



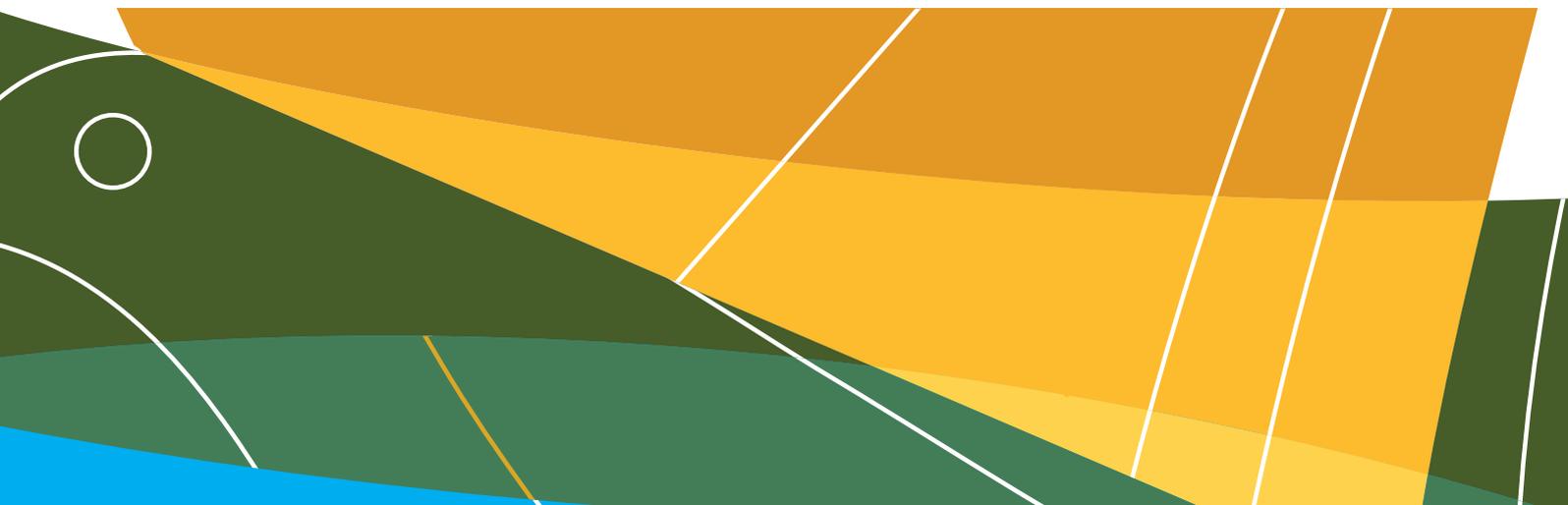
REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

