



DVV International Newsletter

Dear Readers,

For those with limited or no literacy skills, everyday life can be very challenging. Understanding the instructions for a prescription, helping children with homework, or even just using the telephone independently – all of these activities can become insurmountable hurdles. This severely limits participation in social and economic life.

Still today, more than 750 million adults worldwide cannot read or write. In Africa in particular, illiteracy rates remain high. DVV International is committed to giving as many people as possible in its African partner countries access to literacy and basic education. Achieving this goal requires sustainable educational structures which the institute is working to implement at all levels.

For this issue of our newsletter, we have interviewed attendees of literacy courses in our partner countries. They tell us how their lives have changed since they learned to read and write. As Lyson Bvumbwe from Malawi puts it, “it is not just about letters and words; it’s about acquiring the tools to navigate life with confidence and competence.” Their stories are a powerful testimonial of the impact that adult learning and education can have on individuals, as well as on society.

Other topics include the state of adult learning and education in Ukraine two years after the full-scale Russian invasion, a transformative project for prisoners in Tajikistan, and the launch of our new Guidebook sustainabALE, designed to support education organisations on their path to sustainability.

We wish you an inspiring read.

Uwe Gartenschlaeger
Director DVV International

Esther Hirsch
Deputy Director DVV International



Spotlight literacy



Learners' voices

Learners from our literacy classes tell their story

What does it mean to learn reading and writing as an adult? What are the challenges, and how does it change your life? We posed these questions to learners from our African partner countries.

Christopher from Uganda

[Read the interview in German](#)

Assetou and Sounounkou from Mali

[Read the interviews in German](#)

Isabel and Fernando from Mozambique

[Read the interviews in German](#)

Kombaté from Togo

[Read the interview in German](#)



Dyson Mthawanji

Empowering minds – a beacon of change in Malawi

In a quiet corner of the Central Region of Malawi, a remarkable transformation is unfolding as adults break free from the chains of illiteracy and ignorance. 34-year-old Lyson Bvumbwe, a resident of Nkhotakota district, recently completed an adult education programme, emerging not only with newfound reading and writing skills but also equipped with valuable life skills that promise to reshape his future.

Read more

[Read the article in German](#)

Regional insights from DVV International and its partners



Interview with Yana Dragovenko

“There is massive demand for adult learning and education in Ukraine”

Two years after the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, Yana Dragovenko, project manager at DVV International Ukraine, talks about the situation in her country and the role of adult learning and education in times of war.

[Read more](#)

[Read the interview in German](#)



Marionela Dabija

On the way towards EU Integration: Countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe shaping lifelong learning systems

DVV International, the European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA) and the European Training Foundation (ETF) held a high-level meeting at the European Committee of the Regions in Brussels, to discuss the crucial role of Adult Learning and Education as a vital aspect of European integration.

[Read more](#)



Interview with Kazem Al-Kafiri

From local education provider to national ALE advocate – an example from Jordan

Kazem Al-Kafiri, President of the Family and Childhood Protection Society (FCPS) explains how – with the support of DVV International – his organisation has developed from a small, local organisation to an active national and international player in adult learning and education.

[Read more](#)

[Read the interview in German](#)



DVV International congratulates Isabell Kempf as new Director of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning

In January, Isabell Kempf was appointed Director of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL). DVV International congratulates her warmly and is looking forward to continuing the good cooperation between the two organisations.

[Read more at UIL's website](#)



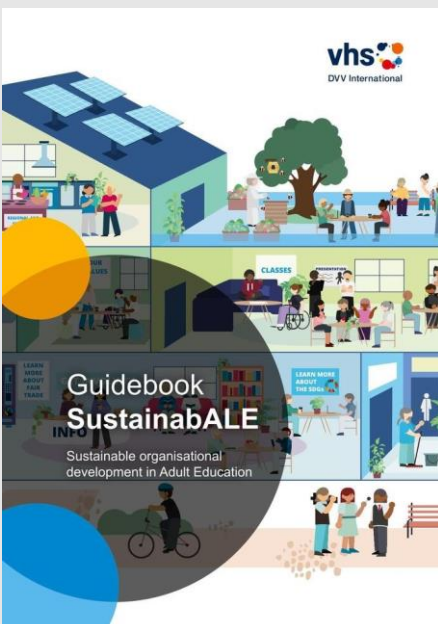
Samariddin Bahriddinov

The art of sewing – empowering inmates in Tajikistan for a life after release

A newly established sewing workshop at Yovon prison in Tajikistan provides inmates with a dedicated space to learn the art of sewing – a practical skill that can be used both within the prison and after their release – and enables them to earn a small income.

[Read more](#)

Publications and ALE tools

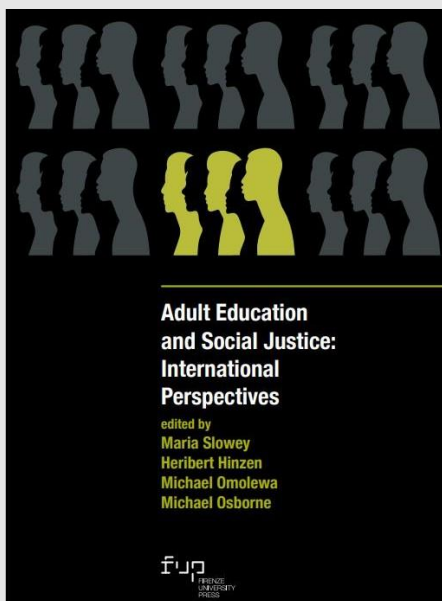


ALE toolbox

Guidebook SustainabALE now available

With the Guidebook SustainabALE and the complementary working tools, DVV International aims to support adult education organisations in implementing a holistic, sustainable organisational development process according to the Whole Institution Approach. The materials promote the mainstreaming of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in an educational organisation. This enables organisations to make a contribution to socio-ecological transformation that goes beyond the implementation of educational programmes and promotes a holistic orientation of the organisation towards sustainability criteria.

[Check out the guidebook in our ALE toolbox](#)



Maja Avramovska, Sonja Belete, Uwe Gartenschlaeger, Heribert Hinzen, Levan Kvatchadze

Developing adult educators as professionals and adult education as a profession

A group of colleagues and former colleagues of DVV International write about the experiences of the Institute in the area of professionalisation throughout the world and within the span of several decades. The article is part of a publication which was inspired by the work and life of Lalage Bown (1927-2021), a highly influential practitioner, researcher and activist who was passionately committed to the role which adult education could play in supporting social justice aims.

[Read the article \(PDF version, the article starts on page 223\)](#)

DVV International latest news



DVV Chairman of the Board Martin Rabanus and Board Member Arne Zielinski on a delegation trip to East Africa

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Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Joachim H. Knoll, former Curatorial Board member, Dies at 91

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European elections 2024 – EAEA formulates key recommendations for adult education

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Study by EUSTORY and DVV International analyses history-related propaganda in Eastern Europe

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For questions and feedback, email us at newsletter@dvv-international.de

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DVV International is the Institute for International Cooperation of the Deutscher Volkshochschul-Verband e.V. (DVV), the German Adult Education Association. As the leading professional organisation in the field of adult education and development cooperation, DVV International has committed itself to supporting lifelong learning for over 50 years. DVV International provides worldwide support for the establishment and development of sustainable structures for Youth and Adult Education.