

## Workshop Community-based education and learning as part of ULLL

Thursday 10 May 2012

### A Review of Two Adult Critical Literacy Projects in Malta

by Professor Carmel Borg, Ph.D.  
University of Malta

#### Abstract

Two critical literacy projects are currently underway at two different sites in Malta. The projects are led by the author of this reflection, on behalf of the Department of Education Studies, University of Malta. The projects are hosted by the respective local councils.

Inspired by Paulo Freire (1921–97), the Brazilian intellectual, educator and social activist, the adult-education projects promote thinking about social reality from a critical and social justice perspective as well as transformative action.

In the first project, the group of adult participants are investigating themes which reflect their immediate realities. The thematic investigation has included dialogue on globalization, the world economic order, social exclusion, education, health and safety, the environment, ACTA and Racism. The participants are encouraged to continue their critical reflection at home and to return to the group, fifteen days later, with further decodification of the generative theme. This phase of the analysis is expressed in poems and other forms of writing in the town's dialect and in traditional folk singing. The project started in October 2011 and ends in April this year.

In the second project, two groups of 50+ adults are meeting in their homes. The project combines e-literacy with critical literacy. While acquiring skills in blogging, twitting and e-research, the adult participants engage in critical dialogue with the themes used in the process of acquiring the electronic skills.

The presentation will foreground these two projects and provide a critical review of how University LLL initiatives can promote citizenship, democracy and social justice.