

Panel: Revisiting the 1976 UNESCO Recommendation on the development of adult education

Saturday, 20 June 2015, 11 a.m.-1.30 p.m.

University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Scholarly attention to global governance has given much consideration to core institutions for economic and social development, like the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the European Union or the World Bank. Less attention has been paid to those institutions such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) that hold “enormous intellectual capacities to deliberate the most complex of global problems related to constructing the defenses of peace in the minds of human beings” (Singh 2011).

In the field of adult education, the UNESCO adopted in 1976 a [Recommendation on the development of adult education](#), the only international legal instrument in this field to date.

Although Recommendations are either morally or legally binding they encourage member states to adopt particular approaches or undertake a certain course of action, thus exert nonetheless political influence (Milana, 2014).

Since 2009 a revision and update of the 1976 *Recommendation* has been put into motion under the coordination of the UNESCO Institute for lifelong learning, a [Working draft for public discussion](#) was released in June 2014, and an [Online consultation](#) held.

A revised and updated *Recommendation* is expected to be adopted by the UNESCO's General Conference in the autumn 2015.

This panel aims to inform and debate on:

1. The revision and update process of the 1976 *Recommendation*
2. Whether and how far the 1976 *Recommendation* has been influential on national, regional and/or international policy formulation and resulting practice
3. What can/should be done by those interested in further promoting adult education and learning processes

Speakers:

- Werner Mauch, UNESCO Institute of lifelong learning, Hamburg, Germany
- Marcella Milana, Aarhus University, Denmark, ESREA Policy Study Network
- Carlos Vargas Tames, Deusto University, ESREA Policy Study Network
- Vida Mohorčič Špolar, University of Maribor and University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, ESREA Policy Study Network

References:

- Singh, J. P. (2011) *United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO): Creating Norms for a Complex World*. London / New York: Routledge.
- Milana M. (2014). UNESCO, adult education and political mobilization. *CONFERO*, 2(1): 73-107.
<<http://www.confero.ep.liu.se/issues/2014/v2/i1/140604a/confero14v2i1.pdf>>