

voices rising

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1. Conference: Adult Education: Failure and Prospects for Renewal in the Arab World, 1-4 October 2016, Amman, Jordan.



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The event was co-organized by ICAE, DVV International (Regional Office for the Middle East) and four Arab educational networks. In this framework, ICAE convened a coordination meeting with organizations and networks of civil society in the Arab region in view of the CONFITEA VI +6.

Representatives of the 4 Arab networks from different countries participated in the meeting:

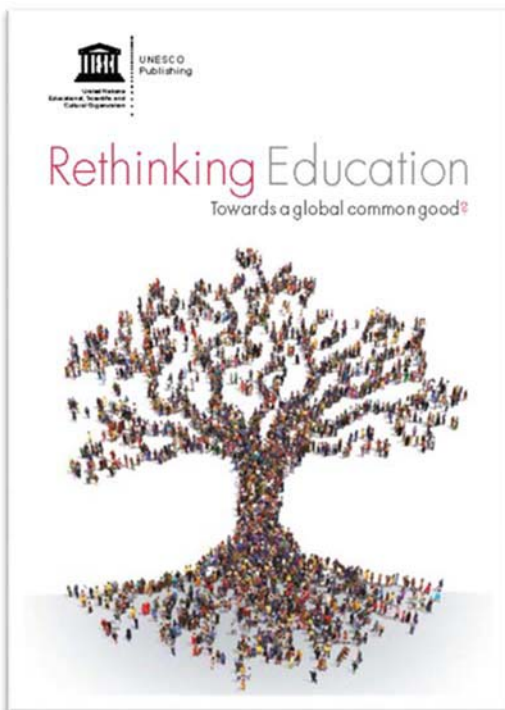


- Arab Network for Literacy and Adult Education (ANLAE), Egypt
- Arab Network for Popular Education (ANPE), Lebanon
- Arab Campaign for Education for All (ACEA), Palestine
- Arab Network for Civic Education (ANHRE), Jordan

The CONFITEA process was discussed with the representatives of Arab networks and the opportunities for their involvement were analyzed. The ARAB CONFITEA meeting in 2015 was taken as the starting point for the articulation of priorities of the civil society in Arab countries that will be brought to the CONFITEA Mid-term conference. The ways of communication and planning of participation at the event are defined.

Within the framework of this activity ICAE, with the support of DVV Jordan, UNESCO and UIL Rethinking education session and GRALE launch took place on October 1st.

The Right to education of youth and adults from a lifelong learning perspective in Arab region. Rethinking education: Towards a global common good?, October 1st, Amman



Seham Neghm, ICAE's Vice-president for the Arab region, moderated the event with introductory comments by two experts - Jawad Al-Gousous, DVV International Country Director in Jordan and Dr. Zahi Azer, the Secretary General of the Arab Network of Popular Education.

After a general presentation on the publication "Rethinking Education: Towards a global common good?" (that captures the spirit of two previous UNESCO landmark publications on education: *Learning to Be: The world of Education Today and Tomorrow* and "Learning: The Treasure Within") by Carlos Vargas Tamez from UNESCO, Jawad Al-Gousous, DVV International Country Director in Jordan, shared his 'reading' of the document from a CSO perspective. Dr. Zahi Azer, the Secretary General of the Arab Network of Popular Education, followed Mr. Al-Gousous intervention, focusing on the importance of the *Rethinking Education* document in renewing concepts and approaches of adult education in the Arab Region.

Three main themes have structured the group discussion: ***Re-contextualizing the Right to Education of youth and adults in lifelong learning for all perspective, Civil Society's role in ensuring equity and quality education opportunities for young people and adults and Bridges between formal and non-formal pathways of youth and adult education.***

Around 60 participants took part at the event, majority of them representatives of 10 Arab countries.

