

Despite improvements, adult learning in Slovakia still not inclusive enough

Adult Learning and Education (ALE) policies in Slovakia promote inclusive and accessible adult education, but still, not all people can afford to participate in ALE.

Policies also foster adult education to respond to labour market needs and societal challenges, while at the same time EAEAs member, the Association of Adult Education in Slovakia, reports on some challenges at the policy level as well.

According to EAEA's member, ALE policies in Slovakia respond to the labour market needs, societal challenges, democratic participation and social cohesion. The views and concerns of civil society organisations are taken into account in policy-making processes and they can actively participate in relevant processes.

EAEAs member was engaged in some campaigns on the national and regional level in 2022-2023. They organised the last Life Long Learning week in Slovakia and some round tables on adult learning and education. One main focus areas of the organisation for the next year will be Life Skills.

Funding sources of adult learning and education in Slovakia:

- Project funding
- Fees paid by individuals
- Individual learning accounts

The funding situation of ALE in Slovakia has slightly improved compared to last year. Nevertheless, funding from public sources at the national and local levels is not sufficient. It is also not affordable for everyone to participate in ALE.

The Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family focuses on projects on individual learning account settings.

Regarding EU funding and projects, even if many organisations are aware of e.g. Erasmus+ mobility opportunities, they often don't have the time and resources to apply.

Key recommendations to improve adult education in Slovakia:

- Include Adult Education in legislation and integrate it into the education system at all levels.
 - Collecting missing data on adult education, including the financial situation.
 - Support for interdepartmental coordination of adult education on a national and regional level.
 - More recognition and appreciation for non-formal and informal learning.
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