

The Adult Education Academy

The Adult Education Academy “International and comparative studies in adult education and lifelong learning” is an international study programme for master and doctoral students as well as practitioners in the field of adult and continuing education. It is as a joint module, which was developed within a partnership of several European universities. The European Union supported the development of the Academy within the ERASMUS Strategic Partnerships COMPALL (2015–2018, No. 2015-1-DE01-KA203-002203). and INTALL (2018–2021, No. 2018-1-DE01-KA203-004272). Partner Universities are the University of Lisbon, the University of Pécs, Helmut Schmidt University Hamburg, the University of Florence, the University of Padua, the University of Ljubljana, the University of Belgrade, Dublin City University, Bayero University Kano, Obafemi Awolowo University, the International Institute of Adult and Lifelong Learning in Delhi and the University of Delhi. Partners from practice are EAEA and DVV International.

The Adult Education Academy aims a “process of understanding international and intercultural phenomena” (Egetenmeyer 2016, 19). This is to be achieved during the Academy by discussing theoretical perspectives and analysing international policies on the one hand and on the other hand by comparing selected topics and theories in adult and lifelong learning. The study programme is divided into three parts, consisting of a preparatory phase, a two-week intensive programme in Würzburg in February and a follow-up phase with publication possibilities for doctoral students and practitioners.

In 2023, the Academy celebrated its 10th anniversary together with former participants and lecturers, the head of the University of Würzburg and even the former President of the German Parliament, Rita Süßmuth. Every year, the Academy hosts around 100 participants from over 20 countries. Over the years there were various international professional networks built, which can be seen in the LinkedIn group “Professional network of adult education and lifelong learning”

with over 1800 members. The Academy was also offered during the long-downs of the coronavirus pandemic with a two-week online-study programme (Beu et al 2022). The application period for the Adult Education Academy for all interested parties opens each year in spring (<https://www.paedagogik.uni-wuerzburg.de/lifelonglearning/>). Readers are invited to follow the Adult Education Academy in Social Media over #AEAcademyWue

References:

- BEU, V., LEIBINGER, L., RÖSSNER, M., & EGETENMEYER, R. (2023). Ten years of adult education academy: Contributing to internationalisation in higher education. *Bildung und Erziehung*, 76(4), 395–413.
- EGETENMEYER, R. (2016). Comparing adult education and lifelong learning in Europe and beyond: An introduction. In R. Egetenmeyer (Ed.), *Adult and lifelong learning in Europe and beyond: Comparative perspectives from the 2015 Würzburg Winter School* (pp. 13–26). Peter Lang.