



The power of adult learning and education – achieving the SDGs

7/8 May 2019
Weimar, Germany



Conference “The Power of Adult Learning and Education – Achieving the SDGs”

This conference is the sixth within the series of the “Adult Education and Development Conferences (AEDC)”, carried out by DVV International every two years. The conference addresses the role of adult education in achieving the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The theme of the conference is also aligned with the context of the United Nations High Level Political Forum (HLPF) held annually in New York. In 2019, under the motto “Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality”, the status of the implementation of educational objective SDG 4 and four further SDGs will be the focus of discussion. DVV International will illuminate the potential of adult education at its conference. What role does adult education play within the educational goal? What contribution does it make to other sustainability goals? How can adult education advance the discussion at the HLPF? These and other questions will be discussed here in Weimar and answers will be sought from examples of good practice with high-ranking experts from Germany and abroad.

50th anniversary of DVV International

On the evening of 7 May 2019, in Weimar, as part of this conference we will look back over the 50 years of DVV International. Established in 1969 as a small Department for Adult Education in Developing Countries, the Institute for International Cooperation of the German Adult Education Association currently operates in more than 30 countries, with over 200 employees and a global network of partners. We will celebrate this event with a festive commemoration in the Weimarhalle.

Programme

TUESDAY, 7 May 2019

- 9:15–10:00 Opening ceremony
- 10:00–10:30 Introduction and key messages
- 10:30–11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00–12:15 The relevance of adult education for the SDGs:
Would they even be achievable without adult education?
Panel
- 12:15–13:45 Lunch
- 13:45–16:15 Linking adult learning and education with
selected sustainable development goals
Working groups
- 17:00 Bus transfer to “Weimarhalle”
- 17:45 Festive commemoration: 50 Years DVV International, Weimarhalle

WEDNESDAY, 8 May 2019

- 9:30–9:45 Opening
- 9:45–11:00 Can adult learning and education become
a visible contributor to the SDGs?
Key note
- 11:00–11:30 Coffee break
- 11:30–12:30 Results from the working groups
- 12:30–14:00 Lunch
- 14:00–15:30 Making use of the potential – increasing visibility
and lobbying for adult education
Panel
- 15:30–16:00 Coffee break
- 16:00–16:30 Feedback on key messages and conclusion
of the conference

TUESDAY 9:15 – 10:00

Opening ceremony

Speaker

- Peter Kleine, Mayor of the City of Weimar, Germany
- Malte Krückels, State Secretary, Free State of Thuringia, Germany
- Dirk Schwenzfeier, Head of Directorate Civil Society, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany
- Rita Süssmuth, Honorary President, German Association for the Education of Adults (DVV), Germany

TUESDAY 10:00 – 10:30

Introduction and key messages

Speaker

Christoph Jost, DVV International, Germany

The Conference will kick off with a short introduction and the presentation of draft key messages related to the role of adult learning and education (ALE) in the broader context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its potential for achieving the SDGs. The key messages will focus on the overall role of ALE for the development agenda, the contribution to the education goal (SDG 4) as well as other selected goals (employment and decent work, reduction of inequalities, climate change, prevention of conflicts and strengthening of accountability). Selected key messages will be presented and supported by practical examples from the work undertaken by DVV International and its partners around the globe. Finally, feedback mechanisms will be introduced to ensure involvement of participants during the Conference.

TUESDAY 11:00–12:15

The relevance of adult education for the SDGs: Would they even be achievable without adult education?

Panel

Moderation

Esther Hirsch, DVV International, Germany

The panel will bring together experts from the fields of adult education, education and the SDG process to open the debate on the role of ALE in the SDG process. The panelists will exchange ideas on their general appreciation regarding the power of ALE and discuss whether or not we make use of it sufficiently – especially with regard to the SDG process. Education is reflected in only five global indicators besides SDG4. The relative absence of education in other indicators suggests that its importance for meeting the SDG goal is not sufficiently recognised. This is even more valid for ALE. Project implementation, however, teaches us the need for ALE; we may even ask: Would it be possible to achieve the SDGs without ALE? Supported by practical examples from regional perspectives, the panel will open the field for further discussion and recommendations.

Panelists

- Werner Mauch, Unesco Institute for Lifelong Learning, Germany
- Paul Comyn, International Labour Organization (ILO), Switzerland
- Everest Tumwesigye, Ministry of Education, Uganda
- Celia del Socorro Solis Sánchez, National Institute for Adult Education (INEA), Mexico
- Abdoul Bashir Khaliqi, Afghan National Association for Adult Education (ANAFAE), Afghanistan

TUESDAY 13:45-16:15

Linking adult learning and education with selected sustainable development goals

Introduction

Johann Heilmann, DVV International, Germany

WORKING GROUP 1

Adult learning and education for employment, economic growth, decent work (SDG 8)

Moderation

Bettina Brand, DVV International, Ukraine,
Levan Kvatchadze, DVV International, Germany

One could assume that the importance of adult learning and education (ALE) for employment, economic growth or decent work goes without saying. If this link is well documented and well understood by experts, practitioners and partially also by policy makers from the education field, a lot still has to be done on a global level to recognise the power of ALE and to really put it on the international SDG agenda. With the help of selected examples from four different parts of the world/ contexts, members of the working group will learn from relevant experiences and reflect on the potential of ALE in achieving SDG 8. The panel discussion with distinguished presenters and with the involvement of the entire audience will seek interactivity and open the floor for further discussion and reflection.

