

London Euroscene Bytesize



London's Voluntary and Community Sector in partnership with Europe to promote Social Inclusion

May 2009

Adult Learners' Week 2009 9th – 15th May

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Objective & Awards

This year's Adult Learners' Week will celebrate the achievements of learners through the Adult Learners Week Awards. Organised by the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE), the Week is funded by the Department for Innovation, Universities & Skills and the European Social Fund.

The Week is the UK's largest and longest running national festival of learning, engaging and inspiring more people to pursue adult learning activities. Adults from diverse backgrounds take part in different kinds of learning activities. These can either be undertaken for fun, to catch up on skills not learned at school, or to acquire new skills to help them do their jobs better through on the job training or formal courses.

As well as promoting education and training for adults, Adult Learners' Week celebrates the learning achievements of adult learners through regional and national awards, including a number of ESF awards for individuals, groups and projects. Nominations for the ESF and other awards have now closed with NIACE receiving over 1000 nominations of successful adult learners.

Adult Learners' Week culminates in an Awards Ceremony on 15 May at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in Westminster, at which the national winners will receive their awards. During the week there will also be regional events and related publicity and activities to celebrate each region's winners.

The London Regional Adult Learners' Week Awards Ceremony will be held at the Museum of London in Docklands on the afternoon of Tuesday 12th May. London Adult Learners' Week 2009 has received sponsorship from many partners including:

- Birkbeck College for Access to Higher Education;
- Pro-Active Partnerships for Learning through Sport;
- London Voluntary Service Council for Learning through the Voluntary Sector;
- Unionlearn for Learning through the Unions.

Other partners actively involved in supporting Adult Learners' Week in London, through membership of the steering group, include:

- Central London Learning Partnership
- BBC
 - South London Learning Partnership

- London Libraries Development Agency
- Government Office for London
- City Lit
- Workers' Educational Association
- Ufi
- Museums, Libraries and Archives.

Representation of BAMER Groups

A quick look at the list of organisations that have submitted names for awards reveals that ESF providers are under-represented with relatively few Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BAMER) -led organisations participating in this years' event. Therefore, from the point of view of ensuring that the Week fully reflects the adult learning picture in London, there is a challenge to encourage BAMER groups to get more involved in next years' events.

This challenge becomes all-the-more crucial when we recognise that 2010 is the European Year Against Poverty and that Adult Learners Week is the largest single marketing investment made by ESF in England. In this way, ESF is being used to support national skills policies by promoting wider access to, and participation in, lifelong learning. The aim is to help more people to continue developing their knowledge and skills and to improve their employability in an ever-changing labour market. Therefore, ESF training providers can tap into the publicity and marketing opportunities that Adult Learners' Week provides.

For instance, as part of the project activities for implementing the ESF cross cutting theme of Health, providers can invite or engage a local gym to do a fitness audit on their beneficiaries and staff and help them learn how to be more healthy and active. Research has shown that adult learning not only develops skills and increases knowledge but is, in itself, also good for health and mind.

Adult Learners Week 2010 – Focus Group for BAMER Led Organisations

In anticipation of Adult Learners' Week in 2010, The European Year Against Poverty, LVSTC is convening a Focus Group for BAMER-led organisations involved and interested in ESF to discuss ways in which the most advantage can be gained from promotional events, next year. This Group will meet regularly throughout 2009 to develop ways in which good practice can be shared and showcased as well as presented for appropriate awards.

The first meeting of the Focus Group will be on Thursday 18th June. For further details contact Kwasi Ofei on 020 7538 4309 or kwasio@lvstc.org.uk

Further Information

Further information about Adult Learners' Week please refer to <http://www.niace.org.uk/ALW/2009/>

If you would like to send out information with our bi-monthly newsletter, Euroscene, thereby reaching a contact list of over 3,000 organisations, then please get in touch with Bill Burke on the numbers below.

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Views expressed herein are not necessarily those of LVSTC.
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