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#adultlearning



EPALE Newsletter,

Dear Colleagues and Friends in the EBSN Network,

We are sending you the following EBSN-EPALE newsletter to share with you a selection of recently published information and writings from European Commission's EPAL website (ePlatform for Adult Learning in Europe) that might be interesting for those professionals working in the field of basic skills.

Please READ, COMMENT and SHARE the thought provoking blogs of EBSN-ers, John Stewart from NALA (IE) as well as Joyce Black from NIACE (UK)!!

BLOGS

Enough is enough, or why numeracy seems to be the forgotten skill....

Latest life skills blog on EPAL by John Stewart Coordinator from NALA.

['One in four Europeans lack numeracy skills - enough is enough'](#)

Helping people get the basic skills they need

Joyce Black is Assistant Director for Development and Research at NIACE wrote about a citizens' curriculum approach

[A Citizens' Curriculum - helping people get the basic skills they need](#)

Building teaching capacity in Ireland –

by community blogger Daniel Sellers, is about the numeracy teaching practice to adult

[Building teaching capacity in Ireland](#)

EVENT

[Write!Read!2015](#)

Nordic research conference on reading, writing and literacy hosted by the Reading Centre at the University of Stavanger and the Writing Centre at the University of Trondheim/NTNU.

RESOURCES

[Active Ageing and the Potential of ICT for Learning](#)

The report argues that ICT have an important role to play in developing learning opportunities for older people in an ageing society. It points to both opportunities (e.g. more individualized learning) and obstacles (e.g. not user-friendly ICT) as well as to the need to involve all actors in the development of ICT-enabled learning tools. It concludes that holistic policies are needed to support learning opportunities in ageing societies, enabled by ICT.

[Investigating the Benefits of English and Maths Provision for Adult Learners: Part 1 Quantitative Assessment](#)

This research looked at whether skills gained in learning on English and maths courses could be measured, and what factors lead to better outcomes. It also looked at whether learners experienced any economic and social benefits, such as: (1) improved employment opportunities; (2) increases in pay; (3) improvements in wellbeing; and (4) greater involvement in their children's education.

Based on 1000 English and maths adult learners, the study found significant improvements in wellbeing. Parents reported an increased engagement in their children's education, helping with their homework or reading to or with them more often. This study assessed skills gains in two parts: (1) a survey of adult learners taking part in basic literacy and/or numeracy courses, undertaken in two waves to track changes over time; and (2) qualitative research with nearly 30 learners to understand how they used their literacy and numeracy skills outside the classroom.

[Learning technology in adult English, maths and ESOL/ELT](#)

This report, published by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) presents the findings of an evidence review on the value of learning technology to adult English, Maths learners and those engaged in courses for and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) or English Language Training (ELT). SQW undertook the review in partnership with the National Research and Development Centre for Adult Literacy and Numeracy (NRDC) at the Institute of Education, and the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER).

Two strands of research and analysis were undertaken:

- a systematic review of international research (in English, French and German) to provide a sound understanding of the existing evidence on the value of technology to adult basic skills provision;
- a data review on the key populations of interest within the adult learner cohort. This included an exploration of the ways in which such populations currently accessed and used technology.

[Social value of adult learning for community empowerment](#)

This briefing paper provides a short overview on how adult learning provides outcomes that support and add value to a variety of local priorities as well as being of intrinsic value in its own right. It contains examples gathered through case studies and through using a Social Return on Investment approach. It

has been produced by the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE) on behalf of the Local Government Group for UK cabinet members, elected members and directors of economic development.

[Lifelong Learning: The Story of Change](#)

NIACE makes the case for increased investment in adult learning. As Government budget cuts take effect, FE spending fell by 23% 2007-2013. In this policy briefing NIACE argues that public investment in learning for adults supports a stronger economy, promotes social inclusion and is vital for the country's prosperity and wellbeing.

[European Jobs and Skills: A comprehensive review, 2014](#)

Launched at the European Jobs and Skills Summit in spring 2014, this first annual European Jobs and Skills review takes an in-depth look at trends in employment and unemployment in countries and regions across Europe.

Facts and figures

- Over 24 million people are now unemployed in Europe – more than 1 in 10 of the labour force
- Most unemployment is structural: 1/3 of unemployment is cyclical, 2/3 structural
- Macroeconomic policies aimed at boosting the economy can reduce cyclical unemployment, but structural unemployment is most responsive to strategies such as focusing on people's skills

Thank you for feedback on our newsletter, this information is very useful for us to improve continuously the content available on electronic platform and the layout of information sheet.

Uploading items to EPALE is continuous. That is why we are also asking for you input regularly, so please continue sending us materials and information summary about each resource (also in the language of the resource), event and piece of news according to the information sheet. [Here](#) you can find the forms.

Finally an important remark: if you prefer to send items (news, resources etc.) to your NSSs for uploading to Epale, please ask them to tag as 'EBSN', if they are relevant to our network too. We would highly appreciate if you send a copy of these to us as well, in order to share them directly with the EBSN members via EBSN-EPALE newsletter.

In case you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards

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