

Developments: New Adult Learning Strategy introduced

According to EAEAs member, The Business Foundation for Education (BFE), the situation of adult learning and education (ALE) in Bulgaria has slightly improved compared to the previous year, because there are new options for re-qualification.

The recently introduced [New Adult Learning Strategy](#) is aimed at creating new flexible opportunities for the acquisition of basic skills, new competences, qualifications, and retraining in formal and non-formal education. The strategy puts more emphasis and positively supports individual strategies for education, training, and learning. It is also creating conditions for non-formal learning.

The New Adult Learning Strategy will involve many different actors to enhance cohesion between various stakeholders. The Ministry of Education and Science will take initiatives and synchronize its actions with other institutions, such as the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Employment Agency, as well as with organisations, municipalities, vocational schools, and local businesses to "close the circle" of services - providing support for literacy and learning content, acquiring qualifications for finding a job etc.

BFE stresses that civil society is rarely consulted in the ALE policymaking.

Challenges: Adequate

financing and sustainability

According to BFE, there have been no changes in the funding of adult education in the last year. BFE would like to request more adequate financing for adult learning providers from the Bulgarian government. Concerning the ongoing pandemic, addressing mental health at the workplace will be one of the focus areas for 2021/2022 in adult learning and education.

BFE finds social and environmental sustainability a very important topic but would like to receive more support to develop a plan and promote it. In general, they see further potential for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Bulgaria, noting that the implementation of SDGs substantially varies in the ALE sector. No ALE organisations from Bulgaria are involved with the European CONFINTEA process yet.