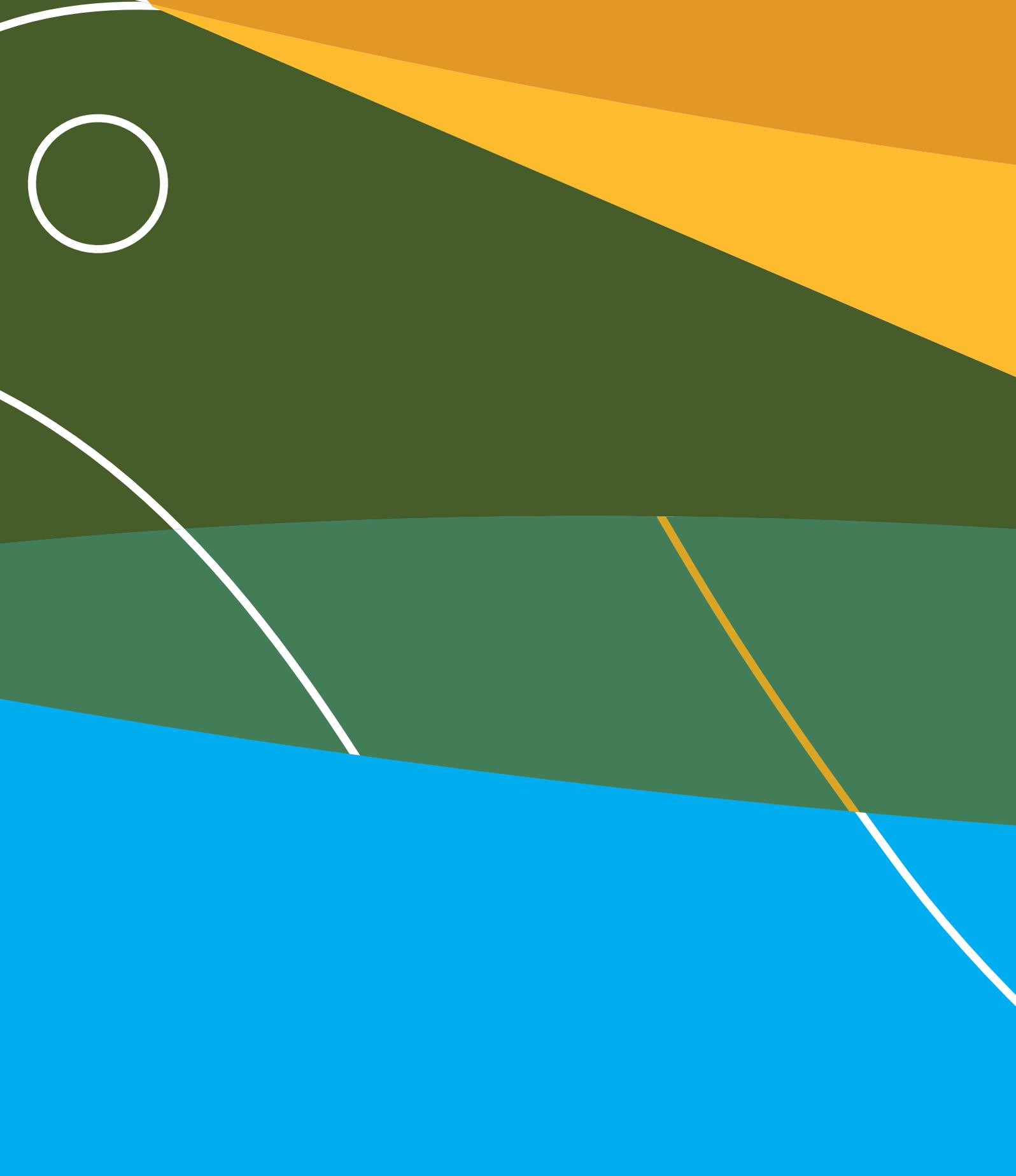


Conference
Literacy for All

Nicosia, 5-6 September 2012

Venue: Filoxenia Conference Centre, Nicosia, Cyprus







Conference
Literacy for All

Nicosia, 5-6 September 2012

Programme of the Conference

Wednesday 5 September 2012

09:00 - 10:30

Tour of Nicosia

12:15

Arrival to Conference Centre, Registration

12:15 - 14:00

Lunch

Conference Chair: Petros Pashiardis, Open University of Cyprus

14:00 - 14:15

Welcome by Mr George Demosthenous, Minister of Education and Culture, Cyprus

14:15 - 14:30

Opening speech by Antonio Silva Mendes, EU Commission

14:30 - 15:00

Opening speech by the Chair of the High Level Group H.R.H. Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands

15:00 - 15:30

Coffee break

15:30 - 18:00

Parallel workshops:

- Workshop 1: **Literacy: what is the big deal?**
Georgios Tsiakalos, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
William Cope, University of Illinois
Margreet de Vries, Reading and Writing Foundation, Netherlands (former Director)
- Workshop 2: **Thematic chapter: Young children**
Renate Valtin, Humboldt University
Jackie Marsh, University of Sheffield
Roel van Steensel, University of Amsterdam
- Workshop 3: **Thematic chapter: Primary years**
Karin Taube, University of Umeå
Eithne Kennedy, St. Patrick's College
Michalis Papadopoulos, Ministry of Education and Culture, Cyprus
- Workshop 4: **Thematic chapter: Adolescents**
Sari Sulkunen, University of Jyväskylä
William Brozo, George Mason University
Christine Garbe, University of Cologne
- Workshop 5: **Thematic chapter: Adults**
Greg Brooks, University of Sheffield
Marie-Thérèse Geffroy, French National Agency to Fight Illiteracy
JD Carpentieri, University of London

20:00

Dinner

Thursday 6 September 2012

09:00 - 09:15

Reflection on the previous day, introduction

Conference Chair: Petros Pashiardis, Open University of Cyprus

09:15 - 10:00

Plenary, keynote speakers:

