

# confintea VI

## Follow-up news no. 1



### One year after CONFINTEA VI

More than a year ago, the Sixth International Conference on Adult Education (CONFINTEA VI) was held in Brazil. The conference aimed at renewing international momentum for adult learning and education and, in its outcome document, the *Belém Framework for Action*, agreed on concrete measures in order to translate this momentum into action.



In this bulletin, UIL would like to give credit to the efforts made by Member States, NGOs and civil society of implementing the *Belém Framework for Action* and improving the status of adult learning and education worldwide. We believe that it is very important to document these efforts in order to show the impact of CONFINTEA VI and to make a case for adult learning and education. UIL will also report on the work which has been done by UNESCO and UIL in order to fulfil the mandate given to them by Member States in the *Belém Framework for Action*. A major element of this follow-up work is the monitoring of the recommendations spelled out in the *Belém Framework for Action*.

UIL is pleased to share with you the first CONFINTEA VI follow-up news bulletin, which will be published twice a year from now on. It will not replace the UIL newsletter *Nexus*, but will focus on issues specifically related to CONFINTEA and adult learning and education. If you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe from this bulletin, please inform us by sending an e-mail to [m.elfert@unesco.org](mailto:m.elfert@unesco.org).

### National and regional CONFINTEA VI follow-up activities

In the year following CONFINTEA VI, various follow-up activities have been carried out in UNESCO Member States by governments, NGOs and civil society organisations, such as translating the *Belém Framework for Action* into the respective national language, organising seminars to initiate national or trans-national follow-up activities or setting up a national committee in charge of follow-up.

To enhance the dissemination of the *Belém Framework for Action*, the Ministry of Education in **Thailand** has published a Thai translation of the document. In March 2010, the Ministry held a national workshop to discuss the implementation of the *Belém Framework for Action* in which directors of non-formal education and other stakeholders from five regions participated.

The Ministry for Education, Culture and Science in **Mongolia** published a Mongolian version of the *Belém Framework for Action*. Along with this, other activities have been implemented in relation to CONFINTEA VI. The first adult literacy curriculum and different learning materials have been developed. The non-formal education information management system (NFE-MIS) has been updated with information and data related to adult education, and more activities and elements with regard to adult education have been included in the Education Master Plan.

In February 2010, the National Institute for Educational Policy Research of **Japan** (NIER) organised a CONFINTEA VI follow-up seminar on »The Results and Challenges of CONFINTEA VI«. The objectives of the seminar were twofold: to review CONFINTEA VI and the *Belém Framework for Action* and to promote and further discuss the concept of Community Learning Centres in Japan.

The Japan Association for Promotion of Social Education (JAPSE) runs a website on the Japanese Domestic Grass-roots Meeting for CONFINTEA (in English and Japanese: <http://prof.mt.tama.hosei.ac.jp/~yarai/JDGMCON6/JDGMCON6en.html>). JAPSE is currently working on a Japanese translation of the *Belém Framework for Action*.

The evaluation of CONFINTEA VI and the *Belém Framework for Action* was the key issue of the national forum »Literacy and Youth and Adult Education, a commitment that is challenging us« organised in **Nicaragua** on 1 September 2010 by CEAAL, the Council of Adult Education in Latin America, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the National Literacy Campaign.

CONFINTEA VI follow-up was a topic at the 2010 National Literacy Conference and Awards in the **Philippines** which took place in September. The conference is held annually by the Literacy Coordinating Council (LCC) on the initiative of the Department of Education in coordination with other government organisations, local government units, private organisations and non-governmental organisations. A translation of the document into Filipino is planned. The Civil Society Network for Education Reforms (E-Net Philippines) is engaged in discussions on the *Belém Framework of Action* with civil society organisations.

On 17 March 2010, 40 teacher trainers from all over **Uzbekistan** met at a round table held in Tashkent to discuss the follow-up to the *Belém Framework of Action*. The round table was organised by the National Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan for UNESCO in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Education of Uzbekistan and the UNESCO Tashkent Office. The National Centre for Adult Education is planning the next round table which will focus on issues related to the recognition of and validation of non-formal adult learning as well as quality and monitoring of adult education programmes.



Left:  
CONFINTEA VI  
follow-up round  
table, Uzbekistan.

Lower right:  
CONFINTEA VI  
follow-up meeting  
in Switzerland.

The Ministry of Education in **Uruguay** has established a National Committee for the Liaison and Follow-up of Youth and Adult Education. It will include different Ministries but also the International Council for Adult Education, CEAAL and REPEM (the Popular Education Network among Women from Latin America and the Caribbean). One of the main objectives will be to develop the follow-up of CONFINTEA VI and to publish annual reports on the progress and implementation of the *Belém Framework for Action*.

