

Lithuania introduction

Lithuania keeps fighting the low levels of adult participation in learning by working on re-structuring its educational system and offering more opportunities in professional development for adults.

Recent developments in Lithuania

Current goals and standards for adult education in Lithuania are set in development strategy Lithuania 2030 and National Education Strategy 2013-2022. The focus of both documents is to develop a well-functioning educational system that allows and encourages growth and prosperity of a new information-society. The challenge that the strategies are addressing is the low participation of adults in non-formal adult education. As reported by Eurostat, Lithuania has one of the lowest indicators of adults involved in some sort of learning. In 2016 the Programme for strengthening non-formal adult education and continuing training for 2016-23 was adopted. The programme describes strategies to develop a cohesive adult education system that responds to the needs of learners and society as a whole. The programme suggested developing a system of incentives (financial, organizational, and legal) to attract more adults to learning, especially in non-urban areas.

Lifelong learning remains on the agenda of state authorities, educational providers and civic agents. In 2019 the EAEA member in Lithuania, Lithuanian Association of Adult Education (LAAE), organized Baltic Summer School, whose objective was to establish a

platform for adult education providers in the Baltic countries for dialogue and cooperation to strengthen adult education provision.

Links to EU and international policy in Lithuania

The strategies, developed by Lithuanian state, reflect the general stream of policies in education in the EU and the world. As mentioned in the previous section, Lithuania is focusing on promoting lifelong learning, and thus it established several goals for the education sector:

1. To ensure accessibility of different-level education;
2. To create a continuously learning society and to provide life-long learning opportunities to persons wishing to change or improve their qualifications (there are re-qualification programmes for different specialists as well as various projects funded by the EU);
3. To promote innovation on all levels of education;
4. To ensure systematic development of science and technologies that would allow building an information-society;
5. To implement the action plan for the Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in

addition to the Strategys Vilnius Framework (CEP/AC. 13/2005/3/Rev.1);

6. To carry out inter-branch and interdisciplinary research covering social and natural sciences, to stimulate their interaction with the policy-making process, and to make sure the decision-making is based on research findings and on the integration of economic, social and environmental objectives and tasks;

7. To increase the efficiency and international competitiveness of research and to slow down the brain drain.

Challenges and recommendations in Lithuania

The programme for strengthening non-formal adult education and continuing training for 2016-2023 set a goal of achieving 12% of the adult population involved in learning by 2023. For the following years, shifting the remaining 6% to 12% will continue to be the main focus. Therefore, LAEE will focus their work on promoting lifelong learning through providing opportunities in education with the focus on strengthening adults life skills.
