

Demographic Change and the Education of Older Adults

First Conference of the ESREA Network on Education and Learning of Older Adults (ELOA)

7th-9th October 2010, Munich, Germany

Call for paper proposals

Conference theme

One of the most important challenges facing industrial nations is how to deal with the effects of demographic change and an ever increasing older population. Birth rates are sinking permanently and the parallel steady increase in life-expectancy are leading toward a society with a rising proportion of older people and an ever decreasing proportion of younger people. These demographic trends actually stimulate adult education in two ways: the first is the potential for innovation in reception and support for the increasing number of older workers; and the second is that educational training programs can and have to contribute to staying healthy and independent up until very old age in order to prevent the over-burdening of the system. How this can be realized with the help of educational programming will be the main topic of the network conference. In order to achieve this, it is important to keep in mind the needs older people have as learners, go along with their educational interests and behaviour.

When we talk about older adults here, we focus people in the second half of their working life up to the highly aged people more than 80 years old. This broad definition of older adults leads to a wide range of topics and perspectives focusing on the working and learning conditions of older workers as much as on gerontological aspects of learning in old age.

Topics to be addressed

There is a large variety of issues and educational research questions associated with this topic and to be addressed within the conference.

- The demographic trends and their influence on adult education;
- The impact of demographic consequences in working life on lifelong learning and competence development;
- The meaning of intergenerational learning for older adults in ageing societies;
- Influence of educational experiences for further learning and continuing education;
- The meaning of different perceptions of age and life concepts
- The circumstances and requirements which support or hinder older adults to participate in adult education;
- Differences in educational interests and learning preferences between age groups and generations;
- Workplaces, working conditions and their impact for learning processes of older workers;

We kindly request all interested researchers to participate in the conference and in the international debate on the education and learning of older adults.

Guidelines for submission of paper abstracts

Proposals are invited only for paper presentations. Paper 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 **Monday 5th April 2010** to Bernhard Schmidt-Hertha (b.schmidt@lmu.de).
- All paper proposals will be blind reviewed by the scientific committee.
- Acceptance will be confirmed by **April 31st 2010**.
- Final versions of papers (no more than 5000 words including references) must be submitted by **Monday 30th August 2010**.
- Presentations must not exceed 30 minutes in time length. There will be at least 15 minutes time for debating each paper.

Scientific board:

Prof. Leif Emil Hansen (Roskilde)

PD Dr. Bernhard Schmidt-Hertha (Munich)

Jim Soulsby (Leicester)

Dr. Tarja Tikkanen (Stavanger)

Local organisation committee

PD Dr. Bernhard Schmidt-Hertha

Prof. Dr. Rudolf Tippelt