



# **International Learning Times**

**Promoting the EU agenda for Adult Learning**

12-14 May 2014  
Edinburgh, Scotland



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12 - 14 May 2014

Hilton Edinburgh Grosvenor Hotel, Grosvenor Street, Edinburgh, Scotland EH12 5EF

## **Purpose of the Conference:**

This conference will bring together researchers, adult educators, policy makers, adult learners and employers to improve and strengthen partnership working across Europe. During the conference we will explore and investigate a range of policies, tools and techniques that support the EU Action Plan for Adult Learning – Always a Good Time to Learn.

## **Theme of the Conference:**

The theme for this conference is **Participation in Adult Learning**.

## **Audience:**

The conference will be of specific interest to policy makers who are looking to develop and increase participation in adult and lifelong learning. It will be especially useful to those who want to work across Europe and Internationally on reaching out to excluded groups of adults and encourage their participation in adult and lifelong learning. It will also appeal to those people who are looking to develop cross European partnerships and future projects that address the European Agenda for Adult Learning.

## **Content:**

International Learning Times aims to bring together EU Co-ordinators, researchers, adult educators, policy makers, adult learners and employers from across Europe to exchange knowledge and experience, discuss current projects and good practice that support and develop participation in adult learning. We will hear keynotes from the European Commission, UNESCO, International Council for Adult Education, EFA, European Association for the Education of Adults, NIACE, and Scotland's Learning Partnership about key strategies and developments that support the participation of adults across Europe and Internationally.

During the conference we will have the opportunity to hear from colleagues across Europe and the UK about how the work they are involved in supports participation across the five key actions in the EU Agenda: Quality, Participation, Validation and Recognition, Demographic Change and Migration, Indicators and Measures. We will also be invited to meet with politicians and Scottish Ministers to discuss the importance of democratic learning processes that support the engagement of those furthest away from education and training to ensure and support their participation in adult learning.

## **Timings:**

The conference will run from Monday 12 - Wednesday 14 May 2014 with each of the days taking a specific focus. Day one will look at what we've learned about previous policies in adult learning and how they have supported participation, day two will concentrate on what we can learn from current practice and day three will explore how we develop new ideas to support participation in the future.

## Learning from the Past

**11.00am** Arrival and Conference Registration

**11.30am** Welcome



Introduction  
Practising Participation - what do we mean and how have we fared?  
Professor John Field  
Chair, Scotland's Learning Partnership

**11.45am** Work in Progress



National Co-ordinator's update on the UK's progress on work packages  
David Hughes  
Chief Executive, NIACE

**12.05pm** The European Agenda



Progress in participation in Adult Learning - a European perspective  
Martina Ní Cheallaigh  
Policy Officer, European Commission

**12.30pm** Lunch

**1.15pm** Learning the Treasure Within

What have we learned from EU policy on raising participation?



Dr Katarina Popović  
Professor of Adult Education  
Vice President EAEA



Alan Tuckett  
President  
International Council for Adult Education

**1.45pm** Lessons from the Past - Round Table Discussion  
How has EU lifelong learning policy been implemented?

**2.45pm** Workshop Sessions

W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6
Quality Counts	Participation	Validation/ Recognition	Demographic Changes	Looking at Migration in Europe	Indicators and Measures

**3.45pm** Coffee and Comfort Break

**4.00pm** Workshop Sessions

W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6
Quality Counts	Participation	Validation/ Recognition	Demographic Changes	Looking at Migration in Europe	Indicators and Measures

**5.00pm** Panel Session

David Hughes Chief Executive, NIACE  
Dr Katarina Popović Professor of Adult Education, Vice President EAEA  
Professor John Field Chair, Scotland's Learning Partnership

Colin Neilands Director, WEANI  
Cerys Furlong Director, NIACEDC  
Alan Tuckett President, International Council for Adult Education

**6.00pm** Break

**6.30pm** Reception at Edinburgh Castle

**9.00pm** Cultural Programme - Edinburgh by Night

## Learning from the Present

### 9.00am Making it Real: What are we working on today?

European and international co-operation is essential to ensure all groups of people can participate in Adult Learning. What lessons have we learned from other countries and programmes?



Edicio De La Torre  
President  
Education for Life Foundation  
Philippines



Arne Carlsen  
Director  
UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning

### 10.00am Increasing Participation in Learning - Group Discussion

How do we build effective alliances to encourage participation and what strategies do we need in place to ensure joined-up working?

### 11.15am Coffee and Comfort Break

### 11.30am Engaging Decision Makers - Group Discussion

European and international co-operation is essential to ensure all groups of people can participate in Adult Learning. What lessons have we learned from other countries and programmes?

