



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR
THE EDUCATION OF ADULTS

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



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**European Association for the Education
of Adults (EAEA) is the voice of non-
formal 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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Why is
ADULT
EDUCATION
important

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 employment 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.



HAPPY
They nurture their creativity and imagination.
35% of adult learners see a strong correlation between adult learning with happiness and well-being. Direct effects of adult learning relevant to well-being 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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