

# Empowering societies through Education and Skills for the Twin Transition

Participatory Lab as part of the European Week of Regions and Cities  
09WS241195



Wednesday, 09 October 2024 - 16h30 - 17h30



Location: AB-3C, Albert Borschette Congress Center  
(Floor 3)  
Rue Froissart 36 (Brussels)



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EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL & LOCAL  
AUTHORITIES FOR LIFELONG LEARNING



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR  
THE EDUCATION OF ADULTS



# AGENDA

## Empowering societies through Education and Skills for the Twin Transition

- 16:30 **Introduction to the session**  
**Neža Repanšek** - European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
- 16:35 **Session 1 | Adult learning, ageing societies and the green transition**  
**Andrea Bernert-Bürkle**, Head of EU Projects, Volkshochschulverband Baden-Württemberg e.V.
- 17:00 **Session 2 | New skills empowerment among older people**  
**Susanne Dobner, queraum**, Coordinator of SEE U project
- 17:10 **Session 3 | Learning cities as intergenerational example/ another example of inclusion at regional and local level**  
**Kieran McCarthy**, Lord Mayor of Cork, Cork City Council and CoR Member
- 17:25 **Closing remarks**

## Meet the speakers



**Neza Repansek**  
European Economic  
and Social  
Committee (EESC)

Neža Repanšek is a member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) since October 2020. She is active in the Bureau of the EESC, Group III (Diversity) Bureau and the External relations (REX), Employment, Social Affairs and Citizenship (SOC) and Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment (NAT) sections, ad-hoc groups (Ad Hoc group to COP 27 and Ad Hoc Group on the Year of Youth), as well as a rapporteur on opinions and a contributor to work in study groups. Proactively, Neža has supported EESC activities within Slovenian Presidency in 2021, and in 2022 continued with the same proactive approach with our non-formal group on youth, which supported the implementation of Year of Youth activities.



**Andrea Bernert-  
Bürkle**  
Volkshochschulverb  
and Baden-  
Württemberg

Andrea Bernert-Bürkle is head of the EU project unit of the Volkshochschulverband Baden-Württemberg, the regional association of 161 adult education centres and 190 guidance offices. She mainly manages initiatives related to the integration of immigrants in Germany and Europe, in particular programs promoting a fast access to the labour market. Moreover, she supports projects in the field of career guidance and adult education, sustainability like the ERASMUS+ partnership SMALEI and Lifelong Guidance 5.0.

## Meet the speakers



**Susanne Dobner,  
queraum (Austria)**

Susanne Dobner studied Sociology and Urban Studies in Vienna and Amsterdam and has been a researcher at queraum. cultural and social research since 2019. Over the past ten years Susanne has been implementing, coordinating and developing projects on national and EU-level. Her main areas of work are age-friendly cities and neighborhoods, social and digital participation and health promotion for all ages.



**Kieran McCarthy,  
Lord Mayor of  
Cork, Cork City  
Council and CoR  
Member**

Kieran McCarthy is an Independent member of Cork City Council, Ireland and is currently Lord Mayor of Cork. In January 2015 and January 2020, Kieran was appointed by the Irish Minister for the Environment and Local Government to be an Irish member on the European Committee of the Regions (CoR). Kieran holds membership of the CoR's Commission (sub-committee) for Social Policy, Education, Employment, Research and Culture (SEDEC). Within SEDEC, Kieran champions the new EU Skills Agenda, informal and formal education, lifelong learning, culture, science and innovation in regions and cities, cities and regions of the future, youth and sport, and socio-cultural effects of IoT.