



日本社会教育学会国際交流委員会 <jssace.intl@gmail.com>

ICAE Season Greetings and Members Update December

1 件のメッセージ

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ICAE Members UPDATE December 2021



Dear members,

This monthly ICAE Newsletter includes a variety of updates and events for you:

1. Before you switch off 2021 ... Editorial by Robbie Guevara, ICAE President
2. News from LAC (Timothy Ireland, ICAE Vice President for Latin America)
3. The next World Social Forum (WSF) will be in Mexico beginning of May 2022 (Ronald Cameron, ICAE Executive Committee Member)
4. ICAE is partner in the Safe spAces For IEarning (SAFE) project
5. The UNESCO Chair in Global Adult Education (University Malta) opened its programmes of activities with two global events
6. Renewal Associate Status of ICAE to UNESCO

We hope you will enjoy the read :)

Your ICAE Team

Before you switch off 2021 ... Editorial by Robbie Guevara, ICAE President

It is that time of year again when we look back and take stock of the year that was. There were moments when it felt like such a long and painfully slow year, as we all experienced some form of lockdown or restrictions. And yet it also seemed like a very familiar year, as 2021 gave us that feeling of déjà vu, an extended version of what the 2020 pandemic was. However, one thing we in the ICAE, the staff and the Executive were aware of, was how much our members continued to work tirelessly, ensuring that our communities stayed safe and that the advancement of adult learning and education (ALE) within our commitment to lifelong learning was sustained.

While the COVID variants continued to impact on the delivery of education at all levels, we know that youth and adults (parents and grandparents) continued to support learning that shifted from schools to the homes. Yet, time and time again, while we may hear the mention of intergenerational learning in the

numerous online global conferences, seldom would there be an explicit mention of the need to resource ALE.

While the continuing lockdowns resulted in the need to access learning via digital tools, many educators noted the deep inequalities in terms of digital literacy and the equitable access to the technology that were exposed. Yet, the mainstream global players in education continued to give the technology private sector a platform to market their digital tools, without the recognition of how to address these inequalities.

While we cannot argue that the closure of all educational institutions and the extended home-based learning will result in some learning loss, it is important to also recognise that this will be primarily curriculum learning that is lost. If one only stopped to listen, we have heard of how there was also lifesaving and life-affirming non-formal learning and action that was happening in the homes, the communities and even in online workplaces.

So, before you take a break from reading emails and switch off from the digital tools that you have become so attached to, take a moment to recognise how much you and your respective organizations have contributed to, achieved and I am sure learned during the last two challenging years.

We don't know when this pandemic will end, or if indeed, we are still waiting for an end. As more likely, we will be looking at how COVID might become part of our 'new' normal. However, we cannot allow the education, health, and digital inequities exposed by the pandemic to become normalised. We cannot allow adult learning and intergenerational learning to continue to be invisible to our leaders, policy makers and even to some educators, resulting in the continuing lack of resources for ALE. We cannot continue to merely cry out about learning lost, without seeing the valuable contribution that adult learning and education, non-formal education and community education can make to building on the learning that was also gained during the pandemic.

All these are central to the challenges we as members of the ICAE and our allies from the wider education community committed to holistic and truly life-wide, life-deep, and lifelong learning will need to confront in 2022. CONFINTEA VII, the 7th International Conference on Adult Education is a key moment when

we must all advocate for policies, programs, and resources to ensure that the critical role and contribution of ALE to the achievement of a more just, equitable and sustainable world must be recognised, valued, and sustained.

And so, when you decide to switch back your emails and your digital tools, we look forward to your continuing commitment to our shared struggle to ensure that 2022 and our common future will not be what we have been made to accept will be the 'new normal'. **(J. Roberto Guevara, President, ICAE)**

Note: Resources relevant for how we will prepare for CONFINTEA VII can be accessed via the Hub that DVV will be curating on behalf of the ALE community: <https://www.dvv-international.de/en/materials/global-processes-and-policy-documents/confintea>.

We all need to be alert, as the outcome documents from the regional preparatory CONFINTEA VII meetings will be released early in the new year, as these are going to be central to the framing of the new Framework for Action.

