

**International
Adult and
Continuing
Education
Hall of Fame**

**Newsletter
March 2023**



**Adult Education Academy Participants
(See inside)**

10 Years: Adult Education Academy International and Comparative Studies in Adult Education and Lifelong Learning

The professionalization of adult educators is an important area in the development of quality provision in our field of adult learning and education (ALE). In the age of globalization, the strengthening of international and comparative studies in adult and lifelong learning is a most helpful way and resource.

A decade ago, the University of Würzburg in Germany took the initiative to start a program which is now called the Adult Education Academy (AEA) for master's students, doctoral students, and practitioners. A number of partner universities in Hungary, Italy, India, Nigeria, Portugal, Serbia, and Slovenia joined and later invited professional organizations representing providers and practitioners like DVV International and the European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA).

The program is composed of an on-line preparatory phase where participants are taking intensive courses on "International strategies in adult education" and "Paulo Freire, adult and permanent education". This is also the phase where the comparative groups start working on themes which are changing. In 2023 there are nine groups covering themes like "The third mission of higher education systems," "Active ageing," "Policy, legislation and financing of ALE," or concentrating on digitalization, gender and inclusion.

The AEA then meets always for two weeks in February on campus in Würzburg. This was for the first seven years, but then due to COVID there were two years on-line only. In 2023 it was in hybrid mode, where the first week was digital and most of the participants came to Würzburg for the second week, some joining on-line. Both weeks were fully packed with contributions by external experts and participants. At the same time there is intensive group work where the results are presented on the final day in a rotating system involving everybody

as presenters and audience groups. More details are in the brochure at https://www.paedagogik.uni-wuerzburg.de/fileadmin/06030230/2023/230123_Programmheft.pdf

The celebration of the ten years was a nice commemorative event with greetings from the President and the Dean of the Würzburg University and a keynote by Prof. Rita Süßmuth as the former President of the German Parliament who is also the Honorary President of the German Adult Education Association called DVV. Prof. Regina Egetenmeyer as the chair of the professorship in Würzburg provided some of the outstanding results of the ten years of the AEA which has hosted already more than 600 doctoral and master students exchanging with practitioners, and the professors Monica Fideli from Padua and Vanna Boffo from Florence informed on new plans for double degrees for master and doctoral studies.

A number of HOF members have been teaching in the AEA like Arne Carlsen, Gina Ebner, Regina Egetenmeyer, Heribert Hinzen, Licínio Lima, Balázs Németh, Mike Osborne, Seamus O'Tauma, Katarina Popovic, Jost Reischmann, Sabine Schmidt-Lauff, Maria Slowey, Alan Tuckett or Raul Valdes-Cotera. Some could join the academy with its celebration and can be seen below.



Hall of Fame Member Participants (left to right): Heribert Hinzen, Sabine Schmidt-Lauff, Rita Süßmuth, Regina Egetenmeyer, Jost Reischmann, Séamus O'Tauma