

# Professional Development through Communities of Practice

## Cultivating Exchange and Learning using the Example of the online portal wb-web

The logo for DIE (German Institute for Adult Education) consists of the letters 'DIE' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The 'D' and 'E' are connected at the top, and the 'I' is a simple vertical bar. The logo is set against a blue background.

German Institute for  
Adult Education

Leibniz Centre for  
Lifelong Learning

Carmen Biel

June 28th, 2018

The Future of Education International Conference, Florence, Italy

Member of the

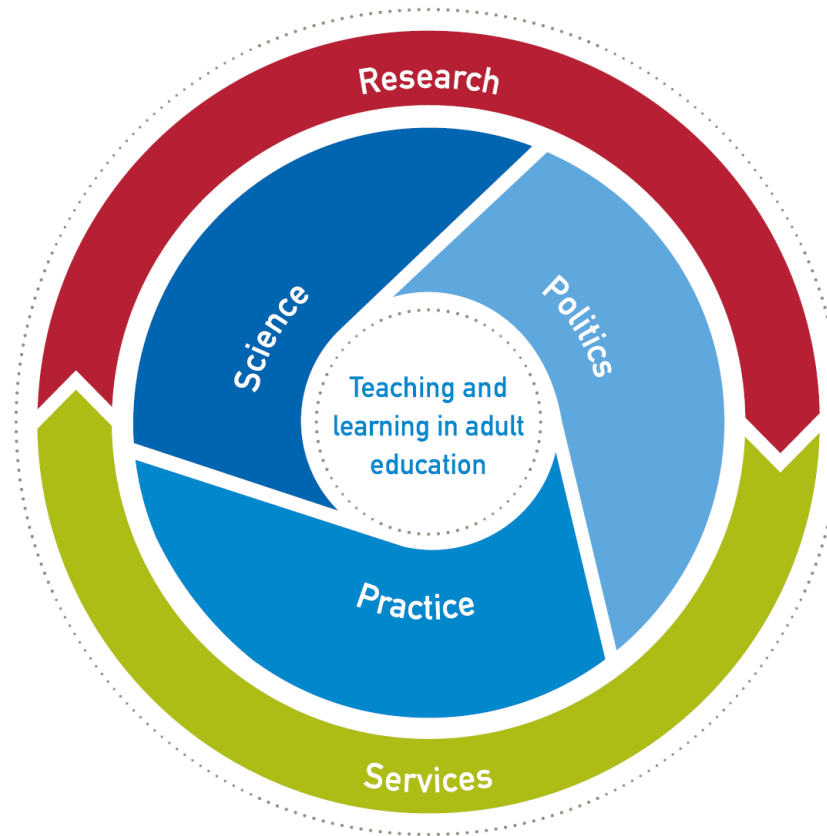
The logo for the Leibniz Association features the word 'Leibniz' in a large, elegant, black cursive script. Below it, the words 'Leibniz Association' are written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font.

[www.die-bonn.de](http://www.die-bonn.de)

- ➔ The German Institute for Adult Education
- ➔ Adult Education in Germany
- ➔ The online portal wb-web
- ➔ Enhancing community capabilities
- ➔ Conclusion

# The German Institute for Adult Education

Who are we and what are we doing?



- ➔ science (lecturers at universities)
- ➔ politics and administration (education decision makers from a European level to districts and municipalities)
- ➔ practice (teaching, managing and planning staff in continuing education)



Our research activities are aimed at

- ➔ improving adult learning and education,
- ➔ as well as the quality of continuing education,
- ➔ making the continuing education system more transparent,
- ➔ contributing to a more efficient education system.