News from LAC

The Latin American Regional Networks for Youth and Adult Education provided several important contributions to the ongoing debate and preparation for CONFINTEA VII, to be held next year in Morocco. In this brief report, we highlight three of these activities.

Firstly, the Latin American Platform of Regional Networks for Youth and Adult Education, set up during the preparations for the Latin American sub-regional consultation in July, organised a Webinar on 11/11/2021 with representatives of the principal networks speaking on the theme of "The Road to CONFINTEA VIII", with the goal of qualifying civil society participation in the Conference.

Also in November, CEAAL's Group of Incidence on Educational Policy (GIPE) elaborated and launched a document, coordinated by Nélida Céspedes Rossel, with the provocative title of "For a public, popular, intercultural, transformative, inclusive, publicly financed Youth and Adult Education: Reflections and Proposal on the road to CONFINTEA VII". This was presented during CEAAL's General Assembly also held in November.

Finally, on 18/11/2021, CLADE launched the report of a research project promoted by the Campaign, with support from DVV International, during the 2021 edition of the Regional Congress of Educative Experiences (*Congreso Regional de Experiencias Educativas*), organised by the SES Foundation (*Fundación SES*, Argentina). The report presents the results of the investigation carried out in 18 Latin American and Caribbean countries during the months between June and September to examine the situation of Adult Learning and Education in the region in the context of the current COVID pandemic. It was researched and written by Gloria Hernández Flores María Eugenia Letelier Gálvez and Sara Elena Mendoza Ortega. It represents one of the few regional studies which focus exclusively on how ALE has fared during the pandemic. The report concludes that “In times of pandemic, the invisibility of ALE in Latin America and the Caribbean, became more accentuated. Not only due to the low priority that governments give to ALE, but also even on the part of the international organizations. During the pandemic, UNESCO forgot about ALE in LAC. It did not appear in its reports, its name is not mentioned not even to record its omission”.

We await with great interest the report from our sub-regional consultation and look forward to being able to access the reports from other regions. **(Timothy Ireland, ICAE Vice President Latin America)**

The next World Social Forum (WSF) will be in Mexico beginning of May 2022

As proposed by the Mexican organizing committee, which brings more than 120 social organizations, the next World Social Forum (WSF) will be in Mexico the first week of May 2022. The proposed date was discussed and validated with the enlarged meeting of the WSF International Council on November 27. Over 100 organizations and social movements from all regions (Africa, Middle East, Asia, Latin America, Canada, US, Europe) have participated. The meeting agreed on the importance of relaunching the alter-globalization movement in the face of the new challenges created by the rise of the right-wing, the climate crisis, and the global pandemic.

The organizing committee confirmed an agreement with the Mexican

government for the WSF to be held in the city center of the capital, more precisely in the Zócalo. This is the central square in front of the Presidential Palace, also a historic and symbolic site, site of the former capital of the Aztec Empire that the Spanish conquerors destroyed in their genocidal operation.

The WSF 2022 will be primarily in person, but also in hybrid mode. One of the main challenges will be to attract the new social movements that play a central role in the fight about climate change. The mobilization of organizations from Africa, Asia, and the Middle East is another challenge as well as the resumption of contact with social movements that have moved away in recent years from the WSF (Via Campesina, World March of Women, and others) **(Ronald Cameron, ICAE Executive Committee Member)**



ICAE is partner in the Safe spAcEs For lEarning (SAFE) project

The aim of this project is to strive for social inclusion and change by improving and extending the supply of high-quality learning opportunities for adults, through the creation of a comprehensive guide for creating and maintaining safe spaces for learning, including extended research on safe space mentality in the life systems of people, meaning family, community and international identity.

In November SAFE has evaluated the first results of focus groups on safe spaces.



The project also aims to increase learning demand and take-up through effective outreach, guidance and motivation strategies that will be facilitated by the creation of a storytelling board game that will aim to not only recognize the safe and unsafe elements of a learning environment but also provide solutions, highlight the struggle and work towards resolving conflicts through understanding.

