

# CITO Project Virtual Final Conference

16<sup>th</sup> February 2022



# PROGRAMME

## (Central European Time)

Please make sure to log in 15 minutes before the start of the conference

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|----------------------|---|
| <b>11:00 - 11:10</b> | <b>Welcome &amp; Introduction</b>   |
| <b>11:10 - 11:20</b> | <b>CITO Project Background</b><br>by Dr. Helen Murphy   |
| <b>11:20 - 11:50</b> | <b>Futures of European Policies on Basic Skills</b><br>by Prof. Arne Carlsen  |
| <b>11:50 - 12:00</b> | <b>Short Break</b>  |
| <b>12:00 - 13:00</b> | <b>CITO Project Findings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Darlene Schembri: Introduction</li><li>• Dr. Lucy Hearne &amp; Sarah Bates-Evoy: WIT's Project Research</li><li>• Ailis Mardon-Egan, Elaine Cohalan &amp; Ian O'Keefe: Skills Checker Tool Development</li><li>• Ailis Mardon-Egan: Outreach Model</li><li>• Siobhan McEntee (Video recording): User Experience</li><li>• Joann Power, Olan Power &amp; Liam Lannigan (Video recording): CITO Testimonials</li><li>• Jan Eversen: Concluding remarks and call for action</li></ul> |
| <b>13:00 - 13:30</b> | <b>Panel Discussion</b><br>by Dr. Joseph Vancell, Dr. Trine Ørbæk & Alex Farrugia   |
| <b>13:30 - 13:45</b> | <b>Q&amp;A Session/ Closing Remarks</b>   |



In 2015, there were 64 million people, more than a quarter of the European Union population aged 25-64, who had left initial education and training with at most a lower secondary education qualification. Many adults remain unaware of the learning opportunities that are available to them. In Ireland, for example, there are currently around 65,000 adults attending adult literacy classes, however this accounts for only 15% of those people with unmet literacy needs.

The Check-In Take-Off (CITO) project, an Erasmus+ EU Policy Experimentation project, was launched in 2019 to help tackle this issue by developing an online experience that supports adults with unmet literacy, numeracy, and digital needs. Over the last two years, the CITO project has developed and tested the Check In, Take Off web application (CITO Skills Checker). The CITO Skills Checker is an easy-to-use online self-assessment application, which provides a positive experience for adults to explore their learning goals, recognise their existing skills and identify what skills they could develop.

We are holding this virtual conference to showcase the CITO Skills Checker, our research, and our project results.

# Hon. Clifton Grima

Malta's Minister for Education and Sport



Our vision is that learning should be a lifelong journey for everyone. Learning is an investment that pays off for all; there is no learning without benefits. It is the key for personal development, social inclusion, active citizenship, and sustainable development. This Government is committed to encourage learning for all, irrespective of their socioeconomic background.

The Check In, Take Off Project (CITO) is a vital tool for all those from all walks of life, who want to enhance and further their knowledge and education. Any project that assists in our learning is an asset to the whole community, as it helps learners to identify their goals, check their skills, and guide them towards learning opportunities that are accessible to them. This is a main priority as we strive to prepare our society for today's exigencies.

I look forward to the presentation showing the CITO project findings during this conference, and augur that the findings will pave the way to further this project to the benefit of all those who are endeavouring to better their education and skills.

## Mr Matthew Vella

Permanent Secretary at the Ministry for Education and Sport



Check In and Take Off is an excellent opportunity for adult learners to start on a path of self-reflection and thus turn that result into a window of opportunity for further learning. The outputs produced through the collaboration between all the partner organisations involved in this project are commendable. It is through evidence-based research that innovative tools can be developed to enhance learning within adult cohorts.