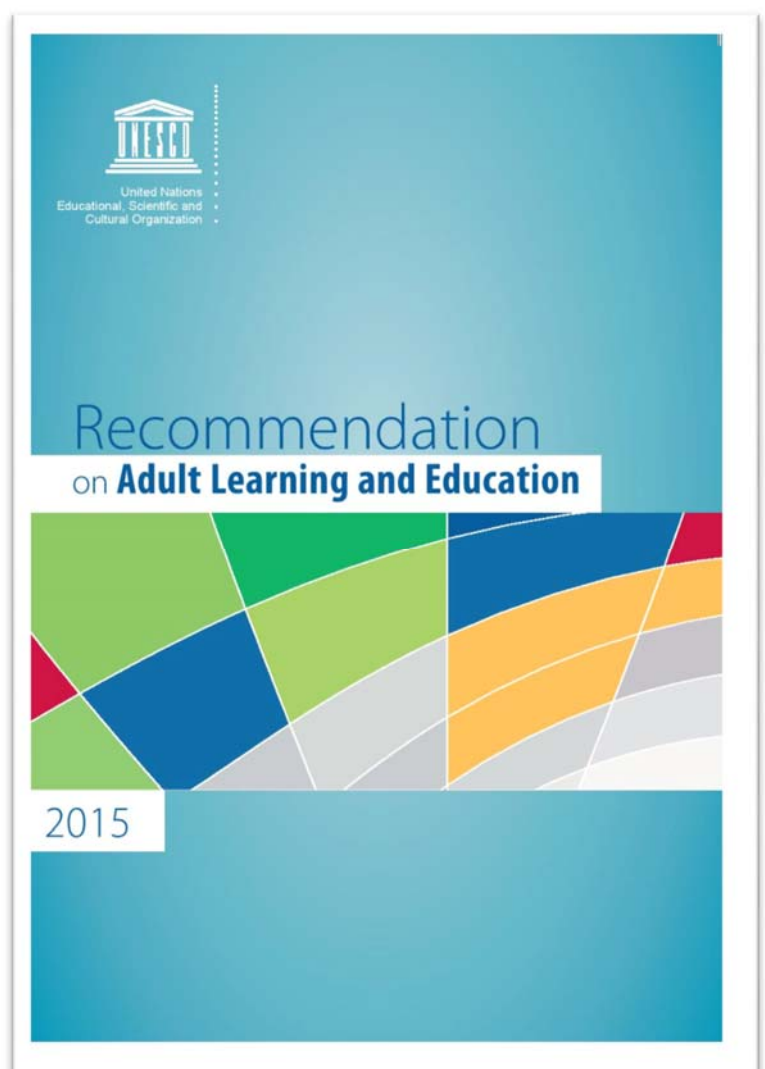
The annual meeting of the Executive Committee of ICAE was held in Amman, directly after the conference.

GRALE III Launch in the Arab Region

ICAE co-organized the launch of GRALE III in the region, together with DVV International, UNESCO, UIL, Arab Network for Literacy and Adult Education (ANLAE), Arab Network for Popular Education (ANPE), Lebanon; Arab Campaign for Education for All (ACEA), and Arab Network for Civic Education (ANHRE). It was held 2 October, in Amman, Jordan.

The launch took place in the framework of the Regional Seminar "Adult Education: Readings in the Failure and the Prospects for Renewal in the Arab World," where 60 representatives of regional Arab Networks from 10 countries discussed challenges adult learning and education currently facing in the Arab States and identified ways of tackling these challenges.

UIL officials, Mr. Werner Mauch and Ms. Samah Shalaby, delivered a presentation on significant outcomes of the GRALE III monitoring survey, from global, but specifically from the regional perspective – beyond main outcomes of the report, the monitoring progress results for the Arab Region were shared. The launch had a successful turnout.



UNESCO **Recommendations for ALE** (2015) were also presented and discussed in this event.
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2. The Right to education of youth and adults from a lifelong learning perspective in Europe 'Rethinking Education: Towards a global common good?', October 11, Brussels

The consultations organized by UNESCO, ICAE, and EAEA (European Association for Adult Education) took place on 11 October 2016 in the European Parliament in Brussels during the **Lifelong Learning Week**, which was organized by Lifelong Learning Platform and the European Youth Forum, enabling broad participation from lifelong learning and youth sector.



In the spirit of encouraging the public debate among education stakeholders, and different sectors, rethinking the purpose and structure of education in the face of present and future challenges and the targets set by SDG 4 and Education 2030, UNESCO and ICAE proposed a space for consultation and discussion with regional civil society organizations and networks, and other actors working in the field of youth and adult education in Europe.

