

# The Republic of North Macedonia introduction

In the past year, the financial stability of non-formal adult education providers in the Republic of North Macedonia has been shaken by budgetary cuts, which pose a threat to the quality, and quantity of learning opportunities. Nonetheless, adult learning organisations in the country keep working with vulnerable groups to ensure their inclusion into both society and the labour market.

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## Recent developments in the Republic of North Macedonia

Recently, North Macedonia set up a national database of providers of non-formal adult education, established by the Public Institution of Adult Education Centre. This database is public, and available on the centres official website: [www.cov.gov.mk](http://www.cov.gov.mk)

The main objective of establishing the database is to mobilise various education providers by publishing their training programmes on the platform, to spread information to all potential adult citizens interested in non-formal education opportunities, and to develop Lifelong Learning Culture in the society.

For the period 2016-2020, the main priority of North Macedonians Adult Education sector has been the establishment of a national system of validation of non-formal and informal learning. There have already been taken numerous steps on various levels in

the past few years, including piloting the system in 2019. The system is expected to be introduced in 2020. However, financial challenges may pose threats to the systems functionality and sustainability.

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## Links to EU and international policy in the Republic of North Macedonia

There are several legislations that regulate the implementation of goal 4 of Sustainable Development Goals: National Education Strategy; Adult Education Strategy; and Lifelong Learning Conception. However, our EAEA members are not currently implementing the Upskilling Pathways.

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## Challenges and recommendations in the Republic of North Macedonia

The adult education sector in North Macedonia is facing the challenges brought about by insufficient funding. Therefore, EAEA members in the country recommend that investment in adult education is increased through re-introducing funding by public

institutions.

Another issue that can be addressed through adult education is high unemployment rates and inclusion of vulnerable young adults in learning, EAEA members set those areas as their priority for future work.

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