

Adult education: articulation between national and European policies and programmes

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Common contextual challenges in Europe in 2010

1. Competitiveness

2. Demographic Change

4. Political Challenges

3. Social Inclusion

+ 5. Personal Development

Adult learning: It is never too late to learn (2006)

Spectrum of Development of AL

c. 7/8 countries

c. 15/16 countries

c. 7/8 countries

Systemic approach
Enabling legislation
**Partnership/
 decentralisation**
Stakeholder finance
Flexible, integrated
Good levels
Coherent system
Quality frameworks
IPD/CPD of personnel
M&E
Informs policy

Policy
Legislation
Governance
Financing
Provision
Participation
Qual'cations
Quality
Research

Fragmented
Legislative basis
**Little partnership at any
 level**
Very limited financing
Rigid/'Schooling' approach
Very low levels
Disjointed
Limited concern
Sporadic M&E
Sporadic

2006 Communication on Adult Learning

Urges MS to address the interrelated challenges of **ensuring quality while striving to reform governance and expand provision (quantity) in AL**

Key Message 1 *Lifting the barriers to participation*

Key Message 2 *Ensuring the quality of adult learning -*
focuses on providers; staff; delivery

Key Message 3 *Recognition and validation of*
learning outcomes

Key Message 4 *Investing in the ageing population and*
migrants

Key Message 5 *Indicators and benchmarks*

2006 Communication

- **KEY MESSAGE 2** - Ensuring the quality of adult learning
- **KEY MESSAGE 1** - Lifting the barriers to participation
- **KEY MESSAGE 3** - Recognition and validation of learning outcomes
- **KEY MESSAGE 5** - Indicators and benchmarks
- **[KEY MESSAGE 4** - Investing in the ageing population and migrants]

2007 Action Plan

- **PRIORITY ACTION 1** – Analyse the effect of education and training reforms on adult learning
- **PRIORITY ACTION 2** - Improve the quality of provision
- **PRIORITY ACTION 3** - Increase the possibilities for adults to go ‘one step up’
- **PRIORITY ACTION 4** - Speed up the process of assessing and recognising non-formal and informal learning for disadvantaged groups
- **PRIORITY ACTION 5** – Improve monitoring of the adult learning sector

Action Plan 2007 - 2010

- Action Plan `process`; Council/EP Conclusion
- What Commission must do
- What Commission and MSs can/could do together
- What MSs are encouraged to do
- Actions
 - Budget?
 - PLAs; Meetings;
 - Role of LLP

PRIORITY ACTION 1 – Analyse the effects of education and training reforms on adult learning

- **Study** late 2008 to develop a methodology for analysis of effects of reform; a new study underway
- **NQFs** –
 - NQF in CZ, FR, IE, MT, UK
 - Underway in some 17 countries;
 - Need to create consensus (e.g. CY, EL)
- **EQF** –
 - 2010 – relate national qualifications systems to EQF
 - 2012 – all new qualifications should reference EQF
 - Ireland and Malta - the first countries to align NQF with EQF
 - Work on **alignment** (6 countries)
- **Quality** - Priority Action 2

PRIORITY ACTION 2 - Improve the quality of provision

- **ALPINE study 2008; Competence Framework for ALPs 2009**
- **A need to ensure the quality of staff in adult learning sector**
 - **Definitions, legislation & regulations (12)**
 - **Undergraduate courses (14)**
 - **Competence profiles (3)**
 - **Continuing professional development (15)**
 - **Improve the attractiveness of working in sector (6)**
- **Quality assurance (c. 13) – advanced to start-up**
- **Quality assessment by national agency/centres of expertise (5)**
- **Accreditation of providers (15)**
- **Grundtvig Action**

PRIORITY ACTION 3 – Increase the possibilities for adults to go ‘one step up’

- **Peer Learning Activity (PLA), London, April 2009**
- **Measures**
 - **legislation on key competences (16)**
 - **legislation for coherence w/other education sectors (6)**
 - **programmes of key competences (21)**
 - **flexible and/or individualised pathways (18)**
 - **key competences for migrant/bilingual adults (13)**
 - **guidance services (8)**
 - **opportunities for low-skilled to get VET qualifications**
 - **funding (12)**
 - **combine work & learning (9)**
 - **information campaigns (4)**
- **Grundtvig Action**

PRIORITY ACTION 4 - Speed up the process of assessing and recognising non-formal and informal learning for disadvantaged groups

A priority for 2009-10 in updated framework for co-operation in E&T

- PLA June 2009, Prague; updating the Inventory

Developments

- well-developed system (7); in development (6)
- validation in specific competences/fields (3)
- creating acceptance (3)
- legal framework (6)
- individual right to validation (2)
- entitlement to a **skills audit** (2)
- **training of validation personnel** (4)
- **financial resources** (6)
- **guidance** is critical to validation in all countries
- **Challenges** – technical, cultural, political
- **LLP**

PRIORITY ACTION 5 – Improve monitoring of the adult learning sector

‘Study on adult learning terminology and adult learning monitoring’
- late 2008

- **PLA - March 2009 in Bratislava**
- **Challenges**
 - **diversity of sector**
 - **different potential sources of data & mainly basic information**
 - **no national data chains**
 - **weak analysis/use of national/regional data**
 - **personnel need up-skilling**
- **Developments**
 - **monitoring is being linked to QA (4)**
 - **a specific national/regional body (2)**
 - **data contribute to structured management information systems (1)**
 - **data on progression is obligatory (2)**
 - **working group on progression data (1)**
 - **pilot model for collecting/processing data (1)**

Lifelong Learning Programme 2007 - 2013

- “Many of the EU-27+ reference research done through participation in the Grundtvig and Leonardo da Vinci Actions of the EU Lifelong Learning Programme 2007-2013 and its predecessor programmes.” CONFINTEA VI report

Policy Goals - Tensions

- Economic, social and/or cultural policy??
- Social movement?
- Learning for a living : learning for living
- HRD/employability : HPD/social cohesion
- Knowledge economy : knowledge society
- More & better jobs : better social cohesion
- A public good : a private good
- Political control : market control
- Quantity: quality

But . . . non-zero sum game

Policy challenges

- **Policy tensions**
- **Shortage of (evidence-based) policy**
- **Fragmentation**
- **Implementation**
- **Monitoring & evaluation (M&E)**