

AONTAS Adult Education Summit

Shaping Europe's Future through Adult Education

Agenda



Day 1: Wednesday, 21 October

- 10.00 am **Registration**
- 10.30 am **Video: Learner Voice**
- 10.35 am **Welcome**
John D'Arcy, Chair, AONTAS
- 10.40 am **Play: Full Circle**
James Rickard and **Anto Seery**
- 11.05 am **Official Opening**
Minister Marian Harkin TD, Minister of State at the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science
- 11.20 am **Launch of the LVAI Report**
- **Thomas Murray**, Head of Research, AONTAS
 - **Eve Cobain**, Senior Research Officer, AONTAS
 - **Karyn Farrell**, Learner Voice Project Officer, AONTAS
 - **Philip Finn**, Research Officer, AONTAS
- 11.45 am **Panel: Missing Voices in the National Convention on Education: Adult Learning in Ireland's Education Future**
- Chair: **Dearbháil Lawless**, CEO, AONTAS
 - **Fiona O'Byrne**, Assistant Secretary General, DFHERIS
 - **Dr Sarah Sartori**, Higher Education Strategic Project Lead & Sanctuary Chair, South East Technological University (SETU)
 - **Robert Cullen**, Adult Learner & Criminologist, Success Stories Program
 - **Lisa Kilbride**, Adult Educator, Dublin Adult Learning Centre
- 12.40 pm **Lunch and Exhibiton**
- 2:00 PM **Workshop 1: Building a Further Education and Training Research Network**
- **Martha Bolger**, Director of Further Education and Training, KCETB
 - **Eve Cobain**, Senior Research Officer, AONTAS
- Workshop 2: Building a National Learner Voice Network**
- **Catherine Shipman**, Head of Engagement and Development, SERC (South Eastern Regional College)
- Workshop 3: Community Wealth Building**
- **Seán McCabe**, Head of Climate Justice and Sustainability, Bohemian Football Club
 - **Katlyne Armstrong**, Education Lead, Bohemian Football Club
- Coffee Break and Exhibition**
- 3.20 pm **Keynote address**
Professor Lyn Tett
- End of Day Responses**
- 3.50pm **Final Remarks**
- 4.00 pm **John D'Arcy**, Chair, AONTAS

Day 2: Thursday, 22 October

- 9.30 am **Registration**
- 10.00 am **Video: Practitioner Voice**
- 10.05 am **Welcome**
Lilian Nwanze-Akobo, Vice-Chair, AONTAS
- 10.10 am **Video Address**
Minister James Lawless TD
- 10.15 am **Musical Performance**
Paul Kelly and John Ryan
- 10.35 am **Keynote address**
Professor Ted Fleming
- 11.00 am **Launch of The Adult Learner 2026**
- **Tom Farrelly**, Gasta Master, Munster Technological University
 - **Patricia Higgins**, Interfaith Minister and Celebrant
 - **John Balfe**, Lecturer in Department of Humanities, SETU Carlow Campus
 - **Colm Downes**, Lifelong Learning Manager, SETU
 - **Lisa Oelschlegel**, Independent Researcher and Consultant
 - **Deborah Odeworitse Oniah**, Trauma Informed Practitioner, Quality Matters
- 11.45 am **Adult Education in Sweden: An Introduction to Folk High Schools**
Felicia Hedström, Principal, Jakobsberg Folk High School, Sweden
- 12.15 pm **Lunch and Exhibition**
- 1.15 pm **Workshop 1: Building a Further Education and Training Research Network**
- **Martha Bolger**, Director of Further Education and Training, KCETB
 - **Eve Cobain**, Senior Research Officer, AONTAS
- Workshop 2: Building a National Learner Voice Network**
- **Catherine Shipman**, Head of Engagement and Development, SERC (South Eastern Regional College)
- Workshop 3: Community Wealth Building**
- **Seán McCabe**, Head of Climate Justice and Sustainability, Bohemian Football Club
 - **Katlyne Armstrong**, Education Lead, Bohemian Football Club
- Coffee Break and Exhibition**
- Panel: Adult Learning and Europe's Future: Perspectives from across the EU**
- 2.30 pm
- **Joram Snijders**, Senior Policy Officer, Ministry of Education, The Netherlands
 - **Pia Seidler Cort**, Associate Professor at the Department of Education, Aarhus University
 - **Kathleen O'Hare**, Chair, NI Skills Council
 - **Denise Shannon**, Adult Literacy Organiser, City of Dublin ETB
 - **Dr Vesna Fabian**, Assistant Director, Serbian National Qualification Framework
- 3.30pm **Official Closing**
Mr Colm O'Reardon, Secretary General, DFHERIS
- 3.50pm **End of Day Responses**
- 4.00 pm **Final Remarks**
Lilian Nwanze-Akobo, Vice-Chair, AONTAS