

Annual Conference
of the EBSN

Basic Skills for Life, Work
and Democratic
Participation in Times of
Transformation

The Basic Skills Network
Annual General Assembly
and Conference



WHEN

17th to 19th June 2026



WHERE

Colégio Almada Negreiros
Universidade NOVA de Lisboa,
Campus de Campolide
Address:
1099-085 Lisboa, Portugal



ORGANIZER

EBSN in cooperation with the
CLUNL - Research Center for
Linguistics at NOVA
University Lisbon.



GET IN TOUCH

✉ secretariat@basicskills.eu
🌐 www.basicskills.eu

Draft programme – subject to confirmation and minor adjustments

The programme is currently being finalised together with speakers and institutional partners. Some titles, speakers and session compositions may still be updated.

Day 0 - Wednesday, June 17th
Pre-Conference Programme

Networking programme and proposed visit to the Qualifica Centre of Agrupamento de Escolas de Alvalade (Lisbon)

09:30	Travelling to the local adult education centre (venue: TBC) Welcome coffee and informal networking
10:00	EBSN community exchange open to all participants – introductions and thematic clustering (facilitated small-group discussions)
11:30	Introduction to the Portuguese Qualifica approach and the Qualifica Centre of Agrupamento de Escolas de Alvalade (presentation, guided visit and discussions with practitioners)
13:00	Lunch
14:00	Closing and travelling back

"The pre-conference programme is organised in cooperation with local Portuguese partners and aims to provide participants with direct insight into adult learning, guidance and qualification pathways within the Portuguese Qualifica system."

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

16:00	Registration and coffee
16:30 18:30	General Assembly including a coffee break
18:30	<i>Short meeting of the Executive Committee</i>

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Day 1 - Thursday, June 18th

09:00	Registration and Coffee
09:30	Welcome and Opening European Basic Skills Network and Local Hosts – NOVA University Lisbon
09:40	Welcome by the Ministry of Education, Portugal <i>Representative, Ministry of Education, Portugal [PT] [TBC]</i>
	National policy approaches to strengthening adult basic skills <i>Representative, Ministry of Education, Portugal [PT] [TBC]</i>
	The Observatory of Adult Competencies: Addressing Portugal's Skill Gaps and Inequalities through Research and Action <i>Paulo Ferraz, the Administrator of the Polytechnic University of Porto and Member of the Installation Committee of the Observatory of Adult Competencies [PT]</i>
10:40	Discussion and Q&A
10:50	Coffee break + Marketplace - transition to parallel sessions
11:20	Parallel sessions: Round 1 R1.1, R1.2, R1.3
12:45	Lunch

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14:00	Strengthening Basic Skills in the Union of Skills: European Priorities and Opportunities <i>Name, European Commission Representative [EU]</i>
14:20	Introductory input: Strengthening the Action Chain in Adult Basic Skills: Connecting Data, Policy, Professional Development, Practice, and Evidence <i>Judith Alamprese, Alamprese & Associates [US]</i>
15:15	Panel discussion - From evidence to public understanding, policy design and implementation capacity <i>(moderated, including audience interaction)</i> Panellists: Moderator: <i>[TBC]</i>
15:45	Parallel sessions: Round 2 R2.1, R2.2, R2.3
16:45	End of Day 1 Practical announcements for dinner and Day 2
19:00	Conference dinner

Day 2 - Friday, June 19th

08:45	Coffee and informal conversations
09:00	Basic Skills, Literacy and Democratic Resilience in Times of Transformation <i>Anke Grotlüschen, Universität Hamburg [DE]</i>
	Human-centred digital transitions and skill mismatches in European workplaces <i>Keynote speaker [TBC]</i>
	Policy responses to transformation: "Learning societies in times of transformation: strengthening adult learning systems for inclusion, participation and resilience" <i>Keynote speaker [TBC]</i>
10:15	Coffee break + Marketplace - Movement to Parallel Sessions
10:45	Parallel sessions: Round 3 R3.1, R3.2, R3.3
11:45	Panel Discussion - Balancing Work, Life and Democratic Participation: Priorities for Basic Skills Systems Panellists: Moderator: <i>[TBC]</i>
12:45	Closing Session: Key Messages and Next Steps <i>Executive Committee Members</i> <i>EBSN Secretariat</i> <i>Local Hosts</i>
13:00	Lunch and Farewell

PARALLEL SESSIONS: STRUCTURE

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

- **Track 1:** Systems, Policy and the Action Chain
- **Track 2:** Inclusion, Participation and Democratic Life
- **Track 3:** Learning, Work and Innovation

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: Systems, Policy and the Action Chain

Governance, evidence, policy design, implementation capacity, programme impact and scaling.

