Adult educators in times of changing cultures: embracing diversity for empowerment and inspiration

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6th Biennial meeting
of the ESREA Research Network for Adult Educators, Trainers
and their Professionalisation (ReNAdET)

16-18 October 2019, Thessaloniki, Greece
Organised by
the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH)

Invitation for paper proposals

The principle of ESREA-ReNAdET biennial meetings is to bring together researchers, scholars, and expert practitioners in the field of adult education and vocational education and training, to present and exchange their ideas on the role/s of adult educators and vocational trainers in Europe, as well as to discuss issues relevant to their professional status, identity, learning, and development.

This year's meeting suggests an emphasis on the cultural approach in adult education considering that all learning territories are cultural. Culture surrounds each one of us in everyday life, covers various forms of expression and provides insight into the social relations, history, human behavior, aesthetics etc. Cultural experiences, choices and expressions are most likely very diverse, and prejudices or stereotypes to certain forms of cultural expressions often result from ignorance. Cultural diversity in the field of adult education on the one hand, provides a concrete transfer of different learning cultures, knowledge and skills in the professional domain, and on the other hand, it helps to bridge misunderstanding and overcome stereotypes and prejudices towards certain forms of cultural expressions.

Much of Europe has become super-diverse. Super-diversity is here to stay, and the challenges run on into the future – in many fields, including education, security, employment, and culture. The social landscape in most European countries has been transformed in the past two decades. Among the European Union, the European countries that have joined the EU since 2004 mainly from Eastern and Central Europe have brought with them new challenges, cultures and languages. In complement, the arrival of migrants and refugees from third countries (outside the

EU) combined with longer established minority populations has resulted in an unprecedented variety of cultures, identities, faiths, and languages. Diversity also relates to learning depending on the barriers that might be faced for the access to education, training, or employment. The implementation of diverse-embracing and/or anti-discriminatory policies into adult education practice is at best patchy. Where support for migrant and ethnic minority learners exists for example, it usually takes the form of additional learning support activities which have some impact on specific social groups, but leave much of the adult education field largely untouched. They also fail to mobilise the potential contribution of these learners to bring an alternative cultural perspective which would enrich all learners and better support them all for a world which is increasingly diverse.

The main issue to be addressed in the **6th meeting of ReNAdET** is to look into the various levels of diversity in adult education focusing on the role/s of adult educators:

1- A **first** level concerns the *educators*- working in formal/non-formal educational structures, with diverse educative patterns and various professional practices.
2- A **second** level of diversity concerns *learners*- whatever their profiles, low qualified/qualified (but without any official recognition, as acquired in a non-EU country); starting/ending their professional career; gender diverse; with diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds.
3- A **third** level is the kind of "territories" learners and educators are *working together* in sensitive/normal, urban/rural education and learning environments.

The idea is to **discuss the kind of support adult educators need** in order to provide self-confidence and hope to learners who might feel lost, misunderstood, or even abandoned by the formal learning system. Therefore adult education professionals should be better equipped to meet the demands expressed by learners with fewer opportunities faced by many barriers and obstacles in their transition to the labour market or to their social and professional integration- education, training, employment, through empowerment and inspiration.

A **limited number of papers** (max. **40**) will be presented. Interested contributors may choose – but are not limited to– from the following shortlist of sub-themes:

- Adult educators working in different context or /and culturally diverse education environments.
- Development of professional , social identity of adult educators and intercultural competences for in-service adult educators
- Professional development of adult educators and types of programmes that are or can be provided for adult educators
- Research in culturally diverse adult learning environments (formal, non-formal, workplace).
- National and European adult education policies that affect the role, competencies and activities of adult educators in supporting learning in different cultural context
- Existing social and cultural factors that support the empowerment of adult educators and

adult learners at risk of social exclusion (e.g. Roma, NEETs, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, homeless).

- Support of gender diversity (for both learners and educators) through empowerment activities.
- Validation of competencies including intercultural competencies for adult educators.

Guidelines for submission of paper proposals

Proposals are invited for full papers only[1]. Paper proposals should be sent as an attached file [either in *.doc, *.docx, or *.pdf format]. They should not exceed one A4 or 1000 words; they must include a title and keywords, but not the author/s name/s, affiliation or institution/s.

Please send **in a separate sheet** your professional/personal data (name, institutional affiliation, phone, fax and mail). All abstracts for paper proposals **must be submitted by June 16th 2019** to the following email addresses: **gzarifis@edlit.auth.gr** and **esrea.renadet@yahoo.com**.

All paper proposals will be blind reviewed by the scientific committee. Acceptance will be confirmed by **August 25th 2019**. Paper presentations must not exceed 20 minutes in time length. The meeting presentations will be organised based on the Open Space method and will include flow sessions and learning cafés. Learning café is a simple, effective, and flexible format for hosting large group dialogue. Each flow session will have 4 to 6 cafés and participants can visit all of them in one session. The café hosts will share their ideas with all the participants. The learning café hosts have **20 minutes maximum** for presenting their papers and the same amount of time for a round-table discussion with participants. Then they will receive new participants in their café, they will present their papers again and hear the next round of participants' thoughts. Learning café hosts will keep notes from the discussion for later on conclusions. They may also use handouts, posters (highly advised) or other presentation techniques in the café e.g. computers, tablets, photos, i-Pads etc. They can bring their handouts and/or posters with them to the event or ask from the organizers to produce them.

