

Skills data for policy impact

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Introduction

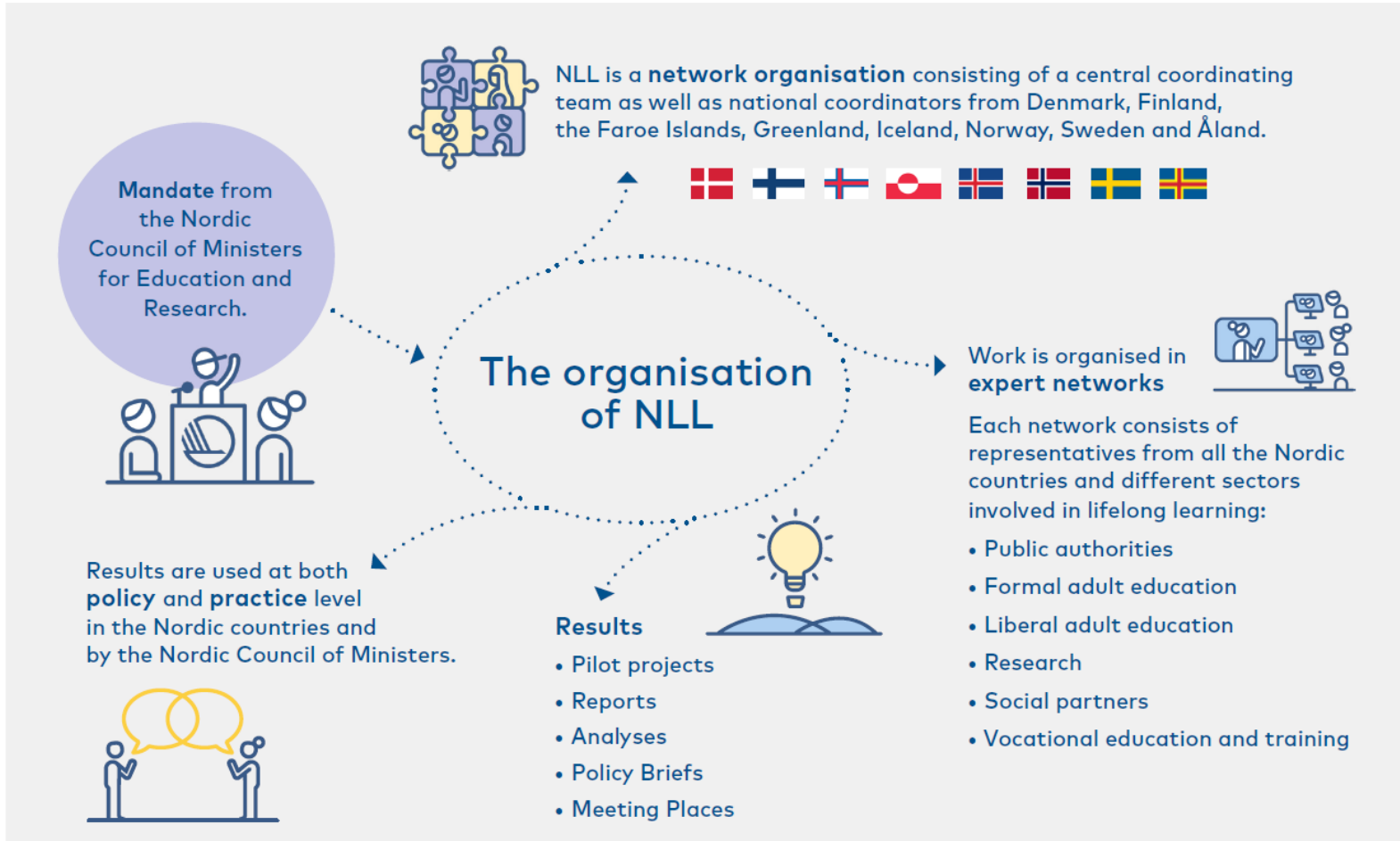
NLL stands for Nordic Network for Lifelong Learning

NLL is financed by The Nordic Council of Ministers

NLL supports lifelong learning research, development of policies and share of good practices amongst member countries of the Nordic Council of Ministers

NLL highlights Nordic expertise within priority areas like adult education, competence development, validation of prior learning, digital support to learning, workplace learning





Nordic-Baltic PIAAC network



Introduction

- Established in PIAAC Cycle 1
- Includes PIAAC Teams from Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Estonia, and Latvia
- Co-operates on the practical implementation of PIAAC
- **Publishes content for policymakers and researchers through a Nordic-Baltic PIAAC website**
- Creates meeting places

Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC)

- A multi-cycle international research programme on adult skills necessary for successful participation in the economy and society
 - An assessment of literacy, numeracy, and adaptive problem-solving skills
 - An extensive background questionnaire linking proficiency with demographics, education, work, use of skills in everyday life and work, etc.
- Conducted under the auspices of the OECD

Target groups, main goals of the work, products

- The objective of the Nordic – Baltic network is to
 - increase awareness of PIAAC results in the Nordic-Baltic countries
 - evaluate the **efficiency of labour market and educational policies** in the Nordic-Baltic countries by providing analyses based on PIAAC data
 - **facilitate the access and use of combined PIAAC and register data**
- Target groups: policymakers, researchers and practitioners working in the fields of education and labour market.
- Articles: Access to PIAAC data with a meta-data handbook, Design of PIAAC survey and its implications for data analysis.



19/12/2024 · NORDEN

NEWS: GRUNDLÆGGENDE FÆRDIGHEDER

Nordic and Baltic adults have high levels of skills, but how do we prevent decline over time?

On 10th December, the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) II survey, conducted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), was published. Results show that the Nordic and Baltic countries score high, yet there are still important lessons to be learned. Lifelong learning seems to be part of the answer.

[Read news >](#)

Design of PIAAC survey of adult skills and its implications to data analysis



09/07/2024 · NORDEN · 4 MIN.

ARTICLE: GRUNDLÆGGENDE FÆRDIGHEDER

Design of PIAAC survey of adult skills and its implications to data analysis

The Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) is an OECD survey measuring key information-processing skills in literacy, numeracy and problem solving among the adult population aged 16–65.



16/05/2024 · NORDEN · 14 MIN.

ARTICLE: VEJLEDNING

Access to PIAAC data

PIAAC measures key information processing skills and data from the survey provide unique opportunities to analyse the cognitive skills needed in the labour market and society. Access to PIAAC data, on its own or linked to register data, is possible for research purposes. To facilitate the selection of registered variables a handbook is available for the Nordic countries and Estonia....

Sharing

Denmark: <https://nll.org/artikler/piaac-dansk-fremgang-i-baade-laesning-og-regning/>

Sweden: <https://nll.org/artikler/lysande-piaac-resultat-tyngs-av-samrelasfardigheter-bland-unga/>

Finland: <https://nll.org/artikler/finland-bast-i-klassen-nar-det-galler-vuxnas-grundlaggande-fardigheter/>

Norway: <https://nll.org/artikler/det-er-naa-piaac2-begynner/>





Findings

Highest skills

Finland, Japan, Sweden, Norway, the Netherlands, Estonia, the Flemish Region and Denmark (in ranked order) are the OECD countries with the highest skills.

Out of the six countries from the Nordic and Baltic regions, only in Latvia results are close to or below OECD averages.





Average skill scores 2023, population 16 - 65 years

	Literacy	Numeracy	Problemsolving skills
Denmark	273	279	264
Estonia	276	281	263
Finland	296	294	276
Latvia	248	263	244
Norway	281	285	271
Sweden	284	285	273
OECD-average	260	263	251

Trends

Over the past decade, **average literacy proficiency has improved** in Denmark and Finland and remained stable in Estonia, Norway and Sweden.

In all other participating OECD countries average literacy proficiency remained stable or declined.

Numeracy skills have improved in Denmark, Estonia, Finland and Norway, remaining stable in Sweden.



LLL – part of the answer

- The PIAAC results indicate that access to high quality education across the Nordic and Baltic regions creates fruitful learning environments and ensures an adult population with high levels of skills.
- **BUT** - in order to keep skills levels high and prevent skills from declining over time, a **continuous focus on lifelong learning is essential.**



Disparities

There is still big differences between population groups within countries in average skills, for example have **tertiary educated persons in all participating countries significantly higher average skills** compared to persons with an upper secondary education or persons with below upper secondary education.



Declines in literacy and numeracy proficiency are particularly evident among the least educated segments of the population.



