Adult Learning – policy developments

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The European Agenda for Adult Learning (Council Resolution of 28 November 2011)

- Crisis underlines role of adult learning in preparing adults to adapt to and cope with labour market and social change, in particular low skilled and older adults
- Europe 2020 – economic recovery, sustainable and inclusive growth
  - Agenda for new skills and jobs
  - Platform against poverty
  - Innovation Union
  - Headline targets - early school leavers, tertiary education
- Gives a vision for adult learning by 2020
- Continues, complements and consolidates work initiatives by Adult Learning Action Plan, Copenhagen, Bologna, etc.
- Places adult learning in the context of E&T 2020
- Proposes priorities for EU cooperation on adult learning, 2012-2014
Continuity of policy development

- Building on the achievements of the Action Plan, 2008-10 & its focus on low-skilled and disadvantaged groups & their basic skills
- Developing the adult learning sector - currently the weakest link in the LLL chain
- Renewed focus on increasing participation, especially of those furthest from learning
- Working as part of the OMC to exchange good practice and experience among countries
Consolidation

- Emphasis on low skilled/qualified groups and taking their basic skills "one step up"
- Stronger emphasis on implementation within Member States (national, regional and local level) as well as through EU-level activities
- Effective liaison with relevant stakeholders: social partners, business, NGOs, civil society
- Nomination of a national coordinator to steer awareness-raising, launch cooperation with other countries and liaise with the Commission
Vision for adult learning to 2020

- Access to high quality learning any time in life for personal, social and economic ends
- Awareness of each adult / each employer
- Fairly shared responsibility, adequate resourcing
- Learner / learning outcomes at centre supported by guidance, validation, flexible provisions
- Learning locally with a significant role for social partners, civil society and local authorities
- Active learning for seniors and mutual learning & solidarity between generations
Priorities for 2012-2014

- Based on ET 2020 strategic objectives:
  - Lifelong learning and learning mobility
  - Improved quality and efficiency of provision and outcomes
  - Promote equity, social cohesion, active citizenship
  - Enhance innovation and creativity including entrepreneurship

- Additional objective:
  - Improving the knowledge base and monitoring
Lifelong learning and learning mobility

- Stimulating demand
- Awareness raising and motivation among potential learners
- Easily accessible information and guidance & effective outreach
- Engaging employers in workplace-based learning
- Flexible learning pathways, including diversification of opportunities for adults in HE
- Fully functional systems for validation of non-formal and informal learning
Improved quality and efficiency of provision and outcomes

- Quality assurance for adult learning providers, taking account of existing systems
- Improving initial training of adult education staff & quality of provision
- Viable funding system based on shared responsibility & distribution across the life course
- Acquisition of qualifications & skills that respond to labour market & societal change
- Intensifying cooperation and partnership between stakeholders, especially at local & regional level
Promote equity, social cohesion, active citizenship

Second chance opportunities aimed at:

- Improving adults’ literacy, numeracy & digital skills
- Acquiring new forms of basic skills for active participation in modern life & society
- Strengthening social inclusion & active community participation through adult learning
- Improving access to learning for migrants, Roma, disadvantaged groups
- Active ageing: learning opportunities for older adults
- Responding to the learning needs of people with disabilities or in specific situations of exclusion
Enhance innovation and creativity including entrepreneurship

- Developing new pedagogies & creative learning environments
- Acquisition of transversal competences, e.g. by applying the European Key Competence Framework
- Enhancing the role of cultural organisations, civil society, sporting & other organisations in providing creative & innovative learning settings
- Making better use of ICT for wider access and improved quality of provision
What’s new?

- Raising awareness among adults
- Learning later in life to promote active, autonomous and healthy ageing
- Developing new skills necessary for active participation in modern society
- Fostering solidarity between different age groups, between cultures and people of all backgrounds
- Greater openness in higher education to adults and the community at large
- Designation of national coordinators
Commission’s role

- Supporting countries/national coordinators through:
  - specific call
  - peer learning
  - conferences and workshops
  - Improving data collection & monitoring

- Assuring complementarity within ET2020 process & reporting on implementation in Joint Progress Reports

- Strengthening the knowledge base through studies and research

- Thematic working groups on Quality and Financing (2011-2013)

- Exploiting PIAAC results 2013
The Grundtvig Programme as a testbed for AL policy

Contribution of Grundtvig centralised projects

1. development of adult learning practice
2. testing **innovation and quality** of AL provision in **formal and non-formal learning** in European countries
3. development of teaching and learning methods and materials
4. development of European dimension of AL providing **opportunities for transnational cooperation**
5. development of innovative ways to enhance **learning opportunities** for marginalised adults
The Grundtvig Programme as a testbed for AL policy

2011 MCP Call Priorities

1. Acquisition of key competences through adult education

2. The role of adult education in strengthening social inclusion and gender equality

3. Intergenerational learning; Learning for senior citizens; Family learning

4. Quality assurance of adult learning, including the professional development of staff

Agenda for AL Priorities 2012-14

1. Making lifelong learning and mobility a reality: employers’ involvement, validation

2. Improving the quality and efficiency of education and training through: quality assurance, quality of adult education staff, transparent system for the funding, better reflecting labour market needs, Intensifying cooperation and partnerships

3. Promoting equity, social cohesion and active citizenship through AL: Improving adult skills, improving access to adult learning for migrants, learning opportunities for older adults, learning needs of people with disabilities.

4. Enhancing the creativity and innovation of adults and their learning environments: transversal key competences, the role of cultural organisations, better use of ICT in the context of adult learning

5. Improving the knowledge base and monitoring
The Grundtvig Programme as a testbed for AL policy

2011 MNW Call Priority

1. Promoting social cohesion through improved adult learning opportunities for specific social groups

Agenda for AL Priorities 2012-14

1. Making lifelong learning and mobility a reality. This means increase and widen the participation of adults in LLL through: Stimulating demand, focus on disadvantaged groups, promoting the engagement of employers in workplace-based learning, promoting flexible learning pathways for adults, validating non-formal and informal learning

3. Promoting equity, social cohesion and active citizenship through AL: Improving adult skills, improving access to adult learning for migrants, learning opportunities for older adults, learning needs of people with disabilities.
Challenges ahead

- Implementation of the European Agenda for Adult Learning requiring active participation and commitment of all stakeholders at all levels

- Successful implementation of GRU projects – key to responding to policy priorities, providing sound evidence for further policy developments and demonstrating the European added value and impact of such projects