**Celebrations in adult education - jubilees as a remember for the future: Community Learning Centers in a local, regional and global perspectice**

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2019 is an important year. Having my biographical lens on as a German citizen I am aware of the Weimarer Republic as our first democracy which followed on the end of World War 1, the November revolution, the end of our emperor system, and the end of German colonialism in Africa and Asia. But the end of something has always the potential of breeding something new and better. 1919 saw in Germany the voting right for women, the eight-hours-working day, the founding of Bauhaus architecture – and this year we also celebrate 100 years of the Volkshochschule as our community-based adult education center. Nowadays you find them everywhere in German villages, towns and cities with the participation of almost 10 million of adults in all kinds of education, learning and training activities.

A key success of advocacy or foresight at the time was that a clause was taken into the Weimarer constitution of 1919 which reads: “Adult education, including the Volkshochschulen, have to be supported by Government on the national, regional, and local level”. Today there is such a governance framework for policy, legislation, financial support for adult education, including the Volkshochschulen, which is a fundamental building block available for all the centers and their activities. This being a constitutional matter is what is at the heart of the celebrations of 100 years of Volkshochschulen – although many Volkshochschulen in Germany were started before or after that date, just like many folkhighschools, especially as residential colleges, were introduced in the Nordic countries before and after. Having this ESREA conference in Hungary it is worth noting that the town of Bajascentivan claims to have had the first folkhighschool there in 1914.

What are central historical developments having lasting effects for living together today? How can we work on a better understanding of the past which has an impact on our present and future? How can educational institutions contribute? What is the potential of adult education within lifelong learning? How can they touch the social reality of today: for example what are the roles of Volkshochschulen in the development of skills and competencies for migrants and refugees? These are the questions we should try to find answers in selected examples of historical dimensions in order to show their local, national, regional and even global impact.

**Celebrations as cultural memory**

The 50 years of DVV International, the Institute of International Cooperation of the German Adult Education Association, is also worthy to remember. It started in 1969 as a rather small institution on the one hand embedded in the architecture of education in development aid, and on the other with its backbone in the community-based adult education centers. Today it has a structure with offices and partners all across the world.

We are aware of an important centenary in Britain where in November 1919 the Ministry of Reconstruction published the Final Report on Adult Education. We know that 40 years ago adult education was institutionalized in Serbia at the University of Belgrade. But what are the other birthdays in our field of adult learning and education around the globe that we should remember this year? Could you help to identify?