

confintea VI

Follow-up Bulletin No. 10

January – April 2015



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



confintea VI



UNESCO Institute
for Lifelong Learning

The international adult learning and education community is looking forward to the Ninth World Assembly of the International Council of Adult Education (ICAE), which will take place in Montreal (Quebec, Canada) from 11 to 14 June 2015. ICAE has always been a key partner for UNESCO due to the great strengths of civil society organizations and non-governmental partners in the area of adult learning and education. The CONFINTEA process, in particular, can benefit from the commitment of ICAE and its regional branches, and from the specific contributions of its representatives before, during and after the international conferences.

ICAE is actively involved in debates on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and in the activities of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL). UIL and ICAE share the objective of positioning youth and adult learning and education at the heart of the sustainable development agenda. Indeed, UIL is organizing two sessions at the upcoming World Education Forum (WEF) in Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 19 to 22 May 2015, and has invited ICAE to be on the panel of the session on Youth and Adult Literacy. The [Draft Framework for Action of the WEF](#) highlights under the title *Education 2030: Towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all* the need “to provide young people and adults throughout the life-course with the flexible skills and competencies they need to live and work in a more sustainable, interdependent, knowledge-based and technology-driven world”.

I am therefore confident that the function and role of adult learning and education for sustainable development will be recognized in the new development goals. I am equally confident that the new *Recommendation on Adult Learning and Education* will be adopted by UNESCO's General Conference this autumn, thus ensuring international commitment to improved learning conditions for adults worldwide. Hence the World Assembly will initiate a series of discussions on the Post-2015 Agenda. I have little doubt that these will contribute to the final versions of policy documents and thereby help to achieve excellent results in the 2015–2030 period.

I wish the International Council of Adult Education a very successful assembly.

Arne Carlsen
Director, UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning



»Walking Man«, by Alberto Giacometti (Switzerland, 1901-1966).
The sculpture stands 1.83 m tall and signifies the will to discover the world. © UNESCO/Michel Ravassard

Draft UNESCO Recommendation on Adult Learning and Education now available online

The revision of the *1976 Recommendation on the Development of Adult Education* requested by the [Belém Framework for Action](#) has reached its final phase. As foreseen by UNESCO's rules and regulations, a final report on the revision process has recently been sent to Member States together with a draft text of the revised Recommendation. This draft was prepared on the basis of comments and observations on a working draft received from 47 Member States. The draft text refers to the concept of lifelong learning and underlines the overall aim of ALE, namely to ensure that that all adults participate in their societies and the world of work. It takes into account the three key domains of adult learning and education: literacy and basic skills; continuing training and professional development;

and education and learning opportunities for active citizenship, variously known as community, popular or liberal education, to empower people to engage with a wide range of social issues. The strong potential and supportive function of information and communication technologies (ICT) is underlined.

The draft will be submitted to the 38th General Conference in autumn for adoption. The document is now available online in [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#), [Russian](#), [Arabic](#) and [Chinese](#).

Call for Applications: CONFINTEA Fellowship Programme 2015



In October 2015 the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) will offer six [CONFINTEA](#) Fellowships for a period of one month each to government officials or representatives of civil society organizations working in decisive positions within the field of adult learning and education (ALE) in UNESCO Member States (particularly from the global South).

UIL is an international non-profit research, capacity-building, networking, documentation and publishing centre. It promotes lifelong learning with a focus on adult and continuing education, literacy and non-formal basic education.

The CONFINTEA Fellowship programme was launched in 2011 and since then a total of sixteen fellows from fifteen Member States have taken part in the programme. Participants are selected on the basis of their potential to put into practice a national strategy for the implementation of substantive elements of the *Belém Framework for Action (BFA)* in their countries. Producing such a draft national strategy for each of the participating countries is the key expected output of the programme.

Prospective CONFINTEA fellows will benefit from UIL's knowledge base and resources for their work in drafting a national strategy. Additionally a number of field visits to selected ALE institutions will be provided.