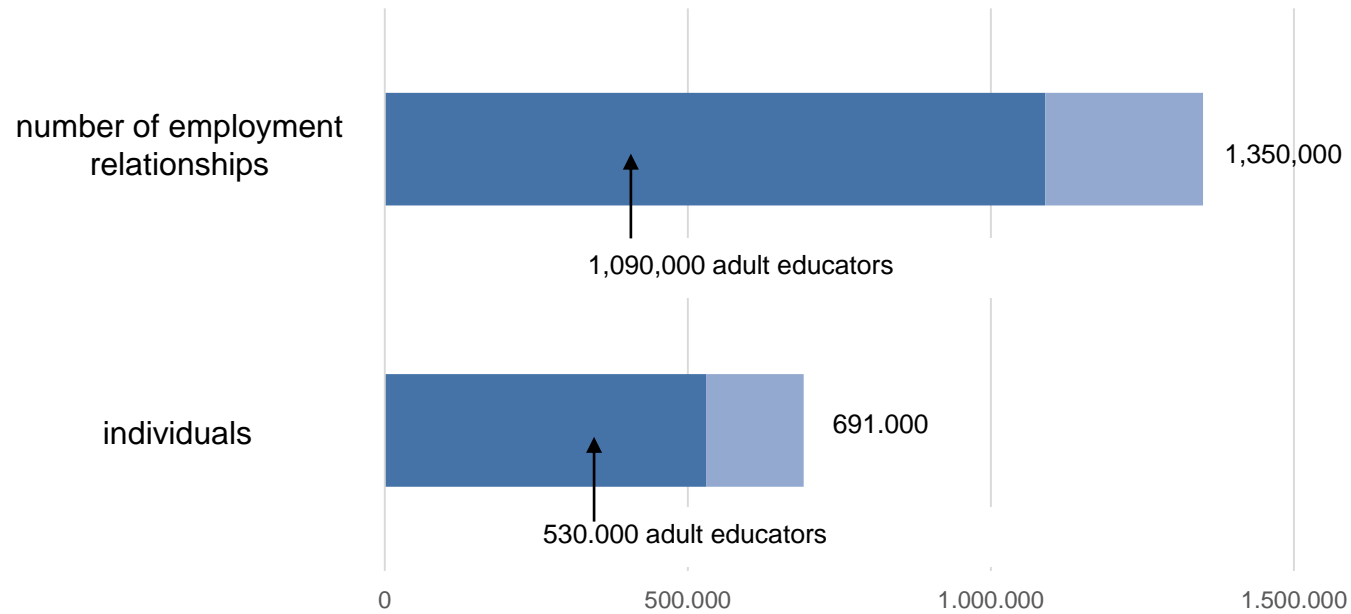
- ➔ The portal wb-web provides important suggestions and information for the daily activities of adult educators.



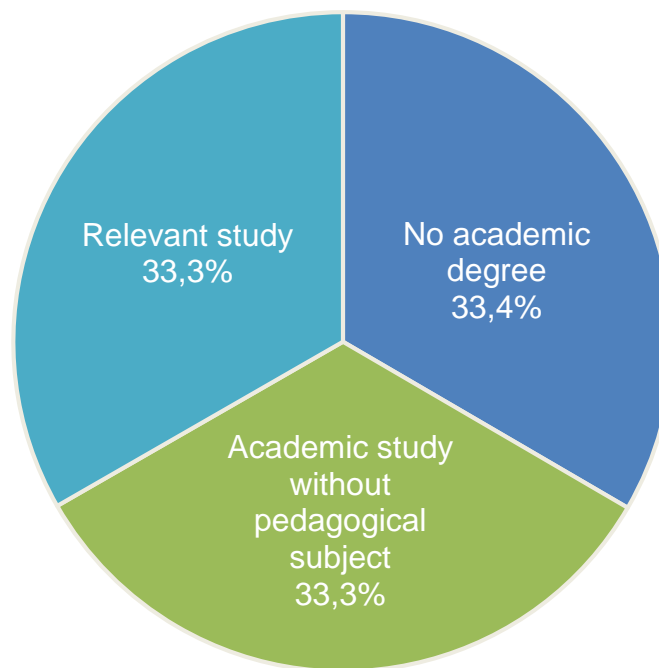
# Adult Education in Germany

initial position





cf. wb-personalmonitor 2016

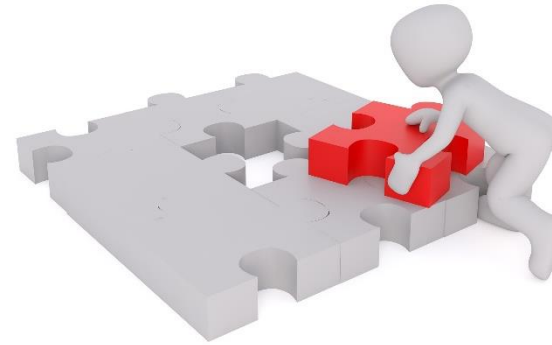


cf. wb-personalmonitor 2016



Pedagogy





# The Online Portal wb-web

information and network

- ➔ need for information on pedagogical topics
- ➔ need for a learning area for competence development
- ➔ need for professional exchange