### 12.30pm Lunch

### 2.45pm Local Project Visits

Visit 1	Visit 2	Visit 3	Visit 4	Visit 5	Visit 6
East Lothian	Borders	Glasgow	North Lanarkshire	Edinburgh	Edinburgh

### 5.15pm Arrival at Scottish Parliament

### 6.00pm Meeting of Cross Party Group on Adult Learning Celebrating Adult Learning

### 7.30pm Dinner and Celebration

### 9.00pm Cultural Programme

## Learning for the Future

**9.15am** Future

The Purpose of the Final Session



James McHarg  
Chair  
Scotland's Learning Partnership Policy Forum



Peter McNamara  
President  
Scotland's Learning Partnership

**9.45am** Key Lessons



Key Lessons - Building future partnerships  
Dr James McCormick  
Joseph Rowantree Foundation

**10.45am** Coffee and Comfort Break

**11.00am** Inspired Learning  
An exhibition of Adult Learning in Europe

**12.00noon** Lunch

**1.00pm** Exhibit selection and presentation

**2.15pm** Collaborative Futures  
Plenary Discussion

**3.00pm** Closing Speech



James McHarg  
Chair  
Scotland's Learning Partnership Policy Forum



Peter McNamara  
President  
Scotland's Learning Partnership

# Workshops

**You will be able to choose two workshops to attend during the conference. Please indicate your 1, 2 and 3, choice in that order to allow us to complete your registration.**

## W1 Quality Counts

What led Finland to change their system of inspection? How does inspection drive up standards? This workshop will explore the different experiences of ensuring quality in Finland and Scotland and consider what we can learn from them.

## W2 Participation

Adult Learners' Week is a shared activity across Europe and the world. Each country has its own unique approach to running their week but they still share a common bond and purpose-putting learners at the centre of the week. Find out from Wales and Estonia about their successes in developing Adult Learners' Week and what they're working on for the future.

## W3 Validation / Recognition

Development of validation and recognition systems are an important development over the last 20 years. We will hear from Austria and England about their systems and how we might be able to use and borrow from their experiences and what lessons we can learn when developing new systems.

## W4 Demographic Changes

All across Europe the demographic shift means that older adults will be required to develop and learn new skills. This workshop will hear from Cyprus and Germany about their experiences of developing programmes that engage those ages 50+. We will look at how we raise the profile of this work and how we channel energies towards supporting older people to live healthy, productive and active lives.

## W5 Looking at Migration in Europe

Across Europe we are seeing a growing role for adult learning providers in supporting migrant workers and their families to settle into their new country and in the first instance learn the language of that country. We will hear from Spain and Romania their perspectives on the successes and lessons we need to learn to achieve our goals.

## W6 Indicators and Measures

As part of its Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC), the OECD collects and analyses data that assist governments in assessing, monitoring and analysing the level and distribution of skills among their adult populations as well as the utilisation of skills in different contexts. Hear from Ireland and the OECD about the results of the recent study and find out what we're doing to monitor and evaluate learning across Europe.

# Local Project Visits

**You will be able to choose one visit to attend during the conference.  
Please select your visit at conference registration.**

## Visit 1 East Lothian

Transformational Adult Learning is a recent programme undertaken in East Lothian by the Local Authority and its partners. This visit will explore how quality systems are applied looking at the national quality assurance bench marks outlined in workshop 1 in day one of the programme.

## Visit 2 Borders

This visit will look at a range of projects illustrating approaches to engaging more and different disadvantaged adult learners. During the visit we will look at how providers in the Scottish Borders organise their Adult Learners' Week Programme.

## Visit 3 Glasgow

We will meet with the staff involved in the development of the Scottish Certificate and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) and find out how the SCQF is being applied to adult learning provision in Scotland. We will be able to find out how SCQF links to other quality frameworks in Europe.

## Visit 4 North Lanarkshire

Work with older people in North Lanarkshire takes place across the whole area with a variety of initiatives, projects and core work taking place. The North Lanarkshire experience will look at developing active programmes for older people and consider how they become self-sufficient.

## Visit 5 Edinburgh

In Edinburgh there is a broad ranging programme for migrant workers and their families from classes in English for Speakers of Other Languages to employability and fun family projects we will hear from the staff and participants about how these activities have helped support people to settle into their new communities.

## Visit 6 Edinburgh

We will be organising a visit to the Bridgend Growing Communities Project to learn about how the work they did in evaluating the Social Return on Investment (SROI) has helped them prepare and develop their case for future funding and resources. The project works with young adults who are learning about all aspects of horticulture and healthy eating.



### Conference contact details



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To register online please go to:  
[www.scotlandslearning.org.uk/events](http://www.scotlandslearning.org.uk/events)

### Conference Partners