# Speakers



## Moderator

**Graciela Sbertoli** has been involved in adult education since 1982. From 1982 to 2017 she worked at the Norwegian institutions in charge of adult learning at national level (SRV, then Vox, and later Skills Norway), and led for several years the Norwegian work on a framework for basic skills for adults. She represented Norway in the European Commission's Grundtvig Working Group (2001-2005), and as National Coordinator for Adult Learning from 2006 to 2017. In 2010 she launched the European Basic Skills Network. She was the network's first Chair (2011-2017), and became Secretary General in 2017.



## Project Background

**Dr. Helen Murphy**, is Head of School (Dean) Education & Lifelong Learning, Waterford Institute of Technology. Helens' research interests are in the field of education policy, specifically policy relating to lifelong learning and adult education and the professionalisation of adult education. Helen is Principal Investigator on two current funded research projects (Exploring RPL for Lifelong Learning (HEA) and Orientating low-skilled adults to learning (Erasmus+). She is also a member of ESREA (European Society for Research into Adult Education) and EUCEN (European University Continuing Education Network).

## Keynote Speaker



**Prof. (Hon), Dr.h.c.mult. Arne Carlsen** is Honorary Professor at the University of Villa Maria in Argentina, University of Pécs in Hungary, Leningrad State University in Russia, East China Normal University, and the International Institute of Adult and Lifelong Education in India. He is Honorary Doctor at Vietnam Institute of Educational Sciences, at University of Latvia, and at Daegu University in South Korea. He has previously been appointed Distinguished Chair Professor at Sungkyunkwan University in South Korea, and at Zhejiang University in China. Arne Carlsen has served as Director of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning, Vice-rector for Education and for Internationalisation of the Danish University of Education, and Rector of the Nordic Folk Academy. He has also served at the Danish School of Education as Director of the International Research Policy Office.

## Speakers



**Darlene Schembri** is a Project Manager within the Directorate for Research, Lifelong Learning and Employability (DRLLE) within the Ministry for Education and Sport in Malta. She graduated in International Relations (BA) and European Public Affairs (MA). She worked on Erasmus+ KA2 projects in her work experience and has been leading the CITO Project, EPAL (NSS Malta), EU Agenda for Adult Learning and the Personal Development Series for Basic Skills Teachers projects.



**Sarah Bates Evoy** is an experienced and qualified Social Care Worker, Adult Guidance Counsellor and Further Education teacher. She has extensive experience working with individuals and groups considered disadvantaged or hard to engage, including all male groups and individuals with experience of homelessness, addiction and prison. Sarah currently works as a Higher Education (HE) lecturer and researcher in the Literacy Development Centre, within the School of Education and Lifelong Learning in Waterford Institute of Technology, Ireland. She also works as an adult tutor with the Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board, Ireland.

# Speakers



**Dr. Lucy Hearne** is a Lecturer in the School of Lifelong Learning and Education, Waterford Institute of Technology. She is a qualified guidance counsellor, third level educator and academic researcher. Her research interests and research outputs relate to lifelong learning and lifelong career guidance, adult and continuing education, career development, practitioner CPD, and reflective practice. She has secured research funding from different sources including an Irish Research Council (IRC) scholarship for her doctoral research in 2006, several IRC grants between 2011 and 2016, and a National Institute of Studies in Education (NISE) Research Bursary in 2017. She is a researcher on the CITO Erasmus+ policy experimentation research project in the Waterford Institute of Technology.



**Elaine Cohalan** is Innovation Manager and has been part of the senior management team at Ireland's National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) since 2019. Elaine leads national services for NALA (Learn with NALA) that support adult literacy learners in addressing their unmet needs in literacy, numeracy and digital literacy. This includes a one-to-one personalised tuition service, online learning, resources and supports. Elaine also leads national professional development services for NALA in the form of events, training, online learning, resources and best practice research. Prior to her role in NALA, Elaine spent over 12 years working in various private and public further education and training organisations in Ireland in project management and leadership roles. As part of the Check In, Take Off (CITO) project, Elaine has lead NALA's role in the project, which included the development of the Skills Checker web application, the communications outreach toolkit.