**wb-web: Portal für Lehrende der Erwachsenen- und Weiterbildung**


Hier finden Sie aktuelle Entwicklungen, praktische Hilfen und Lehrmaterialien.

 [Mehr über wb-web](#)

- [1](#)
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- [9](#)




**Aktuelles**

 - News

**OER für den Sportunterricht**



 - News

**100 Jahre Volkshochschule**

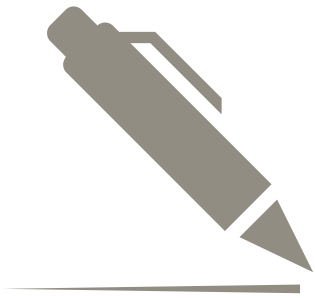


**Was gibt es Neues?**

Bleiben Sie informiert und abonnieren Sie ab sofort unsere Informations-E-Mail mit aktuellen Neuigkeiten, Veranstaltungshinweisen, Aktionen und vieles mehr rund um wb-web. Zum Abonnement gelangen Sie [hier](#).

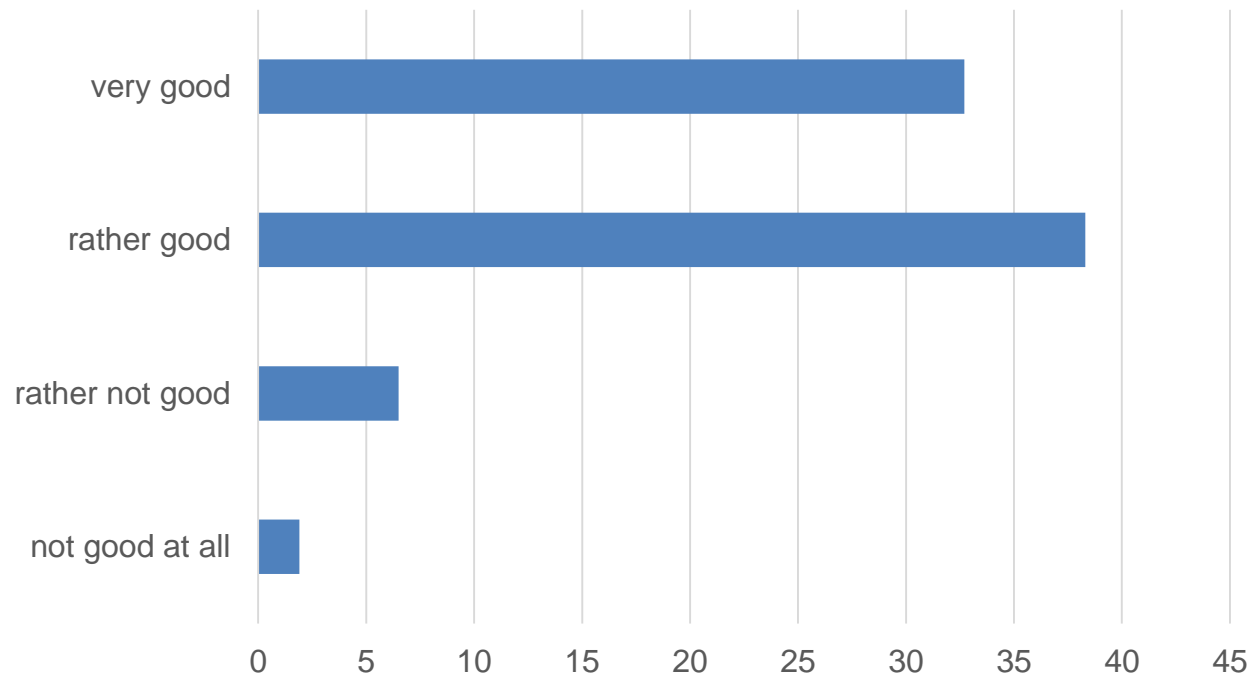
- ➔ more than 1,000 content elements
- ➔ up to 40,000 unique visitors each month
- ➔ around 700 community members
- ➔ separate project for learning area development since 2016



