

Seventh International Conference on Adult Education (CONFINTEA VII) Marketplace: Initiatives and Opportunities For Lifelong Learning

Tuesday 14 June 2022
4:30 PM to 5:30 PM (CEST)



CONFINTEA VII overview

The **Seventh International Conference on Adult Education (CONFINTEA VII)** will take place in a hybrid format from 15 to 17 June 2022, hosted by UNESCO in cooperation with the Government of Morocco. Under the theme of *'Adult learning and education for sustainable development – a transformative agenda'*, CONFINTEA will also be an opportunity to explore effective Adult Learning and Education policies within a lifelong learning perspective and within the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In this context, the **Marketplace** session will be held online on **Tuesday 14 June 2022 from 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM (CEST)**, as a supplement to the Private Sector Forum in advance of CONFINTEA VII.

Objective

The Marketplace will present a variety of local and global learning solutions by UNESCO's Global Skills Academy private sector partners currently benefitting both youth and adults. The session aims to allow for further knowledge sharing of best ALE practices that can be adapted and deployed with speed and scale, which may allow for strategic partnerships between public and private sector actors in accelerating progress on lifelong learning.

Background

Adult Learning and Education (ALE) has a crucial role to play in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 4 for inclusive and equitable quality education for all – particularly now more than ever before. The world is changing rapidly and drastically, and as such, the educational challenges we face today are becoming increasingly complex. The rise of inequalities, aging populations, climate change, new technologies, and exogenous shocks (such as the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic) are structurally transforming jobs and labour markets. Skills development, retraining, and upskilling will be needed for all, making lifelong learning a priority for youth and adults. In the context of CONFINTEA VII, UNESCO's Institute of Lifelong Learning (UIL) defines 'adult' learners as those aged 15 years and above, thus, also placing **young learners as a core demographic** in the adult education and learning (ALE) agenda.

In this challenging and evolving context, the role of the **private sector** today is critical in empowering students and workers through expressing the right skills necessary for the present and future workplace, offering work-based learning, investing in skills development, and certifying the skills acquired. In response to the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and to reaffirm their commitment to multi-sectoral partnerships in achieving the Global Education 2030, UNESCO launched the **Global Skills Academy (GSA)** under the umbrella of the Global Education Coalition (GEC) ¹ as a central private sector initiative with the target of supporting 10 million young people build skills for employability and resilience by the year 2029. Thus, the **Marketplace** will feature key GSA private sector partners to showcase promising solutions on digital learning and core 21st century skills development to increase employability in diverse contexts, and to facilitate initial dialogue on the opportunities for partnerships and collaboration for rapid scaling around the world.

Audience

Young and adult learners are the key beneficiaries of the initiatives offered by private sector provisioners. In addition, Member State decision-makers, representatives from multilateral organizations, governments, TVET institutions, NGOs, and CSOs, among others, may benefit from innovative knowledge sharing and best practices of ALE provision.

Contact: For further information or enquiry on the Global Skills Academy, please contact gsa@unesco.org or Ms. Carole Reniero at c.reniero@unesco.org.

¹ The GSA is a sub-mission of UNESCO's broader **Global Education Coalition (GEC)**, a multi-sector partnership effort that emerged following the pandemic to provide appropriate and inclusive distance learning opportunities for all learners, by offering support to countries in scaling up their distance learning practices.