Target groups of the project:

- the broad adult education community including adult educators and adult education providers
- adult learners and specifically adult learners that either as individuals or as communities have been subjected to discriminatory behaviours towards their gender, social status, race and/or culture and academic/ learning performance
- policy makers, workers for adult education provision and researchers with a European gravitas in matters of creating safe spaces for learning, social inclusion and battling inequalities

Partners

- Escola Profissional Amar Terra Verde (EPATV) – Portugal
- DAFNI KEK – Greece
- PATATRAC – Italy
- European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA) – Belgium
- DIE WIENER VOLKSHOCHSCHULEN GMBH – Austria
- International Council for Adult Education – Serbia

New website, [Safespace.eu](https://safespace.eu) will also be launched soon.



The UNESCO Chair in Global Adult Education at the Faculty of Education, University of Malta opened its programme of activities with two global events

The first was a three day online conference called the Paulo Freire Birth Centenary Fest. It was intended to mark the 100 years since the birth of arguably the 20th Century's most heralded educator. The event was massive and the line up of presenters, 24 in all, reads like a 'who's who' of Freirean scholarship. Convened by Professor Peter Mayo, an acclaimed international Paulo Freire scholar, it included people such as Carlos Alberto Torres (collaborator of Freire), Donaldo Macedo (prominent Freire co-author), Anne Hickling Hudson (leading scholar in comparative education), Ira Shor (prominent Freire co-author), Margaret Ledwith (community development author and practitioner well known for her Policy Press books on critical community development which engage Freire's ideas) , Alicia Cabezudo, Didacus Jules (Coordinator of the mass literacy campaign during the Grenada revolution), Walter Kohan (Argentinian author of a most recent study on Freire), Ali Abdi, Tal Dor, Colin Kirkwood (community development stalwart and author of a great book on Freire in Scotland) Ines Barbosa ,Ramon Flecha (leading

Spanish sociologist and critical pedagogue), Alessio Surian , Maria Teresa Muraca and many others, a number from Brazil. Nita Freire, Paulo Freire's wife and widow was meant to contribute but failed to connect because of an unfortunate time mix up not realising the different time zones involved. She openly supported the event and promptly accepted the invitation to speak. Participation across the world and different time zones was massive. The Maltese presenter at the conference was Dr Isabelle Gatt, herself well steeped in Boal's Freire inspired Theatre of the Oppressed. The event was co-convened by Dr Joseph Vancell who endured the smooth running of the event especially from the technical side. The recordings of the three day proceedings are being edited by Dr Vancell for international circulation.

A second fest was held two days after the closure of the Freire Fest. It was a one day birth centenary fest in honour of Raymond Williams who, apart from being a literary scholar, novelist and cultural studies pioneer, was also an adult educator having taught in the programme of the Oxford Delegacy for Extramural Studies before finally returning to Cambridge university as tutor in drama. This one day fest was coordinated by Professor Peter Mayo, UNESCO Chair in Global Adult Education, and Dr Joseph Vancell. Presenters included Sharon Clancy, Chair of the Raymond Williams Foundation, Lynden West (prominent Williams 's scholar), from Christ Church University at Canterbury, Emilio Lucio Villegas from University of Seville, Ian Menter (author of an imminently published book on Williams and education by Bloomsbury Academic), Oxford University, Eugenio Enrique Cortes Ramires, University of Castilla La Mancha, Cuenca and Handel Khashope Wright (cultural studies in education leading scholar and former incumbent of a Canada Research Chair in the area), University of British Columbia (UBC). Again the recordings of the proceedings are being edited for international circulation.

Renewal Associate Status of ICAE to UNESCO

At its 212th session in October 2021, the UNESCO Executive Board decided to renew the associate status of the International Council for Adult Education (ICAE) for a further period of eight years until 2029, on recommendation of the Director-General (decision 212 EX/36). ICAE is very happy about this renewal, which is the result of the fruitful collaboration established between our

Organizations and we are convinced that it will further strengthen the impact of our joint activities.



Your ICAE Team

Please do not hesitate to contact us at anytime in case you do have any further questions.

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