

## **Carlos Farfan Cruz**

**Nationality:** *Cuban (permanent resident in Belgium)*

**Occupation:** *Trainer in adult literacy education; Teacher of Social Orientation and Foreign Languages*

**Motivation to participate in the workshop:** *Since the year 2005, I am a teacher of Social Orientation for newcomers in Belgium. This is an obligatory course for adult people that want to live in Flanders, the North of Belgium. During the course we discuss different aspects of the live in the country. We do it a non-formal way of education and it is very useful for the newcomers and even for those who already live for a longer period in the region, because we take into consideration the learners' interests, skills and necessities as the essential factors to build up the course.*

*In these courses we have people from all over the world, and also heterogeneous in age and level of education, that is why we have to use non-formal ways of education. I teach the course in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, French and Dutch. Every student with his/her own skills and his/her own interests to settle in the country, including illiterate people or people who can use other alphabets than Latin writing (Cyrillic, Arabic, etc.).*

*During these years of work, I have done a lot of experience, experience that I would like to share during this workshop. And of course I also would like to learn much more from other participants looking for solutions together and improve our working with illiterate adults and fulfilling their expectations the best we can.*

**Experience in the field of adult literacy education:** *In Belgium the problem of illiteracy is no so big, but in our target groups, immigrants, it is phenomenon that increases every day. In our courses we receive daily people from all over the world who cannot read and write and it becomes a problem for their integration in the society.*

*During our course on Social Orientation we try to improve the skills of the immigrants when come to live in our region in Belgium, and in many cases we deal with illiterate people, so in the course we focus on trying to teach them reading and writing (basic skills) in a functional way, i.e. to improve their independence in the society.*

*The course on Social Orientation is a course in which we teach the immigrants about living in Belgium, but also basic skills in order to be independent in the society. I also teach Foreign languages, mostly Spanish to Belgians and Dutch as a second language for immigrants.*

**How will your participation in this workshop help address the needs of your community/target group:** *I want to share all my experiences and I also would like to exchange with other people that are doing the same in other countries of Europe. I want to learn more about teaching reading skills to our target group to increase the effectiveness of our courses. I think that the workshop will be very enriching for all of us and it will be reflected in our further work.*

## **Kleanthis Neophytou**

**Nationality:** *Cypriot*

**Occupation:** *School Counselor And Trainer for Young and Adult Psychoeducational Projects. If I complete the Workshop, I will volunteer for literacy trainings as well.*

**Motivation to participate in the workshop:** *I have always been interested in the field of adult literacy. I think that once the learners are engaged in the learning process, then their motivation to*

learn is very strong. I think the acquisition of literacy skills can be a life changing event thus, I would be happy to contribute to these positive changes in one's life.

**Experience in the field of adult literacy education:** *I have been working for many years in the field of adult learning and training (I have studied psychology, pedagogy, counselling and law). My Association will organize a non formal series of literacy meetings at the village of Mesogi, Pafos, where local people with literacy problems will be invited to attend. I will run these meetings myself as a volunteer.*

**How will your participation in this workshop help address the needs of your community/target group:** *According to my knowledge, there are no programs running in the field of adult literacy in my country. Therefore, my participation in this workshop will give me the necessary skills, frame of mind and knowledge to carry out programs in this particular field.*

*My Organization will be willing to participate in programmes at local, national and European level in the field of adult literacy. Also, we will assess the potential of starting a program in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Culture.*

## **Eleni Ivasina**

**Nationality:** *Greek*

**Occupation:** *I am working (voluntarily) as a Communication & Youth Projects' Coordinator of the NGO EN.O Greece and I am occupied as a Youth leader and as a Trainer in adult literacy education*

**Motivation to participate in the workshop:** *I strongly believe in the importance of adult education and lifelong learning, two things that contribute to personal development and social activation.*

*Being trained this period as a trainer for adults, in order to teaching them to successfully develop speaking and writing skills (with the use of blending class and e-learning lessons to achieve top results), I am notably interested in the topic of the TC.*