The second forum on literacy and adult education for the **Maghreb region** (2ème Forum Maghrébin sur l'alphabétisation des adultes) was held in May 2010 in Nouakchott, Mauritania, with the participation of government and civil society representatives from **Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia**. The forum, which was organised by the UNESCO office in Rabat in cooperation with the Mauritanian Ministry for Economic Affairs and Development and with the support of the Mauritanian National Commission for UNESCO and dvv international in Morocco, was dedicated to the discussion of the CONFINTEA VI follow-up in the Maghreb region. Its outcome document, the *Nouakchott Declaration*, contains a series of recommendations to promote adult education in the region. From now on, the Forum will be used as a standing body to monitor CONFINTEA VI follow-up in the Maghreb.

As a civil society network, the Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE) underlines the importance of collaboration between civil society and government and has scheduled national CONFINTEA follow-up and strategic meetings anchored by its member organisations. Follow-up events with participating government officials have taken place in **India, Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines and Sri Lanka**, a meeting in Solomon Islands will be held in January 2011. A comprehensive follow-up pack has been prepared to facilitate the process, which includes relevant documents including the *Belém Framework for Action*, a template for holding a meeting and a presentation highlighting the lessons learnt from Belém.

On 5 July 2010, the Swiss Federation for Adult Learning (SVEB) held a meeting in Bern, **Switzerland**, to discuss the follow-up to CONFINTEA VI. The event – »CONFINTEA VI – The Results; The World Conference on Adult Education and its Implications for Switzerland« – was organised in cooperation with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Swiss Network for Education and International Cooperation (RECI) and brought together 50 participants from the fields of policy and practice. Participants discussed measures to implement the *Belém Framework for Action* in Switzerland as well as implications of CONFINTEA VI with regard to development cooperation.



A six-day CONFINTEA follow-up meeting was held in **Finland** from 12 to 17 August 2010, involving 44 practitioners and policy-makers from the **Russian Federation** and its neighbouring countries **Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Georgia** and **Armenia**. The event was initiated and organised by the Västra Nylands Folk High School in Karjaa, Finland, in cooperation with the Institute of Adult Education of the Russian Academy of Education in St Petersburg.

The adult education association network TAFATAO in **Madagascar** has set off a process of advocacy to raise awareness for adult education and the *Belém Framework for Action*. Four workshops were held in 2010, involving participants from the public sector, civil society and government representatives. A mini-study was carried out on the state of non-formal learning for adults in Madagascar. The outcomes of the study show that the concept of non-formal education is new and that adult education is viewed as vocational education.

The different language versions of the *Belém Framework for Action* referred to above as well as more information can be found on the CONFINTEA website at [www.unesco.org/en/confinteavi](http://www.unesco.org/en/confinteavi).

## Coordinating the international and regional follow-up process

### First meeting of the CONFINTEA Advisory Group

As a first concrete step after the conference, an international, multi-stakeholder CONFINTEA Advisory Group was set up to support the implementation of the recommendations of the *Belém Framework for Action* and to maintain the political momentum for adult learning. The Advisory Group is composed of governmental representatives, agencies, multilateral organisations, civil society and a learner representative. Its main tasks are (a) to contribute to the development and continuous adjustment of the CONFINTEA VI follow-up strategy and (b) to participate in the implementation of concrete follow-up measures. The Advisory Group has a long-term assignment and will meet periodically in order to take stock and to review, adapt and fine-tune the follow-up strategy.

The first meeting took place at UIL, on 22 and 23 March 2010, where the Advisory Group developed elements for the CONFINTEA VI follow-up strategy. It also proposed actions for the monitoring of the *Belém Framework for Action*. UNESCO will coordinate and support the international stocktaking through the development of indicators. The second meeting of the CONFINTEA Advisory Group is foreseen in mid-2011.

## Monitoring the *Belém Framework for Action*

### International online consultation forum on monitoring the implementation of the *Belém Framework for Action*

Taking up the proposals from the CONFINTEA Advisory Group, UIL teamed up with UNESCO's Institute for Statistics (UIS) to explore the possibilities for a systematic monitoring process. An *Overall Monitoring Strategy* and a *Monitoring Matrix* were drafted as essential tools for that purpose. In November and December 2010, one year after CONFINTEA VI, UIL organised an international online consultation forum to collect and exchange further ideas and recommendations on the design, feasibility and procedures to monitor the implementation of the *Belém Framework for Action*, and in particular to further refine the *Overall Monitoring Strategy* and the *Monitoring Matrix*.

All in all, 330 participants registered for the consultation. In more than 100 contributions, experiences and points of view were shared. With regard to the *Overall Monitoring Strategy*, information was provided on existing national monitoring and follow-up initiatives, and principles and conceptual concerns were discussed. Concerning the *Monitoring Matrix*, specific points were raised for inclusion in the development of indicators, and topics which lend themselves to research were suggested. Finally, there were proposals on additional sources of information as well as elements to support and improve the overall monitoring process.