- Carolyn Medel – Anonuevo, Unesco
- Mary Kalantzis, University of Illinois

10:00 - 11:15

Panel Discussion- Workshop feedback:

- Carolyn Medel-Anonuevo, Unesco
- Georgios Tsiakalos, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
- Olympia Stylianou, Ministry of Education and Culture, Cyprus
- Egil Gabrielsen, University of Stavanger
- Erika Mann, Facebook

11:15 - 11:45

Coffee break

11:45 - 12:30

Literacy in practice

Plenary:

- Athena Michaelidou, Cyprus Pedagogical Institute
- Inez Bailey, National Adult Literacy Agency, NGO Ireland

12:30 - 12:45

Closing speech by Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou

12:45 - 13:00

Family Photo

13:00 - 14:30

Lunch

13:00 - 13:30

Press Conference

Vassiliou Androulla, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism, Youth and Sport

Androulla Vassiliou is currently European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism, Youth and Sport. Previously, she served as Commissioner for Health, from February 2008 to end 2009.

Ms Vassiliou studied law and international affairs in London and practiced law in Cyprus for 20 years (1968 - 1988). During this period she acted as legal advisor to The Standard Chartered Bank and, later, to the Bank of Cyprus.

Before her appointment to the European Commission, Ms Vassiliou was actively involved in politics in her home country, Cyprus. She was twice elected to the Cypriot House of Representatives: in 1996 and 2001 – representing the Movement of United Democrats (affiliated to the European Liberal Democrats and Reform Party ELDR).

As a Cypriot parliamentarian, she was an active member of the European Affairs Committee and represented the Cyprus Parliament to the Convention for the future of Europe as an alternate member.

Androulla Vassiliou was active in the field of international affairs and human rights as a President of the UN Association of Cyprus from 1978 until 1992 and as President of the World Federation of UN Associations from 1991 until 1995. She was unanimously elected Honorary President of the World Federation at the end of her term. Ms Vassiliou was also President of the Cyprus Federation of Business and Professional Women from 1996 until 2000, Vice-President of the ELDR and chairperson of the European Liberal Women's Network (2001 - 2006). From 2002 to 2008 she chaired the Board of Trustees of the Bank of Cyprus Oncology centre in Cyprus.

Commissioner Vassiliou is married to Dr. George Vassiliou, former Cypriot President and Chief Negotiator for Cyprus' accession to the EU. She has three children.

H.R.H. Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands, Chair of the High Level Group of experts in the field of literacy

H.R.H. Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands has been committed to literacy for years, based on the conviction that literacy is a basic human right and a precondition for a healthy, strong and durable society.

It was while doing her Masters in Journalism at UC Berkeley in the US that Princess Laurentien first encountered people who had learned to read and write later in life. Following her studies, she worked for CNN Headline News in Atlanta. Years later, alongside her professional activities in Brussels, she taught Flemish adults with low literacy skills as a volunteer.

In the Netherlands, Princess Laurentien received the ABC award for her literacy work in 2003, the year she also established the Reading & Writing Foundation (Stichting Lezen & Schrijven). The aims of the foundation are to raise awareness, bring together traditional and new stakeholders and develop pilot projects with a view to rolling out these practical solutions more broadly. Princess Laurentien is Chair of the foundation.

Princess Laurentien chaired the High Level Expert Group on Literacy since its launch on 1 February 2011 by the European Commission. She was appointed UNESCO Special Envoy on Literacy for Development on 24 March 2009. In addition, Princess Laurentien is patron of a range of literacy and language-related organisations, including: UNESCO Amsterdam World Book Capital; the Dutch Language Association; Foundation for studying with disabilities; the Netherlands Audio and Braille Library; Association of Public Libraries. In 2006, she chaired the Jury of the prestigious AKO Literature Prize 2006 and in 2005 she was Patron of the Hans Christian Andersen Year. She is also President of the European Cultural Foundation. Princess Laurentien was awarded the Dutch Majoor Bosshardt Prize for her dedication in fighting illiteracy.

Professionally, the Princess has held European functions in strategic communications, having worked both within large PR companies and as an independent advisor. In the area of the environment, she is a Fellow at the European Climate Foundation and Vice-President at Flora & Fauna International.

