

THE EUROPEAN SEMESTER AND ADULT EDUCATION

WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN SEMESTER?

The European Semester was introduced in 2010, enabling the EU Member States to coordinate their economic policies throughout the year and address economic challenges. In recent years, the European Semester has become more 'social', meaning that social issues such as social inclusion of people from disadvantaged backgrounds, healthcare provision, the level of social dialogue in a country etc. have been included in the analysis.

The European Semester is an **annual cycle of policy coordination**.

This **annual cycle starts in November** when the European Commission announces its priorities for the upcoming year.

The period after that is dedicated to the **incorporation of the recommendations into National Reform Programmes** of the EU countries. The results from the Country Reports and Country-Specific Recommendations also feed in the **design of funding programmes**, particularly the ESF.

The Member States then have the opportunity to present their **National Reform Programmes**.

After that, EU Semester Officers in all Member States go on fact-finding missions and contact stakeholders for data collection. The European Commission **compiles and analyses data** on economic and social progress in the Member States.

Based on this analysis, the European Commission publishes **Country Reports in February to March**.

After consultations with the Member States, the European Commission publishes **country-specific recommendations in May to July**.

The **European Pillar of Social Rights** has strongly contributed to a stronger focus of the European Semester on social issues. The analysis and recommendations in the European Semester will reflect and promote the principles of the Pillar. A new "social scoreboard" will support the monitoring of progress.

THE COUNTRY REPORTS

The Country Reports monitor progress made on social and economic issues in each Member State. Around February/March each year, the European Commission publishes a package which includes one Country Report per Member State as well as a communication that provides an overview of the general state of the EU's economy. Together, these documents provide a foundation for the country-specific recommendations.



THE COUNTRY-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The country-specific recommendations of the European Semester have a particular focus on education and training and their labour-market relevance. This includes adult education: in recent years, the recommendations emphasised the role of education to include people from socially disadvantaged backgrounds as well as the importance of an equal access to education and the labour market. Progress in this field is measured against a set of indicators that include, for example, the number of early-school leavers and young persons not in education, employment, or training (NEETs).

Country Reports (2018)

https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/2018-european-semester-country-reports_en



Country-specific recommendations (2018)

https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/2018-european-semester-country-specific-recommendations-commission-recommendations_en

HOW CAN YOU BECOME ACTIVE?



- Answer to EAEA's country reports' survey! The results can be used to feed into the recommendations of the European Commission.
- Are you in contact with the EU Semester Officer in your country? If not, find out who she/he is! The EU Semester Officers are in charge of compiling data and information about the progress at national level. Get in touch with them, introduce the work of your organisation and send them the results of the EAEA country reports! Do you have any studies or materials on the state of adult education and its role for society and the economy at national level? Make sure that they receive this information!
- Check the results of the Country Reports. Do they correspond to your insights into the needs of and challenges for adult education at the national level? Your feedback to the EU Semester Officers can impact the country-specific recommendations!
- Join forces with other organisations! Find out whether there is a national focus group on the European Semester, and, if possible, join it to give a voice to non-formal adult learning.