



EBSN 2020 Online Conference Declaration

- 1) The participants in the European Basic Skills Network 2020, held online during the COVID 19 pandemic, pledge to continue working to support the current European Agenda for Adult Learning, and particularly the Upskilling Pathways Initiative (UP). We will promote quality in national basic skills policies with the goal of helping adults meet the challenges presented by the extraordinary situation we face in 2020. Basic skills need to be recognized as a central factor in all policy aiming at increasing sustainability, resilience, equality and inclusion.
- 2) The present Conference Declaration builds on and upholds the Berlin and Tallinn Conference Declarations (2018 and 2019), which reminded policy makers of their responsibility to develop coherent, cohesive and adequately financed national policies for basic skills, involving all relevant stakeholders, and promoted the use of the EPALE-based EBSN Capacity Building Series (CBS) as a contribution to ensure that all European countries establish a whole-of-government approach (WGA) to such policies.
- 3) The EBSN 2020 Conference also upholds all the recommendations expressed in the Tallinn Declaration regarding the need to move from project-based provision of basic skills to established national programs; to foster and finance further research on basic skills related issues; to develop national and European frameworks for basic skills; to foster and implement learner-centered delivery models; and to develop research-based outreach measures that can ensure that all adults access the training they need.
- 4) The global COVID-19 crisis has dramatically increased the relevance of training in digital literacy. Online learning has become a necessary alternative at all levels of education, and the situation has revealed a dire need for
 - Better digital tools, apps and models for basic skills learning provision,
 - Increased focus on critical and media literacy, health literacy and financial numeracy,
 - Quality provision of professional development for teachers, focusing not only on their competent individual use of digital tools but also on all the didactic considerations that need to inform the use of such tools.
- 5) The participants in the EBSN 2020 conference declare their interest in contributing to meet these needs and the general need for upskilling of basic skills teachers throughout Europe, by



- Considering the possibility of developing project applications aimed at such developments,
 - Contributing where possible to the planned EBSN Professional Development Series, PDS, a parallel series to the CBS to be developed within the frame of an Erasmus+ project, whose first results will be presented during the EBSN 2021 conference,
 - Contributing to the EBSN efforts to ensure the proper accreditation and recognition of such courses through the planned system for EBSN badges supported by a consortium of tertiary level institutions.
- 6) The participants in the EBSN 2020 conference recognize the global dimension of the challenges we currently face. Even though the network's main focus continues to be Europe, they join the EBSN in their support of Unesco's Global Alliance for Literacy (GAL), which has recently accepted the EBSN as an Associated Member.

Endorsed by the participants at the EBSN's 2020 Online Conference

November 2nd to 4th, 2020