

ESREA

European Society for Research on the Education of Adults



Department of Educational and Social Policy



School of Philosophy and Education
Department of Education

ESREA Research Network on Adult Educators, Trainers and their Professional Development

Inaugural meeting: 6 - 8 November 2009

**University of Macedonia
Thessaloniki, Greece**

Educating the adult educator: Quality provision and assessment in Europe

Second Call for paper proposals

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **May 31st 2009** – Extended deadline for submission of paper proposals (abstracts).
- **June 15th 2009** – Response of acceptance of paper proposals (abstracts).
- **June 15th 2009** – Registration begins.
- **September 20th 2009** – Submission of final papers to be included in the conference proceedings AND Submission of extended abstracts (1000 words) to be included in a separate volume.

Conference theme: What does quality mean, and how can it be assessed in the context of educating the adult educator and trainer in Europe today? This is the main theme of the inaugural network meeting. Quality is considered as a prerequisite for sustainable development in our societies, because it upholds and conveys the ideals of a sustainable world, by taking into consideration the social, economic and environmental context. In the European context quality in adult and continuing education and training may be defined as locally relevant but also culturally appropriate. It would be impossible however to discuss quality in adult and continuing education and training in Europe without considering the quality of the teaching and training staff involved, considering that the scope of adult and continuing education as it is prescribed in Europe today is to provide education for people to be better individuals, family members, community members, employees and citizens. Quality in this respect should include outcomes -occasionally measurable- that encompass knowledge, skills and attitudes that are linked to the adult educator's profile, tasks, roles and practices. Definitions of quality nonetheless must be open to change and evolution, based on information, changing contexts, and new understandings of the nature of the challenges faced by the adult educator. Research on the quality of the education and training provided for adult educators and trainers in Europe, as well as policy research and assessment of quality of professional practices in our field -ranging from national, multinational or comparative to action research at the field level- may contribute to this redefinition.

Aim of the conference: The network's inaugural meeting is planned to be a forum for exchanging theoretical considerations and empirical evidence, between researchers studying the different roles and tasks of the adult educator and trainer and the ways that these are assessed, as well as issues relating to the quality of their training (initial and continuing) and their professional development. The meeting aims to bring together participants from different disciplines and countries who are interested in these topics. The conference is also open to practitioners who are working in adult training organizations or educational structures that provide for adults including universities. Thus, the conference will bring insights from different parts of the academia together with insights from the field. The conference itself will therefore be a site of cross-disciplinary learning.

Questions to be addressed:

- What does quality provision mean in adult educators' education and training?
- Who are qualified to educate and train adult teachers and trainers, and what assures their quality?
- What are the skills and competences that need to be developed by the adult educator, so to provide a high quality end-product?
- How can quality in adult teaching staff's provision be monitored, assessed or measured, and by whom?
- What is the role of the adult teacher in this respect?
- What is the role of the universities in providing quality education and training for adult educators and trainers?
- What does 'quality control' mean in our narrow setting and who is qualified to control quality?
- Does quality assurance make the adult educators' profession more appealing or attractive?
- What do our systems or policy makers prescribe -if at all- for assuring quality of the people who work in our sector?
- How do we respond when our systems are dysfunctional or aren't working?

Guidelines for submission of abstracts: Proposals are invited for paper and poster presentations. Abstracts should be sent as an attached file [either in *.doc, *.docx, or *.pdf format]. All abstracts should be typed in one sided A4, and must not exceed 500 words [single spaced]. They must include a title and 6 keywords, but not the author/s name/s, affiliation or institution/s. These should be stated in the email accompanying the abstract together with full name, institutional affiliation, phone number/s and postal details.

- The conference language is **English**.
- All abstracts for paper presentations must be submitted by **Sunday 31st May 2009 (new date)** to George K. Zarifis (gzarifis@edlit.auth.gr) and Eugenia Panitsidou (epantsidou@uom.gr).
- All paper proposals will be blind reviewed by the scientific committee.
- Acceptance will be confirmed by **June 15th 2009 (new date)**.
- Final versions of papers (no more than 5000 words including references) must be submitted by **September 20th 2009 (new date)**. Details on template will be announced soon.
- Presentations must not exceed 20 minutes in time length. There will be at least 10 minutes time for debating each paper.

Conference fee¹ and Saturday night Dinner Gala²:

ESREA members: € 60

NON-ESREA members: € 80

STUDENTS: € 50

OPTIONAL DINNER GALA: € 40

For further information please contact George Zarifis: gzarifis@edlit.auth.gr.

Scientific committee:

Adamantios PAPASTAMATIS *University of Macedonia*

Anja HEIKKINEN *University of Tampere*

Eugenia PANITSIDOU *University of Macedonia*

Efthymios VALKANOS *University of Macedonia*

Geoffrey C. ELLIOTT *University of Worcester*

George K. ZARIFIS *Aristotle University of Thessaloniki*

Jaap van LAKERVELD *University of Leiden*

John FIELD *University of Stirling*

Katarina POPOVIC *University of Belgrade*

Larissa JÖGI *Tallinn University*

Liliana EZECHIL *University of Pitesti*

Maria GRAVANI *Open University of Cyprus*

Mike OSBORNE *University of Glasgow*

Pierre HEBRARD *University of Montpellier*

Regina EGETENMEYER-NEHER *University Duisburg-Essen*

Stefan HUMMELSHEIM *German Institute for Adult Education-DIE*

Teresa ALMEIDA PINTO *Byweb Formação e Informática*

Wolfgang JÜTTE *University of Bielefeld*

Organising committee:

Adamantios Papastamatis (University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece)

Efthymios Valkanos (University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece)

Eugenia Panitsidou (University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece)

George K. Zarifis (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece)

¹ The fee includes registration and conference portfolio, book of extended abstracts and CD-ROM of the conference proceedings, coffees and light lunches during the conference.

² The Saturday Dinner Gala will include 3 course meal (fish, meat or vegetarian) and wine of your choice.