UIL will provide each fellow with a fully equipped and networked computer workplace and access to its resources, in particular its unique [library](#). With 55,000 books, documents, non-print media and periodicals in adult education, literacy, non-formal education and lifelong learning, it is one of the most comprehensive collections of its kind in the world. Opened in 1952 by the UNESCO Institute for Education, it comprises English language materials (some 60% of the collection), as well as publications in French, Spanish, German and a variety of other languages. Fellows will also have the opportunity to exchange knowledge with other fellows, UIL staff and its external partners.

The CONFINTEA Fellows will work with input and assistance from UIL staff, but should be prepared to work under their own initiative for a good deal of time. They will be expected to present the strategy they have drafted at UIL for discussion at a concluding seminar, and to report continuously on follow-up activities and results with regard to implementation of the final strategy.

UIL will arrange and pay for suitable accommodation close to the Institute, health insurance and a return (air) ticket (economy fare). Additionally, a lump sum contributing to other costs before, during and after the research stay at UIL (such as visa costs, transportation, daily food, etc.) will be paid upon arrival.

In order to apply, interested candidates are asked to submit the following:

- a current résumé/CV
- an explanation of her/his function within the national educational or ALE structures
- an outline of the draft national strategy to be developed during the programme, including precise reference to the element(s) of the *Belém Framework for Action* to be addressed through the strategy

Please submit your application by 30 June 2015:

E-mail applications should be sent to the CONFINTEA Fellowship focal point, Ms Angela Owusu-Boampong at a.owusu-boampong@unesco.org.

For further information please contact Ms Angela Owusu-Boampong or consult the [UIL website](#)

Follow-up of CONFINTEA VI in Africa

The Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA), the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) and UIL have launched Zankey Faba, an innovative network to focus on the specific needs of vulnerable young people in Africa in the fields of literacy and life skills.

The origin of this initiative is the multi-country research and policy-dialogue process entitled “Literacy and Life Skills Education for Vulnerable Youth”, which was launched in 2010 by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and UIL. Zankey Faba is a response to the action points developed at the CONFINTEA VI follow-up meeting in Africa.

The platform features a variety of innovative regional experiences, thereby helping to support regional associations and organizations that work with young people. Additionally, thematic notes on policies and practices provide a valuable reference resource for youth programme practitioners from governments and NGOs. Zankey Faba also offers space for discussions among all stakeholders in youth development.

For more information on the project, please contact Ms Angela Owusu-Boampong ([a.owusu-boampong\(at\)unesco.org](mailto:a.owusu-boampong(at)unesco.org))

Useful links:

[Zankey Faba](#)
[Association for the Development of Education in Africa \(ADEA\)](#)



Towards the World Assembly on Adult Education

From 11 to 14 June 2015, Montreal will be the site of the largest international gathering of civil society organizations in adult education. The Montreal-based Institut de coopération pour l'éducation des adultes (ICÉA) has been given the responsibility of organizing the World Assembly of the International Council for Adult Education (ICAE). Adult education networks and their partners, their members and their affiliates are invited to register for the Assembly and to submit workshop proposals on the World Assembly's [website](#).



New Impact of Distance Education on Adult Learning (IDEAL) report

The [Impact of Distance Education on Adult Learning \(IDEAL\)](#) project has just published the second of three study reports, focusing on the social profile of adults enrolled in distance education. The third report will follow soon.

The IDEAL project, funded by the Lifelong Learning Programme of the European Union, seeks to examine how higher education institutions can contribute to adult learning by way of distance education. This project, which has been running since October 2013, will optimize our knowledge of distance learning services throughout Europe and provide valuable information on the profiles of potential students.

In 2015 the IDEAL team will organize policy and capacity-building seminars specifically to enhance the match between the distance education offer and the needs of adult learners. The exact dates will be communicated in spring.

To download the report click [here](#). In order to receive regular updates, you can subscribe to the IDEAL newsletter [here](#). For more information on the project, please contact Ms Angela Owusu-Boampong ([a.owusu-boampong\(at\)unesco.org](mailto:a.owusu-boampong(at)unesco.org))