The focus was on reflecting the regional challenges of youth and adult education in the current world and sharing the strategies programs and practices that allow ensuring an inclusive, equitable and quality education; as well as lifelong and life-wide learning opportunities for all.

The event was moderated by Gina Ebner, Secretary General of EAEA. Carlos Vargas Tamez (UNESCO) presented the UNESCO publication *The Right to the education of youth and adults from a lifelong learning perspective in Europe 'Rethinking Education: Towards a global common good* and introduced the main issues for the discussion.



Three experts gave introductory comments to the discussion, from different point of view: David Lopez, President of the Lifelong Learning Platform, Allan Pall from the European Youth Forum and Joke van der Leeuw-Roord from Euroclio, the European Association of History Educators. The presentations were followed by a series of questions from the audience, which included representatives from European institutions, civil society, and practitioners. The session was closed by Ms. Sirpa *Pietikäinen*, Member of the European Parliament.

After the close of the first session, the participants moved to Mundo-J building, to discuss some of the issues raised in the document during three parallel workshops, following the same guiding questions as the previous Regional consultations.

3. From 20-25th of October, ICAE organized, co-organized and participated in following events for the Asia Pacific region:

- Regional Workshop on ASPBAE's Strategic Directions *"Consolidating our Gains to Better Advance Transformative Education and Lifelong Learning for All,"*
- *Asia Pacific Education Coalitions Consultation Meeting*, with support from Civil Society Education Fund (CSEF), an initiative of the Global Campaign for Education (GCE)
- *Policy Forum on Youth & Adult Learning and Education in SDG4 in the Asia-Pacific*, which included:
 - *Rethinking education* - Civil society Regional consultations in Asia and South Pacific
 - GRALE 3 launch for Asia and South Pacific



Regional Workshop on ASPBAE's Strategic Directions *"Consolidating our Gains to Better Advance Transformative Education and Lifelong Learning for All."*

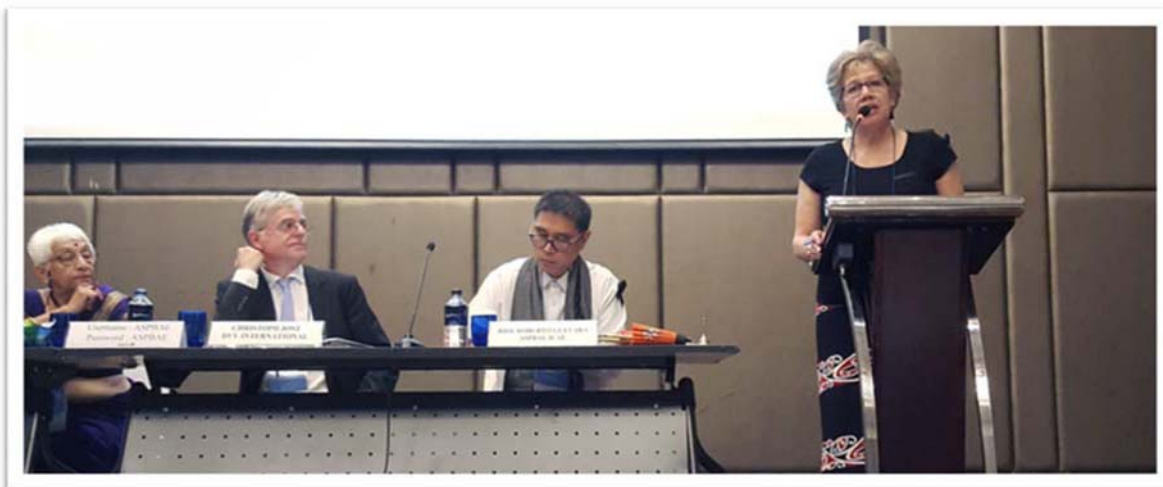
The 7th General Assembly (GA) of ASPBAE is the first GA after the 50th anniversary of ASPBAE and also the first after the new global development and education agenda articulated in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Education 2030 Framework for Action have been agreed and set in place. Civil society organizations and ASPBAE have played important roles in informing this strong and ambitious new education and development agenda.

For education, the challenge now and in the coming period is to consolidate and preserve the hard-won gains as governments, the international community, and other stakeholders begin concretizing the agreed commitments towards realizing the goal of *Ensuring Equitable and Inclusive Quality Education and Promote Lifelong learning opportunities for all* by 2030.



