

Basic skills in the New Agenda for Adult Learning

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#EUSkillsAgenda
#UpskillingPathways

EU support for Adult learning



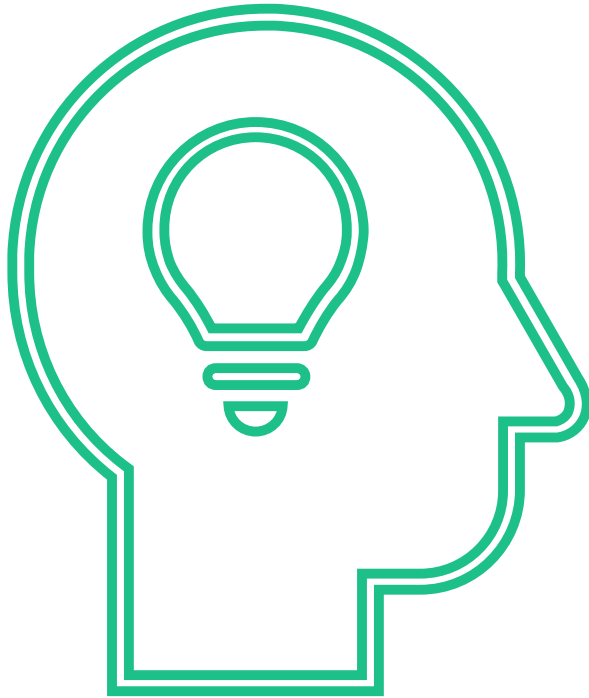
Policy
framework

Open
method of
coordination

Evidence

Funding

Policy context



- The number of low-qualified adults is decreasing.
- In 2021 there were around 48.7 million low qualified adults compared to around 56.1 million in 2016 (*Eurostat*).
- The trend is positive; however, the scope of the challenge remains large.

Policy framework

2001 Council
Conclusions on the
follow up of the report
on concrete future
objectives of education
and training systems

2011 Council Resolution
on a renewed European
agenda for adult
learning

Council Resolution on a
new European agenda
for adult learning 2021-
2030

2016 New Skills Agenda
for Europe

European Pillar of
Social Rights

2020 European Skills
Agenda

PIAAC results

Links with other
initiatives, funding
instruments and tools

Policy framework - participation target



At least
60%
of all adults **should**
participate in training
every year by 2030

Policy framework - New Agenda for Adult learning

- It **builds upon** the previous agenda and the **recent EU policy initiatives**, the Skills Agenda and the EPSR Action Plan – it states the importance of the 60% target
- It **recognises the open method of coordination** as the valid working method; the OMC working group and the national coordinators of AL remain essential
- It stresses the importance of **whole-of-government national strategies**
- It notes the relevance of **guidance and validation for adult learning purposes**
- It calls for **professionalization of adult learning staff**
- It **asks the Commission to support Member States** – with a **good implementation of existing initiatives**

New Agenda for Adult learning



- It calls for work by Member States on the following dimensions
 - **governance**,
 - **supply and take-up** of lifelong learning opportunities,
 - **accessibility and flexibility**,
 - **quality, equity, inclusion and success** in adult learning,
 - Incentives should be considered to eliminate the barriers to participation in adult learning of all target groups, such as lack of time for studying, low basic skills, low professional skills, inaccessibility, low levels of motivation and negative attitudes to learning. Cooperation with relevant stakeholders is essential in drawing disengaged adults and specific target groups back to learning
- the **green and digital transitions**.

Objectives of the Council Recommendation on Upskilling Pathways



- + **supporting measures** such as:
- Motivation and outreach measures
- Guidance and mentoring
- Professional development of education staff

Upskilling Pathways



Plans embedded into wider strategies

Building on measures already in force

Setting new ambitious agendas

Dedicated pilots and initiatives

Involving variety of stakeholders

E.g. Skills Investment Plan 2018-2022 in France

E.g. Reinforcing the Qualifica programme in Portugal

E.g. In the Netherlands, implementation is part of the Government's wider policy to achieve a breakthrough in developing lifelong learning, including support for low-skilled adults

E.g. Czechia commenced a comprehensive pilot to create a systemic environment for upskilling

E.g. ministries (education, labour..), schools, community centres, VET providers, both public and private

About the evaluation of the Council Recommendation on Upskilling Pathways

The Commission **took stock of the first phase** of implementation of measures and **published its results in the Commission Staff Working Document** on the Council Recommendation on Upskilling Pathways: New Opportunities for Adults **in 2019**.

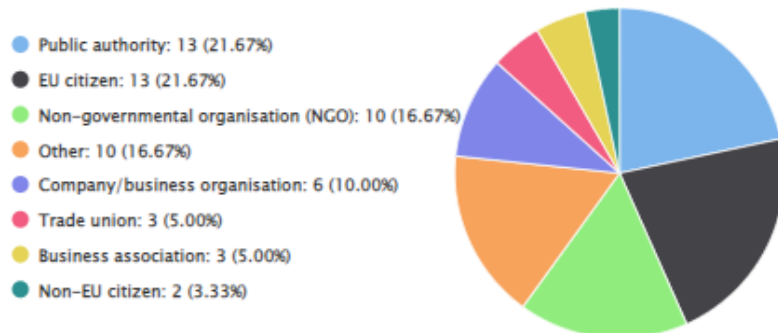
The current evaluation responds to the Recommendation's invitation to the Commission to:

"Assess and evaluate, in cooperation with the Member States and after consulting the stakeholders concerned, **the actions taken in response to this Recommendation** and, within five years from the date of its adoption, **report to the Council on progress made towards raising the levels of literacy, numeracy and digital competence amongst low-qualified adults, experience gained and implications for the future"**.

About the evaluation of the Council Recommendation on Upskilling Pathways



By category of respondent



Open method of coordination

National coordinators

- One of their workprogrammes focused on Upskilling Pathways
- Activities comprise e.g. of:
 - Building on existing methodologies,
 - Training courses,
 - Involving the local/regional level,
 - Focus on take up of services and information provision, outreach;
 - Coordination bodies, mechanism

Adult learning Working Group

- Mandate 2021-2025
- 2 meetings so far: 27 January, 31 March, online
- 2 PLAs, online: 8-9 March on Skills for Life, 12-13 May on Financing of Adult Learning

Mutual learning

- Series of two capacity-building events to support Member States in the implementation of the Upskilling Pathways Recommendation
- Each delegation was led by representatives of Education and/or Employment ministries and composed of other key stakeholders such as adult learning providers, public employment services, social partners and supported by an independent country expert.

EU Funding

European Social Fund+ (ESF+)

Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) programme

Technical Support Instrument (TSI)

Erasmus+

Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)

Evidence