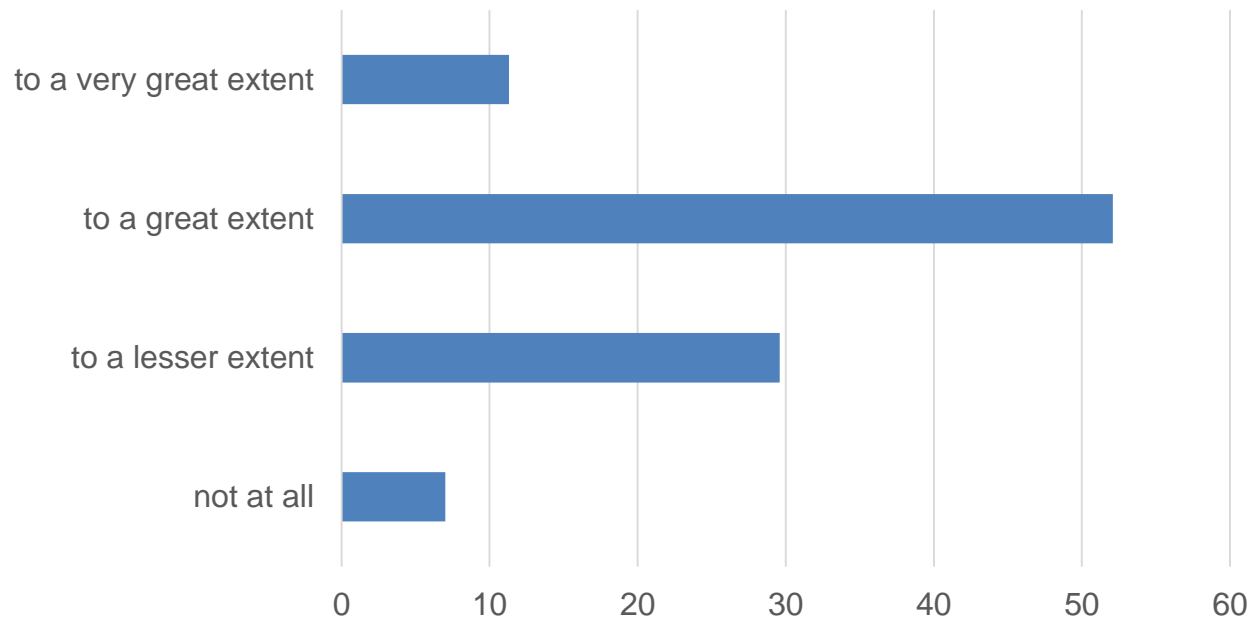


“Communities of Practice are groups of people who share a concern, a set of problems, or a passion about a topic, and who deepen their knowledge and expertise in this area by interacting on an ongoing basis.” [Wenger, McDermott, & Snyder (2002), p. 4].

