



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Education and Culture

Education & Vocational Training, Coordination of Erasmus+
Vocational Training and Adult Learning; Erasmus+

Education and Training 2020

Working Group on Adult Learning

In-depth country workshop

Stuttgart October 26 - October 29 2014

“Getting them through the door – What makes for effective policies in maximising adults' participation in basic skills provision?”

Background

The primary focus for the ET 2020 Working Group on Adult Learning, expressed in its mandate, is to benefit the member states in their work of furthering policy development on adult learning through mutual learning and the identification of good practices. In-depth country workshops are organised to examine specific approaches to policy development and implementation by several countries, with the aim of identifying key factors for policy success.

The workshop in Stuttgart corresponds to the Group's 'policy challenge 1': to “analyse participating countries' policies and effectiveness in addressing adult basic skills”. The workshop's policy conclusions will contribute to the Group's output 1: a report assessing participating countries' performance in delivering basic skills and describing key elements for successful policies.

As discussed in the WG meetings in March and May 2014, 'peer' events organised by the Group should be focused on gathering information and drawing conclusions that are specific to a particular country (or group of countries with similar challenges). In addition to general conclusions the workshop should provide individual countries or groups of countries with specific feedback that they can then act upon.

About the workshop

There will be 12 participating countries. This will be an intensive and participatory workshop, combining presentations and discussions in plenary with small group sessions, and some sessions in which colleagues from the same country work together. There will be inputs from keynote speakers, and opportunities to hear from expert witnesses such as stakeholder representatives, based upon the issues raised during the discussions.

There will be plenty of time set aside for asking questions for clarification, identifying critical issues and giving 'critical friend' feedback to each country.

All participants take turns in tasks such as facilitation and reporting.

As the workshop progresses, participants' discussions will become more and more focused on the key issues for their own countries, as they learn more about the topic from each other.

Documents to be read before the workshop

All countries represented in the WG were, in September, asked to provide information about their policies on this specific topic and the evidence that underpins them. The information has been compiled by our consultant in a document, Policies to increase participation of adults in activities aimed at raising adult skills 13 October 2014 - Synthesis of country reports 13 October. Countries' policy presentations will assume that participants have read this document.

A second background document is a literature review: Improving basic skills in adulthood: Participation and Motivation, written by our consultant.

Finally, there is a summary of recent Cedefop work, Fostering key competences/basic skills through VET.

All documents, including country contributions, are available on Yammer.

Country example sessions: knowledge sharing

Each 'country examples' session will follow the same pattern:

3 x 10 min presentation of national policies, focusing on "what worked and why".

Audience is supposed to have read background documents – no need to repeat info

If PowerPoint is used, presentations should be prepared using the template provided: max 5 slides, bullet points and max 100 words/slide

time for questions after each session to check understanding of the policy and how it works

structured work in small groups investigating specific aspects of policy

plenary: feedback and discussion.

Participants are not expected to spend time on describing the generalities of national education systems, laws, etc, but rather to concentrate on "what worked and why". Country policies are described in the background document and provided in full on Yammer which participants are expected to have read.

Analysis and knowledge construction

After each group session, there will be time to share and analyse key lessons learned, identify further issues to be investigated and close in on the big question "What makes for effective policies in maximising adults' participation in basic skills provision".

At the end of each day, overall conclusions are drawn and issues are identified for bearing in mind during the next day's sessions, etc., as the group gradually homes in on the key factors that make for successful policies.

At the end of the event, each country pair/country representative draws up an analysis of its own policies in the form of (e.g.) a SWOT analysis; based on this, and on the constructive feedback received from all the other participants, it then identifies the potential for improving its policies and the lessons it will take home. General policy conclusions applicable to all countries and contexts are also drawn.

Practicalities

The workshop starts Sunday 26 October 19.00 in Alte Kanzlei Stuttgart GmbH, Schillerplatz 5A, 70173 Stuttgart. We will be welcomed by our German colleague and host, Dr Norbert Lurz, with a drink and a snack, get the chance to find out more about our expectations for the workshop and get introduced to each other.

The workshop venue is Ministerium für Kultus, Jugend und Sport Baden-Württemberg, Thouretstraße 6, 70173 Stuttgart. We will be able to have lunch in the canteen of the Neue Schloss, 10 minutes walk from the ministry.

The Ministerium für Kultus, Jugend und Sport Baden-Württemberg is hosting an informal dinner Monday evening at Brauhaus Schönbuch, Bolzstrasse 10, 70173 Stuttgart. Before that, there will be a possibility to take part in a guided tour of Stuttgart.

