

Day 0 - Wednesday, June 18th
NETWORKING SESSION

Moderated by *Damian Fähr*

09:00	Welcome & Opening Coffee and getting to know each other Introduction to the method
10:00	Working Groups Follow-up on project ideas defined earlier
11:30	Idea Generation Pitching new project and collaboration ideas
12:00	Lunch
13:00	Open Space Elaborating new ideas and speed-dating for collaboration
14:00 15:00	Conclusion Wrapping up and next steps

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

15:00	Registration and coffee
15:30 18:00	General Assembly including a coffee break
18:00	<i>Short meeting of the Executive Committee</i>

CONFERENCE PROGRAM
Day 1 - Thursday, June 19th

09:00	Registration and Coffee
09:30	Welcome - European Basic Skills Network and Local Partners
09:40	Advancing Lifelong Learning and Adult Basic Skills for an Inclusive Europe: A Flemish Policy Perspective <i>Ewoud De Sadeleer,</i> <i>Vlaamse Onderwijsraad (Flemish Education Council) (Belgium)</i>
10:00	PIAAC Results and Flanders <i>Bram De Wever, Professor, Ghent University (UGent) and Promotor of PIAAC in Flanders</i>
10:20	Reflection and Q&A: Flemish Policy and PIAAC Insights
10:30	Adult Skills and Inequality: Insights from PIAAC to Shape Inclusive Policies <i>Anja Meierkord, Analyst, Directorate for Education and Skills, OECD</i>
10:50	Numeracy Developments in Europe <i>Lonneke Boels, HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht, (The Netherlands)</i>
11:00	Coffee break & Market Place
11:30	Parallel sessions: Round 1 R1.1, R1.2, R1.3, R1.4
13:00	Lunch
14:00	Union of Skills for All: Adult Basic Skills Driving Inclusion and Competitiveness in Europe <i>Andreea Diana Spiridon, Team Leader for Adult Skills, Unit B.2 "Union of Skills", Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission</i>

Annual Conference
of the EBSN

From Evidence to Action:
**Advancing Adult Basic
Skills for Tackling
Inequalities**

The Basic Skills Network
Annual General Assembly
and Conference



WHEN

18th to 20th June 2025



WHERE

Vrije Universiteit Brussel and Ligo,
Centres for Adult Basic Education

Address:
HOEK 38, Leuvenseweg 38,
1000 Brussels



ORGANIZER

EBSN in cooperation with the
Vrije Universiteit Brussel and
Ligo, Centres for Adult Basic
Education from Belgium



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14:20	<p>Panel discussion - New Directions for Adult Skills: Perspectives on the Union of Skills and the Action Plan on Basic Skills <i>(moderated, including audience interaction)</i></p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Daiana Huber, CPIP Romania, EBSN Executive Committee ▪ Gina Ebner, Deputy Secretary General, European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA) ▪ David Mekkaoui, CEO, ALL Digital ▪ Louise Culot, Senior Policy Analyst, Lire et Écrire, Belgium <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sam Duncan, University College London, UK, EBSN Executive Committee
15:15	Coffee break + Market Place
15:45	<p>Parallel sessions: Round 2 R2.1, R2.2, R2.3, R2.4</p>
17:00	End of Day 1: Practical Announcements for Dinner & Day 2
19:00	Conference dinner

Day 2 - Friday, June 20th

08:45	Coffee and informal conversations
09:00	<p>RESCALE: Reskill Employees by Stimulating Connection between Actors of Labor market & Education <i>Prof. Dr. Maurice de Greef, Chairholder, UNESCO Chair on Adult Education, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium)</i></p>
09:20	<p>Parallel sessions: Round 3 R3.1, R3.2, R3.3, R3.4</p>
10:30	Coffee break & Market Place
11:00	<p>Panel Discussion - From Insights to Action: Reflections from the Parallel Sessions Panellists: <i>Rapporteurs of parallel sessions -</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Judy Alamprese, Senior Policy Expert ① Track 1: Building Policies & Systems for Upskilling Pathways ▪ Sam Duncan - EBSN Executive Committee ② Track 2: Inclusive Approaches for Vulnerable Groups ▪ Damian Fäh - EBSN Executive Committee ③ Track 3: Innovative Pedagogy and Digital Solutions ▪ Alex Stevenson - EBSN Executive Committee ④ Track 4: Data, Evidence, and Communication <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Zoltán Várkonyi, Secretary General, European Basic Skills Network
11:45	<p>Workshop: Action Planning - Translating Conference Insights into Future Strategies <i>Prof. Dr. Maurice de Greef, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium) and the EBSN Executive Committee</i></p>
12:45	<p>Closing Session: Summary of Key Messages and Follow-up Initiatives <i>Zoltán Várkonyi, Secretary General, EBSN Secretariat and Local Hosts</i></p>
13:00	Lunch and Farewell

