

## Concept Note

### Sub-Regional Consultation for CONFINTEA VII 2022 in Central Asia<sup>1</sup> and Iran

Almaty, 25 February 2021

#### Background

The International Conference on Adult Education (CONFINTEA) has taken place every 12 to 13 years since the late 1940s. The first conference was held in 1949 in Elsinore (Denmark), followed by: Montreal (Canada) in 1960; Tokyo (Japan) in 1972; Paris (France) in 1985; Hamburg (Germany) in 1997; and Belém (Brazil) in December 2009. At the invitation of the Kingdom of Morocco, CONFINTEA VII will take place in Morocco in 2022. It will be the first CONFINTEA since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the most significant event for the international ALE community in the lead-up to 2030, the target year of the United Nations' sustainable development agenda.

CONFINTEA VII will play a significant role in order to help Member States in achieving the SDGs in general and SDG 4 on education in particular by adapting a new framework for action that will replace the Belém Framework for Action, which was adopted in the last CONFINTEA VI in 2009 as well as the UNESCO 2015 Recommendation on Adult Learning and Education. As a UNESCO-led intergovernmental conference (Category II) for policy dialogue on adult learning and education (ALE) and related research and advocacy, invitations will be sent to ministers responsible for ALE in UNESCO Member States as well as representatives of civil society organizations, unions, employers, media and other stakeholders. It will provide a platform for debating tendencies in youth and adult learning and education in the context of lifelong learning.

The aim of CONFINTEA VII will be to outline effective ALE policies within a lifelong learning perspective and within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It will encourage Member States to put in place policies, incentives, regulatory frameworks and institutional structures and mechanisms to contribute to a culture of human rights, to social justice, shared values and sustainability. In the age of artificial intelligence, special attention will be paid to using information and communications technologies to promote access to ALE and inclusion.

The fifth edition of UNESCO's *Global Report on Adult Learning and Education (GRALE 5)* is currently in preparation, and will be launched at CONFINTEA VII. *GRALE 5* will provide a worldwide overview of the current state and key developments from an international perspective. This will be a key input for deliberation at CONFINTEA VII. *GRALE*, as a global monitoring tool, will review the implementation of the commitments entrenched in the Belém Framework for Action as well as the UNESCO 2015 Recommendation on Adult Learning and Education.

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<sup>1</sup> Central Asian sub-region includes countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

## Process leading to the Global Conference from Sub-Regional Conference

2020-2021	<b>Sub-regional consultations</b> (East, Southeast, South, Central and Pacific)
2021	Regional Conference (Asia-Pacific)
2022	Global Conference (Morocco)

The *Regional Conferences* will prepare the ground for the global conference in Morocco from a regional perspective. All regions will engage in similar preparatory processes, including the formulation of a consolidated regional synthesis report.

The series of regional preparatory conferences is a regular procedure for Category II UNESCO conferences in the run-up to CONFINTEA VII. These will help to articulate a global perspective for the future development of ALE, taking *the particular needs, experiences and visions at regional level* into account. The preparatory conferences will be used to identify the current key issues on ALE in each region and suggest benchmarks and recommendations for CONFINTEA VII. The outcome documents of the preparatory conferences represent key inputs to the draft framework for action that will be adopted by CONFINTEA VII. Each region will produce a regional report on adult learning and education that will reflect the regional specificities and highlight the main regional trends and issues.

The preparatory conferences will be key in renewing political momentum and commitment for the development of ALE in the context of BFA and the recommendation on adult learning and education (RALE, 2015). As well as highlighting ALE's crucial role for the achievement of the SDGs. Each conference will adopt an outcome document, which summarizes the specific regional aspects with regard to developments and future perspectives for ALE policy and practice. These represent key inputs to the global conference and will be indispensable for drafting the outcome document.

**Within that framework, the sub-regional consultations will be organized in view of capturing the diversity of contexts, trends and priorities within a particular region.**

In this context, on 25 February 2021 UNESCO Almaty will organize the Sub-Regional Consultation for Central Asian countries and Iran with the aim to share and understand the key common issues, innovations, challenges and forward-looking strategies to renew policies and action in youth and adult learning and education in preparation for the Regional Conference of CONFINTEA VII in 2022.

Within the framework of GRALE 5, regional analysis will be prepared based on national reports and data on the state of the art and development of adult learning and education prepared by the UNESCO Member States, and will constitute background documents for the Regional Conferences. This will provide the foundation for the discussion and the formulation of recommendations, towards the Regional outcome documents that will inform CONFINTEA VII.

### Specific Objectives of the Sub-Regional Consultation:

1. Assessing the specific issues and challenges that the sub-region is facing in ALE;
2. Documenting promising innovations, including at the policy level;
3. Analyze the impact of COVID 19 on ALE participation, provision and policies;
4. Outline future prospects of ALE with forward looking strategies and direction of ALE in the region, as well as the contribution of ALE to the achievement of the SDG4 to the other SDGs;
5. Identifying key priorities for the future of ALE in the sub-region;
6. Suggesting areas and mechanisms for sub-regional cooperation.