## Speakers



**Ailis Mardon-Egan** is an experienced project officer for the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA). Ailis is passionate about NALA's vision; where adult literacy is a human right, where everyone can develop their literacy, numeracy and digital skills, and where individuals can take part fully in society.

As part of the Check In, Take Off (CITO) project, Ailis has coordinated the design and development of an online selfassessment web application, the CITO Skills Checker, to help motivate learners to take the next step and discover relevant learning opportunities.



**Ian O'Keeffe** is a Technology Lead at Learnovate, an EdTech research and innovation centre based in Trinity College Dublin. His current interests are in the areas of personalised learning experiences and 21st century skills assessment.

## Speakers



**Siobhan McEntee** took up the role of Active Inclusion Manager with Education and Training Boards Ireland in 2018. Siobhan has responsibility for supporting the 16 Education and Training Boards with the implementation of the Further Education and Training Strategy and other relevant national policies relating to inclusion. Siobhan has extensive experience in Adult Education and Training particularly in the area of basic skills. Siobhan previously served as an Adult Education Tutor and Adult Literacy Organiser for Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board for over 20 years.



**Joann Power** works as an Adult Literacy Organiser with Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board for the past 19 years with responsibility for literacy, language, numeracy, workplace literacy, family literacy and intensive provision in Waterford City targeting the unemployed, lone parents, Travellers, adults with disabilities, ex-prisoners, exsubstance misusers, asylum seekers, refugees and migrant workers. More recently she has taken on the responsibility for the Skills for Work Programme and Learning Support for Apprenticeships across the organisation. Joann has lectured on the subjects of Family Literacy and Integrating literacy for Waterford Institute of Technology (Literacy Development Centre) and assesses teaching practice as part of WIT's Postgraduate Diploma in Teaching in Further Education.

## Speakers



**Olan Power** has been a Cookery tutor with Waterford Wexford Education and Training Board for over twenty years. He teaches on Adult Literacy, Back to Education and Community Education programmes. He also has extensive practical experience in the catering industry.



**Liam Lannigan** is an adult learner attending Tramore Further Education and Training Centre within the Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board (WWETB). Liam is very interested in Cookery and Music.



**Jan Evensen** is manager of Education and Training in Fønix AS, Norway. He has a masters degree in Sociology and has been working in adult education for more than twenty years. He has been working specifically within the basic skills in working life through the Norwegian BCWL-program and formal competences in working life. He has experience in international projects such as Erasmus+ and EEA Norway Grants.

## Panellists



**Alex Farrugia** is Director of Research, Lifelong Learning and Employability within the Ministry for Education and Sport. He is also a part-time lecturer in the Department for Youth and Community Studies at the University of Malta. Between 2009 and 2013, he taught philosophy as an adult educator with the Directorate of Lifelong Learning. He worked in journalism and was the editor of a leading Maltese newspaper. He is the author of various publications distributed internationally.



**Dr. Trine Ørbæk (PhD)** is a professor under qualification in the Department of Educational Science at the University of South- Eastern Norway (USN). Ørbæk is part of the research groups Embodied Making and Learning (USN) and Bodily Learning (NTNU) and the research programme “You will become a teacher ...” (USN). Her research interests include embodiment in learning, teaching and research in higher education. Last published article: Ørbæk T (2021) Bodily Learning Through Creating Dance: Student Teachers’ Experiences From Norwegian Physical Education Teacher Education. *Front. Sports Act. Living* 3:758944. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fspor.2021.758944>

## Panellists



**Dr. Joseph Vancell** is currently a lecturer and researcher in initial teacher education, technology-enhanced learning and adult education, with the Department of Leadership for Learning & Innovation of the Faculty of Education (Malta). He is also the Field Placement Coordinator of the Faculty. Between 2016 and 2019, he was a resident senior research fellow at the School of Education and Social Sciences of the Faculty of Arts, Cultures and Education at the University of Hull, United Kingdom, through a Reach High award (Malta). Dr Vancell was awarded his PhD by the University of Hull for a grounded theory investigation of online efforts for Maltese adults.



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