PARALLEL SESSIONS: STRUCTURE

In line with the conference theme, parallel sessions are grouped into four vertical tracks that reflect the main pillars for advancing adult basic skills policies and practice:

- **Track 1: Building Policies and Systems for Upskilling Pathways**
- **Track 2: Inclusive Approaches for Vulnerable Groups**
- **Track 3: Innovative Pedagogy and Digital Solutions**
- **Track 4: Data, Evidence, and Communication**

Each vertical track continues across the three rounds of parallel sessions (R1, R2, R3).

Each session features 2-3 short presentations (15 minutes each) followed by structured, interactive discussions. Rapporteurs will collect key insights, conclusions, and future directions for the final plenary and action planning workshop.

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Parallel Sessions Round 1

1 Track 1: Building Policies and Systems for Upskilling Pathways

Parallel Session R1.1:

Implementing Upskilling Pathways: Coordinating National and Regional Strategies

Thursday,
June 19th

11:20

Ireland's Adult Literacy for Life Strategy: Adapting to the changing context of adult literacy

Colleen Dube, National Adult Literacy Agency (IRL)

Yvonne McKenna, Adult Literacy for Life Office, SOLAS (IRL)

Literacy skills of Flemish adults: policy proposals by the Flemish Education Council

Ewoud De Sadeleer & Joke Drijkoningen,

Vlaamse Onderwijsraad (Flemish Education Council) (BE)

The role of the National Coordinator for Adult Learning in upskilling the basic skills of low skilled adult

Maria Kapniari, Hellenic Open University (GR)

2 Track 2: Inclusive Approaches for Vulnerable Groups

Parallel Session R1.2:

Designing Learning Pathways for Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups

Thursday,
June 19th

11:20

"Co-creating digital bibliotherapy: designing effective and inclusive wellbeing interventions"

Sam Duncan, Professor of Adult Literacies, Director of the International

Literacy Centre, UCL Institute of Education (UK)

Vulnerable Subgroups Revisited: Financial Practices of Adults in strained economic situations

Klaus Buddeberg, University of Hamburg (DE)

Bringing Vision to Life: The Reflection Tool of Ligo

Sulotta Soren De Clercq

Ligo, Centra voor Basiseducatie (BE)

3 Track 3: Innovative Pedagogy and Digital Solutions

Parallel Session R1.3:

Gamification, Family Engagement, and Digital Learning Innovations

Thursday,
June 19th

11:20

Innovative practice - gamification and basic skills

Johanni Larjanko, Nordic Network for Lifelong Learning / NLL (FI)

Family literacy courses 'Mijn kind gaat naar school, ik ook' ('My child goes to school, and so do I')

Lies Vanobbergen & Ine Meersman, Ligo Brusselleer (BE)

Hybrid learning for low literate language learners

Bert Aerts, Ligo Antwerpen (BE)

4 Track 4: Data, Evidence, and Communication

Parallel Session R1.4:

Empowering Adult Learners through Language Skills: Innovations and Practices

Thursday,
June 19th

11:20

Reimagining Language Learning for Migrants

Alex Stevenson, National Learning and Work Institute (UK)

Beyond the classroom: Using reflection to support LESLLA learners in formal and informal contexts

Helena Van Nuffel & Annelies Jehoul,

Center for Language and Education (KU Leuven) (BE)

Workplace Literacy Coaching in Brussels

Lies Evenepoel & Manna Lahousse, Ligo Brusselleer (BE)

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Parallel Sessions Round 2

1 Track 1: Building Policies and Systems for Upskilling Pathways

Parallel Session R2.1:
Impact Policies and Local Collaboration

Thursday,
June 19th
15:45

Making plans to increase basic skills in Brussels

Ludwig Willaert, Ligo Brusselleer (BE)

Ligo's impact policy

Joke Drijkhonigen & Barbara Sproelants,
Ligo, Centres of Adult Basic Education (BE)