Four ad-hoc plenary presentations will also be organised. These will have as a theme *„Working with diverse learning groups"* and they will be provided by a small number of selected participants who will be able to present their teaching, learning and/or research experience in a narrative and/or interactive format by using a co-opeartive approach. Essentialy these presentations will focus on successful learning experiences in a diverse learning context. Colleagues who are interested in presenting their work in the plenary sessions **are requested to submit separately to their paper proposals**, an A4 page describing their narrative or story, or a relevant video.

Important Dates	
➢ **16th June 2019**	Deadline for **submission** of paper proposals
➢ **22nd April 2019**	**Registration** begins
➢ **25th August 2019**	**Acceptance** of paper proposals will be announced
➢ **14th October 2019**	**Final deadline** for registration and payment of the conference fee
➢ **30th November 2019**	Deadline for submission of the **final paper** (5000 words max.)

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[1] A publication with a selected number of papers will follow. All participants will be asked to submit a full paper (5000 words maximum) by the end of November 2019. All submitted papers will be peer reviewed. 15 papers will be selected for publication in an edited Volume.

Scientific Committee

- Regina Egetenmeyer, University of Würzburg
- Maria Gravani, Open University of Cyprus
- Larissa Jögi, Tallin University
- Wolfgang Jütte, Bielefeld University
- Natasha Kersh, London Institute of Education
- Susanne Lattke, German Institute for Adult Education-DIE
- Balász Nemeth, University of Pécs
- Katarina Popovic, University of Belgrade
- Simona Sava, University of Timisoara
- Bonnie Slade, University of Glasgow
- Hanna Toiviainen, Tampere University
- George K. Zarifis, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Organising Committee

- Achilleas Papadimitriou, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
- Kristi Karampatzaki, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
- Nikos Mouratoglou, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
- George K. Zarifis, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Conference Arrangements

Language

The language of the conference is **English**.

Venue

Our meeting will take place at the **KEDEA, the Research Dissemination Centre** (**http://kedea.rc.auth.gr/**) of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH).

Free wifi access is available. Flip-charts with markers will also be available in each learning café along with two-sided poster stands that will be placed in the foyer for posters and project dissemination material to be displayed. All participants are kindly asked to send in advance by e-mail to the organisers, or bring along with them any material they wish to disseminate (book flyers, project brochures, etc.).

Registration Fee

Early Bird Registration Fee

ESREA Members   **120 €**
Non-members   **160 €**
Students   **50 €**

The fee **includes** conference portfolio, name-tags, Thessaloniki info pack, printed materials, and refreshments (coffee, tea, light lunch, welcome cocktail) during the meeting. All participants will receive a certificate of attendance.

The fee **excludes** the **conference dinner** (optional fee **30 €**), any airport/hotel transfers and hotel accommodation.

> **ESREA Conference Bursaries for PHD Students**
> For the conference, three bursaries are available to PhD students who are individual members of ESREA, or studying at institutions which have institutional membership of ESREA. To be eligible, your paper must have been accepted for the conference. Applications should be submitted on the bursary application (available at: http://www.esrea-renadet.net/Application%20form%20for%20PhD%20Bursary-1.doc) form together with the paper proposals. Bursaries, normally €250, may be used to cover all or part of the cost of travel and accommodation.

Registration

A conference registration page will be available by **31stMarch 2019**. It will be accessed from the **NEW** ReNAdET website **https://renadet.weebly.com/**

Accommodation

Your **suggested hotel** is **HOTEL ABC**. Only a kilometer from the venue is very convenient to walk through the AUTH Campus. Prices for a single room/night 60 euros with breakfast. **Please make your reservation ASAP directly from the Hotel's website: http://www.hotelabc.gr/en/.** Other hotel suggestions that are more central or by the seafront, but further to the venue and more pricey include the following (take your pick based on budget and mood):

- **http://www.cityhotel.gr/**,
- **http://www.hotelolympia.gr/en/**,
- **http://www.daioshotels.com/**,
- **http://www.makedoniapalace.com/**,
- **http://electrahotels.gr/en/thessaloniki/electra-palace-thessaloniki/**

Contact

For questions and expression of interest, please contact:

- **gzarifis@edlit.auth.gr**
- **esrea.renadet@yahoo.com**

The meeting's website will soon be available at: **https://renadet.weebly.com/**

Organising institutions

ESREA (www.esrea.org): The European Society for Research on the Education of Adults (ESREA) promotes and disseminates theoretical and empirical research on adult education and learning in Europe as well as debates on education and training practices within the field of adult education and learning. Network meetings such as this conference are places for exchange of research and discussion.

AUTH (www.auth.gr): The **Aristotle University of Thessaloniki** was founded in 1925, and today it is the largest Higher Education Institution in Greece and Southeast Europe, with 13 faculties and a total of 42 departments and 4 independent Schools. The University has two main goals: to educate its undergraduate and postgraduate students, and to produce original scientific knowledge and innovative research. The University Research Policy has two main objectives: to promote quality and to foster excellence. At the basis of the philosophy of quality are the principles of measurement, correction, evaluation and redefinition, which provide for the continuous development of products or/and services produced or provided by the institution. The policy of excellence is implemented by gathering a critical mass of scientific research projects, and adopting an interdisciplinary approach. AUTH research and technological development projects are funded by national, European and international agencies. At national level, these agencies include ministries, local authority organizations, public sector organizations, and private sector businesses/companies. The majority of research projects are funded mainly by the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation and other General Directorates of the European Commission. Additionally, a significant number of research projects are funded by European and international agencies, such as UNESCO, or major industries.

ESREA Membership

Membership of ESREA is open to all individuals and institutions engaged or interested in research on the education of adults and adult learning. To become a member of ESREA fill out the form available at: www.esrea.org/membership and send back to the secretariat according to the address on the form.