

Adult Education Centers - Key Structures for Lifelong Learning and Development

Break-out session/Side Event, CONFINTEA VI Mid-Term Review 2017



Background

“Creation of multi-purpose community learning spaces and centres” – states the Belém Framework for Action as recommendation in the key area participation, inclusion and equity. Since 2009 the importance and role of institutionalized learning structures increased constantly, ensuring a multidisciplinary approach and providing access to appropriate learning programs to marginalized communities. The Recommendation on Adult Learning and Education (RALE) confirmed 2015 the relevance of “creating or strengthening appropriate **institutional structures** [...] for delivering adult learning and education and encouraging adults to use these as hubs for individual learning as well as community development.”

Community-based learning spaces vary widely as to their infrastructural set-up, governance mechanisms, size, staffing, civil and community engagement. This diversity of forms and institutions is also represented in the different names and concepts used around the globe (e.g. community learning centers). The broader definition of **Adult Education Centers** covers the diversity of arrangements without neglecting the aspect that institutional and systemic solutions deserve more attention and promotion. Adult Education Centers in whatever form undoubtedly can become local institutions for lifelong learning and a lever for achieving both the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the targets of the Education 2030 Framework for Action for the implementation of SDG4.

As leading professional organisation in the field of adult education and development **DVV International** has committed itself to supporting lifelong learning and provides worldwide support to the establishment and development of sustainable structures for Youth and Adult Education. Based on experiences of the German System of “Volkshochschulen” (adult education centers), the creation and improvement of learning spaces for youth and adults has in many partner countries been a main working focus for years.

Preceding the CONFINTEA Mid-Term conference DVV International is organising in October 2017 in Georgia the international Conference “Adult Education Centres as a key to Development – Responsibilities, Structures and Benefits”. Practitioners, researchers and other key stakeholders will share concepts and insights as to the potential of adult education centres for development. **Key Messages** will be recorded in a separate outcome document.

Objectives

The break-out session is expected to have a major impact on both knowledge and attitude of participants. The aforementioned key messages of DVV International's global conference will be presented and disseminated to the audience. Moreover, international experts from state actors and civil society will discuss the role of adult education centers as key structures for lifelong learning and development. To this end, the panelists will

- share experiences of adult education centers from different regions of the world, compare concepts and insights;
- identify benefits and analyse challenges concerning quality, legislative framework, financing and sustainability of adult education centers;
- formulate recommendations on the future role and promotion of adult education centers in achieving SDG4 and the targets of the Education 2030 Agenda.



Speakers and Methodology

Methodology: Panel discussion, debate with the auditorium

Date and Time: 25th of October, 12.45-14.15 o'clock

Moderation: Christoph Jost, Director DVV International, Germany

Speaker:

- Le Huy Lam, Regional Centre for Lifelong Learning of Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO CELLL), Vietnam
- Per Paludan Hansen, President European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA), Denmark/Brussels
- Cecilia Soriano, Program Manager, Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE)
- Mr. Aubet Mkwawira, Director National Centre for Literacy & Adult Education (NLCAE), Ministry of Civic Education, Culture & Community Development, Lilongwe, Malawi
- Timothy Ireland, Professor of Adult Education at the Federal University of Paraíba, João Pessoa, Brazil and Director of the UNESCO Chair in Youth and Adult Education, Representative of the Latin American Campaign for the Right to Education (CLADE)

