

International Council for Adult Education (ICAE) holds virtual seminar on 'Skills and Competencies'

3 April 2017



Following each issue of DVV International's journal, [Adult Education and Development](#) (AED), the [International Council for Adult Education](#) (ICAE) offers the chance to discuss the topics raised in the print issue in a virtual seminar. The virtual seminar aims to promote a debate and dialogue on selected articles from the journal to go deeper and broaden the analysis. It creates a virtual space as an opportunity to share experiences on community learning modalities, in different regions and contexts, and to inspire new initiatives.

A virtual seminar on 'Skills and Competencies' began on 3 April 2017 and ran for 3 weeks. The following articles of issue 83 of the AED Journal were the starting point of the seminar this year –

1. [The 5 skills it takes to build another possible world – Learning from and for the World Social Forum](#)
By Alessio Surian, University of Padova, Italy
2. [Enhancing competencies in the Arab world: issues to be considered](#)
By Rabab Tamish, Bethlehem University, Palestine
3. [The New Skills Agenda for Europe](#)
By Dana Bachmann and Paul Holdsworth, European Commission
4. [Soft skills in non-formal education: building capacities of the youth](#)
By Priti Sharma, PRIA International Academy, New Delhi, India

Four representatives of the Asia South Pacific participated in the virtual seminar. ICAE President, Sandy Morrison, offered opening and [introductory comments](#). ICAE Vice President representing Asia and the South Pacific, Jose Roberto Guevara, commented on Priti Sharma's paper on 'Soft skills in non-formal education: building capacities of the youth' (click [here](#) to read comment); Farrukh Tyuryaev of the Association of Scientific & Technical Intelligentsia (ASTI), Tajikistan, commented on Dana Bachmann and Paul Holdsworth's paper on 'The New Skills Agenda for Europe' (click [here](#) to read comment); and S.Y. Shah of the Indian Association of the Education of Adults (IAEA), India, commented on Rabab Tamish's paper on 'Enhancing competencies in the Arab world: Issues to be considered' (click [here](#) to read comment).



ICAE's Virtual Seminar on 'Skills and Competencies' aimed to promote a debate and dialogue around the issue, which was the theme of DVVI's latest Adult Education and Development (AED) Journal.

In their closing remarks, ICAE Secretary-General, Katarina Popovic, and ICAE Policy and Advocacy Officer, Ricarda Motschilnig, thanked everyone participating in the Virtual Seminar for having contributed to building global dialogue, supporting an exchange of ideas, and critical reflection on adult education and development as envisaged by the organisers, ICAE and DVV International. ICAE's aim was to support a discussion about skills for life, work, and citizenship, and to foster an integral

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perspective, which would help avoid a silo way of thinking in adult education - promoting only one kind of skills and only one area of education. They concluded by calling for, *"...a broad, contextual, integrated approach in/to education and learning - for decent life and work in all areas. We support such approach at all levels of decision-making, implementation and evaluation. It is also about the promotion of skills development for economic prosperity of countries, communities and individuals, for the reduction of poverty, for social well-being, gender equality and sustainable learning societies."*

Click [here](#) to read the articles (in English, French, and Spanish) contained in the AED Journal on 'Skills Competencies' and [here](#) for the full exchange in the Virtual Seminar. Visit the [ICAE website](#) to know more.

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