



# PUT THE **PLUS** INTO ERASMUS+ INCLUDE ADULT EDUCATION!

One in five adults in the EU has low literacy and numeracy skills (OECD 2013). Many more cannot use digital tools confidently in everyday life. Without these skills, individuals are at greater risk of unemployment, poverty and social exclusion. Good adult education strategies contribute to the competitiveness of the European market, but also social cohesion and inclusion, active citizenship and democracy, in addition to benefits such as health, well-being and personal development.

Erasmus+ is an outstanding and crucial programme for adult learners. It is not only a programme for students, but also apprentices, teachers, trainers and organisations. It is not only for universities, but also VET, schools and adult education.

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## ADULT EDUCATION CHRONICALLY **UNDERFUNDED**

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# 80%

of Erasmus+  
programme funding  
is allocated to  
education and  
training

# 5%

of this funding is  
allocated to adult  
education

At the same time, only

# 10,7%

of adults between 25–64 participate in  
adult education although the ET2020  
benchmark is 15%



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**WE CALL ON YOU TO  
RECOGNISE THE  
IMPORTANCE OF ADULT  
EDUCATION IN THE  
ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME!**

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EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR  
THE EDUCATION OF ADULTS

# 5 WAYS TO SUPPORT ADULT EDUCATION IN ERASMUS+

## INNOVATION AND COOPERATION THROUGH STRATEGIC AND LEARNING PARTNERSHIPS



Erasmus+ (and the Grundtvig programme in the past) have contributed enormously to the innovation and cooperation within adult education in Europe. Even small projects have had profound effects on the quality of adult education, the transfer of innovation and the creation of a common European area of adult education.



**SUPPORT STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS IN ERASMUS+ WITH A DISTINCT INCREASE FOR ADULT EDUCATION!**

## LARGE-SCALE PROJECTS FOR KEY CHALLENGES



In order to have an appropriate impact in the area of adult education, we propose large-scale projects that are comparable to the sector skills alliances or knowledge alliances. These adult learning alliances could bring together practitioners and researchers to have an impact at the policy level, with key developments (democracy, digitalisation etc.) as the main themes.



**SUPPORT THE INTRODUCTION OF ADULT LEARNING ALLIANCES!**

## HIGHER QUALITY, IMPACT AND DEMOCRACY THROUGH MOBILITIES



The Grundtvig programme (which was the adult education strand of the Lifelong Learning Programme) had a programme for 'senior volunteering' which opened European mobilities to a small group of older learners.

The budget for mobilities in the adult education sector is tiny. In many underfunded countries and organisations, Erasmus+ is one of the few opportunities for staff development, so there is more demand for mobilities. Unfortunately, adult learners cannot participate in mobilities. In times of growing chauvinism and xenophobia, it is useful to demonstrate the power of intercultural exchange to a wider group of people. More learners (also in VET and adult education) should have the opportunity to participate in mobilities and contribute to an open and inclusive European society.



**SUPPORT AN INCREASE IN THE MOBILITIES BUDGET FOR ADULT EDUCATION STAFF AND INCLUDE THE LEARNERS!**

## SUPPORT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY



European associations are crucial for the positive development of policies as they provide the link between European policy and practice at the national, regional and local levels. The continued and increased support for these umbrella organisations is therefore in everyone's interest. We propose the continuation of the operating grants for European associations while increasing the budget to the level of operating grants in other sectors.



**CONTINUE AND INCREASE OPERATING GRANTS!**

## MORE COOPERATION WITH AND GRASSROOTS SUPPORT FOR THE WIDER EUROPE



Cooperation in adult education, especially at the grassroots level, can strengthen democracy and intercultural dialogue between citizens, organisations and countries. We believe that it is therefore crucial that associations from Europe that are neither members nor candidates can fully participate in the programme.



**SUPPORT THE FULL PARTICIPATION OF ALL COUNTRIES IN EUROPE IN ERASMUS+!**