

Winter School Participant Report

I'm Oladunni Odewole, a Masters student of the Prestigious Department of Adult Education and Lifelong Learning, Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife, Nigeria. The first week of the two weeks 2019 Winter school I attended at Julius Maximilian Universitat, Wurzburg, Germany, was an exposure into the theoretical framework concerning adult education and lifelong learning policies in the European Union and in different countries. Concepts ranging from adult education, lifelong learning, public policies, various providers of adult and continuing education, the two policy models, rationales predominating in adult learning and education policies, the politicization of education, European policies in adult education and strategies were discussed: And some discussion tools like the analytical levels of analysis of the referred policies were explored. The first week also feature field visits to German adult education organizations- Frankwarte Academy and Volkshochschule. These field visits were moments we gathered data about how adult education and lifelong learning policies are implemented and practiced, these data was later interpreted according to the theoretical framework taught in class. We also had a fun sight-seeing time which afforded us the opportunity to go to the city centre to see some historical edifice.

The second week featured a lot of brainstorming, teamwork, role plays, idea sharing, series of reflections, debates and presentation sessions on the questions of adult education and lifelong learning policies in the European Union and my country; role of transnational institution, the state, the market, civil society and the learners in these policies; the aims of such adult education and lifelong learning policies, the national promoters of adult education and lifelong learning, the target groups, main funding sources; and how adult education and lifelong learning state programmes are conceived, implemented and evaluated in my country.

It was a great honor and pleasure for me to participate in the Winter School 2019. It was a delight to see such a well-organized program that offers international exposure, broaden one's cultural and academic horizon yet interesting and content embedded. Aside enhancing my proficiency in the field of adult education and alongside building my resume, meeting students from different countries that are working towards achieving the same career goal as mine is most valuable. Diverse tasks that silently brought out our strengths and weaknesses, it energized and increased the tenacity of our strength and leverage on the weak part to expose us to awesome possibilities that could erupt from the seemingly area of weakness. The Winter School is an ideal platform that acts as a strategic think tank to enhance a constructive dialogue and collaboration on themes relevant to adult education and lifelong learning; an awesome opportunity I doubt if any other platform can give. It was an invaluable opportunity to gather together, interact and exchange findings and views with students, practitioners and experts from all over the world, and this has enriched my experience with more information, knowledge and confidence. Winter School 2019 is not just an experience to be kept in the archive session of my memory but one that will form the basis of the achievement of my career goal in the long run, a constant drive to be more in my pursuit of my long term goal, one that fuels my desire to be a world renowned adult educator. Its impact will sure transcend generations.

Less I forget! Distinguish, kind and helpful team you've got at the Winter school, their sight exudes excellence and acts like a wake up call to give back in every way I can to the field of adult education in all selflessness, dilligence and excellence. My sincere appreciation goes to the Winter School Team and sponsors for giving me the opportunity to attend the 2019 Winter School via the scholarship which covered all of my expenses. Many thanks also to my department for

allowing me to participate and my inestimable supervisor - Dr. B.C Simeon Fayomi for her generous support and guidance.

Two weeks in Wurzburg was really an epistle of a life on its own. It is hard to explain such an awesome blend of learning about yourself, about others, and with others. Excellent program, excellent organization, socio-cultural life of Wurzburg is excellent. The town is inspiring as its architectural and historical archeology is top-notch. It is an edifice of hope. My success story will sure not be complete without it.

Best Regards,

Oladunni Odewole.