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Dear EPALE colleagues,



From 5-9 December the European Commission organised the first ever European Vocational Skills Week. Over 900 regional and national activities around Europe showcased excellence in vocational education and training. One of the highlights of the Vocational Skills Week was the Adult Skills Conference (6-7 December) – one of the biggest adult education events in Europe!

During Vocational Skills Week EPALE [showcased interesting blog posts, case studies and useful resources collected from across Europe](#). Those unable to attend the

Adult Skills Conference were able to watch livestreamed sessions on EPALE, and we also provided [live coverage via social media, video interviews and other exclusive content](#) (English only).

On 3 December EPALE also had a special focus on adult learning and people with disabilities where we presented [a number of articles, case studies and resources on the topic](#).

Take part in EPALE's MOOC survey!

EPALE is considering the possibility of hosting Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). We would appreciate your feedback on this potential future development and would like to ask you to answer a few simple questions which will take no longer than 5 minutes. [Click here to take part in the survey](#).

Blog posts

[Learning through nurturing: why care farms have so much to offer people with disabilities](#)

An inspiring piece by EPALE's Thematic Coordinator for Quality, [Andrew McCoshan](#), about the role of care farms in educating people with disabilities.

[Low-skilled? Really?](#)

EPALE Thematic Coordinator, [David Mallovs](#), shares his thoughts on the use of the term 'low-skilled' and the importance of using correct terminology.

[Is there a perfect recipe to empower learners with disabilities?](#)

We talked to [Monika Szakacs](#) from the Symbiosis Foundation who shared with us an emotional story about how education empowered a young girl with a disability.

[Quality in adult learning starts at grass-roots level – the learning environment](#)

When building quality systems we tend to start with the policy level and focus too often on control and accountability. Perhaps this is the wrong approach, says EPALE Thematic Coordinator [Simon Broek](#).

News from around Europe



A lot happened in the adult learning sector in Europe in December:

- [The 2016 National Quality Awards took place in Ljubljana, Slovenia](#), where a number of educational institutions were awarded for the outstanding quality of their work (SL).
- Another ceremony took place in Germany where the [German Institute for Adult Education gave the Award for Innovation in Adult Education](#) to three projects dealing with social integration (DE).
- [A new digital portal](#) was launched in the Netherlands whose aim is to fight illiteracy and promote basic skills (NL).

Join now!

Don't forget to register to EPALE to be able to share your opinions on these posts. [Join now](#) and become part of the community of 20 000 adult learning professionals.

Best regards,
The Epale website team

ec.europa.eu/epale

