

## **Biographies of speakers**

### **Guest speakers**

#### **Olivia Sagan**

Olivia is the NRDC Development Officer, based at the Institute of Education in London. She has participated in a Grundtvig project on exchange of practice in the area of training bilingual mentors and assistants. She is currently involved in research on the teacher education of language, literacy and numeracy teachers.

#### **Alison Hay**

Alison Hay lives and works in London. After many years experience as a LLN (Language, Literacy and Numeracy) teacher, trainer and manager in FE, Adult Education and the Voluntary Sector, she moved to the Basic Skills Agency as Regional Director for London. She is now a freelance consultant working with a range of Skills for Life programmes and organisations as consultant and trainer. In 2004 -5 this included participating as external 'expert' in the Austrian initial teacher training programme, and the opportunity to evaluate an ESF project in Hungary.

#### **Antje Doberer**

Antje Doberer-Bey (1946), of the Volkshochschule Floridsdorf in Vienna, has been working in the illiteracy field since 1990, at the Adult Education Centre Floridsdorf, in Vienna. She is involved in course design, counselling, development of teaching materials (including those on CD-ROM), awareness raising, several EU projects, a teacher training course, networking (she is a founding member of the Netzwerk.Alphabetisierung) and research. Most recently, the EQUAL project "In.Bewegung", 2005-2007, has been approved; Antje will be in charge of co-ordinating Module 2: Development of Quality Standards and Job Profile for Literacy.

#### **Monica Heynen**

Monica Heynen is Educational Development Officer at the Literacy Development Centre which is part of the School of Education in Waterford Institute of Technology. She has been involved in Adult Education for 20 years and before that was a teacher of English and French at second level in Ireland.

She has a background in Equality Studies as well as English Language and Literature. She has taught adults at various levels and currently teaches Philosophy of Adult Education on the B.A in Adult Education which is part of the programme run by the Literacy Development Centre.

#### **Ralf Kellershorn**

Ralf Kellershorn (1973) is Head of PR at the APOLL (Alfa Portal Literacy Learning) project. He studied educational science, philosophy, sociology and psychology in Cologne, Bonn and Münster. The e-learning portal "ich-will-schreiben-lernen.de" has been developed as part of the APOLL project. The APOLL project is run by the German Adult Education Association and the

Federal Literacy Association funded by the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research.

### **Vladimir Smekal**

Vladimir studied psychology at Masaryk University and graduated in 1958. He worked at the Child Guidance Clinics for two years and then he became a lecturer at the Psychology Department of Masaryk University. His specialisation is teaching and research is Psychodiagnostics and Psychology of Personality. His research activities have been focused on the function of temperament in behaviour and experience. In 2000 he organised an international conference devoted to optimization of personality and cognitive development of children with special needs coming from minority environment. From 1995 to 2005 he has led the Research Centre for Personality Development and Ethnicity at Masaryk and Charles Universities. He is an author or editor of 5 monographs and more than 200 studies.

### **Lewisham College, UK**

#### **Jo-Ann Delaney – Head of Skills for Life PDC**

Jo-Ann has been working in FE in the UK for almost 10 years. She has taught mainly EFL and ESOL and has done some Foreign Language teaching. For the last 6 years she has run teacher training courses for ESOL teachers and has been working on the development of the new courses to meet the skills for life requirements. Prior to coming to the UK, she worked as an English language lecturer at the University of Tuebingen in south-west Germany. She speaks German and French and can get by in Spanish. She grew up in the south-east of Ireland, but has lived outside Ireland for the last 24 years.

#### **Peter Mayhew-Smith – Director of the Faculty of General Education**

Peter has worked as a Skills for Life practitioner for sixteen years now, starting out as a community education tutor in west London, where he held a succession of roles including home learning manager, creative writing co-ordinator and equal opportunities officer as well as teaching quite an array of different courses. He also co-wrote a guide to London for people with disabilities ('Access in London', published by Nicholsons). He was appointed as a community education advisor to the Local Authority's Education Committee in Richmond in 1993. He then moved to South Thames College and managed the Basic and Key Skills provision there while contributing to a number of local and regional projects including inspection visits for the BSA Quality Mark and the establishment of one of the first Summer Colleges for year 11 children at risk of exclusion and under-achievement. He came to Lewisham College in 1998 as Head of Key Skills and then, in 2001, moved into the role of Director of our Faculty for Foundation Studies, with a remit for Basic and Key Skills, ESOL, learning disabilities and learning support.

