

Cecilia Palm

Nominated for the position
of Regular EC member



I believe in the beneficial effects of all kinds of education. Education promotes understanding and tolerance as well as a better life for the individual and provides the means for democratic participation. It is important to strengthen non-formal education as a complement to formal education, especially when it comes to lifelong learning. I also think that we must encourage and facilitate international exchanges in education in order to widen perspectives.

I have been working in adult education since the mid-seventies, i.e. close to 40 years. I am currently Secretary General of Folkuniversitetet, but I have also been CEO of one of our members and, prior to that, Director of our language institute in Aix-en-Provence, France, for five years. Folkuniversitetet is an independent, non-profit adult education association with a broad scope in education.

As a study association, we organize study circles, both in the form of open course activities and in cooperation with free groups and associations.

Folkuniversitetet also runs 4 folk high schools and several other education activities, including

- Pre-schools, compulsory school and 5 upper secondary schools with university preparation programmes
- Vocational training
- Post-secondary arts and culture courses, for vocational training and university preparation
- Major assignments for municipalities and public bodies
- Company training

In accordance with our aim to encourage exchanges across borders, we have significant international activities

- Partners or coordinators in numerous international projects
- Language schools in England, France, Germany, Spain and Estonia
- A branch in Chile
- Acting as an agent in Sweden for selected language institutes throughout the world.

I have for a number of years been a board member of the Swedish Adult Education Association - Studieförbunden, the common organization for the ten study associations in Sweden that are involved in 'folkbildning'.

I have been active in EAEA, the European Adult Education Association, and have participated in two of their annual conferences as a representative of the Swedish Adult Education Association.

There is still much to be done in order to reach the goals of Agenda 2030, including goal 4 concerning education and lifelong learning. In the ongoing work, ICAE is vital as a representative of the education and civil society sectors. The Nordic members are keen to preserve the organization and secure a more stable financial base for it to remain the voice for adult learning and education globally. I would like to be a part of this work, but also pursue the intentions of former co-opted EC-member Mats Ehn to focus on the infrastructural needs of education and for

a more holistic approach to various forms of adult education. I hope that my experience in formal and non-formal education as well as with international projects and branches outside of Sweden will contribute in a positive way.

My candidacy is put forward by the members of ICAE from Sweden:

- Studieförbunden, Swedish Adult Education Association
- Folkbildningsrådet, the Swedish National Council of Adult Education
- RIO, the organization for Swedish folk high schools owned by civil society organizations
- The Association of Folk High School Teachers

The Swedish organisations are willing to provide logistical and financial support for my participation in the Executive Committee.