

Cecilia Palm

Nominated for the position of
Regular EC member



Motivation

In 2020, this was my motivation as a candidate to the ICAE Executive Committee:

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.

To this, I wish to add that advocating for adult learning and education in general is essential and that the work that ICAE is doing is vital in this regard.

The combined competences of members of the EC and proactive behaviour during the past years have led ICAE to be present in situations that matter. Preparatory activities, mainly on a regional level but initiated or co-organised by ICAE have contributed to a raised interest and better knowledge about the main issues. The Civil Society Forum organized by ICAE in Marrakech was an impressive gathering of ALE stakeholders from civil society from all the world. These preparations have enabled ICAE to accurately represent all members in ALE advocacy on a global level.

The CONFINTEA VII conference in Marrakech, where I was a member of the national delegation from Sweden as well as representing civil society, is the perfect illustration of how civil society engagement can and should be channelled. Coordination of efforts with members on the national and regional level were instrumental in achieving the very good results expressed in the Marrakech Framework of Action (MFA). Considering that ICAE has had to act within limited means during the mandate, it is a great achievement. It goes without saying that I was extremely honoured to be elected Rapporteur of the conference!

ICAE being the main global representative of stakeholders within Adult Learning and Education, I believe that the efforts of the coming mandate must focus on the follow-up of MFA, without forgetting the process surrounding the 2030 Agenda and SDG 4.

However, long-term consolidation of the finances of ICAE is still an issue. We must act within given means, and it is important that the Executive committee sets the priorities. It also means that members of the EC must be ready to engage actively outside the actual meetings, something of which I am aware and prepared to do.

I look forward to being part of the important work of this organisation during the coming years and hope that I can contribute to further success.

Augusti 2023

Summary of previous experience

I have more than 45 years of experience from working in adult learning and education.

- At present, Senior advisor to the Secretary general of Folkuniversitetet in Sweden
- 2015 – 2022: Secretary general of Folkuniversitetet in Sweden
- 2004-2014: CEO of Folkuniversitetet Eastern region
- Mid-seventies-2004: various occupations within adult education, among them five years as Director of Institut Franco-Scandinave, a language school for adults in Aix-en-Provence, France.

Folkuniversitetet is an independent, non-profit adult education association with a broad scope in education and significant international activities, among which can be mentioned:

- Being 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 been on the board of several organisations within adult learning and education. Among them, the Swedish Adult Education Association - Studieförbunden, the common organization for the ten study associations in Sweden that are involved in 'folkbildning' (2015-2022).

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.

Besides being on the Executive Committee of the ICAE since 2020, I am currently a member of the board of International Schools, a foundation which has been arranging language courses abroad since 1946, and of the Association for Research on popular adult education.

I was a member of the Swedish delegation to CONFINTEA VII as a representative of civil society, and was elected Official Rapporteur of the conference.

My native language is Swedish but I am fluent in English and French. I have a good understanding of German and Spanish.



Ms Cecilia Palm, Secretary-General of Folkuniversitetet, Kingdom of Sweden, and General Rapporteur of CONFINTEA VII, presenting her oral report of the conference.

(photo and caption from UNESCO Final report from CONFINTEA VII)