

# **Community Capacity and the Key Competencies of Community Workers : Adult Learning Perspectives**

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## **Abstract**

The terms community capacity and adult learning have been in use for several decades and refer to different areas within the field of community development and adult education. This paper sets out to explore the relationship between these two concepts. It examines the ways in which adult learning conceptual contributes to the development of community work as an overall system of lifelong education. Recent research from EU on the idea of the learning society points towards a more holistic view of community development and adult learning, which acknowledges “key competencies” as the core in the strategies toward personal or societal development.

The professional development and the improvement of the quality of adult learning staff have been recognized as a priority at European level for the successful practices in lifelong learning and community development. However, in Taiwan there is not always a clear view of the competences needed to fulfill the professional tasks in community development, partly due to the diversity of the field. This research aims to explore the community capacity of a learning community and the competence profiles and standards for adult learning professionals from EU experiences, so as to offer a parallel to consider the construction of community capacity and the competence profiles for community workers in Taiwan. Although their scope of application differs considerably between institutional and professional levels, a study on key competences for adult learning staff offers a perspec-

tive from a new angle so as to come up with a set of key competences which can functions as a reference for Taiwan community work research.

**Keywords: Community Capacity, Key Competence, Adult Learning**