Speakers

- Esther Hakobyan, DVV International, Armenia
- Rame Likaj, Education Adviser to the Prime Minister of Kosovo
- Sles Nos, Secretary of State in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Kingdom of Cambodia
- Sabri Saidam, Minister of Education, State of Palestine

WORKING GROUP 2

Creating inclusive societies through adult learning and education (SDG 10)

Moderation

Beate Schmidt-Behlau, DVV International, Germany (including Spanish translation)

The aim of the working group is to learn from good practice cases how ALE contributes specifically to goal 10.2 (by 2030 empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status) and identify strategies for its effective implementation. The panelists will give examples of practices on micro (curricula), meso (institutional) and macro (policies) level showcasing the impact of adult learning on the empowerment of learners and the role of effective policy implementation in creating a positive and affirmative frame. Antidiscrimination laws are necessary to complement educational activities and lower the barriers for social, economic and political inclusion of all adults in situations of risk. The panel will therefore also scrutinise examples of effective antidiscrimination laws in their countries and contexts.

Speakers

- Monica Novillo, Network of Popular Education among Women from Latin American and the Caribbean (REPEM)
- Nani Zulminarni, Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE)

WORKING GROUP 3

Responding to the challenge of global warming by informing and preparing adults (SDG 13)

Moderation

Gerhard Quincke, DVV International, Germany (including French translation)

Climate change concerns both global South and North. Whereas in the North, awareness building prevails over resilience vis à vis the consequences of climate change which are felt in the North, coping with the changes in the South brings about vital adaptations in many ways: Droughts and the scarcity of water threaten livelihoods until turning them into reasons for migration. Some agricultural methods have become obsolete, others emerge and people need to be trained anew. In brief: Adults on both hemispheres of the globe need to be addressed. In this sense, the working group highlights contributions of community learning centres on how to deal with climate change in Germany (Volkshochschule) and in Mali (Malifolkecenter). Together with other practitioners in adult education from various continents the working group will explore how adult education can help to address an

issue which is becoming more and more relevant for the survival of humankind.

Speakers

- Ousmane Ouattara, Malifolkecenter, Mali

WORKING GROUP 4

Adult learning and education – pathways to peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16)

Moderation

Katrin Denys, DVV International, Germany

In many countries ALE is an important tool for fostering peace and social cohesion and, thus, contributes to achieving SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions. The working group will reflect on various ALE approaches from all over the world: prevention of religious extremism in Central Asia, reduction of violence in South African townships, reconciliation after conflict in former Yugoslavia and learning for a multicultural society in Germany's vhs. In light of these specific cases, more general conclusions will be drawn on the impact of ALE and a discussion will be held on how the role of ALE can be strengthened and become more visible.

Speakers

- Nadezhda Romanenko, DVV International, Kyrgyzstan
- Farrell Hunter, DVV International, South Africa
- Amra Begic, Memorial Centre Srebrenica-Potocari, Bosnia-Herzegovina
- Richard Gebhardt, demokratie leben! Aachen, (living democracy! Aken), Germany

WEDNESDAY 9:45 – 11:00

Can adult learning and education become a visible contribution to the SDGs

Keynote

Speaker

Aaron Benavot, Professor, Global Education Policy, University at Albany – State University of New York, USA

Many forms of adult learning and education (ALE) have been visible to policy makers in the past due to government or civil society support and oversight. These include, for example, literacy campaigns, adult basic education, second chance education, farmer field schools and community learning centres. In recent years, however, information about the increasingly diverse forms of ALE is either lacking or of uneven quality, inhibiting effective policy formation. In international circles in particular, the relative invisibility of ALE is a profound liability. This is because the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development contains many references to ALE and its influences on sustainable development, both explicitly and implicitly. The key-

note presentation discusses several questions in this regard: How can ALE advocates address on-going conceptual and measurement challenges to make ALE more visible? How can they mobilise new evidence that speaks to the value and role of ALE in the SDGs? What steps could be taken to reposition ALE in the education sector and beyond? It also asks participants to draw on their own rich field experiences to provide response.

WEDNESDAY 14:00 – 15:30

Making use of the potential – increasing visibility and lobbying for adult education

Panel

Moderation

Uwe Gartenschlaeger, DVV International, South East Asia

The closing panel of the Conference will look at future prospects on how to improve international lobbying for adult learning and education along the ongoing SDG-process. There will be a discussion about how visibility can generally be increased and how intra- and inter-sectoral dialogue can be fostered with key stakeholders, governments and donors. The key messages on the role of adult education in the context of the SDGs will feed into the discussion reflecting possibilities for further dissemination at the global level and adaption as well as application at country and regional level. Moreover, panelists will share experiences and good practices as to successful communication strategies and other promising instruments facilitating political attention, agenda setting and policy support for adult education.

