

ICT, LIFELONG LEARNING, CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND ADULT LEARNERS: WHAT EDUCATORS SHOULD KNOW

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Abstract:

The theme of the 5th European Education Conference about ICT, Lifelong Learning, Cultural Diversity invites an understanding of who the end users, namely, our learners, are and what assumptions we as educators can make about them.

In this paper, I will briefly discuss the basic characteristics of the learners who are embarking on lifelong learning. The learners involved are *adult* learners who are bringing to class their aspirations, intentions, purposes and worries as well as the learning styles and the learning strategies they have developed. Consequently, I will *first* present a brief profile of adult learners as described in the literature. *Second*, I will discuss life long learning as an outcome of global and local economic and technological forces operating in our era. *Third*, I will explore how new teaching/learning methods and media (ICT) can contribute towards *training* and *cultural diversity*. In my opinion, however, for *cultural diversity* to function effectively requires that our adult learners are proficient enough in one or more European languages other than their L1.

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