As a next step, UIL will convene an international expert meeting in January 2011 to finalise the tools, in particular the *Monitoring Matrix*, and to design a core set of indicators which can be adjusted for use in a range of regional and national contexts. The meeting will bring together specialists and researchers with experience in adult literacy and adult education from UNESCO Member States, international agencies and civil society organisations. The results will be made available publicly on the CONFINTEA website.

### Regional initiative in Latin America and the Caribbean led by Brazil

The host country of CONFINTEA VI, Brazil, has taken the lead in Latin America and the Caribbean to develop regional indicators in youth and adult education which can be applied for the already existing regional agendas (Regional Education Project of Ministers in Latin America and the Caribbean, Ibero-American Literacy and Basic Education Plan). Under the coordination of the UNESCO Office in Brasilia (UBO), a technical workshop was held with regional stakeholders in December 2010.

The findings and results of this regional process will be presented to the international expert meeting and will provide input to the international monitoring process led by UIL and UIS.

## Other activities related to CONFINTEA VI and adult learning and education

### 2010 UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize inspired by CONFINTEA VI

The theme of the 2010 UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of ICTs in Education – Digital Literacy: Preparing Adult Learners for Lifelong Learning and Flexible Employment – was inspired by CONFINTEA VI and the first *Global Report on Adult Learning and Education* (GRALE), placing adult education in the centre for the first time. The two laureates of the prize in 2010 are the National Institute for Adult Continuing Education (NIACE), UK, for developing a national network of 6,000 internet access centres to serve adults in both rural and urban settings, and the Infocentro Foundation, Venezuela, for its project »Technological Literacy for Older Adults«, providing free access to ICTs to enable adults and other users to participate in lifelong learning. The UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of ICTs in Education, funded by the Kingdom of Bahrain, has been awarded every year since 2005.

### Adult Education at the United Nations High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals

Ana Agostino from the ICAE Secretariat was one of the four speakers from civil society at the round table 2 on »Meeting the goals of health and education« held during the MDG summit (20 to 22 September in New York). In her presentation she emphasised the pressing issues related to adult education agreed upon at the International Civil Society Forum (FISC) and CONFINTEA VI, advocating youth and adult education and learning as being the glue for the achievement of all the MDGs which should be addressed in an integrated approach.

## Publications and documents

### Final Report of CONFINTEA VI and *Belém Framework for Action*

The Final Report of CONFINTEA VI (in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) and the final revised *Belém Framework for Action* (in a trilingual English, French and Spanish version) are available online. The *Global Report on Adult Learning and Education* (GRALE) is now available in English, French and Spanish. All documents can be downloaded from the CONFINTEA website.

Hard copies of these publications can be ordered from UIL Publications Department at the following e-mail address: [c.sebastiani@unesco.org](mailto:c.sebastiani@unesco.org)

### *Belém Framework for Action* at a glance

UIL is currently preparing a »popular« version of the *Belém Framework for Action*. The document, which will be available soon, is geared towards the general public and (potential) learners but also intended for decision-makers and professionals, serving as a tool for information and advocacy.

### Special issue of the *International Review of Education*

A forthcoming special issue of the *International Review of Education* will be devoted to the follow-up of CONFINTEA VI. The issue is expected to be published before the middle of 2011. The co-editors are Carol Medel-Anonuevo, Richard Desjardins and Carlos Alberto Torres.

### Other publications on CONFINTEA VI:

The new edition of the Journal *Adult Education and Development*, published by dvv international, focuses on CONFINTEA VI and the International Civil Society Forum (FISC). For more information, please see [http://www.iiz-dvv.de/index.php?article\\_id=1107&clang=1](http://www.iiz-dvv.de/index.php?article_id=1107&clang=1)

The recent September 2010 edition of *Le Journal de l'Alpha* (n°. 175), published by the Belgian NGO Lire et Écrire, focuses on CONFINTEA VI and gives a testimony of the impressions of learners who participated in the conference.

Vol. 53, issue 4 of the journal *Development*, entitled »Education for Transformation«, contains an article on CONFINTEA VI. For more information, please see <http://www.palgrave-journals.com/development/journal/v53/n4/index.html>

## Upcoming events

- A regional CONFINTEA VI follow-up meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean is being prepared for May 2011, to be hosted by Mexico.
- The follow-up of CONFINTEA will be one of the major themes of the ICAE World Assembly, to be held from 14 to 16 June 2011 in Malmö, Sweden.
- The 2011 ADEA Triennial, which will be held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in December 2011, will focus on the knowledge and critical competencies and qualifications needed to promote sustainable development in Africa.

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