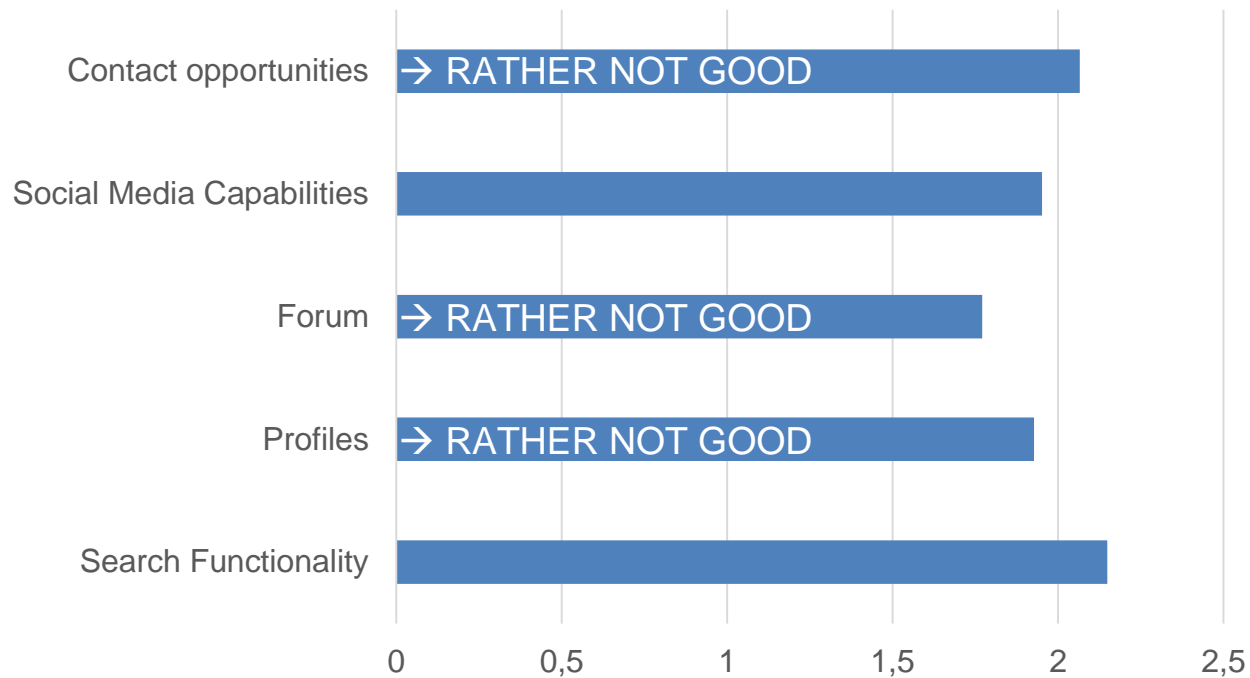
How do you rate the usefulness of the contents of the wb-web portal?



To what extent did the use of wb-web contribute to an improvement or enrichment of your practical work in adult education?