The two-day Regional Strategic Planning Workshop was the culmination of ASPBAE members' country level consultations through 2016.

The Regional Strategic Planning Workshop deliberated and built consensus on the future priorities and directions of ASPBAE, with the engaged participation of more than 100 participants, including country voting representatives, ASPBAE EC and the EC-elect, other ASPBAE members including representatives of national education coalitions across the Asia Pacific region, strategic partners, and staff. In particular, the concrete outcome of the Workshop was a set of recommendations to the new Executive Council on ASPBAE's future work and what should inform the new strategic plan (2017-2020) of ASPBAE.



Policy Forum on Youth & Adult Learning and Education in SDG4 in the Asia and South Pacific

was held 24-25, November in Bangkok. ICAE's long-term alliance with ASPBAE, DVV International, with the support from UNESCO and UIL was demonstrated by the organization of the Forum, and it was an opportunity to engage with organizations from all parts of Asia and South Pacific.

ICAE's active participation in the Forum allowed it to engage better with discussions and plans in the region, to define common objectives, and to develop future mobilization towards CONFINTEA VI+6. Since the variety and diversity of the countries in Asia influence also the variety of the needs and priorities of civil society in these countries, the ways and approaches are discussed and some steps prepared for their participation in CONFINTEA Mid-term conference.

The Right to education of youth and adults from a lifelong learning perspective in Asia and South Pacific 'Rethinking Education: Towards a global common good?'

The Asia-Pacific regional consultation on "The Right to the education of youth and adults from a lifelong learning perspective Rethinking Education: Towards a global common good?" was organized in the framework of the Policy Forum on Youth & Adult Learning and Education in SDG4 in the region of Asia and Pacific. The event was co-organized by ASPBAE, DVV International, and ICAE, with the support of UNESCO and the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning. It was a multi-stakeholder event, bringing together representatives from governments, UNESCO, education coalitions, CSOs active in Lifelong Learning and donor agencies to strategize and exchange about the implementation of youth and adult learning strategies and policies within the lifelong learning framework of SDG 4. More than 100 participants took part in the consultations. It was the perfect scenario to reflect on the regional challenges of youth and adult education in today's world.

The consultations were moderated by Roberto Guevara, ASPBAE President and ICAE Vice-president for Asia and Pacific, with the introductory presentation: 'Rethinking Education: Towards a global common good?' - Challenges for youth and adult education in the face of the Sustainable Development Goals – Education 2030, by Werner Mauch, from UIL, and comments by the experts from the region: Sandra Morrison, President, ICAE and Lalita Ramdas, Board Member of Yakshi, India. The first part was followed by the intensive and fruitful discussion in three groups, and by summarizing the plenary discussion.



The reports from this regional consultation on "Rethinking Education," as well as the other local reports and the final one, will be soon available at ICAE web page.

GRALE III Launch for Asia and South Pacific

ICAE, DVV International, ASPBAE, UNESCO, UIL



GRALE III launch for Asia and South Pacific was co-organised by ICAE, ASPBAE, DVV International and UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning. The event brought together 115 participants from governments, UNESCO, national coalitions, CSOs and donor agencies. The GRALE III was launched in an evening reception on the first day of the Policy Forum followed on the next day by a panel discussion where UIL presented the most important outcomes of the report from a regional perspective. The panel called "Overview of the current status of Adult Learning - What does the GRALE say?" included Werner Mauch (UIL), Katarina Popović (ICAE), Nani Zulminarni (PEKKA), Le Huy Lam, (SEAMEO), and was chaired by ASPBAE Secretary General, María Khan. The Rich cultural program added to the festivities around the GRALE III launch and the exchange and learning about local cultures.

4. ICAE Academy of Lifelong Learning Advocacy – IALLA- 10-17 October, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

During the eight days, three events took place:

- **IALLA** - ICAE Academy of Lifelong Learning Advocacy
- **Rethinking education** - Civil society Regional consultations for Africa
- **GRALE 3 launch** for Africa.