In-depth country workshop 26-29 October 2014 Programme overview

Sunday October 26th

Alte Kanzlei Stuttgart GmbH

	Arrivals	
19.00	Welcome from the Ministry of Education Youth and Sports Alte Kanzlei Stuttgart" (snacks and drinks) Introduction Participants' expectations	
20.30	(Rest of evening free) [Meeting of the preparatory group]	

Monday October 27th

Ministerium für Kultus, Jugend und Sport Baden-Württemberg

9.15	Official Welcome: Sabine Frömke, Head of Department 5 - Youth, Sports and Continuing Education Practical Information: Dr. Norbert Lurz, Head of Unit 55 - Continuing Education	Plenary
9.25	Brief introduction - ET 2020 - purpose of Peer learning / Peer review in ET 2020 (Paul Holdsworth, European Commission)	Plenary
9.50	Introduction to the topic: - what research tells us about adult participation in learning - what WG members tell us about their policies (JD Carpentieri Consultant) Discussion	Plenary Groups
10.50	First session of country examples - Germany	Plenary
	German point of view: Nicole Lederle, BMBF/DLR (federal view), , Norbert Lurz (states view) 3 x 10 min presentation of local German projects focusing on "What worked and why" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools and Basic Education (Mannheim) • GISO (Stuttgart) • Everyday Mosaic (VHS Buchen) 	

	Questions for clarification	
12.00	Discussion Policy analysis	Groups
12.45	Lunch (at participants' own expense)	
14.00	Start listing of success factors	Plenary
14.30	Second session of country examples	Plenary
	4 x 10 min presentation of policy and impact, focusing on "What worked and why" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austria • Belgium (NI) • Poland • <i>Slovak Republic</i> 	
15.10	Questions for clarification	Plenary
15.25	Discussion - Policy analysis	Groups
16.15	Building on list of success factors. Impact on country policy	Plenary
16.45	Learning reflection	Plenary
17.15	Reflections on the Day Preparation for tomorrow Practical information about evening programme	Plenary
17.45	End of day 1	
	[Meeting of the preparatory group]	
19.00	Guided tour through the city of Stuttgart (optional)	
20.00	Informal dinner at Brauhaus Schönbuch, Bolzstrasse 10, hosted by the Ministry for Culture, Youth and Sport, Baden-Württemberg	

Tuesday October 28th

Ministerium für Kultus, Jugend und Sport Baden-Württemberg

9.15	Opening Recap of what we are doing and where we have got to	Plenary
9.45	Presentation from Eurydice (Ana Sofia de Almeida Coutinho)	Plenary
10.00	Presentation from Cedefop (Alexandra Dehmel)	Plenary
10.15	Third session of country examples	Plenary
	3 x 10 min presentation of policy and impact, focusing on "What worked and why" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Italy • Latvia • <i>The Netherlands</i> 	

10.45	Questions for clarification	Plenary
11.00	Discussion Policy analysis Refinement of success factors	Groups
11.45	Refining list of success factors.	Plenary
12.15	Lunch (at participant's own expense)	
13.45	Stakeholders' perspectives	Plenary
14.15	Fourth session of country examples	Plenary
	3 x 10 min presentation of policy and impact, focusing on "What worked and why" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norway • Serbia • Slovenia • <i>Belgium Fr</i> 	
15.00	Questions for clarification	Plenary
15.15	Discussion Policy analysis	Groups
16.00	Refinement of success factors Summing up	Plenary
16.30	The national perspective Country analysis	Country pairs
17.15	Reflections on the Day Preparation for tomorrow (evening work might be needed) [Meeting of the preparatory group]	
18.00	End of day 2	

Wednesday October 29th

Ministerium für Kultus, Jugend und Sport Baden-Württemberg

9.15	Opening	Plenary
9.30	The national perspective Country analysis and feedback session	Country pairs
10.15	Perspectives from country reflections	Plenary
10.45	Preparation of poster 'Lessons learned for my country' by country pairs;	Country pairs
11.15	Poster session 'Lessons learned for my country' Comments by other participants	Plenary
11.30	Drawing conclusions for each country	Country pairs
12.15	Lunch (at participant's own expense)	
13.30	Seeking connections Report to WG Towards policy conclusions	Plenary
14.30	Evaluation of the workshop process	Plenary
15.15	Closing remarks	Plenary
16.00	End of workshop	Plenary
	[Meeting of the preparatory group]	