

Montenegro introduction

New policies in Montenegro enable organisations to plan innovative adult education initiatives. Indeed, there have been significant changes which enabled several actors to play a central role in strengthening VET training and other practices. Nonetheless, there is still insufficient funding of adult education from the national authorities.

Recent developments in Montenegro

This year Montenegro's government adopted a new Adult Education Plan for 2019/2022 period, which is based on the guidelines, recommendations and resolutions of the EU council. In the new plan, adult education becomes integrated in the national database of the Montenegrin education and information system for the first time. The database contains data on accredited AE providers, available training programmes, active courses, issued certificates, trainees, tracing of learners upon the completion of courses and other data useful for statistical analysis and assessment of the situation in adult education sector. The database allows the country to concentrate on the implementation of new funds. It also leaves Montenegro better prepared to deal with the challenge of validating and recognizing prior learning. These aims are also helped by the application of European guidelines and contemporary learning models in national practice.

Links to EU and international policy in Montenegro

Concerning the implementation of SDGs, the Montenegrin state provided a new VET Strategy, which needs to be promoted and strengthened considerably, along with the AE Strategy and the Sustainable Development Strategy. To implement these strategies several initiatives have been planned, such as the organization of EuroSkills competitions during the EuroSkills Week, likewise the organization of skills competitions for people with disabilities or the annual manifestation of Adult Education in Montenegro. The necessity to improve funding opportunities and the sustainability of the system always needs to be emphasized, yet the capacity building would play a key role in the AE sector.

Challenges and recommendations in Montenegro

Since 2016, the system for adult education has been financially supported by Erasmus+ projects (EPALE and Adult Learning Agenda), no significant changes have taken place recently on the national level - the national budget still does not allocate separate funds for the adult education sector. Nevertheless, the EAEA member in Montenegro, Centre for Vocational Education and Training, is still endeavouring to address the issues concerning low-skilled and marginalized groups of adults, in particular, providing skills training of the unemployed and developing professional development learning for

employed people.

Another challenge for the EAEA member in Montenegro is advocating for the importance of adult education among the professional public.
