

Enhancing basic skills crucial for the future of adult learning in Hungary

Hungary places great importance on adult learning and education (ALE). Policy-makers in the country recognise the significance of ALE and have undertaken various measures to promote it, including responding to labour market needs and addressing societal challenges such as digital transitions. However, there are some concerns about funding and participation in policy-making processes.

Key Highlights in 2022/2023

In 2022/2023, Hungary initiated a crucial policy change supported by the OECD. This change is aimed at introducing Individual Learning Accounts in ALE, along with microcredentials. It marks an important step forward, indicating the commitment to enhancing adult education. ALE organisations in Hungary acknowledge the importance of the European Education Area but feel that the country lags in its implementation.

Funding Situation

Funding for ALE in Hungary primarily comes from multiple sources, including program funding, contributions from employers, and formula funding. The funding situation has slightly improved, with the government allocating significant funds to support the integration of vulnerable adults in rural areas, enhancing socialisation and job preparedness.

Funding situation has not changed that much, the state has put some significant funds to support the integration of vulnerable adults in rural environments to get socialized and prepared for some initial jobs/employment.

Participation in Policy-Making

Civil society organisations in Hungary actively participate in public consultations, especially at the regional level. The University of Pcs has been involved in consultations with ALE and employment stakeholders. Additionally, they have engaged in the Learning City campaign for lifelong learning.

Recommendations

To further improve ALE in Hungary, it is recommended to:

- Prioritise basic skills development through direct programmes and collaborations in rural areas.
- Strengthen second-chance schools to combat illiteracy effectively.
- Focus more on the Master Plan for Adult Education in 2023 (MFA-2023).

While Hungary recognises the importance of ALE, there is still room for improvement. ALE is considered a valuable tool for adult learners to reskill and upskill. The country's focus should now turn toward enhancing basic skills development and addressing the needs of vulnerable populations in rural areas.
