Ref.: ADG/ED/GRALE/20.3396  11 June 2020

Subj: Fifth Global Report on Adult Learning and Education (GRALE 5): National progress reports on the implementation of the Belém Framework for Action and the 2015 Recommendation on Adult Learning and Education

Dear Secretary-General,

In December 2009, representatives of 144 UNESCO Member States convened in Belém, Brazil, for the Sixth International Conference on Adult Education (CONFINTEA VI). Together, they made a commitment to develop policies, improve governance, and enhance financing, provision, quality and participation in adult learning and education (ALE). They acknowledged the need for valid and reliable quantitative and qualitative data, and pledged, in the Belém Framework for Action (BFA), to prepare ‘a triennial progress report to be submitted to UNESCO’.

In October 2011, the 36th UNESCO General Conference invited the Director-General to ensure that a Global Report on Adult Learning and Education (GRALE) is published every three years based on progress reports from Member States. In addition, in 2015, the 38th UNESCO General Conference adopted the Recommendation on Adult Learning and Education (RALE) and enjoined Member States to implement the recommendation and further strengthen international cooperation with regard to ALE. Consequently, since its fourth issue, GRALE monitors both the BFA and the RALE.

GRALE presents strong evidence on how ALE can help countries address current and future challenges, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through their monitoring function, the reports provide a continuous update on the developments in ALE in UNESCO Member States from a global perspective together with relevant background information for analysts, practitioners and policy-makers.

Four reports have been issued since 2009. GRALE 5 will be published in 2022 in the context of the Seventh International Conference on Adult Education (CONFINTEA VII). As an essential part of lifelong learning, adult learning and education will be examined for its contribution to achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in general, and SDG 4 on education in particular. The thematic focus of the report is on citizenship education, exploring its full potential for the SDGs; assessing the progress being made across countries and regions; and examining key related concepts such as ‘active citizenship’ and ‘global citizenship’.
In order to deliver a national progress report that will provide data for GRALE 5, I should be grateful if you would kindly nominate a contact person for your country and send his/her contact details to the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL), for the attention of Mr Jan Kairies (grale@unesco.org), no later than 30 June 2020. The nominated contact person will be responsible for coordinating the preparation of the national report, for which purpose s/he will receive an internet link to the GRALE 5 survey along with explanatory information that will facilitate submission of your country’s national progress report.

The progress report is designed to be completed online. Please note that the deadline for Member States’ submission of their completed report is 30 September 2020. A paper version of the questionnaire will also be available on request, but will be sent out for information purposes only.

I would also like to inform you that UIL will organize together with DVV International five regional workshops to enhance monitoring capacities in ALE on national levels. These workshops are expected to facilitate the preparation of the national reports in a significant manner. UIL will invite nominated focal points from Member States to these workshops. Given the COVID-19 situation, the workshops will most probably be held in an online format.

For any enquiries or assistance, I invite you to contact Mr Kairies at UIL, Feldbrunnenstr. 58, 20148 Hamburg, Germany, Tel. +49 (0) 40 44 80 41 39; Fax: +49 (0) 40 410 7723; e-mail: grale@unesco.org.

We are confident that this survey will be a valuable tool in the development of a comprehensive overview of adult learning and education across UNESCO Member States.

Please accept, dear Secretary-General, the assurances of my high consideration.

Stefania Giannini