*I deeply believe that attending this workshop will not only equip me with knowledge about a serious theme but it will also help me in my work and make me become a good specialist.*

*Regardless of the fact that we live in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, in the time of globalization, multiculturalism and technological progress, it is obvious that there are still many people who have no access to education and consequently are illiterate or people who didn't have the chance to expand there educational background in the past and wish to do so now, but face difficulties because of their age and because of the fact that their needs differ from the ones that children or youth have.*

*That's why I am eager to strengthen my teaching competences and learn new and various techniques.*

*I strongly believe that the phenomenon of illiteracy is a serious social problem and undoubtedly reduces people's life quality. Education is an invaluable asset that is crucial in order for people to discover and develop their skills and consequently achieve personal development, a better quality of life and social activation.*

**Experience in the field of adult literacy education:** *I have participated in seminars organised at a national level, about adult education. The courses focused on teaching methods with the use of blending class and e-learning lessons in order to successfully develop adults' speaking and writing skills.*

*Since my organization supports and promotes lifelong learning and non-formal education, its intention is to organize training courses and seminars for adult learners, in order to promote the idea, the importance and the benefits of lifelong learning, personal development, vocational and social activation and entrepreneurship.*

**How will your participation in this workshop help address the needs of your community/target group:** *My participation in this workshop will give me the opportunity to learn new methods and techniques and strengthen this way my teaching competences, to develop my skills, to exchange opinions and examples of good practices. All the above mentioned will help me to become a better specialist and consequently I will be able to help properly in the conduction of the training courses that my organization is going to conduct in order to cover the needs of my community and of specific target groups.*

### **Eleni Plevra**

**Nationality:** *Greek*

**Occupation:** *President of NGO ENOGreece and teacher of ancient and modern Greek language and history, Teacher in adult literacy education*

**Motivation to participate in the workshop:** *Since my organization is going to start seminars for literate people from September, I think it's a good idea to have as much knowledge and experience as I can in this field. I myself am official trainer in adults education field and I strongly believe in the idea of life long learning.*

**Experience in the field of adult literacy education:** *Participation in training courses and workshops in Europe as well as in Greece (Finland and Germany)*

**How will your participation in this workshop help address the needs of your community/target group:** *We live in an area in which lot of people are immigrants , poor and lot of them illiterate. Participation will help us to establish new methods to teach adult literate.*

### **Zacharoula Tzamou**

**Nationality:** *Greek*

**Occupation:** *English teacher(secondary education); Teacher in adult literacy education*

**Motivation to participate in the workshop:** *It is my goal as a teacher to ensure effective planning of literacy skills, as teachers in general need to ensure they plan for the ongoing elements of literacy learning within each unit and across the years, using assessment for learning to ensure children and adults make effective progress, ensuring they reach national and international expectations.*

*Moreover, it is always of utmost importance for a teacher to acquire knowledge and the appropriate tools to improve his/her teaching techniques, battle illiteracy and familiarize himself/herself with modern approaches so as to better himself/herself.*

*Visiting Romania and immersing into its culture is surely a bonus which adds to the overall experience!*

**Experience in the field of adult literacy education:** *Participation in training courses and workshops in Europe as well as in Greece*

**How will your participation in this workshop help address the needs of your community/target group:** *We work and teach in an area where a lot of people are immigrants of poor means and a lot of them illiterate. My participation will help me to establish new methods to teach adult illiterates, to improve their continuing professional development, while at the same time stimulating and supporting their general self esteem.*

### **Monika Kučerková**

**Nationality:** *Slovak*

**Occupation:** *Teacher in adult literacy education, Slovak and English teacher, Leader of general subject's department*

**Motivation to participate in the workshop:** *Our school educates a lot of functional illiterate adults. In each class about 5 or 6 at the age of 15-22. I want to be able to teach these students using methods which are adequate for them.*

*I want to participate in this workshop because I am the Leader of the Department of languages and general subjects and I am responsible for effective teaching of 20 other teachers. I think that me and my colleagues don't have necessary ICT key competences so by the help of this course I would like to gain ICT literacy and transform it to the quality teaching of mine and my colleagues. I would like to learn about the profile of adult illiterate and to gain effective teaching methods for teaching illiterate adults.*

