

Slovenia introduction

In recent years, the Slovenian government has adopted a number of policies that address adult education. While the new regulations and strategies set a supportive background, the policies still need to properly reflect the realities of target groups; this is where local institutions and adult education providers can play a significant role.

Recent developments in Slovenia

In January 2018, the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the new Adult Education Act. The Act came as a substitution to the one from 1996 and brought some important changes to the field of adult education in Slovenia. The Act sets guidelines for public services such as guidance, counselling, validation of non-formal and informal learning, provided by public adult education centres. The Act puts its focus on underrepresented groups in adult education and sets goals for adult education providers, as well as financing standards.

In December 2017 the Slovenian government adopted the Slovenian Development Strategy 2030, which, among other Sustainable Development Goals, addresses goal 4 on Lifelong learning. As a follow up to its implementation, the Slovenian Institute for Adult Education will engage in working on designing the new Adult Education Master Plan: the document that determines the aims, priority areas of work, educational programmes, scope, and types of activity funded by public funds and financial resources. The new Master Plan will define adult education strategies for the years 2021-2030 and is

scheduled to be adopted by the end of 2020. The main goal of the plan will be to keep the focus on how to persuade the most vulnerable groups to participate in learning activities and upgrading their skills and competences.

Links to EU and international policy in Slovenia

As stated by our member in Slovenia, all legislative documents which regulate the education system in Slovenia define and guarantee the quality of education for all on all levels, targeting the satisfaction of goal 4 of Sustainable Development Goals. At the same time, the EAEA members in Slovenia are working on fulfilling the goal 10 of SDG, reduced inequalities, by designing educational programmes that are focusing on vulnerable groups of adults (low-educated, marginalised, unemployed, migrants and older than 45.). In this respect, the main goal of those organizations is to reduce socially generated inequalities.

Challenges and recommendations in Slovenia

The areas that need to be addressed by future policies are:

- The involvement of the public network of providers in fostering the participation of vulnerable groups in learning activities, implementing new approaches and tools.

- Further development of the validation of knowledge and skills acquired in non-formal learning and training.
- Bringing the issues of adult education into Slovenian Development Strategy 2030.
- Designing a sustainable system for sharing the responsibility between the state governance (representing the society) and employers (representing the capital) for raising the level of key competencies of employees.
- Development of a bigger share of active employment policy programmes that are focused on older employees and their training on one hand, and provision of incentives for employers aiming at "older-workers-friendly" adaptations of jobs.
- Raising awareness of the threat of further unlimited consumerism and wasteful use of natural sources.
- To make the attainment of 4-year secondary education level (ISCED 3A,B), as a "second chance" education, completely publicly financed once in a lifetime, with the obligation of employers to provide a reasonable amount of paid study leave.

At the same time, it is important to establish a sustainable and efficient coordination and collaboration structure for all stakeholders to be involved in the designing of the new Adult Education Master Plan.