2 Track 2: Inclusive Approaches for Vulnerable Groups

Parallel Session R2.2:
Inclusive Learning Pathways and Tailored Methodologies

Thursday,
June 19th
15:45

Co-Designing Learning Behind Bars: Liberate Skills Pact Upskills
Correctional Staff through Learner-Led Outcomes & Ecosystem-Authored
Micro-Credentials

Daiana Huber, CPIP (RO)
& **Ana David**, Innovative Prison Systems (PT)

From learning questions to classroom success: a flexible, student-centered
method for teaching Dutch as L2

Sulotta Soren De Clercq & Leontien Flusie,
Ligo, Centra voor Basiseducatie (BE)

3 Track 3: Innovative Pedagogy and Digital Solutions

Parallel Session R2.3:
Immersive Learning in Action: Training Soft Skills with VR and AI

Thursday,
June 19th
15:45

Training Soft Skills and Action Competencies in Virtual Reality (VR)
Environments

Roy Franke, EB Zürich (CH)

4 Track 4: Data, Evidence, and Communication

Parallel Session R2.4:
Evaluating Impact: Advancing Adult Basic Skills through Evidence-Based Practices

Thursday,
June 19th
15:45

Workplace Learning Programmes for Literacy, Numeracy and Digital
Literacy: Fit for Purpose?

Anne Reardon-James, Cardiff University (UK)

Impact beyond numbers. Towards a methodology for impact evaluation of
adult basic skills programs

Mariet Schiepers & Helena Van Nuffel,
Centre for Language and Education (KU Leuven) (BE)

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Parallel Sessions Round 3

1 Track 1: Building Policies and Systems for Upskilling Pathways

Parallel Session **R3.1:**
Evaluating What Works: Evidence-Based Approaches to National Upskilling Models

Friday,
June 20th
9:30

Using Evidence-based Approaches for Upskilling and Reskilling Adult Skills Learners

Judith Alamprese, *Alamprese and Associates (US)*

Upskilling and reskilling strategies for unemployed adults: Some insights from the GOL Programme in Italy

Chiara Biasin, *University of Padova (IT)*

2 Track 2: Inclusive Approaches for Vulnerable Groups

Parallel Session **R3.2:**
Empowering Women and Immigrants through Literacy and Upskilling

Friday,
June 20th
9:30

MOVE UP - Leveraging Gender Equality through Upskilling Pathways

Sylvia Liuti, *FORMA.Azione srl, (IT)*

& Viola Pinzi, *European Association for the Education of Adults (BE)*

Further Education, Parenthood and Immigrant Women: Identified Skill Gaps in PIAAC and Practical Solutions from Basic Education Pathways Project 'Grundbildungspfade' in Germany

Nate Breznau, *German Institute for Adult Education - Leibniz Center for Lifelong Learning (DE)*

3 Track 3: Innovative Pedagogy and Digital Solutions

Parallel Session **R3.3:**
AI-Enhanced Learning Environments for Skills Development

Friday,
June 20th
9:30

iRead4Skills: Enhancing Literacy through Intelligent Tools

Raquel Amaro, *Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, NOVA University Lisbon, (PT)*

Adaptive Learning Systems with AI: Designing Intelligent Tutoring for Individualized Education

Roy Franke, *EB Zürich (CH)*

4 Track 4: Data, Evidence, and Communication

Parallel Session **R3.4:**
Interpreting PIAAC: Discourse, Awareness and Policy Influence

Friday,
June 20th
9:30

What's the problem represented to be? Media coverage of PIAAC (MEDIAAC)

Anke Grotlüschen, *University of Hamburg (DE)*

Nordic-Baltic PIAAC network: Promoting Skills Data for Policy Impact

Antra Carlsen, *Nordic Network for Lifelong Learning (NLL) (DK)*

Marketplace Presenter

1.	MOVE-UP Project - Resources to support women in reentering education and workforce	Sylvia Liuti , <i>FORMA.Azione srl</i> Viola Pinzi , <i>European Association for the Education of Adults</i>
2.	Learning question detection - a tool to search for learning goals	Ann Claes , Christel Crol , <i>Ligo Antwerpen</i> <i>Centrum voor basiseducatie</i>
3.	Digital tools and learning resources	Louise Culot , <i>Lire et Écrire, Belgium</i>
4.	iRead4Skills - Intelligent Tools to enhance literacy	Raquel Amaro , <i>Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, NOVA University Lisbon</i>