Parallel Session R1.1:

Thursday,
June 18th
11:20

Atlas Laaggeletterdheid Brussel: a study on the approach of basic skills, now and in the future

Ludwig Willaert, CBE Ligo Brusselleer (BE)

Knowing adults facing difficulties with basic skills at the heart of national and local data

Armelle Desabaye-Nourry and Veronique Joulie, French National Agency to Fight Illiteracy, ANLCI (FR)

The RIA-AE Network: A Transnational Approach to Monitoring Impact of Erasmus+ in Adult Education

Janina Meyer, National Agency at the Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training / NA at BIBB (DE)

2 Track 2: Inclusion, Participation and Democratic Life

Participation, democratic resilience, outreach, vulnerable groups, community approaches and inclusion.

Parallel Session R1.2:

Thursday,
June 18th
11:20

The role of basic skills in inclusive political deliberation: unlocking participation in the MultiPoD project

Alice Vieira and Raquel Amaro, NOVA University Lisbon (PT)

Too Old to Matter? Literacy, Ageing, and Democracy in Portugal

Dina Soeiro, Polytechnic University of Coimbra (PT)

Making the Invisible Visible: Harnessing the Hidden Curriculum for Adult Basic Skills Development

Margit Düüna, Estonian Non-Formal Adult Education Association (EE)

3 Track 3: Learning, Work and Innovation

Teaching and learning design, workplace basic skills, digital inclusion, innovation and progression pathways.

Parallel Session R1.3:

Thursday,
June 18th
11:20

Making Critical Thinking Teachable: A Dialogue-Based Approach to Adult Basic Skills

Francesca Faienza and Daniela Ermini, Istituto Nazionale di Documentazione, Innovazione e Ricerca Educativa, INDIRE (National Institute for Documentation, Innovation and Educational Research) (IT)

"Easy is not easy enough" – Reflections on Digital Basic Competencies: Project Examples

Jana Wälchli, Schweizer Dachverband Lesen und Schreiben, DVLS (Swiss Umbrella Association for Reading and Writing) (CH)

Supporting adults' holistic literacy needs through emerging technologies

Alex Stevenson, National Learning and Work Institute (UK)

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Parallel Sessions Round 2

1 Track 1: Systems, Policy and the Action Chain

Governance, evidence, policy design, implementation capacity, programme impact and scaling.

Parallel Session R2.1:

Thursday,
June 18th

15:45

Rethinking systems for inclusion: Making lifelong learning accessible for adults with lower basic skills

Ellen van den Broek and Famke de Boer, CINOP / ECBO (NL)

Skill gaps and training provision in times of change: insights from PIAAC's Employer Module

Ana Lídia Pereira, Polytechnic University of Porto (PT)

2 Track 2: Inclusion, Participation and Democratic Life

Participation, democratic resilience, outreach, vulnerable groups, community approaches and inclusion.

Parallel Session R2.2:

Thursday,
June 18th

15:45

Communication skills programme to enhance employability for forced migrant communities

Melanie Ferreira, WordWise (UK)

Digital integration – a key to ensuring equal participation

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

3 Track 3: Learning, Work and Innovation

Teaching and learning design, workplace basic skills, digital inclusion, innovation and progression pathways.

Parallel Session R2.3:

Thursday,
June 18th

15:45

Micro-credentials for Basic Skills in a Changing Labour Market: From the Italian Experience to a European Perspective

Federica Purpura and Arianna Noera, CEIPES ETS (IT)

The Five Capitals of Learning Tool for Evaluating Lifelong Learning Impact and Considerations for Basic Skills Training

Séamus Ó Tuama, University College Cork (IE)

May Lim Sok Mui and Shermain Puah, SIT Teaching and Learning Academy, Singapore Institute of Technology (SG)

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1 Track 1: Systems, Policy and the Action Chain

Governance, evidence, policy design, implementation capacity, programme impact and scaling.

Parallel Session R3.1:

Thursday,
June 19th
10:45

Keeping end-users in the loop: a roadmap from ideas to relevant results

Raquel Amaro, NOVA University Lisbon (PT)

The value of a co-creational community approach for basic skills learning and participation in a changing world

Willeke van der Werf, Nuffic (NL)

2 Track 2: Inclusion, Participation and Democratic Life

Participation, democratic resilience, outreach, vulnerable groups, community approaches and inclusion.

Parallel Session R3.2:

Thursday,
June 19th
10:45

Building a grassroots community of basic skills managers: the importance of extra-institutional spaces to confront challenges, share insights and build connections

Paul Sceeny, NATECLA (UK)

From Fragmented Practices to Scalable Impact: EPALE as a Lever for Connecting Adult Basic Skills across Europe

Daniela Ermini, INDIRE - Agenzia Erasmus+ (IT)

3 Track 3: Learning, Work and Innovation

Teaching and learning design, workplace basic skills, digital inclusion, innovation and progression pathways.

Parallel Session R3.3:

Thursday,
June 19th
10:45

Bridging Basic Skills, Inclusion and Care: Integrated Onboarding in Times of Transition

Marie Quiter, Arbeit und Leben Berlin-Brandenburg gGmbH (DE)

What We Are Learning about Integrating Digital Tools into Adult Basic Skills: Lessons from the CREATE Network

Judith Alamprese, Alamprese & Associates (US)