*I expect from this course a lot of things: developing and improving my training knowledge, skills and behaviour; within a multinational learning experience relevant for my professional development, through informational learning activities.*

**Experience in the field of adult literacy education:** *I teach Slovak and English language illiterate adults. The work with them requires a lot of patience and my time consuming preparations at home. Some of students have problems with reading and some of them cannot write properly. They omit some letters or don't write appropriate letters. I want to develop teaching programmes dedicated to adult literacy.*

*I am interested in developing some projects and programmes concerning improving work with illiterate students. I am the coordinator of ERASMUS+ projects so it would be interested to work at this topic within this project, on European level.*

**How will your participation in this workshop help address the needs of your community/target group:** *After participating at this course I will share the gained competences with my colleagues at our school and also in another schools in my area because I am also the chairman of the school-leaving committee so I am in everyday contact with other schools. I will organize the presentation of this course at my school where I will present new gained ICT methods and my aim will be to encourage my colleagues to use these methods in their learning activities. I will inspire them to use new learning and teaching methods as well. After participating at this course I hope my lessons will be perfectly planned and I will use new training methods which help my illiterate adult students to learn more effectively and they will be more motivated.*

## **Eduard Rudolf Roth**

**Nationality:** *Romanian, permanent residence in Spain*

**Occupation:** *Trainer in adult literacy education, Volunteer in several adult activities including training, Economist, Project manager, PhD Candidate*

**Motivation to participate in the workshop:** *One of the first phenomena I witnessed after moving to Spain in 2012 was that – due to the specificity of immigration – the literacy proficiency within Romanian immigrant population is strongly associated its labour market behaviour and outcomes.*

*Not only that more literate immigrant adults were more likely to find jobs, to understand the local labour market and to be actively involved in it, but – unlike functional illiterates – also to gain access to more highly skilled jobs and to earn better wages than their less literate indigenous counterparts.*

*Additionally, literacy-related aspects are responsible for keeping the migrant communities at the*

*“periphery” of the local e-administrative system, with only few people marginally using the solid e-administration tools available for obtaining residency certificates, filling in administrative or fiscal forms, paying fines/taxes, paying for public transportation, etc.)*

*In this context, I aim to be able not only to help the members of my community to access these tools and platforms, but also to teach them how to do it by themselves.*

**Experience in the field of adult literacy education:** *As a journalist I have been exposed to adult literacy in a myriad of situations (with the most impressive one being the complete digitalization of Radio Romania’s broadcast and editing processes).*

*As a master student at Kent University (2007-2008), I was able to witness the broad use of new technologies in the Western academic world and consequently to see the problems with which less literate students (mostly coming from less developed African countries) had to cope with.*

*My master dissertation following another program at the University of Bucharest (2006) was focused on the use of new technologies in the administration process, reflecting the possible handicaps which might be experienced by less literate people in their interaction with other structures (governmental, commercial, educational, etc).*

*In Spain, the heterogeneous dimension of immigrant communities exposed me to adult literacy, thus requiring me to act as an informal trainer or helper, in helping people use job portals, open bank accounts, use a debit-card, pay a fine, rent a bike, obtain a residency certificate via internet, obtain work-related or fiscal documents and information.*

**How will your participation in this workshop help address the needs of your community/target group:** *I aim to learn how to identify and narrow down literacy related topics and, after, group potential beneficiaries within the Romanian immigrant communities (both from Mallorca, but also from mainland Spain) and to deliver professional trainings which could help them, for instance, understand the dynamics indigenous and opportunities of the labour market and to grant them better access both to job market and to indigenous e-administration and e-banking tools and instruments, via the new technologies.*

## **Hakan Demir**

**Nationality:** *Turkish*

**Occupation:** *Office Manager Teacher, Chief of Office Management Area, Teacher in adult literacy education*

**Motivation to participate in the workshop:** *I am taking part in this course, as in many courses before I gave training to adults. Our school is made inclusive education for the disabled. We just graduated last year, a student in mainstream education, including education, although he could not read or write properly. He's training was quite difficult, there are also illiterate people living in our environment and we are in constant communication with these adults. They do not have courses in our school or any official communication, just unofficial relations.*

