
UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning

Announcement, 13 January 2009



Meeting of francophone countries in preparation for CONFINTEA VI, 11-13 February 2009, Lyon, France

The *Agence nationale de lutte contre l'illettrisme* (ANLCI) and the French National Commission for UNESCO, in close collaboration with UIL, the *Organisation internationale de la francophonie* (OIF) and the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, will organize a CONFINTEA VI preparatory meeting from 11 to 13 February 2009, in Lyon, France. The theme of the meeting, "Enabling sustainable literacy: preventing and fighting illiteracy", will bring together Ministers and Directors of Education and Culture, NGOs, and representatives of bi- and multi-lateral agencies from the 54 OIF countries.

Literacy – particularly sustainable literacy – is an essential issue in all countries. In order to be effective in the long-term, literacy must respond to the specific needs of the people concerned. This must be in terms of their personal and working lives and their lives as citizens including, where appropriate, measures enabling them to re-learn and retain knowledge. Literacy as a continuous process thus means that emphasis should be placed both on literacy and the fight against illiteracy.

The aim of the meeting is to reinforce the idea that knowledge is not acquired "in one go", but continues to develop throughout life. Hence, the thematic focus will be on the following areas:

- sustainable literacy in everyday life;
- sustainable literacy in professional life; and
- sustainable literacy in social and civic life.

The recognition of learning experiences, the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), the literate environment and the multilingual dimension will be addressed as cross-cutting issues.

The recommendations of the meeting will be presented during the Sixth International Conference on Adult Education (CONFINTEA VI), which will take place in Belém, Brazil, from 19 to 22 May 2009.

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