

Developments: Successful implementation of the European policies

Lire et Ecire, an organization that mainly focuses on literacy and numeracy stated that the situation of adult education in Belgium stayed the same to the previous year. Socius, an organization that mainly targets socio-cultural adult work within the Flemish government reiterates that there have been no significant policy changes in the past year. Socius mentions that their funding situation has slightly deteriorated, based on a government austerity policy. Lire et Ecires funding situation has stayed the same.

In 2019/2020 some policies were in place that promoted Upskilling Pathways and others that furthered the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Belgium. The country reports from the European Semester, partially mirror Socius and Lire et Ecires experience in the adult education sector in Belgium in the past year. Socius, among other organisations in the adult education sector have been involved in a civil society consultation process on the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR). So far, EPSR has only been implemented in some areas of the country, but there it has played an important role in promoting national and regional policies and frameworks. Lire et Ecire had a different perception on the EPSR. According to them the EPSR does not play an important role in Belgium, because national policies on adult education and lifelong learning are more ambitious than the ones proposed in the EPSR.

Challenges: The pandemic and the challenges to digital learning

Absorbing the consequences of the pandemic will be one of the main challenges for the adult education sector in Belgium. The sector and the work of Socius have been significantly affected by the global pandemic. As a consequence of the pandemic, Socius work programs are partially moved to digital learning. Lire et Ecire had to suspend all their literacy courses. One of the other main challenges and the focus for Lire et Ecire in 2020/ 2021 will be ensuring that digital skills are included in literacy programs.

EAEAs members will promote digital skills among illiterate learners and ensure that digital learning tools are accessible to all.