Average skill scores in literacy 2023 by highest completed level of education, population 16 - 65 years

	Below upper secondary education	Upper secondary education and post-secondary non-tertiary education	Tertiary education				
Denmark	246	274	299				
Estonia	257	263	296				
Finland	267	295	321				
Latvia	224	236	271				
Norway	252	274	300				
Sweden	257	283	300				
OECD-average	230	256	285				

Ongoing work within the network

Dec. 2024 - A Nordic-Baltic press release summarizing the main findings of the national PIAAC reports

Q1 2025 - Articles based on the national PIAAC reports of the Nordic-Baltic countries (NLL)

Q2 2025 - Webinar focusing on the opportunities of PIAAC data

Q3 2025 – Reference group meeting – decision makers and researchers

2026 - Nordic-Baltic PIAAC Conference in Jyväskylä, FI
2025 and 2027 - Nordic-Baltic PIAAC Comparative -




Thematic reports – to come – informed decision making

Development of skills and **links** between skills and socio-demographic characteristics

Economic and non-economic **outcomes of skills**

Skill-use and **participation** in adult learning



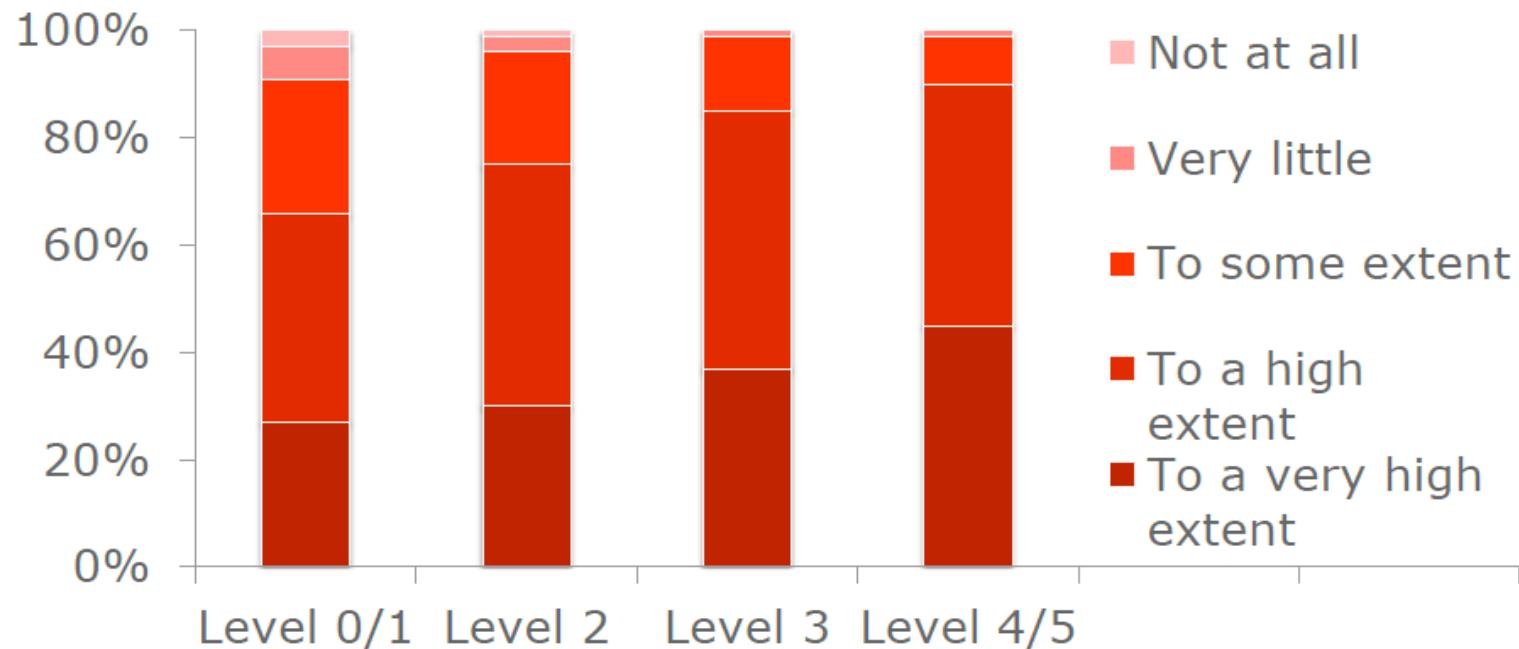
Sharing of good practices

**On a positive note –
motivation – the joy
of learning**



The joy of learning acc. to literacy level

Literacy level and motivation for learning:
"I like learning new things"



What does it mean?

Shared challenges in four Nordic countries:

- only half of those with low education participate in LLL compared to those with higher education.
- people with low basic skills have systematically lower learning motivation.

But: Many people with low level of education actually **like to learn new things and are motivated to improve their skills.**

- 36% among older workers with low education level participate in learning. (*T. Tikkanen*, University of Stavanger, PIAAC results research, round 1).

Tack

nll.org

<https://nll.org/netvaerk/piaac/>



Nordic Network for
Lifelong Learning



Using PIAAC data –

How do you / your organisation / country proceed?