

**Notes from Workshop Session 2**  
**Promoting Authentic Learning:**  
**Setting out broad principles for provision**  
**and supporting them in practice**  
**Anne Sliwka, Chair**

Participants raised the need to professionalize the adult education foundation skills workforce. In Switzerland, for example, most instructors of adult foundation skills are volunteers (depending on the part of the country). In Scotland, there is more continuity among volunteers than professionals. A similar trend was noted in France, where very high turnover rates were observed in the professional adult education workforce. Workshop participants emphasised the importance of ‘training the trainers’, without which we cannot hold high expectation the learners. Many participants also noted that efforts should be made to strengthen training certification.

Participants noted that many instructors, or trainers, use variations of formative assessment without not necessarily using the term. The bottom line for many was that learners yearn for feedback as to how they are doing—and formative assessment affords them a degree of control over their own assessment, as well. One participant stressed the use of the word ‘empowerment’ over ‘assessment’, as the latter may continue to conjure up images of compulsory schooling for some.

Issues of governance were mentioned, as in some cases the instructors do not actually have control over the curriculum or pedagogical approach (this was especially raised in relation to France)

It was noted in adult education, more time can be devoted to individual learners, who might have otherwise gotten lost in the system. Class sizes are also generally smaller in adult education, facilitating feedback.

Participants noted that attention should be paid to whom and for what these programmes should be held accountable, as not much attention has been paid to this in the public sphere.

Participants also noted that when different teaching and learning approaches are judged for cost-effectiveness, the quality of implementation should also be considered.