

Closing the literacy gap

Policy advice in response to the results of the PIAAC research

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Definition

- Literacy includes skills to gain and understand information and to use it in the domains of
 - language
 - numeracy
 - ICT
- Literacy skills are important to function autonomously and participate in society and are needed for personal development and to be able to learn

PIAAC 2023 Flanders: summary

1. Flemish adults perform comparatively well in all categories
2. The percentage of high-achievers is rising significantly, the percentage of low-achievers is not (compared to 2012)
3. The gap between high- and low-achievers is widening significantly (compared to 2012)
 - Shorter versus longer education
 - With versus without migration background
4. The group of people born between 1989 and 1996 performs significantly better (compared to 2012)

Policy proposals

- Government
- Partners
- Research

What are the proposals based on?

- Results of PIAAC Flanders (UGent)
- Evaluation of the Strategic Literacy Plan 2017-2024
- Expertise of the working group
 - Centres for adult education and Ligo network organisations
 - Teacher unions
 - Principals
 - Government officials

International comparison?

- PIAAC does not include good practices or (general) recommendations
- Which countries/regions offer a good example for Flanders?

Government

- Whole-of-government approach with many different policy domains
 - Coordinated action and responsibility
 - Offer accessible training programmes, stimulate referrals and raise awareness
 - Inclusion by design

Partners

- Stimulate structural cooperation between partners
- Combat early school leaving
- Raising enrolment fees can only happen very carefully
- Continue unemployment benefits for students in vocational training
- Broaden literacy modules to include numeracy and digital skills
- Train teachers, respect and value their autonomy

Research...

- causes and solutions for the gap between low- and high-achievers in literacy skills
- literacy skills of 65+
- the cause(s) of the growth in skills of the youngest group researched in PIAAC

Questions and discussion



- Could these policy proposals have a positive impact on the literacy skills of Flemish adults?
- Are these proposals also relevant for other regions and countries?
- What other good practices and policy innovations from other regions and countries could be beneficial for Flanders?