#### **Maxine Harraway – ESOL Teacher Trainer**

Maxine has been working in FE in the UK for over 11 years. She has taught mainly EFL and ESOL and has gradually become more and more involved in

teacher training. She has run teacher training courses for both EFL and more recently ESOL teachers. She joined the PDC in Lewisham in January 2004, and has continued working on the development of the new courses to meet the skills for life requirements. More recently she has become involved in giving workshops and sessions for staff development, something she is very much enjoying. She speaks fluent Italian having spent some years there in the past, where she set up many courses and also ran her own private language school for some time. She is currently completing a part-time degree in fine art, for personal satisfaction, and is specialising in photography.

### **Tracy Part – Numeracy Teacher Trainer**

Tracy has been teaching for just over 12 years. In this time she has taught all subjects classified here in the UK as Skills for Life: numeracy, literacy, IT and ESOL.

She has worked in a further education setting for 8 years, specialising mainly in teaching numeracy, but has also taught in a number of different informal educational settings (and countries including Mongolia) including a centre for street children and teaching ESOL in prisons. She is presently working as a numeracy teacher trainer in the Professional Development Centre at Lewisham Further Education College, London.

She has recently completed a Masters in International Human Rights Law – not particularly numerate, but it has enabled her to develop her research skills that she thinks complement her experience as a numeracy practitioner.

### **Fiona Prendergast – Socrates Project Coordinator**

Over the past 12 years, Fiona has taught English as a foreign language (EFL) in Poland, the Czech Republic and Spain, and run in-service teacher training courses in Mongolia for three of those. She has also worked in publishing for five years in Poland, the UK and Kenya. She taught English to speakers of other languages (ESOL), as well as information technology (IT), in the Further Education (FE) college in Bristol, UK, before becoming coordinator on this project. She is currently studying part-time for a masters with specialisms in Language and Literacy and Comparative Education. She was born and brought up in London. She has some knowledge of German, rather more of Czech, and a possible comprehension of Italian, from knowledge of Spanish and French.

### **Sylvia Mingay – Transnational Projects Manager**

Sylvia Mingay started her teaching career as a business studies teacher. She has been actively engaged with European funding for education since 1994. She has managed a large number of projects with partners from all over the European Union.

## **Masaryk University, the Czech Republic**

### **Eduard Fuchs - Project leader at Masaryk University**

Eduard studied mathematics at Masaryk University and graduated in 1965. His research activities have been focused on the theory of ordered sets, set theory, discrete mathematics and history of mathematics. Since 1990 he has

been the Head of the Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science, Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic. At present he is the Vice-President of the Society of Czech Mathematicians and Physicists and the leader of the authors groups engaged in the formation of mathematical standards for all types of schools in the Czech Republic. He is also the Editor-in-chief of the journal "Teacher of Mathematics" and the editor of the edition "History of Mathematics". He presides over PhD studies in the area of General Problems of Mathematics.

**Pavel Horak** - Administrator of the project at Masaryk University

Pavel studied mathematics and physics at Masaryk University and graduated in mathematics in 1964. Since then he has been working at the Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science, Masaryk University in Brno. His research activities have been focused on algebra, number theory and recently also teaching mathematics. For the last couple of years he has run basic teacher training courses for future secondary school math teachers at Faculty of Science of Masaryk University. Since 1997 he has been involved in three projects in the framework of the Leonardo da Vinci Program, two of them already successfully finished, namely "The Role of University Tutor to Develop the European Dimension" and "MultiMatch: A Modular Course to Enhance Key Skills of Transnational Placement Operators".

**Ruzena Blazkova**

Ruzena Blazkova studied mathematics and physics at Masaryk University in Brno and graduated in 1962. She was a mathematics teacher at basic and secondary schools for 12 years and since 1974 she has worked at the Department of Mathematics at the Faculty of Education of Masaryk University. Her activity was focused on teaching number theory and geometry in courses for future teachers, however, now she specializes in teaching the didactics of mathematics for basic and secondary schools and also in teaching the didactics of mathematics in life-long education courses - for teachers taking distance studies. She pays a great attention to methodical preparation of teachers and future teachers who work with pupils with specific educational needs, especially dyscalculia. She has written mathematics textbooks for basic schools and many methodical materials for mathematics teachers. Her significant activities include also lecturing, both for teachers taking long-life education courses and for instructing adults who are interested in working in the area of teaching mathematics.