IALLA - Academy of Lifelong Learning Advocacy

IALLA 2016 gathered participants mainly from West Africa. The course provided an overview of main concepts, approaches, and ideas of adult education and lifelong learning, considering especially the governance of adult education at global, regional and national level. Basic knowledge of advocacy approaches for adult education was the basis for introducing participants into the challenges adult education is facing at the beginning of the implementation of new global agenda – Sustainable Development Goals and the program Education 2030. The course provided an overview of the key players: focusing on the role civil society and social movements and their approaches to advocacy.



IALLA dedicated a significant part of its program to inform participants about the links between Belem Framework of Action (BFA), RALE and Education 2030 Agenda, especially Goal 4, as well as advocacy strategies in preparation towards CONFITEA VI mid-term.



Furthermore, in the framework of IALLA various meetings were organized in order to mobilize civil society, ICAE's meeting with the francophone members from Africa, with national organizations and regional networks, committed to the right to education, from different specific fields in their countries and the sub-region. There was a particular focus on the plans towards CONFITEA VI+6, in order to secure strong African voice in the conference.

A meeting with the representatives of ADEA was also organized during the course, and further chances for cooperation were opened after Mr. Ibrahim Bah Lalya of the Association for the development of education in Africa presented the work of the organization and the opportunities for joined collaborate with the organizations and networks of people participating in the IALLA.



The decision has been made to make an effort to enable participation of a civil society delegation from francophone Africa in the next CONFITEA Mid-term conference, and several priorities have been defined.

Back to back with IALLA training course Civil society consultation process on Rethinking Education and GRALE III launch also took place.

The Right to education of youth and adults from a lifelong learning perspective in Africa 'Rethinking Education: Towards a global common good?'

The event was moderated by Shirley Walters, ICAE Vice-president for Africa, and the introductory comments were given by Peliwe Lolwana, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, and Valerio Ussene, ICAE Executive Committee member and Catholic University of Mozambique, Pemba.

Fifteen African countries that were participating in the *Rethinking Education* consultation discussed many important issues regarding the implementation of the lifelong learning policies, the role of the civil society and other main players in the field of adult education, as well as the systems of recognition, validation, and accreditation of adult learning.

Being a part of the series of the regional consultation organized by UNESCO and coordinated by ICAE, Rethinking Education consultation in Ouagadougou activities were held in the way to follow the primary goal to overcome the obstacles and ensure lifelong opportunities for all by 2030.

GRALE III presentation in the African region



Successful consultations on "Rethinking Education" were followed by the launch of GRALE III – Global Report on the Adult Learning and Education of UNESCO. The primary objective of the report launched on the 50th anniversary of International Literacy Day, was to take stock of countries' progress in implementing commitments to adult learning and education (ALE) made at the 2009 International Conference on Adult Education (CONFINTEA VI). The study, drawing on 139 countries' response to the GRALE III survey, shows that most States have made progress in ALE policy development, governance, financing, quality and reach since 2009. GRALE III also makes a case for the significant contribution that ALE could bring to meeting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The launch of GRALE III was the opportunity for meeting and exchange and the dialogue between participants from various African organizations with Werner Mauch and Angela Owusu-Boampong of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning. The main topic of discussion was the participation of civil society in the formulations and following of public policies in adult education on the local, national and global level.

5. ICAE at UNESCO's Europe and North America SDG4 - Education 2030 Regional Consultation in Paris

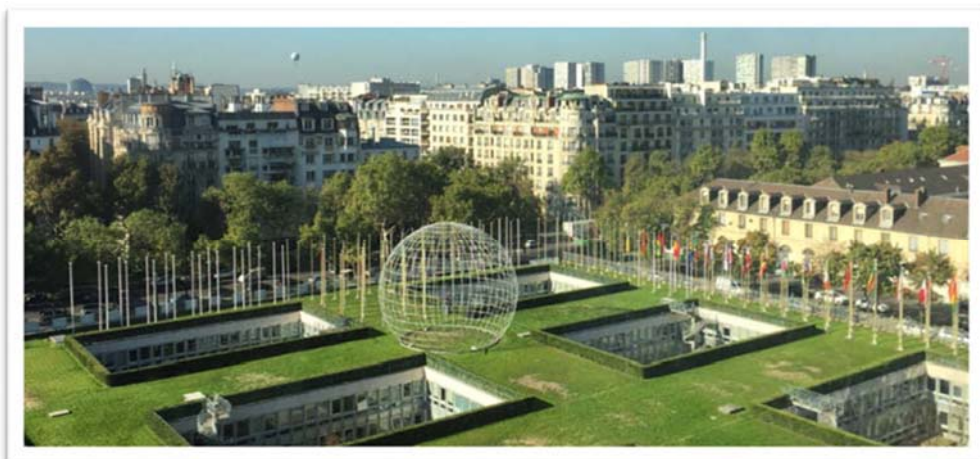
ICAE represented by Secretary General Katarina Popovic, along with its regional members European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA) represented by Gina Ebner and The Coalition Of Lifelong Learning Organizations (COLLO) represented by Linda Morris, participated the UNESCO's Europe and North America SDG4 Education Regional Consultation held from 24-25 of October in Paris.

