

Greece introduction

The adult education sector has been allotted new funding by the new government, and thanks to Erasmus+ projects, Greeces organisations are addressing several adult learning strategies to enhance the level of awareness of the citizens. Moreover, the purpose of implementing Learning for Life Centres would increase the opportunities available for, and the participation from a range of different social groups.

Recent developments in Greece

The past couple of years have been rather challenging for the Greek educational sector due to lack of well-organized state strategies. For more than two years there was no appointed Secretary General for Lifelong Learning. Furthermore, in the past year the situation slightly deteriorated as a result of the change in the government: the newly elected conservative government decided to rename the Secretariat for Lifelong Learning to General Secretariat for Vocational Training and Lifelong Learning. The seemingly small change could make general adult education less of a priority, shifting focus to vocational training, but the results are yet to have been observed.

Even though there have not been any major government initiatives in the past year, our Greek EAEA members anticipate some positive changes: in the near future it is expected that the Municipal Lifelong Learning Centres will be re-opened. Another achievement is the launch of the Greek EPALE platform in March 2019. The platform is expected to support professional development of adult educators.

Links to EU and international policy in Greece

The Greek government made a commitment to the implementation of the goal 4 of the SDGs by setting the promotion of high quality, inclusive education as a priority in the educational field. Therefore, the EAEA members in the country are working on creating affordable and accessible learning opportunities for a range of different groups of adults, especially concerning vital life skills, such as critical and creative thinking. The state agenda and local educational organisations focus on work with migrants and people outside of education, training and employment (NEETs).

A lot of initiatives in the field of education are supported by the Erasmus+ programme, which gives organisations a source of funding autonomy, but also makes projects aligned with the European Agenda for Adult Learning. In particular, EAEA member, Vocational Training Centre DAFNI KEK in collaboration with an NGO Cyclisis is working in promoting Education for All. Their work focuses on special needs education within the sphere of adult learning.

Another initiative, proposed by DAFNI KEK, is Learning for Life, its goal is to increase motivation and encourage vulnerable social groups, such as the Roma and migrant population, to participate in learning. The initiative offers One Stop Shops with educational opportunities designed to reach the underrepresented groups of adult learners. Every adult educator can participate and everyone is invited to take part as facilitator of the initiative through basic volunteering.

Another topic on the state agenda is the validation of non-formal learning and quality

education in VET. EAEA members in the country are also working on promoting ICT-based learning and strengthening the capacities of adult educators.

Challenges and recommendations in Greece

As identified by EAEA members in Greece, promotion of lifelong learning needs to be in the centre of attention of the government and adult education providers. In that regard, several areas need to be considered:

- Inclusion of socially disadvantaged people into learning
 - Support Community Learning Centres and encourage locals to play a role in developing them
 - Needs assessments to help understand the challenges that adults face when it comes to education
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