She is the initiator and author of a children's book series, Mr Finney, working with Dutch illustrator Sieb Posthuma. The Mr Finney adventures are parables about how we treat our planet and each other. *Mr Finney and the world turned upside-down* was published in October 2009 (available in Dutch, English, Catalan, Spanish, Chinese and Bulgarian in 2011); *Mr Finney and the other side of the water* was launched on 2 February 2011.

Princess Laurentien and Prince Constantijn have three children: Eloise (2002), Claus-Casimir (2004) and Leonore (2006).

Demosthenous George, Minister of Education and Culture, Cyprus

George Demosthenous obtained the Diploma of Mechanical Engineering (Dipl.-Eng) and a Doctorate Diploma (PhD) from the National Technical University of Athens. Throughout his studies he was supported by scholarships provided by the Republic of Cyprus and the State Scholarships Foundation of Greece, and has obtained numerous distinctions and awards. He is a member of the Technical Chamber of Cyprus and other international scientific societies such as ASME, ImechE, SME, and SAE.

Prior to his appointment as Minister of Education and Culture, George Demosthenous has served as a Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering of Frederick and the Vice-Rector of the University. Upon the establishment of Frederick University he held the position of the Head of the Mechanical Engineering Department

As Vice-Rector of Frederick University he was responsible for the development, operation and evaluation of all new undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral programs of study. He was also responsible for the program review and re-evaluation of all programs of study of the University and has collaborated with the University's Internal Quality Assurance Committee on matters relating to teaching evaluation of the academic staff and the advancement of effective teaching methods and technologies. He was systematically involved with issues pertaining to quality assurance in higher education and has chaired the Committees of the Senate, Studies and Student Welfare, Research, Administration and Staff, and Public and International Relations. He was also a member of the Committee of Planning and Development of the University Council and the coordinator for the University of the "Development And Operation Of Enterprise Liaison Offices In Universities Operating In The Republic Of Cyprus" project.

His research interests mainly focus on subjects related to Manufacturing Processes and Engineering Design. He has systematically been involved, at a research level, with the experimental and numerical analysis for the design of new road guardrail system and automotive-guardrail crashworthiness. He has recently been actively involved in research in the field of Learning in Natural Sciences and Engineering. He participated as a project coordinator and scientific coordinator in a large number of research projects funded by the Research Promotion Foundation and the European Union. From his research work a large number of publications have been published in international scientific journals and conferences. He also is the co-author of two scientific books.

Professor George Demosthenous is the President of the Foundation for the Management for the European Lifelong Learning Programmes and a member of the Cyprus Scientific Council. In the period 2006 - 2010 he represented Cyprus in the "Committee for Materials, Physics and Nano-technologies" of the COST EU program. He has also participated in various Scientific and Organizing Committees of national and

international conferences. George Demosthenous was born in Pano Zodia and is 47 years old. He is married and has one son.

Stylianou Olympia, Permanent Secretary, Cyprus Ministry of Education and Culture

Olympia Stylianou was born in Lefkosia in 1954. She attended the English School in Nicosia and studied Economics at the University of London and obtained the degrees of BSc Economics from London School of Economics and MSc Economics from the School of Oriental and African Studies.

During the period 2.10.1980 to 30.6.1992 Mrs. Stylianou worked at the Planning Bureau of the Republic of Cyprus where she attained the post of Senior Planning Officer. Her duties included conducting surveys, submitting proposals on policy, evaluating plans and programs, planning and monitoring the implementation of Development Plans in various fields. Among others, she dealt with issues concerning population, human resources, unemployment, industrial training, prices, income distribution, the role of women in economic development, policy on technology and social policy.

From 1.7.1992 up to 30.11.2004 Mrs. Stylianou held the post of Director of Industry, a title renamed as Director of Commerce and Industry, at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism. She held the responsibility of organizing, monitoring and coordinating work at the following sectors: Industrial development, industrial areas, quality standardization and control, industrial applications, high technology industry, energy, industry and environment, metrology, handicrafts. Within the framework of the competences, she assumed an active role in dealing with issues of harmonization with the European Union, especially concerning the Chapters of free movement of goods, energy and industry.

Following her promotion to the office of Permanent Secretary in October 2004, Mrs. Stylianou was placed by the Council of Ministers as Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education and Culture as of 1.12.2004.

Mrs. Stylianou was a member and Chairperson of the Cyprus Apprenticeship Board member of the Boards of Management of the Productivity Centre, the Higher Technical Institute and Vocational Rehabilitation Centre, Vice Chairman of the Cyprus Organization for standard and Control of Quality and Chairperson of the Cyprus Energy Foundation. Mrs Stylianou is married and has two daughters.

