

ADULT EDUCATION
makes good sense for
INDIVIDUALS,
COMMUNITIES and
ECONOMIES
as a whole



European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA) is the voice of nonformal adult education in Europe.

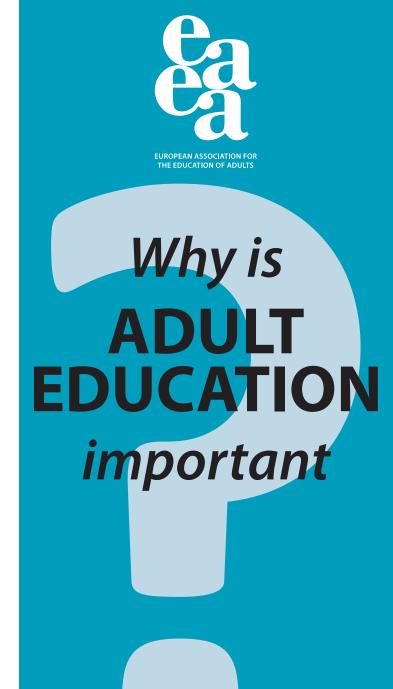
EAEA is a European NGO with over 120 member organisations in more than 40 countries and represents more than 60 million learners Europe-wide.

EAEA promotes adult learning and access to and participation in non-formal adult education for all, particularly for groups currently under-represented.

EAEA'S MAIN ROLES

- Policy advocacy for lifelong learning at European level
- Development of practice through projects, publications and training
- Provision of information and services for our members
- International cooperation

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Research shows that **ADULT EDUCATION** has wider benefits.

People given chance to learn and develop are:

PRODUCTIVE

They participate in the workforce and make the economy grow and develop.

Adult learning can improve employability and income, especially for groups such as migrants and women from ethnic minorities. It has an important role in maintaining, re-skilling and upgrading the skills of those with the greatest need for support.

HEALTHY

They live healthy and fulfilled lives.

Adults who take at least one course between the age of 33 and 42 are more likely

to have given up smoking, increased their exercise and their life satisfaction. When conducting a survey among adult learners in Finland, 28 % of interviewees cited mental well-being as an outcome of learning and 13 % mentioned improved physical health.

WELL-OFF

They are less likely to slip into poverty.

Adult learning can help substantially to reduce poverty through enhancing employ-

ment prospects and giving better chances of acquiring the tools needed to run their own lives. It has an empowering role in times of crisis, providing a stable community, a chance for reorientation, a safe place and social recognition.

SUPPORTIVE PARENTS

They ensure that their children develop a love of learning and take full advantage of education.

Educational attainment in one generation has positive effects in the next generation. Parental education influences the children's performance in education, because they provide their children with educational support.

ACTIVE CITIZENS

They participate in their own communities and civil society.

Those who participate in one or two courses are 13 % more likely to vote. The European Social Survey finds a strong and consistent positive relationship between years of education and interest in politics. Every additional year of education in general raises the likelihood of voting in national elections by 3 %.

OPEN-MINDED



They support and respect people with different abilities and cultural beliefs.

Adult learning is associated with more

open-minded perspectives on race and authority, greater understanding of people from different backgrounds, challenging previously held beliefs and with a sustaining effect on non-extremist views.

LAW-ABIDING

They are less-likely to commit crime.

Research on the Wider Benefits of Learning shows that learning is strongly related to

propensity to commit crime. People with no qualifications are more likely to be persistent offenders. Education and training reduces the risks of people engaging in criminal activity and re-offending.



They nurture their creativity and imagi-

35% of adult learners see a strong correlation between adult learning with happiness and

well-being. Direct effects of adult learning relevant to wellbeing are self-efficacy, -belief and -worth. Four-fifth of learners reported a positive impact on areas such as confidence and life satisfaction.

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