

EAEA STATEMENT ON THE DRAFT REPORT ON THE LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMME II (FORMERLY ERASMUS FOR ALL)

The European Association for the Education of Adults welcomes the draft report of the European Parliament (rapporteur: Doris Pack). We appreciate the renaming of the programme and the fact that Grundtvig (as well as the other sub-programmes) will continue within the new structure of the programme. EAEA welcomes that the mobility of adult learners will be continued through the learning partnerships, which have been very successful and popular in the current programme. We propose that the other two mobility schemes for adult learners, i.e. workshops and senior volunteering, will also be continued.

EAEA welcomes the fact that the participation of European Neighbourhood countries has been clarified and extended. The exchange with non-EU countries can enrich the European debate but also reinforce adult education as a tool for democracy and human rights, especially in the European Neighbourhood countries.

EAEA believes that the budget increase for adult learning to 6 % is already a big improvement, although a clear assessment is currently difficult as the overall budget will still be decided. Grundtvig is a programme that is the target of many groups and sectors within lifelong learning due to its non-formal nature. It is, for example, being used for young adults' non-formal training, parents' education as well as non-formal teachers' training. Adequate funding is therefore crucial. In order to secure this funding, EAEA proposes to match at least the percentage for Youth, i.e. 8,3 %.

EAEA understands that the training for unemployed people remains the main task of national unemployment services and the European Social Fund, but believes that the transfer of innovation in this field should remain an important issue for the Lifelong Learning Programme.

EAEA is still sceptical about the 'sustainable systemic impact' that the programme is aiming for. Focusing too much on the systemic level can have an adverse effect and impede a broader participation. Indeed, smaller projects may not have a systemic impact but they do have greater qualitative individual, organisational and societal impacts (especially projects aimed at social inclusion and active citizenship). Civil society organisations should be recognised as agents of social change and innovation and their projects should not be hindered because their impact is not directly measurable.

EAEA regrets that operational grants are restricted to the Youth sector. The argument that for the continuity of the youth sector, it is crucial to ensure that youth NGOs receive also in future operating grants for their work in the field is just as true for the lifelong learning sector (currently, operating grants for European associations are administered under Jean Monnet, key activity 3). EAEA would also like to see a stronger involvement of civil society in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme as well as the European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning (EUCIS LLL) directly mentioned as a reference civil society partner in the framework of a regular dialogue in education & training.

EAEA will carefully consider the details of the draft EP report and will propose some amendments in order to further improve the programme.