*I am the office manager and I am responsible for effective teaching of other teachers. I would like to learn about the profile of adult illiterate and to gain effective teaching methods for teaching illiterate adults. Our students don't have the necessary key competencies for learning individual subjects and I want to help them to understand curriculum which they have to learn.*

**Experience in the field of adult literacy education:** *I work with illiterate adult students, in our school and with other illiterate adults in informal teaching. I teach them typing and economy. The work with them is very slow. They make a lot of mistakes while typing and they have problems with*

*writing tests, they need more time to understand the tasks. Sometimes they don't understand them at all. I feel the lack of didactics how to teach these students.*

**How will your participation in this workshop help address the needs of your community/target group:** *After participating at this course I will inform my colleagues about all new methods and competences I gained at this course.*

*I am planning to organize a small workshop where I will inform my colleagues about new technologies on teaching functionally illiterate students. I will try to do my best to help students to learn as easy as it is possible. I will focus on the effective work with our trainees.*

## **Erdal Mart**

**Nationality:** *Turkish*

**Occupation:** *Teacher in adult IT literacy education Chief of Information Technology Area, Information Technology Teacher, Chief of Information Technology Area*

**Motivation to participate in the workshop:** *I want to participate in this workshop because I am the head of ICT in my school and I am responsible for coordinating the new education techniques and methods in lifelong learning programs in my school. We are planning to decrease the number of illiterate adults in our town by opening courses in our school. I really want to have enough knowledge about new and efficient techniques.*

**Experience in the field of adult literacy education:** *I am responsible for organizing new education systems and life long learning programs in my school. We have been giving adult educations for several years on various subjects such as informatics technologies, accounting, parent education, etc. And I want to organize a course on adult literacy.*

**How will your participation in this workshop help address the needs of your community/target group:** *We are planning to use the acquisitions of this workshop in organizing a course in our community. With the help of this workshop I am planning to share my experiences with the other teachers in our local education area. This will help the other teachers reach more and more adults that need education.*

## **Atalay Onur Mutluer**

**Nationality:** *Turkish*

**Occupation:** *Trainer on literacy education, project manager at Konak Municipality*

**Motivation to participate in the workshop:** *I want to participate in this workshop because I believe that literacy is a serious concern in modern day world and want to help the district i work for.*

**Experience in the field of adult literacy education:** *very basic*

**How will your participation in this workshop help address the needs of your community/target group:** *By gaining international perspective, solution oriented creativity and training knowledge, i will be able to create a project about literacy which addresses the problem and hopefully puts a step in for solution in the district i work for.*

## **Jeronimo Bouceiro**

**Nationality:** *Portuguese, living in UK*

**Occupation:** *Not in paid work at the moment, Volunteer with CATH Day Centre (charity for the*

homeless), Trainer in adult literacy education, Worked in several manufacturing industries, Teacher of Technological Education (six years), Degree in Textile Engineering.

**Motivation to participate in the workshop:** *I live in the UK and here it is clear there is a part of the population who have difficulties in reading, writing, working with numbers and understanding basic instructions or messages.*

*Some organisations and charities offer help in this field and I already volunteer with a charity that provides support to homeless people. This includes training for basic skills such as improving skills with writing, reading, numeracy, cookery, health and safety in the home and in the kitchen.*

*I am interested in adult education and would like to train in this field. At the moment I am looking at several options within universities in Scotland to start a course this next academic year 2014-15.*

**Experience in the field of adult literacy education:** *I have been supporting trainers in the charity where I volunteer in organising the courses for the Day Centre users. As I am not a qualified trainer I am not entitled to deliver the courses at the moment but I am looking to train as an adult education.*

**How will your participation in this workshop help address the needs of your community/target group:** *I will be able to obtain material that I will be able to use in my practice as a future adult educator. I will also be able to take ideas from other participants and their experiences in their countries in the field of adult education, namely improving literacy and numeracy skills of adult learners.*

