conference are only open to official delegations.
- ✓ **Contact EAEA** and tell us whether you had a chance to participate in the national review, or if you agree with the conclusions of the national report once it's ready. We will be monitoring the preparations closely and we would like to know your perspective.