

The Swiss Federation for Adult Learning and the Swiss situation regarding professionalization in the literacy field

Bernhard Grämiger, SVEB

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Swiss Federation of Adult Learning (SVEB)

SVEB
FSEA

- Swiss umbrella organisation for adult learning
- We are made up of 500 member organizations, including private and state institutions and trainers
- 12 fulltime jobs
- External experts for project work
- Head office in Zurich, branch offices in the French and Italian speaking parts of Switzerland

Main tasks of SVEB (1)

Adult Learning Policy

- Political platforms between social partners, federal ministries and regions (Cantons) and providers in AL represented by SVEB
- Guiding principle: „Adult Education for all!“

Development and Innovation: Main topics

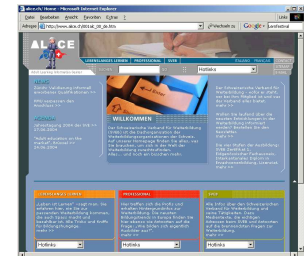
- Basic Skills Learning
- Adult Education in SMEs (Investors in People)
- Train the Trainer - System



Main tasks of SVEB (2)

Service

- Internet platform www.alice.ch including seminar database AliSearch
- Periodical „Education Permanente“
- Adult Learner's Week (since 1996)
- Offices for quality assurance (eduQua) and modularisation (ModuQua)



Starting point

- 800'000 (16%) Swiss are illiterate (level 1 in ALL Study), 400'000 (8%) lack basic math skills
- 3'000 Swiss adults attend R&W classes
- Teaching illiterate adults requires a large set of special know-how and competences
- But no standardized way to acquire these competencies in Switzerland
- Know-how in the literacy field never was collected and systemized

Why professionalise the system?

- Standardized training for literacy teachers facilitates recruitment of new staff
- A professional system ensures future quality of courses in reading and writing in Switzerland - even if demand would suddenly increase
- A professional system strengthens the situation of today's practitioners in the field

Elements of the new system

1. New “modular” training course for literacy teachers leading to the protected title “LiteratorIn”
2. Formal recognition process to validate competencies for practitioners in the literacy field

Goal of the training course

The “Literator”

- has a deep understanding of the causes and effects of literacy problems
- is fully able to teach Reading and Writing classes for adults
- has a broad understanding of the “target group”, i.e. adults with basic skills problems

Modular structure of the course

Module 1

Literacy in the (inter-)cultural context

Module 2a

Methods for teaching natives

Module 2b

Methods for teaching migrants

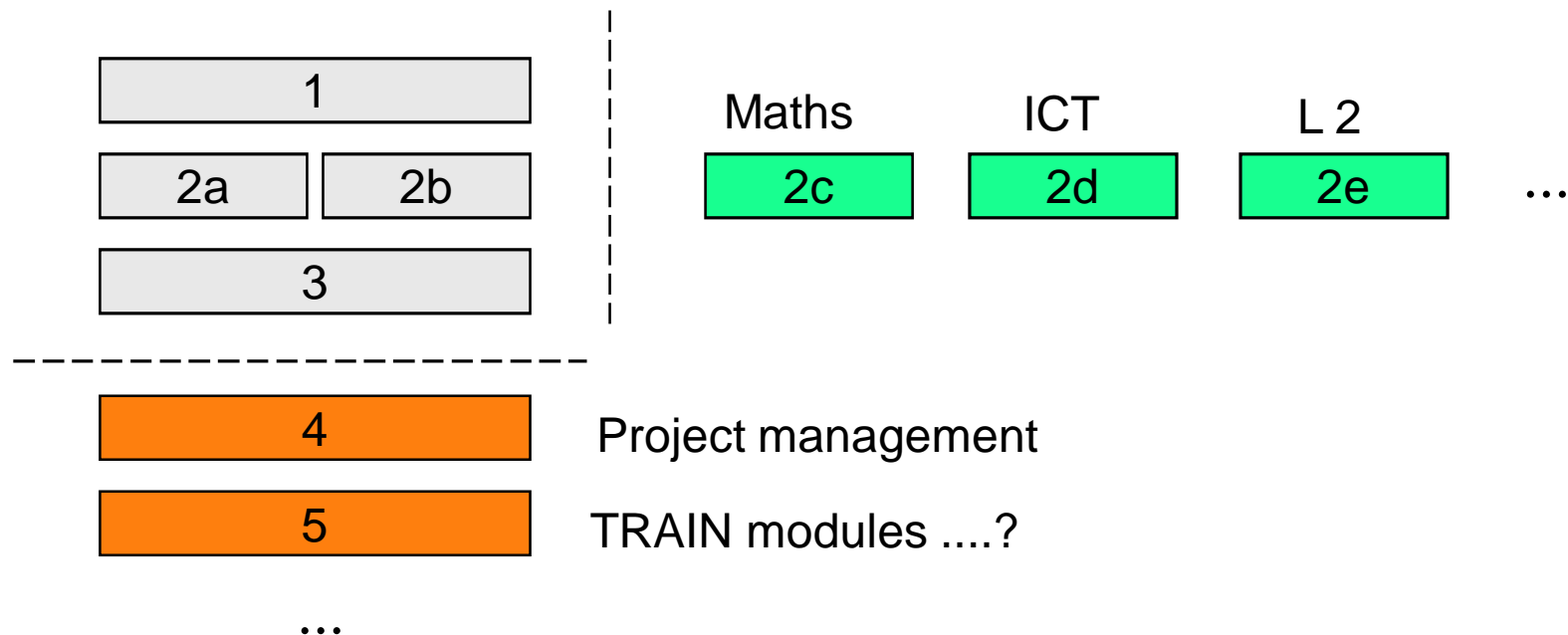
Module 3

Steered learning

Modular structure of the course

- 4 days per module; 12 days in total
- practical experience during module 2
- Condition of participation: experience with teaching adults

Planned developments: horizontal and vertical extension



Contact

Schweizerischer Verband für Weiterbildung SVEB

Bernhard Grämiger

Oerlikonerstrasse 38

8057 Zürich

T: +41 44 311 64 55

F: +41 44 311 64 59

M: bernhard.graemiger@alice.ch

www.alice.ch