



Innovation for Resilience - New Approaches to Basic Skills Provision in the Post-COVID Era

EBSN Annual Conference



28th to 29th October 2021.



SPEAKERS



Ailis Mardon-Egan

Participation in person

The National Adult Literacy Agency of Ireland (NALA)

Check-In, Take-Off (CITO) - Innovative - use of technology as motivation tool for adults with basic skills needs

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29TH / 10.00 - 10.30

Based in Ireland, Ailis Mardon-Egan is an experienced project officer for the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA). Ailis is passionate about NALA's vision; where adult literacy is a valued right, where everyone can develop their literacy, numeracy and digital skills, and where individuals can take part fully in society. As part of the Check In, Take Off (CITO) project, Ailis has coordinated the design and development of an online self-assessment web application, the CITO Skills Checker, to help motivate learners to take the next step and discover relevant learning opportunities. Outside of the office, Ailis enjoys rugby coaching, rowing, and BBQing!



Alex Stevenson

Participation in person

National Learning and Work Institute

Learning through Lockdown – Volunteers, English Language Learners and Conversation Clubs

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28TH / 11.20 - 12.20

Alex is head of English, maths and ESOL at L&W, leading the organisation's programmes of research and development in adult basic skills, English for Speakers of Other Languages and community learning. At L&W, he has delivered numerous projects to support policy development and effective practice in adult basic skills for clients such as the Department for Education, the Greater London Authority and the Education and Training Foundation. He is currently an executive board member at the European Association for the Education of Adults.



Alison Crabb

Participation online

European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion

Towards a New Agenda for Adult Learning

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28TH / 10.10 - 10.30

Alison Crabb, working in the European Commission since 1999, currently heads the Skills Agenda Unit in DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. Her team is working with Member States, social partners and other stakeholders to help adults across Europe upgrade their skills and make skills and qualifications more easily understood across borders. Coordinating the European Skills Agenda, its flagship initiatives to open up upskilling and reskilling opportunities for adults include the Pact for Skills and a proposal on Individual Learning Accounts. She is also responsible for one of the EU's best known tools supporting learning and working across borders, the European Qualifications Framework.



Annapurna Ayyappan

Participation online

UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL)

Understanding technology-supported literacy programmes for youth and adult refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants: A global landscape review

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28TH / 15.40 - 16.40

Annapurna Ayyappan is an Assistant Programme Specialist at the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning and a member of the Policy Support and Capacity Development with a focus on youth and adult literacy. At UIL she supports projects on equitable and inclusive digital technologies for literacy and basic skills learning and organizing online courses and webinars at the national and global levels. She also co-coordinates the UNESCO' database on Effective Literacy and Numeracy practices that features over 200 promising youth and adult literacy programmes from across 97 countries. She has experience working on several educational projects in the non-profit sector as a teacher and teacher trainer in India. She holds a MA in Education with a focus on Human Development and Psychology from Harvard University, USA and a Bachelor of Technology in Information and Telecommunication Engineering from SRM University, India.



Căcilia Märki

Participation in person

Swiss Federation of Adult Education (SVEB)

Webinars for CPD

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28TH / 14.10 - 14.40

Căcilia has been working for the Swiss Association for Continuing Education (SVEB) since 2012. She is responsible for the SVEB's basic skills department. Workplace basic skills is an important focus of her activities, along with the support of professional networks and policy development, the professionalisation of trainers and international cooperation in the area of basic skills.



Denisa Mariana Centea

Participation online

Romanian Institute for Adult Education

Digital Literacy Improvement through Effective Learning Experiences for Adults

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28TH / 15.40 - 16.40

Denisa Mariana Centea is a junior researcher at the Romanian Institute for Adult Education in Timisoara (IREA) since 2013, with a degree in Pedagogy, she has a master's degree in Educational Management and Curricular Development at the Faculty of Sociology and Psychology, West University of Timisoara. During these years she worked on numerous educational research projects focusing on basic skills on adult education and workplace learning, professionalization of the adult trainer, impact of new technologies on adult learning, social inclusion and active citizenship in education, intergenerational learning and active aging, community learning and development. Following the researches in the adult education she developed the curriculum for numerous training packages focusing on basic skills, soft skills, and ICT.



Permanently allocates time for professional development by participating in various events on adult education, studying new trends in the field, writing and publishing scientific articles.



Eva Steinheimer

Participation online

3s Research & Consulting

Bridging Barriers - The Future of Adult Basic Education in Europe

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28TH / 11.20 - 12.20

Eva Steinheimer is a researcher and project manager at 3s (www.3s.co.at) in Vienna, Austria. She holds a Master's degree in Scandinavian Studies and Political Science. Eva worked for ten years as a policy advisor and researcher, responsible for advising members of the Austrian parliament before she started working for 3s in 2017. She is involved in project management and cooperation in research projects at national and European level in the field of lifelong learning, adult education systems and evaluation of LLL-policies.