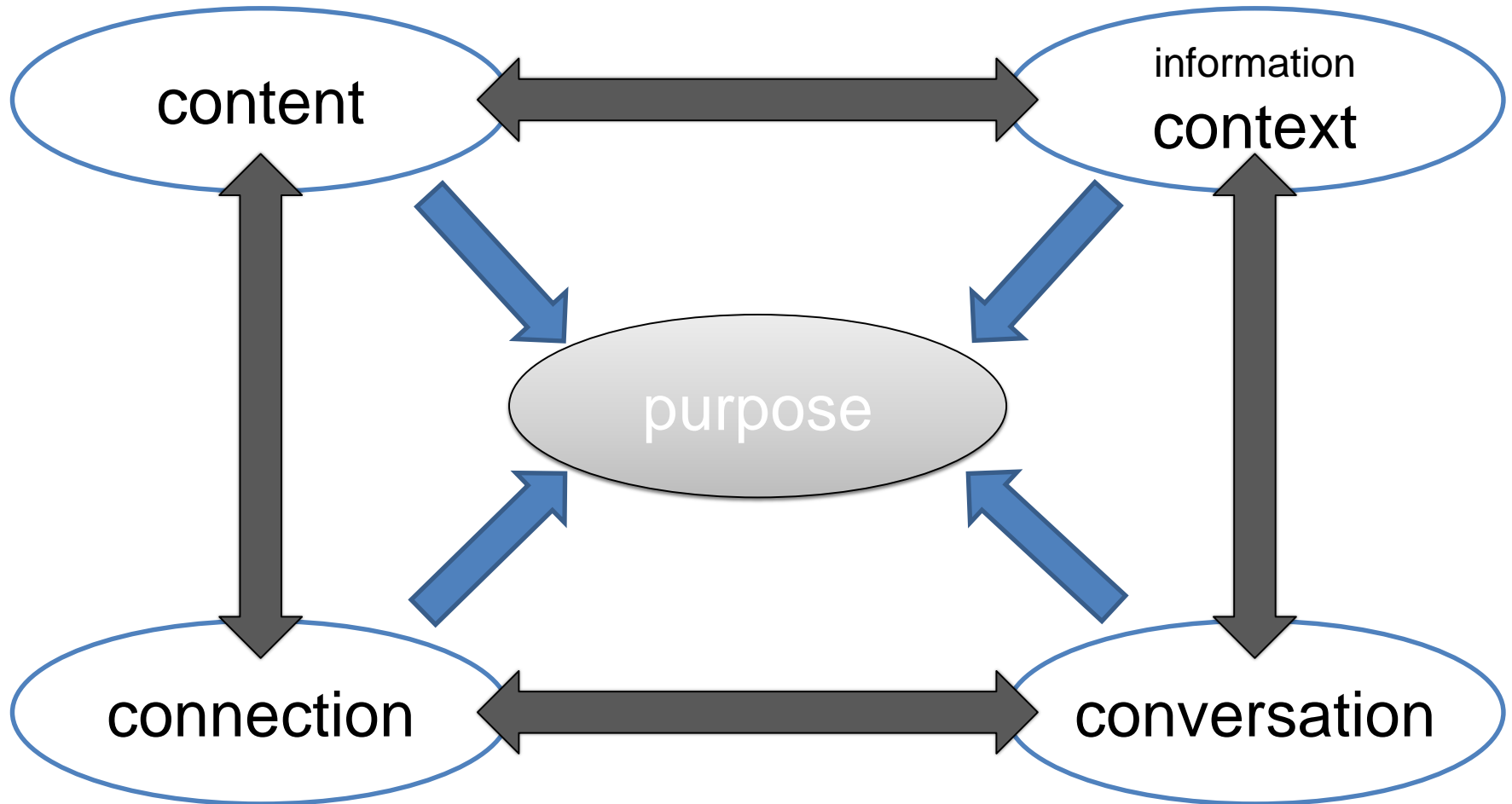
How do you rate these functionalities?  
(1="not good at all" to 4="very good")



- ➔ Are there any established “how to”-concepts that give application-orientated information on creating professional exchange, networking and meaningful conversation in a community of practice?
- ➔ How can this application-orientated information be used to refine the developed online portal?

# Enhancing community capabilities

a theoretical model to improve our community



own representation based on Hoadley & Kilner (2005)

- ➔ Update of forum
- ➔ More connection possibilities
- ➔ Easier to connect
- ➔ Public and private area
- ➔ Shared interest groups
- ➔ Webinars for more communication



# Conclusion

Thank you!  
Time for your questions...

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- ➔ Autorengruppe wb-personalmonitor (2016): Das Personal in der Weiterbildung. Arbeits- und Beschäftigungsbedingungen, Qualifikationen, Einstellungen zu Arbeit und Beruf. DOI: 103278/85/0015w
- ➔ Schrader, J. “Fortbildung von Lehrenden der Erwachsenenbildung: Notwendig? Sinnvoll? Möglich?: Bedarf und Angebote im Überblick“ J. Schrader, R. Hohmann, & S. Hartz (Eds.), Mediengestützte Fallarbeit. Konzepte, Erfahrungen und Befunde zur Kompetenzentwicklung von Erwachsenenbildnern, Bielefeld, Bertelsmann, 2010, 25–68
- ➔ Schöb, S., Sahlender, M., Brandt, P., Fischer, M., & Wintermann, O. (2015). Information und Vernetzung – Bedarfe und Erwartungen von Lehrkräften an online-gestützte Fortbildungsangebote. texte-online. Retrieved from <http://www.die-bonn.de/doks/2015-erwachsenenbildner-01.pdf>
- ➔ Wenger, E., McDermott, R., & Snyder, W. M. (2002). Cultivating Communities of Practice. Boston, Massachusetts: Harvard Business School Press.
- ➔ Hoadley, C., & Kilner, P. G. (2005). Using technology to transform communities of practice into knowledge-building communities. SIGGROUP Bulletin, 25(1), 31–40.