

Developments: New voucher system and an increase in funding

In Liechtenstein, the situation of adult education has slightly improved in 2019/2020.

The foundation (Stiftung für Erwachsenenbildung) implemented a voucher system which gives access to adult education across the country. Adults under a certain income can apply for a voucher (CHF 500) that is valid for a year and enables them to partake in adult education courses throughout the country. The foundation hopes that the voucher system will be implemented on a permanent basis, receiving more continuous support from the ministry and the parliament. The funding situation of adult education has slightly improved in Liechtenstein because the government raised the funding by 3% to test the voucher system.

The foundation is not aware of a consultation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, nor of the implementation in society. According to EAEAs member, there are no new strategies for Sustainable Development Goals implementation.

Challenges: Stabilising local providers under the pandemic

One of the main challenges for adult education in Lichtenstein will be carrying the consequences of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The adult education sector in Liechtenstein has been significantly affected by the coronavirus. The foundation itself was only slightly affected. Nevertheless, Stiftung fr Erwachsenenbildung can no longer meet its goals to stabilise support for the local providers of adult education and to enhance the demand for adult education in the country.

Push for the continuation of the voucher system

With the economic decline caused by the pandemic, many companies and education providers had to cancel their training. Adults can no longer afford training and have other priorities as large parts of the population had to adjust to short-time work and lower income schemes.

The planned voucher system has also been affected by the pandemic. The demand of vouchers has decreased based on the closing of the majority of adult learning institutions across the country. For the upcoming year, the foundation seeks to improve the voucher system to enhance the outreach, recruitment and guidance of new learners, incentivised through the voucher system.

Addressing policy makers and the government, the foundation proposes to invest more money and capacity in individual subsidisation and outreach and guidance for new learners. The foundation pushes for continuation of the voucher system and shows how it had a positive effect on the participation of the less fortunate parts of the population.

It urges the government to centre efforts on the needs and interests of adult learners.