Mendes António Silva, EU Commission

Since March 2012, António Silva Mendes has been the Director for Life Long Learning policies & programme at the Directorate-General (DG) of Education & Culture in the European Commission. Of Portuguese nationality, he studied mechanical engineering at the University of Lisbon and was professor at the same University for 10 years. Then he became director at the Ministry of Industry in Lisbon. He began his career at the European Commission in 1990 in DG Enterprise, where he took part in international negotiations in the field of the industrial policy and contributed to the promotion of European industrial competitiveness. He was appointed Head of Unit in the Social policy unit in DG Human Resources. In 2003, he headed the Pensions unit, before joining DG Education & Culture in April, 2006 as Director of Resources.

Pashiardis Petros, Open University of Cyprus

Dr. Petros Pashiardis is a Professor of Educational Leadership and the Academic Head of the “Studies in Education” Program with the Open University of Cyprus. He has also worked at the University of Cyprus from 1992-2006 when left the university as an Associate Professor of Educational Administration. Petros

studied Educational Administration at the University of Texas at Austin as a Fulbright Scholar from 1987 to 1990. Before joining the University of Cyprus he worked as a school teacher, an Education Consultant with the Texas Association of School Boards and an Assistant Professor with the University of Texas-Permian Basin where he was heavily involved in research and teaching on the School Principalship, on Strategic Planning in Education as well as other Educational Leadership issues. He has also worked or lectured in many countries including Malta, Great Britain, India, New Zealand, Greece, Germany, South Africa, Switzerland, Australia, and the United States. Furthermore, during the periods of January-August 1999, summer 2000, 2001, and 2002, he was invited as a Visiting Associate Research Scientist with the Texas A & M University. He has also been a Visiting Professor with the University of Pretoria, in South Africa in 2004 and a Visiting Scholar at the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa. On his own or with others, he has authored well over 100 articles in scholarly and professional journals many of them on aspects of leaders and leadership. Within Cyprus, this has included research into the role of the principal. He has published a book in Greek on teacher evaluation and papers on the role of the principal in Cyprus. He has also published a book in Greek on the Effective Schools Movement together with his wife, Dr. Georgia Pashiardis. However, his interests in this area have become increasingly international, stretching to the USA where it all began, the UK, USA, New Zealand, Malta, India and Greece. In his role as vice president for publications for the Commonwealth Council for Educational Administration and Management, he edited a book entitled International Perspectives in Educational Leadership, which has been published by the University of Hong Kong-Institute for Education in 2001. Most recently (2008), he co-edited the International Handbook on the Preparation and Development of School Leaders, together with Jacky Lumby and Gary Crow. For the period 2004-2008, Professor Pashiardis has been President of the Commonwealth Council for Educational Administration and Management. He is now on the Board of Governors of the Commonwealth Foundation.

SPEAKERS - PRESENTERS

Bailey Inez, Director of the National Adult Literacy Agency

Inez Bailey has been the Director of the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) since 1997. NALA is a non-profit membership organisation concerned with national co-ordination, training and policy development in adult literacy work in Ireland. As Director of NALA, Inez has been responsible for initiating the development of a quality framework, including an assessment framework for the adult literacy service, devising a major basic education distance learning project on TV and radio and mainstreaming workplace literacy programmes. She is currently on an EdD programme with the University of Sheffield.

Brooks Greg, University of Sheffield

Greg Brooks (Emeritus Professor of Education) has been engaged in educational research since 1977, and held a Personal Chair at the University of Sheffield (2002 -2007). He has published widely on literacy intervention schemes, family literacy, adult literacy, trends in attainment over time, and the initial teaching of reading and spelling. He is a former President and now an Honorary Life Member of the UK Literacy Association, and was elected to the Reading Hall of Fame in 2011. Since 1991 he has been associated with the International Development in Europe Committee of the International Reading Association, and in 2013-15 will chair the Federation of European Literacy Associations.

Brozo G. William, George Mason University

William G. Brozo is a Professor of Literacy at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, USA. He is the author of numerous articles and books on literacy development for children and young adults. As an international consultant, Dr. Brozo has provided technical support to teachers from the Balkans to the Middle East. He is currently a member of a European Union research grant team developing content literacy curriculum and providing professional development for secondary teachers. He is also a member of the Learning Metrics Task Force of UNESCO/Brookings responsible for establishing universal learning standards and viable assessments for children and youth throughout the world.