Graciela Sbertoli

Participation in person

Secretary General, EBSN

Conference declaration

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28TH / 10.30 - 10.50 & 13.30 - 13.40 & 13.40 - 14.10
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29TH / 12.30 - 12.40

Graciela is currently the General Secretary of the European Basic Skills Network. She has been involved in adult education since 1982. She represented Norway in the European Commission's Grundtvig Working Group (2001-2005), and as National Coordinator for Adult Learning from 2006 to 2007. In 2010 she launched the European Basic Skills Network. In her current position she is cooperating with the Commission and a variety of European stakeholders for the implementation of the Upskilling Pathways initiative.



**Dr Helen Murphy, BA,
MBA, PhD**

Participation in person

Waterford Institute of Technology

Check-In, Take-Off (CITO) - Innovative - use of technology as motivation tool for adults with basic skills needs

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29TH / 10.00 - 10.30

The School of Lifelong Learning and Education is home to two academic departments (Education and Lifelong Learning), the Centre for Technology Enhanced Learning and the Literacy Development Centre, a national centre for professional development for adult educators. The School is responsible for leading the development of flexible, part-time and technology enhanced programmes across the Institute specifically targeted at adult learners. The Education faculty in the School is responsible for the design and development of programmes for educators, research into the field of education and engagement with education partners at a regional, national and international level.

In addition to her role as Dean, Helen is currently Chair of the Teaching and Learning committee of WIT Academic Council, is the Institutional representative of the Regional Skills Forum in the South East of Ireland and is a National Associate with the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning. In 2019 Helen took up the role of National Chair of HELLIN (Higher Education Lifelong Learning Ireland Network). She is also a member of ESREA and HEI FET Forum, a national network in Ireland supporting adult educators.

Helens' research interests are in the field of adult education policy perspectives, strategy in education and professionalization.



Jian Xi Teng

Participation online

UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL)

Strengthening digital competencies for- better literacy provision under Unesco's Sustainable Development Goals

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29TH / 11.10 - 11.40

Jian Xi Teng is a Programme Specialist in ICT for Lifelong Learning at the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning. He currently manages capacity building programmes for educators under the Global Alliance for Literacy, and research on how technology can effectively support literacy, education and skills development among different populations including older persons, refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons. Previously at UNESCO Bangkok, he worked with governments, international organisations and private sector partners in the Pacific, South Asia and Southeast Asia on national ICT in education policies and planning, digital competencies, digital inequalities, gender equality and skills development. He graduated with a Bachelor of Laws from the National University of Singapore and obtained a Master of Arts in Education and Technology from UCL Institute of Education.



Judith Alamprese

Participation online

Abt Associates

Approaches to Upskilling Programs for Adult Basic Skills Learners: The U.S. Perspective

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28TH / 14.40 - 15.10

Judith Alamprese is a Principal Scientist at Abt Associates (USA) where she leads Abt's adult education practice and directs research and evaluation studies in adult education and workforce development. She is currently a Principal Investigator of evaluations assessing career pathways programs to facilitate adults' social and economic well-being and studies on the use of text messaging to support adult education learners and on innovative practices in adult education programs. Her recent publications include three reports on innovation in adult education and an evaluation report on the Bridges to Career Opportunities model. Ms. Alamprese has served on two committees for the National Academies' Board on Testing and Assessment. She was a member of the U.S. Delegation to the Shanghai International Forum in Lifelong Learning, and a member of the U.S. Delegation to the 6th International Conference on Adult Education, CONFINTEA VI. She received her M.A. in Sociology from Syracuse University and her B.A. in Sociology from Emmanuel College.



Kerstin Gatu

Participation online

Nordic Network for Adult Learning (NVL)

Technology should work for everyone – Follow-up on Nordic recommendations on adult basic digital skills, work in progress on a Nordic Inspiration catalogue

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28TH / 15.40 - 16.40

Educator and occupational therapist. Has worked with cognitive support in adult habilitation, been active in the Association for cognitive support in Sweden, FKS. Project manager for Riksförbundet FUB (the Swedish National Association for Persons with Intellectual Disability) heritage fund-financed projects, Adapted IT - the path to digital participation 2014 - 2017 and DigiJag a digital cognitively accessible learning environment 2018 - 2021. In DigiJag we also collaborate with Begripsam AB and Axesslab. Today I am an educational project manager in DigiJag Center, a national knowledge center for participation in the digital society together with my teaching job on the course Adapted IT at Mora Folk high school.



Michael Thiel

Participation online

German Adult Education Association (DVV)

Lightening the load – vhs-Lernportal in the COVID crisis

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28TH / 15.40 - 16.40

Michael Thiel is Project Manager at vhs-Lernportal, where his main responsibility is content development and supervision of the editorial staff. He studied Media Studies, German Literature and Political Science at the Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn. There he got in touch with digital learning in different settings and began to explore the world of e-learning via internships and freelancing editing jobs. Before he joined the DVV he worked as an editor and concept developer in various projects which focused on the promotion of digital skills.



