



Adult Educators in Time of Crisis: Well-Being, Changes in Identity and Professional Practice in European Adult Education

7th Biennial conference

of the ESREA Research Network for Adult Educators,
Trainers and their Professionalisation (ReNAdET)



29 October 2021(09:30-17:00 GMT+3)

**Organised by ESREA ReNAdET
and Open University of Cyprus**



Dear participants!

On behalf of the [ESREA research network](#) (ReNAdET) “Research Network on Professional Development of Adult Educators and Vocational Trainers,” we have the pleasure to welcome you to the online conference:

“ADULT EDUCATORS IN TIME OF CRISIS: WELL-BEING, CHANGES IN IDENTITY AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE IN EUROPEAN ADULT EDUCATION”

The online conference will be hosted by the Open University of Cyprus.

A dedicated access link will be distributed to all registered participants one day prior to the conference.

The [ESREA Research Network on Professional Development of Adult Educators and Vocational Trainers](#) (ReNAdET) aims to provide input on how to improve the conditions needed for the personal and professional development of adult education and VET staff, enhancing the attractiveness of their profession and therefore strengthening the idea of quality in adult education in Europe. This is to be achieved through exploring some insights into key issues and challenges related to the adult educator and related staff, and through highlighting essential areas of action, current trends, good practices, initiatives, and relevant policies.

The ESREA ReNAdET Network meets every second year since its establishment in 2009. This year our meeting will take place as an online conference and will be hosted by the Open University of Cyprus, through an on-line platform. We are welcoming students, young and experienced researchers, and practitioners from the fields of adult and non-formal education from Australia, Cyprus, India, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Finland, Italy and Sweden. Also, we



are warmly welcome master students from the *International Masters in Adult Education for Social Change* (IMAESC) and representatives from the IMAESC program consortium from Glasgow, Malta, Cyprus, Tallinn and Maynooth University.

We always plan to make our Network conferences a place for open space and dialogue and believe that each participant and presentation will support open dialogue and space for discussions and reflection. Consequently, we kindly ask you to prepare your presentations according to the following suggestion: each presentation should be no more than 10 minutes long, so that there is ample time for discussion.

In order to make sure that our three sessions run smoothly, **we welcome participants and speakers to join at 9.30 am (GMT+3)**. This will give them ample time to have their device settings checked and make sure that their sound devices and cameras are working properly. We kindly remind them that it would be better to use headsets with a microphone while speaking to provide better sound for the presentations and discussions. Presenters should make sure not to be positioned in front of a strong direct light source (e.g. in front of a window with direct sunlight), since this may affect visibility. Lighting from the side, front, or top is preferable.

Each session will be based on four to five presentations (**10 minutes each**) and plenary discussion (20 minutes) and will be moderated by the network conveners: Larissa Jõgi (Tallinn University, Estonia), Maria N. Gravani (Open University of Cyprus), George K. Zarifis (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki), and Susanne Lattke (German Institute for Adult Education).



The new deadline for the full paper is on the 30th of November 2021.

Full paper submission does not guarantee its publication.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact the organisers maria.gravani@ouc.ac.cy or convenors esrea.renadet@yahoo.com

We are looking forward to our conference and seeing you all virtually!

Larissa Jõgi, George Zarifis, Maria N. Gravani and Susanne Lattke



Conference programme

9:30 – 10:00 – Opening: getting to know each other

10:00 – 10:10 Welcome Remarks from the Open University of Cyprus and convenors of the network.

10:10 – 10:15 Introduction to the conference.

10:15 – 10:55 SESSION I: “IDENTITY, PERCEPTIONS AND EXPERIENCE OF ADULT EDUCATORS IN THE TIME OF CRISIS”

Moderators: George K. Zarifis and Susanne Lattko

Activist identity formation of adult educators oriented to social justice and citizenship education for democracy and social change at “Odysseus” solidarity school in Greece: Biographical research

Evaggelia Koutoulidou, Open University of Cyprus

Collective voices from the field. Social positions and professional practices of adult and youth educators in non-formal learning settings before and during the COVID pandemic situation.

Larissa Jõgi, Ilona-Evelyn Rannala and Kristi Jüristo, School of Educational Sciences, Tallinn University

Adult Educators’ perceptions and experiences in the era of crisis: A case study from Cyprus.

Andri Piliri & Maria N. Gravani, Open University of Cyprus

Intercultural competence and continuing professional development: Secondary teachers’ perceptions of managing cultural diversity and the role of training.

Eugenia Farina Biliouri, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

10:55 – 11:15 DISCUSSION

11:15–11:30 BREAK



11:30– 12:20 SESSION II “ADULTHOOD, ADULT LEARNERS AND EDUCATORS IN TIME OF CRISIS”

Moderators: Larissa Jögi and Maria N. Gravani

The impact of COVID-19 on Modern Greek language teachers’ perspectives in Australia.

Dr. Georgia Nikolaidou, Greek Educational Consul in Australia and New Zealand, Greek Ministry of Education & Dr. Patricia Koromvokis, Lecturer in Modern Greek Studies, Department of Media, Communications, Creative Arts, Language and Literature, Macquarie University

Chaotic aspirations and performance during shutdowns: Ethnographic study into narratives of research scholars in India.

Saumya Dwivedi, Centre for the Study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University & Mohammed Kamran, Centre for the study of Theatre and Performance, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Adulthood crisis in the global times: a new idea of welfare state for the third millennium based on support for the person.

Vito Balzano, PhD in general and social pedagogy, University of Bari Aldo Moro

Disrupting teaching as interhuman connection through forced digitalisation - the case of Swedish folk high school.

Filippa Millenberg, PhD-student at the Department of Behavioural Science and Learning, Linköping University

Comparative study between adults with low and adults with intermediate digital skills. Customs and habits throw their participation in distance learning programs, in pandemia of COVID-19 era.

Andreas Moungholias and Anastasia Tsourea, University of Piraeus

12:20 -12:45 DISCUSSION

12:45– 13:15 LUNCH BREAK



13:15 – 13:55 SESSION III: “PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE. ADULT EDUCATORS AND LEARNERS IN VIRTUAL LEARNING SPACE”

Moderators: Susanne Lattke and George K. Zarifis

Amid and beyond ppt: interactivity and proximity in digital class.

Anna Misopolinou, Adjunct Professor, Open University of Cyprus and Hellenic Open University

From the physical to the virtual class: the experiences of adult educators during Covid-19 crisis in a second chance school.

Papaioannou Eleni, Open University of Cyprus

Adult educators as facilitators of learning in the virtual space – Challenges and implications for their professional development.

Susanne Lattke, Research Associate, German Institute for Adult Education, Leibniz Centre for Lifelong Learning

“Learning amid tombstones” and the “graveyard effect”: a self-reflective approach to University online teaching during the COVID pandemic

George K. Zarifis and Achilleas Papadimitriou, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

13:55– 16:15 DISCUSSION

16:15– 16:35 VOICES FROM STUDENTS: REFLECTIONS RELATED TO PRESENTATIONS FROM THE IMAESC STUDENTS

Moderator: Anja Heikkinen, Visiting Professor Tallinn University, Tampere University

16:35 - 16:50 DISSEMINATION OF ON-GOING PROJECTS BY THE PARTICIPANTS

Moderator George K. Zarifis

16:50– 17:00 OPEN DISCUSSION: REFLECTIONS FROM PARTICIPANTS AND CONCLUDING WORDS FROM CONVENORS.

Feel free to share your thoughts on learning from the programme, or any other thoughts or observations.