### **Expected Outputs**

- Sub-regional report on key challenges, opportunities, and recommendations for renewed policies and action in adult learning and education in the region

### **Participants**

Governments should be represented at the higher civil servant position within the main Ministry responsible for ALE. Participants should mirror the diverse field of ALE and include CSO representatives.

Government and CSO representatives will be requested to make presentations covering 5 key aspects below.

- 1) State of the art of adult learning and education (ALE)
- 2) Specific challenges and priorities for future action to promote ALE concepts and practice
- 3) Impact of the COVID-19 crisis on ALE
- 4) Innovative practices in citizenship education
- 5) Prospects for sub-regional cooperation

### **Dates and Venue**

25 February 2021, Online

### **Working Languages**

English and Russian (simultaneous translation will be provided)

### **Organizers and Key Partners**

UNESCO Almaty Cluster Office, UNESCO Bangkok in cooperation with the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) and UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office, DVV International

## **Contacts:**

### **UNESCO Almaty Cluster Office**

Meirgul Alpysbayeva  
National Education Officer  
303 Baizakov street, Building 1  
050040 Almaty, Kazakhstan  
Tel: +7 727 258 2643 (ext.508)  
[m.alpysbayeva@unesco.org](mailto:m.alpysbayeva@unesco.org)

### **UNESCO Bangkok Regional Office**

Ichiro Miyazawa  
Programme Specialist  
920 Sukhumvit Road, Prakhong, Klongtoey  
Bangkok, Thailand, 10110  
Tel: +66-2-391-0577, Fax: +66-2-391-0866  
E-mail: [i.miyazawa@unesco.org](mailto:i.miyazawa@unesco.org)

### **UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL)**

Amir Piric  
Feldbrunnenstrasse 58, 20148 Hamburg,  
GERMANY  
Tel: +49 40 4480 41-35, Fax: +49.40.410.7723  
E-mail: [a.piric@unesco.org](mailto:a.piric@unesco.org)

### **DVV International**

Dr. Thekla Kelbert  
Regional Director for Central Asia  
402 Frunze str., 720033 Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic  
Tel: +996 312 323 901, +996 558 858 758  
E-mail: [kelbert@dvv-international.de](mailto:kelbert@dvv-international.de)

Time	Agenda
<b>Thursday 25 February 2021</b> <b>15:00 – 18:40 (Almaty time)</b>	
<b>15:00- 15:20</b>	<p><b>Opening session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remarks by Ms Krista Pikkat, Director, UNESCO Almaty Cluster Office</li> <li>• Remarks by Mr Amir Piric, Chief Programme Coordinator, UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL)</li> <li>• Remarks by Ms Thekla Kelbert, Regional Director for Central Asia, DVV International</li> <li>• Group photo (online)</li> </ul> <p>Moderated by Meirgul Alpysbayeva, National Professional Officer, UNESCO Almaty Cluster Office</p>
<b>15:20- 15:30</b>	<p><b>Introduction:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brief introduction on global preparation of CONFINTEA VII Mr. Werner Mauch, Team Leader MAL, UIL</li> <li>• Overview of objectives of the Regional and Sub-regional Consultation for CONFINTEA VII 2022 Mr. Ichiro Miyazawa, Programme Specialist, UNESCO Bangkok Office</li> </ul> <p>Moderated by Meirgul Alpysbayeva, National Professional Officer, UNESCO Almaty Cluster Office</p>
<b>15:30- 17:10</b>	<p><b>Session 1 - Country Presentations (15 min. each, including 10 min. for QA)</b> <i>Sharing of Current status, Achievements and Challenges in ALE and LLL at Country level:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iran</li> <li>• Kazakhstan</li> <li>• Kyrgyzstan</li> <li>• Tajikistan</li> <li>• Turkmenistan</li> <li>• Uzbekistan</li> </ul> <p>Moderated by Meirgul Alpysbayeva, National Professional Officer, UNESCO Almaty Cluster Office</p>
<b>17:10-17:15</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>17:15 -17:45</b>	<p><b>Session 2 - CSO Presentations (15 min. each, including QA)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Macro-level study on ALE in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan by DVV International Ms Thekla Kelbert, Regional Director for Central Asia, DVV International</li> <li>• "Making ALE Work for Marginalised Communities" by the Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE) Ms. Nasiba Mirpochoeva, ASPBAE Executive Council Member for Central Asia</li> </ul>

	Moderated by Ravshan Baratov, Regional Programme Manager for Central Asia, DVV International
<b>17:45 -18:30</b>	<p><b>Technical Discussions (45 min.)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issues in ALE and Lifelong Learning</li> <li>• Common Challenges and Impact of COVID-19</li> <li>• Innovations and Successful Cases in ALE</li> <li>• Implementation of SDG Target 4.6 and alignment of policies, strategies and programmes at country level</li> <li>• Key priorities for the future</li> <li>• Sub-regional Recommendations for CONFINTEA VII Regional Consultation</li> </ul> <p>Moderated by Mr. Werner Mauch, Team Leader MAL, UIL</p>
<b>18:30- 18:35</b>	<p><b>Closing session</b> Remarks by Director, UNESCO Almaty Cluster Office</p>