

Limited space for learners and civil society to shape adult learning in Serbia

In terms of the importance of Adult Learning and Education (ALE) in Serbia, EAEA member League 33's representatives express a favourable stance. They agree that policy-makers in their country consider ALE to be important.

Moreover, they believe that ALE policies actively promote inclusive and accessible adult education, address labour market needs, respond to societal challenges, and foster social cohesion, democratic participation, and well-being.

League 33 reports that there haven't been any significant changes or new policies related to ALE in Serbia during 2022/2023. However, they perceive the overall situation of ALE in their country in 2022/2023 to have remained stable, indicating that it has stayed the same compared to the previous year.

Funding for ALE not sufficient for many people

ALE in Serbia is primarily funded through project funding and program funding, including contracts between education authorities and learning providers. League 33 provides a neutral stance on the sufficiency of funding from the European Union but disagrees with the sufficiency of funding from public sources at the national/local level. They also disagree with the notion that most people can afford to participate in ALE.

Opportunities for participation in policy-making are limited

In terms of learners and civil society organisations' participation in relevant policy-making processes, League 33 holds a neutral position regarding learners' opportunities to express their views and concerns. However, they report that learners' views and concerns are not taken into account in policy-making processes. League 33 does not find that civil society organisations can actively participate in policy-making processes.

Good awareness of Erasmus+

League 33 acknowledges that ALE organisations in Serbia are aware of Erasmus+ mobility opportunities and express a strong agreement that they have the capacity, including resources and skills, to apply for Erasmus+ funding opportunities. However, the organisation is unsure about the level of awareness among the general population regarding the European Year of Skills. Regarding the implementation of the European Education Area in Serbia, League 33 finds it not easily recognizable in their country.

Challenges and recommendations

League 33 points out that ALE in Serbia particularly benefits marginalised populations. They recommend that Serbian national and local decision-makers consider the significant role played by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in improving ALE within the country.