Prof Kees Hoogland

Participation in person

University of Applied Sciences Utrecht

Common European Numeracy Framework – implications for policy

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28TH / 15.40 - 16.40

Dr Hoogland is an associate professor in mathematics and numeracy for vocational and adult education at the Research Centre for Learning and Innovation at the University of Applied Sciences Utrecht in The Netherlands. He has also worked as a mathematics teacher, a teacher educator, a researcher, a textbook author, a journal editor, and the CEO of one of the largest in-service professional development institutes in the Netherlands. He was active as an international consultant in mathematics and numeracy education in Belarus, Dutch Antilles, Greece, Indonesia, South Africa, Surinam, and Mexico. He is the designer of LerenRekenen, state-of-the-art blended learning materials for adult numeracy. He is active as a member of the OECD Numeracy Expert Group (for the second cycle of PIAAC surveys) and a project leader of the Erasmus+ project Common European Numeracy Framework. He speaks Dutch and English and reads German and French.



Sam Duncan

Participation online

UCL Institute of Education

New and old perspectives on the professional expertise of adult literacy practitioners

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28TH / 11.20 - 12.20

Sam Duncan is currently an Associate Professor in Adult Education and Literacies at the UCL Institute of Education in London, where is she also Co-Director of the International Literacy Centre, Co-Director of the Centre for Post-14 Education and Work and Academic Head of Learning and Teaching for the Department of Education, Practice and Society. Sam's background is as an adult literacies and language teacher, and since 2005, she has been working in teacher education and literacies research. She is the author of Reading Circles, Novels and Adult Reading Development (Bloomsbury/Continuum, 2012) and Reading for Pleasure and Reading Circles for Adult Emergent Readers (NIACE, 2014). Her most recent research project has been published in the Routledge Literacies series as the book Oral Literacies: When Adults Read Aloud (2021), and Sam is currently exploring the nature and development of the expertise of adult literacies practitioners.



Sarah Bates Evoy

Participation in person

Waterford Institute of Technology

Check-In, Take-Off (CITO) - Innovative - use of technology as motivation tool for adults with basic skills needs

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Sarah Bates Evoy is an experienced and qualified Social Care Worker, Adult Guidance Counsellor and Further Education teacher. She has extensive experience working with individuals and groups considered disadvantaged or hard to engage, including all male groups and individuals with experience of homelessness, addiction and prison.

Sarah currently works as a Higher Education lecturer and researcher with the School of Education and Lifelong Learning in Waterford Institute of Technology, Ireland, and as an adult tutor with the Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board, Ireland.

Sarah's current research interests include the training of Further Education and Training (FET) practitioners, the identities formed by FET practitioners, and the creation of accessible learning spaces for FET learners.



Zoltán Várkonyi

Participation in person

EBSN Secretariat

The EBSN's CBS and PDS series in the context of current European Policy

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28TH / 10.30 - 10.50

Zoltán is one of the initiators of the Hungarian Association for Lifelong Learning and had decisive role in developing and promoting the Network of Open Learning Centres in Hungary. Zoltán is a co-founder and director of Progress Development Co., which also functions as a knowledge centre for basic skills learning for the Network. Progress accommodates EBSN Secretariat in Budapest, and in his capacity as Team Leader for the Capacity Building Series, Zoltán is coordinating the production of OERs & MOOCs. He was a member of EBSN Executive Committee in between 2013-2017.



Vincze Zsolt

Participation in person

EBSN Secretariat

Engaging SMEs in Hungary to invest in the skills of employees during COVID

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28TH / 11.20 - 12.20

Zsolt Vincze is member of the EBSN EC and the Treasurer of the Network. Zsolt has been working in basic skills development for more than 10 years, being part of the team which developed and promoted the Network of Hungarian Open Learning Centres, an innovative community-based approach for ensuring key competences for adults. Zsolt is also director of Progress Development Co., which functions as a knowledge centre for basic skills learning for the Network since 2009 as well as implements several national programmes on digital skills development for adults. He was Head of the EBSN Secretariat between 2013 and 2017.



Monika Drinkova

Participation in person

State Vocational Education
Institute

Basic Skills in Slovakia – from initial mapping to a national strategy

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28TH / 15.40 - 16.40

Monika is currently coordinator of Electronic Platform for Adult Education in the Slovak Republic at the State Vocational Education Institute in Slovakia. She studied International relationships European Union at the Economic University in Bratislava. In 2013 – 2016 participated on the national project – Development of national Qualifications System and implementation of the EU initiatives in VET. From 2016 – 2017 was head of back office in the national project Dual education and improving attractiveness and quality of VET.

LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU IN VALLETTA!

