

# EAEA VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

19 November 2020

## Outreach and Access in Times of Crisis and Beyond

### Workshops

How have adult learning providers reacted to the pandemic? What has been their the immediate response, and how are they planning to move forward?

A series of parallel workshops will introduce you to inspiring stories and creative approaches to outreach and access from across Europe.

Please note that the workshops are intended to be interactive.

The case studies will serve as a starting point for a broader reflection on the new challenges and opportunities that emerged during the crisis, and on the way forward.

Register [here](#) by 18 November.

You will receive the link to the right Zoom meeting(s) after you have registered. The number of spots at each workshop is limited, so we advise you to make your pick early.

# OUTREACH AND ACCESS IN TIMES OF CRISIS

19 November, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

## SUPPORTING LEARNERS IN TIMES OF CRISIS

Workshop with **Dearbhail Lawless**, [AONTAS](#)/EAEA Executive Board, Ireland

The COVID-19 crisis has left many adults overwhelmed, juggling work and family responsibilities, struggling with isolation or feeling excluded from social services and healthcare. Throughout the pandemic, AONTAS and its members have been quick to react by advocating for the needs of disadvantaged learners and providing direct support, where possible. Care packages sent to learners' households, virtual open days at community education centres and virtual mentoring support networks have been provided to try and meet the needs of adult learners.

## ESTABLISHING PARTNERSHIPS TO IMPROVE OUTREACH AND ACCESS

Workshop with **Dina Soeiro**, [ESEC/IPC Coimbra](#)/EAEA Executive Board, Portugal

The Letters for Life initiative targets adults with low literacy skills, who frequently keep their difficulty with reading and writing a well-hidden secret. Strong partnerships with social and health services have played an immense role in helping adults come back to learning, and their value has proven especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## ARE WE STILL A LEARNING COMMUNITY? FESTIVALS OF LEARNING IN TIMES OF COVID-19

Workshop with **Zvonka Pangerc Pahernik** from the [Slovenian Institute for Adult Education](#) and **Kay Smith** (TBC), [National Learning and Work Institute in Wales](#), UK.

Festivals of learning can showcase the diversity of learning opportunities available, and give adults a chance to try something new. While the COVID-19 pandemic has greatly limited face-to-face interactions, adult learning organisations are finding innovative ways to celebrate learning and keep the community spirit alive. Our speakers will introduce us to different approaches: a festival that transitioned to a hybrid format due to the pandemic, and one that was organised entirely online.

## OUTREACH TO THE MOST VULNERABLE GROUPS: AGAINST THE ISOLATION OF OLDER LEARNERS

Workshop with **Galina Veramejchyk** (TBC) from [Education without Borders/EAEA Executive Board](#), Belarus

Older citizens often feel excluded from society; the COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated their sense of isolation. Adult learning providers across Europe have been coming up with innovative ways to engage them in learning. During the workshop we will hear about an initiative "How to Maintain Good Spirits and Health in Conditions of Long-term Self-isolation" targeting the older population of the city of Smorgon, Belarus.

## OUTREACH AND ACCESS: LOOKING FORWARD

**19 November, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm**

### BUILDING A TARGETED OUTREACH STRATEGY

Workshop with **Laura Lazaro Lasheras** from [Association DOTA](#), Spain.

Knowing your community and understanding the barriers they might be facing is key in building an outreach strategy. Association DOTA, based in Girona, Spain, offers language and literacy classes, IT courses and guidance services to women with a migrant background. During the workshop, Laura Lazaro Lasheras will guide the participants through the steps taken by DOTA to better understand the context and learning needs of their target group (including the impact on COVID-19) and will explain how the findings informed DOTA's outreach strategy.

### DIGITAL EXCLUSION IS A REALITY: RAISING AWARENESS OF THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Workshop with **Alex Stevenson**, [National Learning and Work Institute/EAEA Executive Board](#), UK.

The COVID-19 crisis has clearly shown that the digital divide is a reality. Many households have inadequate internet connection, share one computer between several family members, or have to rely on pay-to-go phone services. While some adult learning providers have stepped up to offer learners material support whenever possible, more needs to be done at the policy level to provide vulnerable households with decent conditions for remote learning and work. During the workshop, Alex Stevenson from the National Learning and Work Institute will share how adult learning providers in the UK have been reacting to the problem.

## **IMPROVING ACCESS TO ADULT LEARNING IN RURAL AREAS**

Speaker TBC

A lot of attention in recent years has been dedicated to learning in urban spaces, with rural areas frequently left out from policy or structural support. What challenges in access are faced by adult learning providers based in rural communities, and how do they respond to them?

## **FOSTERING A CITY-WIDE CULTURE OF LEARNING**

Workshop with the winner of the Grundtvig Award 2020, Citizen's University of Larissa/Larissa Learning City, Greece.

The city of Larissa, Greece, offers adult learning courses and awareness-raising activities targeting the Roma community, senior citizens and refugees. The overall aim is to improve physical and mental health, to promote critical thinking and to foster a culture of learning. During this workshop, representatives of the initiative will share how they implemented the programme, and how they have been attempting to resolve new challenges in the face of a global pandemic.