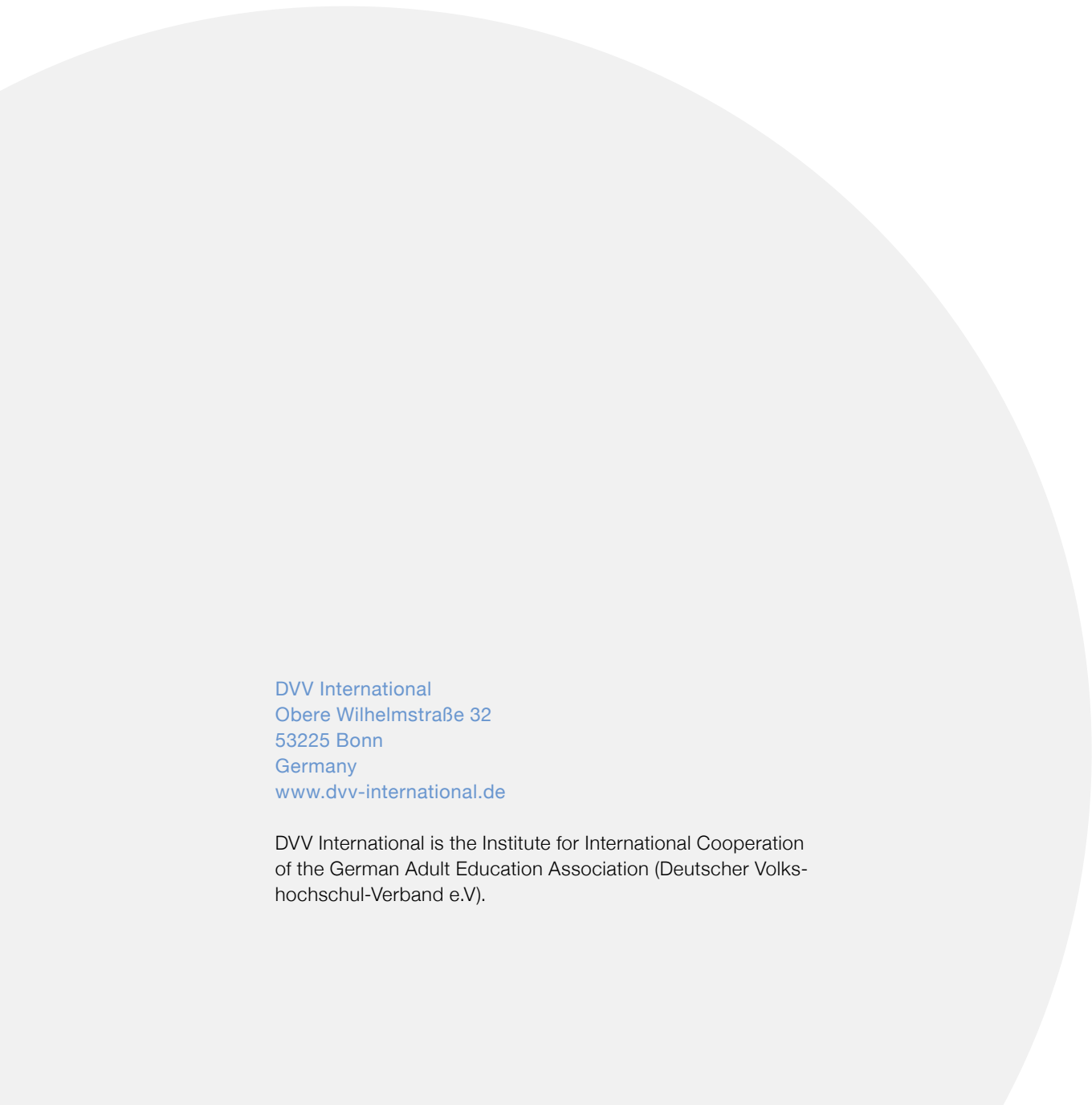
Panelists:

- Katarina Popović, International Council of Adult Education (ICAE)
- Aaron Benavot, Professor, University at Albany – State University of New York
- Maria Khan, Secretary General, Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE)
- Refat Sabbah, President, Global Campaign of Education (GCE)
- Anja Thöne, DVV International, Germany
- Monica Novillo, Network of Popular Education among Women from Latin America and the Caribbean (REPEM)

Guided tour through Weimar

All conference participants who still have some free time on Wednesday, May 8, after the end of the conference, are offered a guided tour through Weimar. Weimar is the city of Goethe and Schiller, the city of the Bauhaus art school and movement (100 years old this year) and of buildings which UNESCO has declared World Heritage sites, but Weimar is also known for historical events, such as this year's 100th anniversary of the Weimar Constitution.

The city tours will be conducted in English, French and Spanish. Further information is available upon registration.



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DVV International is the Institute for International Cooperation of the German Adult Education Association (Deutscher Volkshochschul-Verband e.V).

