

## Annual Report of Activities

### International Research Network (IRN) on the Topic of Basic and Language Education for Adults with Low Literacy Skills

Submitted by the conveners:

Bar-Kochva, Irit. German Institute for Adult Education (DIE) - Leibniz Centre for Lifelong Learning

Greenberg, Daphne. Adult Literacy Research Center, Georgia State University

#### 1. Network composition

Following some changes, the current network includes:

Name	Affiliation	Country
Alamprese, Judith	Abt Associates	USA
Bar-Kochva, Irit	German Institute for Adult Education (DIE) - Leibniz Centre for Lifelong Learning	Germany
Belzer, Alisa	Rutgers, Graduate School of Education	USA
Butscheidt, Moritz	German Institute for Adult Education (DIE) - Leibniz Centre for Lifelong Learning	Germany
Catherine Byrne	Technological University Dublin	Ireland
Cherewka, Alexis	World Education	USA
Clymer, Carol	Institute for the Study of Adult Literacy, Goodling Institute for Research in Family Literacy, Penn State University	USA
Fettermann, Joyce Vieira	State University of Northern Rio de Janeiro	Brazil
Gal, Iddo	University of Haifa	Israel
Gedik, Tan	Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg	Germany/Turkey
Gerkens, Laura	German Institute for Adult Education (DIE) - Leibniz Centre for Lifelong Learning	Germany
Greenberg, Daphne	Adult Literacy Research Center, Georgia State University	USA
Jones, Lise Øen	Department of Psychosocial Science Faculty of Psychology, University of Bergen	Norway
Kane, Phil	University of Auckland	New Zealand
Kobrin, Jennifer	University of Tennessee Knoxville, USA	USA
Mania, Ewelina	German Institute for Adult Education (DIE) - Leibniz Centre for Lifelong Learning	Germany
McHolme, Lindsay	Adult Literacy Research Center, Georgia State University	USA
Palomar, Javier Dez	University of Barcelona	Spain
Pickard, Amy	Indiana University School of Education, Adult Education Program	USA
Prins, Esther	Lifelong Learning & Adult Education, Penn State; Institute for the Study of Adult Literacy, Goodling Institute for Research in Family Literacy	USA

Reder, Stephen	Portland State University	USA
Tighe, Elizabeth L.	Adult Literacy Research Center, Georgia State University	USA
Yasukawa, Keiko	Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Technology Sydney	Australia

## 2. Regular meetings

We began our work in September 2023 with three working groups, divided according to their area of focus: 1. Skills; 2. Interventions and Programs; 3. Policy. In the first quarter of 2025, a new group focusing on The Integration of Numeracy and Literacy was created. The goal of the groups' work is to publish literature reviews on their respective topics.

Regular online meetings of the IRN working groups take place 1–2 times a month. On June 20 and November 14 2024, we held online meetings with the entire IRN. Each working group presented its progress and received feedback from members of the other groups. Questions related to search and screening strategies for conducting literature reviews were central to these meetings.

## 3. Publication of a Special Issue

In August 2024, a special issue on basic and language education for adults with low literacy skills was published in the *Journal for Research on Adult Education*. Four members of the IRN were invited to be guest editors of this issue, which includes articles by IRN members.

Bar-Kochva, I., Greenberg, D., Clymer, C., Prins, E., Schrader, J. & Schmidt-Hertha, B. (Eds.) (2024). Basic and language education for adults with low literacy skills (Special Issue). *Journal for Research on Adult Education (ZfW)*, 47(2). <https://link.springer.com/journal/40955/volumes-and-issues/47-2>



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## 4. A Symposium held at the WERA Focal Meeting 2024

In September 2024, members of the IRN presented a Symposium entitled "Topics in the Study of Interventions and Programs for Adults with Low Literacy Skills" at the WERA Focal Meeting in Manchester. The Symposium included four presentations by network members from the USA, the Netherlands, and Germany.



## **5. Planning of an IRN Lecture Series**

We are currently planning an online lecture series with IRN members that will take place on December 9 and 10, 2025. The series will include presentations by members from each of the working groups in our IRN.