### **University of Rostock, Germany**

**Wolfgang Sucharowski**

Wolfgang's areas of expertise are in German studies, theology, philosophy and psychology in the University of Munich. He has a doctorate and habilitation in German linguistics with the main emphases on lexicology and semantics as well as communication and artificial intelligence. He was a scientific assistant in the area of linguistics in Munich and Kiel, lecturer for German linguistics in Eichstätt, professor for German language science and

didactics of German in Kiel and Rostock. Since 2004 he has been professor for communication science in Rostock.

His experience covers: school-teaching at high schools as leader of the teacher-training for German in Munich (1992-96), adviser to the culture department in Schleswig-Holstein (Kiel 1986-92), Bavaria (Munich 1992-1999) and Mecklenburg-pre-Pomeranians (Schwerin 1998-2004).

His research areas of interest are: institution and communication, reading and letters of children and teenagers, new media and communication.

### **Elke Wachwitz**

Elke is a teacher trainer for secondary school teachers at the University of Rostock. She specialises in reading and literature.

### **Catharina Wilhelmi**

Catharina is a lecturer and teacher trainer at the University of Rostock. She specialises in drama, phonological techniques and German as a foreign language.

## **IAL-FVG, Italy**

### **Dino del Savio**

Dino has been working in IAL FVG for 26 years. He started as a teacher for young people. Since then he has been involved as Projects Leader in international projects, such as European Youth Start project (where the aim was to improve the quality of developing training strategies and methodologies, tools for teachers, training of trainers), Latin American and East European projects (to foresee and support the cultural, social and economic processes of the territory) and National/Regional projects such as Apprenticeship.

He likes walking and scouting, and especially likes knowing places, people, thoughts and way of thinking... His personal motto is: keep on moving, keep on learning, it's the most important thing!

### **Lara de Carlo**

Lara has been working in IAL FVG at the e-learning centre for the past four years. She has been involved in projects and built e-tivities, on-line and in blended courses. She has also followed Community of Practice as a tutor and has taught courses for e-learning trainers. Since 1999 she has been working with the Youth Start project as tutor and teacher and with the Leonardo da Vinci project (Multimatch: a modular course to enhance key skills of transnational placement operators). She is interested in finding ways to improve adult learning methods and finding strategies and methodologies to enhance the quality of training. The Comenius project is a good and important opportunity for her.

She studied Literature at Venice University. She has some knowledge of Ancient Greek, Latin, French and English. She likes swimming, skiing, walking and has been practising karate for four years.

### **Giorgia Costalonga**

Giorgia graduated in International Relations-Political Science from Padova-University of Padua in June 1996.

In the same year, she wrote her thesis "Le Joint Venture nei paesi in via di sviluppo: strumento di cooperazione o di conflitto? Il caso delle Joint Venture italo-keniote" . It was published by "Gli Economisti Associati" of Bologna.

From 1996 to 1997 she studied for a higher (masters) degree funded by the EU on "European Funds". During those years, she also studied in Brussels and Paris.

From 1997 till now she has been involved in international activities – at the international department of IAL FVG (from 2002 till now) and at the institution "Lepido Rocco" in Motta di Livenza (from 1997 to 2002).

In particular, she is involved in European programmes: she plans and manages activities for unemployed people or small-medium enterprises (SMEs). Inside IAL she is involved in certification, ALTE, for foreign languages such as English (with Cambridge ESOL), German (with the Goethe Institute), Italian (with Università per Stranieri di Perugia), and Slovenian (with the University of Ljubljana).

Her role in IAL is as project manager of transnational activities.

In the last three years she has written two books:

- Indagine sul Rapporto Piccole e Medie Imprese e l' Ambiente: ISO 14000 ed EMAS", Ed. Diade PD 2000
- Newsletter per ISES ITALIA, il Soletrecentosessantagradi, Sezione dell'International Solar Energy Society, edizione Febbraio 2003.

She has also created a CD-ROM funded by the Italian Ministry of Labour on "IL Sistema di gestione Ambientale e le SME".