



## PIAAC Adult Skills

**Friday 28 March 2014, 1000-1530**

Scotland Adult Learning Partnership, 22 Hill St., Edinburgh EH2 3JZ

### Programme

- 1000     **Registration and coffee**
- 1030     **Welcome and introductions**  
Lesley Whelan, Manager, College Development Network and  
Prof. Mike Osborne, Co-leader of Social Justice, Place and Lifelong Education  
Research Cluster, Director of CRADALL and Co-director of PASCAL,  
University of Glasgow
- Lesley and Mike will welcome delegates and provide a brief overview of the event.
- 1040     **Learning from experience**  
William Thorn, Senior Analyst at the Directorate for Education, OECD
- William will cover areas relating to his role supporting development of a regional board for Glasgow.
- 1145     **Panel discussion**  
A panel of invited guests will discuss some of the key issues and areas emanating from the PIAAC study and related work.
- Panel Members will include:
- Roger Mullin, Inter-ed  
Oscar Valiente, University of Glasgow and Fundacion Bofil  
John McCann, Independent Consultant
- 1245     **Lunch**
- 1345     **Parallel workshops**
- Delegates will have an opportunity to engage in workshop discussions throughout the afternoon to build next steps and understanding.
- 1500     **Reporting back and final thoughts**  
Prof. Mike Osborne and Lesley Whelan
- Delegates will have an opportunity to feed through thoughts from the day and consider any final reflections.
- 1530     **Close**

## PIAAC Seminar

This seminar aims to consider the results of the OECD Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC). OECD aims that Educators, policy makers and labour economists will use PIAAC information to develop economic, education and social policies that will continue to enhance the skills of adults.

The data from the PIAAC survey of Adult Skills represents a way to directly measure the capabilities/competencies of adults. It evaluates key competencies (literacy, arithmetic, problem-solving in technology rich environments) and their use in the workplace. It also gathers information on the background context and results of the development and use of the key competencies. Countries involved in the study use the data to facilitate a better understanding of:

- Performance of education and training systems
- The extent and dimensions of illiteracy and poor literacy
- Gaps between labour markets and education and training
- Equity levels in access to education and intergenerational mobility
- Transition from education to work
- Identification of at-risk populations
- Links between key cognitive skills and variables, such as demographics, educational background, health, etc.

This seminar will focus on the findings of the most recent PIAAC study and consider questions around:

- What are the biggest challenges countries are facing in order to improve their skills development-related policies?
- How can we overcome youth unemployment, the brain drain or take advantage of the skills of the frustrated over-qualified?
- How can Scotland make better use of its talent pool?