The meeting was organized for the member states of Europe and North America and as part of the UNESCO's cycle of regional consultation meetings which started at the end of 2015, with the goal to facilitate the preparation for the implementation of the 2030 SDG4 –Education 2030, at the country level.

It brought together participants from Member States with high policy function and technical expertise from both the Ministry of Education and from Development Cooperation, intergovernmental organizations including the European Union, the Council of Europe, OECD, UNICEF, UNHCR, ILO and GPE, as well as civil society organizations, the private sector and academia members, and provided a platform for the discussion, assessment and monitoring of the governmental progress against the targets.



Particular focus was given to the priorities for the region, including the quality of education, skills and competencies, global citizenship education and education for refugees and migrants. The result was a development of a set of recommendations in which the member states can straighten the regional cooperation and achieve the goals of SDG4 Education 2030.



UNESCO, Paris

6. The Right to education of youth and adults from a lifelong learning perspective in North America 'Rethinking Education: Towards a global common good? - COLLO and ICAE Consultation, December 5, Washington DC

The plenary session was moderated by Linda Morris, President, Coalition of Lifelong Learning Organizations (COLLO) and Marcie Boucouvalas, Vice President for North America, International Council for Adult Education, with the virtual participation of Katarina Popovic, Secretary General,



International Council for Adult Education; Carlos Vargas Tamez, Senior Project Officer (*Rethinking Education*), UNESCO, and Daniel Baril – Director, Institut de coopération pour l'éducation des adultes, Canada.

The questions presented were clustered into three themes. The themes served as the basis for the division into working groups. The working groups were provided with information on key findings of *Rethinking Education* and a set of questions for debate. This discussion took into account the frameworks for action and international instruments of Adult Learning and Education (Belem Framework for Action, Recommendation 2015), as well as *Rethinking Education* and Education 2030 Framework for Action.

Following the structure of all Regional consultations, North American event covered: ***Re-contextualizing the right to education of youth and adults in lifelong learning for all perspective, Civil society's role in ensuring equity and quality education opportunities for youth and adults and Bridges between formal and non-formal pathways of youth and adult education.***



Washington DC



Rich plenary discussion prior to the working groups, as well as concluding one, raised and discussed plenty of issues related to the national and regional level, also those related to the possibilities of engaging in the implementation and monitoring of global agendas in the field of adult learning and education.

Activities and possibilities for building ICEA's North American Region were given special attention.



RALE, Recommendation on Adult Learning and Education (ALE) 2015 (UNESCO)
AVIABLE SOON!

The UNESCO „Recommendation on the Development of Adult Education” from 1976 was the only normative and standard-setting document on adult learning and education (ALE) provided guiding principles for adult education policy and practice in UNESCO Member States, encouraging and inviting Member States to take appropriate legislative steps, in conformity with their constitutional practice and to better implement adequate policies on ALE. In November 2015, the UNESCO General Conference adopted the updated Recommendation on ALE, which provides a detailed definition of adult learning and education, distinguishing core areas of skills and learning. Since this is very good and up-to-date and comprehensive tool for all involved in ALE, including civil society, a tool that sets out guiding principles for promoting and developing ALE worldwide, ICEA has prepared this Advocacy Guide on the UNESCO „Recommendation on the Development of Adult Education”, with some suggestions how to use this normative document and how it relates to other key process and document of the Education 2030 agenda.

