

Developments: New strategy for education

The strategy of the Educational Policy of the Czech Republic until 2030+ is a key document for the development of the educational system in the current decade. The new strategy was approved by the Government of the Czech Republic in October 2020. The main goals are to modernize the Czech education system in the field of regional education, hobby and non-formal education and lifelong learning, prepare it for new challenges and at the same time solve the problems that persist in Czech education. More information regarding Czech Republic policies and strategies is available on the website of the [Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports](#).

EAEAs member Association of Experts in Andragogy reports that they are not involved in the process of CONFINTEA VII.

Funding of ALE

The main funding sources for ALE are project funding, fees paid by individuals or employers and individual learning accounts. In general, the funding for ALE in the country has decreased last year, and income from participant fees has dropped.

COVID-19: Significant growth in online learning

EAEA's member communicates that the current situation of adult learning and education (ALE) in the Czech Republic has slightly deteriorated during 2020/2021. This is due to several reasons the negative effect of the COVID-19 pandemic has provoked. On the other hand, the share of online learning has grown significantly, and the share of online education has grown remarkably.

Learning programmes have continued partly online, partly face to face. The digital environment has attracted a new group of learners, more people have a better command of digital technologies. However, people from disadvantaged groups have dropped out more. The cost of learning provision has decreased since it was not necessary to rent locations, but it was necessary to hire more technical support staff and adult educators familiar with online learning. There was also a need to re-train adult educators in teaching in the digital space.

Sustainability is relevant

The Association of Experts in Andragogy underlines the relevance of social and environmental sustainability by using documents from other sectors for implementation in the adult learning sector.

Challenges: More attention needed to adult education

According to EAEAs member, Association of Experts in Andragogy, civil society is rarely consulted for its involvement in the design and implementation of ALE policies in the Czech Republic. One of the current challenges our respondents observed was the growing mismatch between the needs of the labour market and the outputs of educational programs. Politicians should pay more attention to adult education and lifelong learning.

According to EAEAs members, European programmes such as the ESF and Erasmus+ have failed to reflect pandemic times and offer educational institutions quick and high-

quality solutions to their economic and existential crises.