Carpentieri JD, University of London

Mr JD Carpentieri served as Rapporteur for the High Level Group on Literacy. He is based at the Institute of Education, London, where he is a Senior Policy and Research Officer at the Institute's National Research and Development Centre for Adult Literacy and Numeracy (NRDC). He teaches an internationally focused Masters-level module on policy issues in adult literacy, language and numeracy, and also serves as one of the Institute of Education's European Union Development Coordinators. His research interests include family literacy and health literacy. Prior to entering academia, he wrote and edited healthcare materials targeted at adults with literacy difficulties.

Cope William, University of Illinois

Bill Cope is a Research Professor in the Department of Educational Policy Studies at the University of Illinois. He is also Director of Common Ground Publishing, developing internet publishing software, Scholar, for schools and scholarly publications, located in the Research Park at the University of Illinois. Recent books include *The Future of the Academic Journal*, (with Angus Phillips, eds) Chandos, Oxford, 2009 and *Towards a Semantic Web: Connecting Knowledge in Academic Research*, (with Kalantzis and Magee), Woodhead, Cambridge, 2010. With Mary Kalantzis, he is co-author or editor of: *Multiliteracies: Literacy Learning and the Design of Social Futures*, Routledge, 2000; *New Learning: Elements of a Science of Education*, Cambridge University Press, 2008/2nd edition 2012; *Ubiquitous Learning*, University of Illinois Press, 2009; and *Literacies*, Cambridge University Press, 2012. <http://wwcope.com>

Gabrielsen Egil, University of Stavanger

Egil Gabrielsen is Dr. Philos and associate professor at the National Centre for Reading Education and Research, University of Stavanger, Norway. He has been national project manager for ALL (Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey– Statistics Canada and OECD 2003) and for IALS (International Adult Literacy Survey – OECD and Statistics Canada 1994 - 1998). He is now member of the OECD Literacy Expert Group for PIAAC (The Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies OECD 2012).

Garbe Christine, University of Cologne

Research Focus: Reading research and in particular: research on literary socialisation and reading behaviour, media socialisation of children and adolescents (especially focussed on gender differences); empirical research on literary reception; adolescent literacy / struggling readers; content area literacy / academic literacy.

Recent Projects:

2011 – 2012: Coordinator of an EU-project within the Comenius-programme: “BaCuLit – Basic Curriculum for Teachers’ In-Service-Training in Content Area Literacy in Secondary Schools”.

2011 – 2016: Scientific Evaluation of the German-wide reading project: “Lesestart – Drei Meilensteine für das Lesen” (funded by the Ministry of Education and Research [BMBF]).

2011 – 2012: Advisor and Evaluator of “ProLesen-Transfer Berlin” (8 pilot-schools).

2009 – 2010: Advisor and Evaluator of the first German nation-wide initiative aimed at fostering reading competences in the content areas from grades 1 to 12.

2006 – 2009: Coordinator of an EU-project within the SOCRATES-programme: “ADORE. Teaching Struggling Adolescent Readers. A Comparative Study of Good Practice in European Countries”, with 11 European countries.

Geffroy Marie-Thérèse, President of French National Agency to Fight Illiteracy

Graduate in classics Marie-Thérèse Geffroy is President of the French National Agency to Fight Illiteracy (ANLCI) since 2011 and General Inspector of National Education (IGEN). She was previously Director of ANLCI (2001-2011). Member of the High Education Council (2005-2011) and of the High Council of School Assessment (HCÉÉ). She was also involved in the National Commission of the debate on the future of schools (2003-2005), after having been the President of the National Apprenticeship and Vocational Training Coordination Committee (placed under the Prime Minister’s authority), which today constitutes the National Council on Lifelong Learning (CNFPTLV). She was involved as volunteer in Wordskills: President of WorldSkills France (2000-2012) and Vice President of WorldSkills International.

