



ET2020 working group
on adult learning policy

Effective policies for adult basic skills

Stuttgart, 26-29 October 2014

Austria:

What worked and why

What worked?

What did this policy achieve re basic skills?

- Between 08/2012 and 01/2014, about **9.300 persons** enrolled in a basic education course.
- New entries **per year about 5.800 learners** = appr. **260%** of the calculated number.
- Dropouts is about 15% (also due to new jobs)
- Approx. **70% migrants, 66% women, 58% Vienna**
- Until 04/14, approx. 70 educational offers passed the accreditation; almost 90% were funded.
- In 2013, about 100 trainers received a special new training.

Why did it work? → Design of policy

- Courses are offered all over Austria and are they are **free of charge** (→ high participation)
- A **framework curriculum** combines literacy in German with numeracy, ICT and learning to learn
- **Central accreditation** of courses by an own agency (binding quality criteria for all providers)
- A **special teachers' training** was implemented
- Focus on **learners' needs** as well as small learning groups → high quality
- **Integrated counselling** and guidance in all courses

Why did it work? → Implementation of policy

- High level of cooperation with many stakeholders and groups, high transparency: **Governance**
- Taking **enough time** for preparatory talks, feedback loops, public presentations etc. until the system become operative → the supportive structure + the overall communication are rated very high in evaluation
- Embedding the program in the **national LLL2020-strategy** (signed by 4 ministers) → commitment for a long-term duration.

Why did it work? → Other aspects

- The program and the courses are **promoted** by the IEB agency, by all providers, by the national guidance services and by a central literacy service.
- The **labour market services** often cover the living costs for learners who participate in the program.
- Cooperation with many **provider institutions** who are in daily contact with the target groups.
- Successful national formats which already existed were included.
- A **2nd program area** offers the chance to complete the lower secondary school.

What didn't work so well?

What aspects are you planning to improve & how?

- Main issue: the number of interested learners (and also the demand according to PIAAC) is larger than the **program capacity** – ESF funding shall be used in 2015 to increase capacity.
- **Working conditions** of trainers is a problem to tackle.
- **Outreach**: special target groups were preferably reached (migrants, women) and others not (employed, L1 German).
- **Creaming** effect in the 2nd program area