

Developments: New skills strategy

The situation of Adult Learning and Education in Poland has stayed the same over the last year. There have been some new policies and strategies. The Integrated Skills Strategy 2030 was approved by the council of Ministers in February 2019 and opened up for public consultation for experts and organisations in July 2020. EAEAs member Stowarzyszenie had a chance to contribute to the consultation. In the past year, more funds were allocated to groups that promote and provide adult education.

Low visibility of adult education

Although the additional financial support has enhanced possibilities, the visibility of adult education remains low. In the past year Stowarzyszenie has received several European grants. In 2020 Stowarzyszenie launched the PROO program that will allow the organisation to develop their educational offer, create new training courses for professional trainers and start educational activities outside the country. In September 2020 they will continue a project that aims at supporting the social economy.

The organisation didn't have to terminate any agreements and even received several grants during the pandemic. In the past year Stowarzyszenie engaged in many activities. They decided to dedicate the profit from 2019 to an internal project for an educational resource base online.

Civil society is only included in policy making to a certain extent in Poland.

Stowarzyszenie is not aware of a consultation on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social rights. In the past year there were some policies on Upskilling Pathways in

place. However, Stowarzyszenie is not aware of the implementation of any policies that promote the Sustainable Development Goals. The report of the European Semester partially responds to the experience of EAEAs member.

Challenges: Popularisation of adult education as an ongoing challenge

The main challenge for the upcoming year is enhancing the popularity of adult education in smaller towns and villages, as it continues to be seen as an extension of school education. The Polish society still has a rather narrow picture of adult education. This results in a lack of motivation to engage in adult learning, especially for adults with low competences. Therefore, it remains an ongoing challenge to further encourage and involve new people in adult learning and education.

The effects of the pandemic in Poland

COVID-19 significantly affected the adult education sector in Poland. Stowarzyszenie, however, was only slightly affected. They had to switch to remote work and projects with physical workshops were affected. In the trainer school classes were postponed because many participants insisted on physical workshops, instead of moving them online. The transition to remote work was difficult and involved postponed or cancelled activities for Erasmus+ projects. However, the organisation realized that many members actually

value online training as they are easier to organise and allow for wider participation. In May 2020 Stowarzyszenie organized a virtual training festival, in which over 150 participants joined.

In the next year Stowarzyszenie seeks to get more involved in themes covering the climate and environment. They will continue to work on their international project, which seeks to provide educational activities for educators, trainers and participants.