Kalantzis Mary, University of Illinois

Mary Kalantzis is Dean of the College of Education at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. She was formerly Dean of the Faculty of Education, Language and Community Services at RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia, and President of the Australian Council of Deans of Education. With Bill Cope, she is co-author or editor of: *Multiliteracies: Literacy Learning and the Design of Social Futures*, Routledge, 2000; *New Learning: Elements of a Science of Education*, Cambridge University Press, 2008/2nd edition 2012; *Ubiquitous Learning*, University of Illinois Press, 2009; and *Literacies*, Cambridge University Press, 2012. <http://marykalantzis.com>

Kennedy Eithne, St. Patrick’s College

Eithne Kennedy is a teacher educator at St. Patrick’s College, Drumcondra, Dublin, where she teaches on a range of literacy courses at under-graduate and post-graduate level. As the director of the *Write to Read* research initiative, a St. Patrick’s College, School and Community Literacy project, she works collaboratively with schools and communities to design and implement research-based approaches to literacy instruction aimed at raising achievement in ways that motivate and engage children as readers, writers and thinkers. Her doctoral research received the International Reading Association’s Outstanding Dissertation Award in 2010. She has authored and co-authored several publications in the field including policy papers on literacy; articles for peer-reviewed journals e.g. *The Reading Teacher* and *RRQ*; and her first book: *Raising Literacy Achievement in High-Poverty Schools: An Evidence-Based Approach* will be published by Routledge, US in the coming year. She serves on the Expert Advisory Group for literacy curriculum renewal in Ireland. She is a past president and current executive committee member of the Reading Association of Ireland.

Marsh Jackie, University of Sheffield

Jackie Marsh is a Professor of Education at the University of Sheffield, UK. Her research focuses on the role and nature of popular culture, media and new technologies in young children's literacy development. She has conducted projects that have explored children's access to new technologies and their emergent digital literacy skills, knowledge and understanding. She has also undertaken projects in early years settings and primary schools focused on the development of appropriate curriculum and pedagogy for the digital age. Jackie is a co-editor of the *Journal of Early Childhood Literacy* and was president of the United Kingdom Literacy.

Medel-Anonuevo Carolyn, Deputy Director of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning

Carolyn Medel-Anonuevo is the Deputy Director of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning. She has worked at the Institute for 20 years in the fields of basic and continuing education for adults with focus on gender equality, HIV prevention, democracy and active citizenship. Her latest assignment was the coordination and co-editing of the Global Report on Adult Learning and Education (GRALE). Previously, she was Assistant Professor at the Department of Sociology, University of the Philippines and Executive Director of a National Center for Women's Resources. She has been involved in quantitative and qualitative research on youth, poverty alleviation, migration and women's empowerment.

Mann Erika, Facebook

Erika Mann joined Facebook's Global Public Policy Team at the end of October 2011; she is heading up a new Facebook office in Brussels and is the company's lead spokesperson for EU affairs. Ms Mann was the Executive Vice President for the Computer & Communications Industry Association in Brussels between December 2009 and October 2011. In December 2010 she joined the board of ICANN/California (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers); since summer 2011 she is the chair audit committee. Ms Mann is a non-resident Senior Fellow of the Atlantic Council/Washington, a Trustee of Friends of Europe/Brussels and the Vice President of the advisory board of the European Policy Center/Brussels. She was a German Member of the European Parliament between 1994 and 2009. Ms Mann has a degree in social science from the University of Hannover/Germany and run her own consultancy PhilTec until summer 1994. She is also a lecturer and author of numerous publications on trade, research, transatlantic relations, and Internet-world related topics.

Michaelidou Athena, Director of the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute, Ministry of Education and Culture

Dr Athena Michaelidou is the Director of the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute. She holds a Masters degree (MED) from the University of Manchester and a PhD from the University of London, Institute of Education. She has been an in service teacher trainer and a researcher, as a staff of the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute, and has also worked at the Open University of Cyprus. She has been the Head of the Research and Evaluation Department of the Institute and also of the Centre for Educational Research and Evaluation. She has taught in many in service training programmes for teachers from different levels of the educational system and different posts. She is the coordinator of several research and european projects carried out by the Ministry of Education and Culture and she is a member of working groups at the E.U. Her research interests combine the teachers' professional development, teachers' role in research efforts and the action research within the school, etc. She has presented her work in several educational conferences and has several publications.

