

ESREA

European Society for Research on the Education of Adults



Department of Educational and Social Policy



School of
Philosophy and
Education

ESREA Network on Adult Educator, Trainer and Professional Development

Inaugural meeting: 6 - 8 November 2009

University of Macedonia
Thessaloniki, Greece

Educating the adult educator: Quality provision and assessment in Europe

Call for paper proposals

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?

Participation: The organisers invite researchers, scholars and policy makers from all around Europe to give presentations and to discuss their topics, findings and approaches to the main conference theme. Postgraduate and doctoral students are especially welcome. We encourage submissions which reflect on practices applied and methods used to assess measure and/or assure quality of adult educators' training, as well as papers that focus on comparative and international approaches of quality in policy making regarding professionalisation of the adult educator and trainer. Paper proposals that relate to issues of quality in professional practice –focusing on the role of the adult educator and trainer– are also welcome.

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 11th May 2009** 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 **May 31st 2009**.
- Final versions of papers (no more than 5000 words including references) must be submitted by **Monday 31st August 2009**.
- Presentations must not exceed 20 minutes in time length. There will be at least 10 minutes time for debating each paper.

Guidelines concerning ESREA bursaries: ESREA offers a limited number of bursaries for PhD students (or equivalent) who wish to participate in an ESREA conference or network meeting. To be eligible to apply, the student needs to be a member (individual or covered by an institutional membership) of ESREA, and needs to have submitted a paper proposal. For more information please

refer to the ESREA website www.esrea.org, or contact directly ESREA Secretary Prof. Dr Andreas Fejes at andreas.fejes@liu.se for more details¹.

Conference fees & accommodation details: Full details about fees, travelling to Thessaloniki, conference registration, venue and accommodation will shortly appear on ESREA's website under 'Conferences'. Fees are planned to be kept to a minimum of €50 for students and not exceed €80 for non-ESREA members. 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*

Eythimios VALKANOS *University of Macedonia*

Geoffrey C. ELLIOTT *University of Worcester*

George K. ZARIFIS *Aristotle University of Thessaloniki*

Jaap van LAKERVELD *University of Leiden*

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)

Eythimios Valkanos (University of Macedonia)

Eugenia Panitsidou (University of Macedonia)

George K. Zarifis (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)

¹ Ph.D. students whose abstracts are accepted and who are interested to apply for a bursary should send their application, with a short CV and a letter of recommendation from their academic advisors, addressed to the Network convener at gzarifis@edlit.auth.gr.

Organising Institutions:

ESREA

European Society for Research on the Education of Adults

ESREA promotes and disseminates theoretical and empirical research on the education of adults and adult learning in Europe through research networks, conferences and publications. Active members come from most parts of Europe. The secretariat of ESREA is located at the Department of Behavioural Sciences and Learning at [Linköping University](http://www.liu.se) in Sweden. ESREA is in legal terms a non-profit organization governed by Swedish law.

Contact details:

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The **University of Macedonia of Economic and Social Sciences**, was established in 1990 in Thessaloniki.

The University has eight departments covering all fields of economic and social sciences. The network meeting is chiefly organized by the [Department of Educational and Social Policy](#). The department was established in an effort to serve certain areas of science that have become of special interest to the international community. In particular, the mission of the Department is:

- (1) to advance the social sciences in the sectors of educational and social policy by promoting academic and applied teaching and research;
- (2) to offer its graduates the necessary theoretical and practical training for their scientific and professional careers and development;
- (3) to promote research in educational and social policy and particularly in the fields of continuing education, the education of adults and of persons with special needs, training techniques, and the development and evaluation of social policy regulations. *(for more information press the picture button top left of the paragraph)*



Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (School of Philosophy and Education) is the co-organiser of this network meeting. ATh is the largest university in Greece. The University Campus comprises 9 Faculties organized into 39 Schools, as well as 3 independent Schools (a total of 42 Schools). More than 95,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students study at the Aristotle University,

86,000 in undergraduate programmes and 9,000 in postgraduate programmes.
(for more information press the picture button top left of the paragraph)

ESREA network for the adult educator, trainer and professional development

The general scope of this recently established network is to provide input on how to improve the conditions needed for the personal and professional development of adult educators and trainers, enhancing the attractiveness of their profession and therefore strengthening the idea of quality in adult education in Europe. This is to be achieved by stipulating some insight into key issues and challenges related to the adult educator and related staff, and by highlighting essential areas of action, current trends, good practices and relevant policies. On these grounds the aim of the network is threefold:

- To bring forward the experience from all around Europe, on issues pertaining to the multiple roles, practices and settings in which adult educators and related staff act and grow.
- To report on current European projects and stimulate research in this area.
- To explore the way/s in which policies develop and analyze their possible impact.

Network conveners:

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