*At the moment the management of the Day Centre is looking at improving the content of the courses provided to the users. This will include new courses on improving literacy and numeracy skills. The offer of these courses is dependant on funding by the local council and the project will probably be approved by next September.*

## **Jennifer Brigitte Corrales Oconitrillo**

**Nationality:** *Romanian*

**Occupation:** *Working as theatre director, teacher of drama and trainer in nonformal education. During the last two years I've worked or developed independent projects. Trainer in social theatre methods (workshops for educational theatre methods, dramatherapy, improvisation, environmental theatre and site-specific performances). I also have courses for instructor trainer for adults.*

**Motivation to participate in the workshop:** *I can say I am a lifelong learning addict, because I was always interested to develop also other skills, in other domains, in order to understand better the people I'm working or studying, to be prepared to face the world challenges and to be connected with the social reality. The real life and differences between people make my work more interesting, emotional and provocative for me. So my motivation for this workshop lies in a strong willing to understand better the problems we are facing, to see others point of view of this problem and exchange experiences about this with people from other countries, and also to improve my ability to work with adults, mostly for illiterate trainees in the future*

**Experience in the field of adult literacy education:** *I work all the time with adults during my theatre projects and also in my workshops/ trainee programs that I develop in the area of community theatre and social theatre. I have worked with different type of adults, starting with youngsters that have to choose between school/ highschool and a job, but also with seniors that have lived in the era of communism and they've worked all their lives in a factory or on the field, doing only physically work and now they confront with the dramatic situation of having to find other jobs and not being able to write, read (in a middle level) or use the computer. In the field of theatre and social community work, I struggled with different situations, different communities with different needs, I met people from all sort of social classes, cultural backgrounds, all kind of*

*abilities and disabilities, and I think the experience I had among them is the best opportunity to learn in this field.*

**How will your participation in this workshop help address the needs of your community/target group:** *Most of the time communities are formed by very different categories of people, that have sensitive spots and tabu subjects. So they need a special approach and a strong and special motivation to participate in the workshops and also in the performance. So, beside the fact that I will extend my research and learn more about the fenomen of adult literacy in our country and also in Europe, I'm looking forward to find out more about the learning and teaching methods, how to encourage adults to participate and become more aware of the social implications and more active. I want to develop and update my knowledge because I strongly believe that the power of community theatre lies in the way you manage to gather the community and make them feel confident in your abilities and way of seeing things in a certain subject.*

## **Elena Nuică**

**Nationality:** *Romanian*

**Occupation:** *Teacher, Trainer in children and adult literacy education, Vice President of Rroma NGO O Illo RRomano*

**Motivation to participate in the workshop:** *I work in a Roma association that deals with school education, but also with those who have passed literacy school age.*

*I want to improve my knowledge, skills and behavior in a multinational learning experience relevant to professional development through informal learning activities.*

*I want to know more about adult literacy in different countries, but also to share my experience from the time I was a school inspector and I ran literacy programs.*

**Experience in the field of adult literacy education:** *Projects at the county level, second chance/ literacy education of adults and training for adults who abandoned early their education.*

**How will your participation in this workshop help address the needs of your community/target group:** *I shall disseminate the acquired knowledge at the community level and at the school where I work within the reunions of the teachers.*

## **Florian Claudiu Tunaru**

**Nationality:** *Romanian*

**Occupation:** *Volunteer in adult literacy education, Student, Active Member of Rroma NGO O Illo RRomano*

**Motivation to participate in the workshop:** *I want to improve my knowledge, skills and behaviour in a multinational learning experience, relevant to professional development through informal learning activities. I want to know more about adult literacy in different countries.*

**Experience in the field of adult literacy education:** *Projects at the county level, second chance/ literacy education of adults and training for adults who abandoned early their education.*

**How will your participation in this workshop help address the needs of your community/target group:** *Disseminate the acquired knowledge at the community level and at the school where I work within the reunions of the teachers*