Papadopoulos Michalis, Deputy Head of the Educational Psychology Service, Cyprus Ministry of Education and Culture

Michalis Papadopoulos is the Deputy Head of the Educational Psychology Service of the Ministry of Education and Culture. He was awarded a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree in Psychology from the University of Aix-Marseille in France. He received his PhD from the Kapodistrian University in Athens after defending his thesis entitled "Functional Illiteracy: School Exclusion and School Pain". His teaching experience includes teaching at the Pedagogical Academy, the Pedagogical Institute and the University of Cyprus as well as a visiting professor to the University of Aix-Marseille in France. In 1976 he was appointed as Educational Psychologist at the Ministry of Education and Culture. After serving from different posts at the Educational Psychology Services in 2012, he was appointed Deputy Head of the Educational Psychology Services. Additional to his duties as Deputy Head of the Educational Psychology Service, he is also the Scientific Coordinator of the Observatory of School Violence as well as the Scientific Coordinator of the Literacy Program applied in Secondary Public Schools. Additionally to the publishing of several scientific articles in professional journals and papers, he has issued several books.

Van Steensel Roel, University of Amsterdam

Roel van Steensel works as a researcher at the Kohnstamm Institute, University of Amsterdam. His research focuses on literacy development in (at-risk) children. After his PhD research, he worked at Tilburg University where he participated in a study on the effects of Dutch early education policy. Since 2007 he has worked at the University of Amsterdam where he has conducted review studies on the effects of family literacy programs and research on adolescent literacy. Recently he started as the research leader of a large project on effects and implementation of a Dutch family literacy program and the role of ICT.

Sulkunen Sari, University of Jyväskylä

Sari Sulkunen works as a senior researcher and university lecturer at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland. Her fields of expertise are reading literacy, international reading literacy assessment, and text authenticity in assessment and instruction. She has worked in several international reading literacy assessments since the late 1990's, such as the International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS) and OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). Currently she is responsible for analyzing the reading literacy results of PISA 2009 in Finland and acts as a national research coordinator (NRC) for IEA's Progress in Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) in Finland.

Taube Karin, Umeå University

Prof. Karin Taube – Professor of Education (emerita) at Umeå University 2007-2011, previously Professor of Education at Mid-Sweden University 2002-07 and University of Kalmar, Sweden 2000-02. The Swedish National project Manager for PISA 1998-2005 and responsible for reading literacy within PISA in Sweden 1998 – 2009, the Swedish National Research Coordinator for IEA: Reading Literacy 1991. PhD in psychology 1989. Author of scientific articles, books and book chapters about children's and adolescents' reading, reading habits, self-concept and motivation. Lecturer at teachers' training colleges within the same areas 1992-2000. Special education teacher in primary schools 1972- 1979.

Tsiakalos George, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

George Tsiakalos studied biology and received his doctorate in Physics from the University of Kiel. He then studied teaching and took his doctorate from the University of Bremen. He taught at the Universities of Bremen, and Olntempourgk Zigken and the university teaching faculty of the Rhine (Aachen). In 1984 he was elected professor of pedagogy at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, where he teaches until today. He published several scientific articles and books in the fields of population genetics, racism, social exclusion, teaching, education of minorities and education policy. In July 2008 he was appointed by the Cabinet of the Cyprus Republic Chairman for the formation of new school curricula.

Valtin Renate, Humboldt University

Valtin Renate (Emerita Professor) has done empirical research on dyslexia, reading, spelling, social and cognitive development for more than 40 years. She is also a co-/author of more than 300 publications.

She presently serves as member of the German PIRLS team, president of the German Association of Reading and Writing, member of the PISA-PIRLS Task Force of the International Reading Association and of the High Level Group of Experts on Literacy. Recipient of the Institute of Reading Research Fellowship Award (1974) and William S. Gray Citation of Merit Award of IRA (2005), Reading Hall of Fame (2000).

De Vries Margreet, Reading and Writing Foundation, Netherlands (former Director)

In the past seven years Margreet de Vries was director of the Reading and Writing Foundation in the Netherlands. Now she has her own company that provides strategic communication support to governments, companies and NGO's on various societal issues. The Reading & Writing Foundation, founded by Princess Laurentien, aims to devote attention to (il)literacy in the Netherlands and internationally. The foundation stimulates discussion about the issue and wants to contribute to the eradication of the problem. Awareness raising has a central position in its work. With this strategy, the foundation involved a wide variety of players in society: a precondition for solving the issue of illiteracy. As a special advisor Margreet de Vries worked closely with the High Level Group and it's Chair and from this position was also involved in the realization of the final report of the group.

