



European Numeracy Seminar

# The whats and the hows of adult numeracy

**Oslo, Feb 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Organized by  
Vox, Norwegian Institute for Adult Learning





**Target group: Policy makers, researchers, practitioners and teacher trainers.**

### **Invited speakers:**

**Geoff Wake** is a Senior Lecturer in Mathematics Education at the University of Manchester where for over 15 years he has researched the applications of mathematics from the viewpoint of teachers, learners and others including workers. This research has helped informed a range of development and design work for new curriculum pathways in post-14 mathematics education in England. Geoff's current research is focussed on transitions as students move between phases of their learning and the development of teaching and learning that best supports applications of mathematics in different fields in science, technology and engineering. He also currently works on a project that is evaluating proposed changes to the post-14 mathematics curriculum in England that seek to provide a range of different learning pathways.

**Terry MacGuire** is currently the Head of Lifelong Learning at the Institute of Technology Tallaght, Dublin Ireland. Her research interest includes identifying good models of professional development for tutors of adult mathematics; uncovering the hidden mathematics of the workplace and contributing to setting up a coherent framework for adult mathematics in Ireland. She is a member of the numeracy working group of The Programme for the International Assessment for Adult Competencies (PIAAC) the forthcoming international assessment of adult life skills in a technological age.

**Lena Lindenskov** is Professor msr in Mathematics and Science Education at DPU School of Education, Aarhus University. Lena works at the Department of Curriculum Research, in 'Program for Fagdidaktik' (lit: 'Research programme for subject matter didactics') with adult learning mathematics as one of her research interests. Her different research interests in adults', adolescents' and children's engagements in learning and utilising school subjects such as mathematics is symbolised in the question *Should it be hard*. The '*should*' symbolises the silent power regime of mathematics as a tool for screening out a certain amount of people, i.e. by exacting mathematics at a certain level to access education and job. The '*it*' symbolises the need for seriously analysing and reflecting upon which competences are relevant: is '*it*' conceptual math understandings, math skills, mathematical competences, math-containing competences or ? The '*hard*' symbolises many people's experiences of struggling with difficulties in mathematics.

**Henk van der Kooij** works as a curriculum developer in the Freudenthal Institute, Utrecht University. His interest in functional mathematics for the workplace stems from a reform project for mathematics in vocational education in the Netherlands. His main concern is that mathematics is becoming invisible in competence based education.

### **Practical information:**

Venue: Vox, Olaf Helsets vei 5b. Oslo

Conference fee: 130 EUR, incl two lunches and one dinner.

More detailed practical information will appear in December 2009 on [www.vox.no](http://www.vox.no)

For more information contact Graciela Sbertoli at [graciela.sbertoli@vox.no](mailto:graciela.sbertoli@vox.no)



### Monday, Feb 1<sup>st</sup>

10.30	Registration and coffee	
11.00	Welcome address	Jan Ellertsen, Director, Vox
11.15	Adult numeracy: the challenge	Bjørg Ilebekk, Deputy Director, Vox
12.00	Lunch	
13.00	What makes mathematics 'functional'? Where should we look for an answer?	Geoff Wake, Senior Lecturer, University of Manchester
13.45	Q & A session	
14.00	Coffee break	
14.30	Meeting The Needs of Adult Learners of Mathematics - Integrating Policy and Practice	Terry MacGuire, Institute of Technology Tallaght Dublin
15.15	Q & A session	
15.30	Practical information	
19.00	Dinner	

### Tuesday, Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>

09.00	Adults developing analytical competence, exemplified by the MiA (Mathematics in Action) project 2004 – 2007.	Lena Lindeskov, Professor, Danish School of Education
09.45	Q & A	
10.00	Towards a European Framework for Functional Mathematics	Henk van der Kooij, Curriculum Developer, Freudenthal Institute
10.45	Q & A	
11.00	Coffee break	
11.30	Everyday mathematics in Norway: the competence goals	Våril Bendiksen, Vox
12.15	Q & A	
12.30	Lunch	
13.30	Mapping tools and tests: the Norwegian experience	Ingrid Radtke & Våril Bendiksen, Vox
14.15	Q & A	
14.30	Teacher training: the whats and hows	Plenary discussion, introduced by Hanne Christensen, Vox
15.15	The European Network for Basic Skills in Adults: presentation	Graciela Sbertoli, Vox
16.00	Closing remarks	Bjørg Ilebekk, Vox
19.00	Farewell dinner	