

THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS

WHAT HAS IT ACHIEVED FOR ADULT LEARNING AND EDUCATION?

The European Pillar of Social Rights builds on 20 key principles and is the European Union's social strategy to make sure that the transitions of climate-neutrality, digitalisation and demographic change, as well as the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, are socially fair and just.

We are convinced that the European Pillar of Social Rights is a fundamental social strategy for the European Union to move in the direction of raising a community of solidarity which ensures and promotes the social rights of all citizens.



THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS IS NOW A CORNERSTONE OF THE EUROPEAN SEMESTER CYCLE.

EAEA contributed to the public consultation through a statement.

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Principle 1 of the European Pillar of Social Rights:

Everyone has the right to quality and inclusive education, training and life-long learning in order to maintain and acquire skills that enable them to participate fully in society and manage successfully transitions in the labour market.



Early 2021:

ACTION PLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS



What EAEA members* say about the implementation in their countries so far:

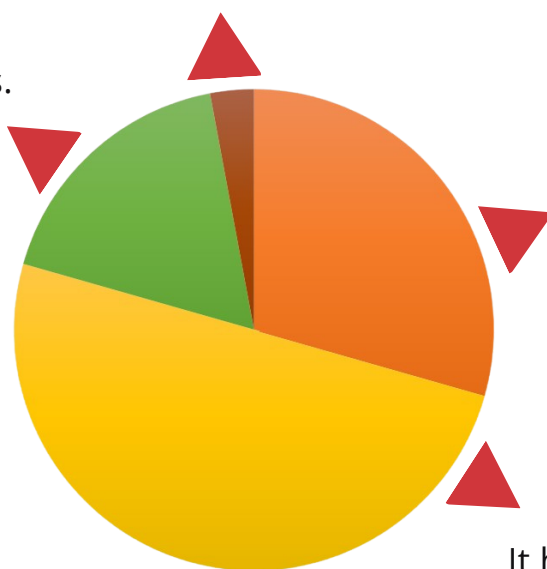
**Only EAEA members from EU countries were considered.*

I am not aware of any implementation process.

It has not been implemented at all.

It has been implemented visibly.

The data collected by EAEA suggest that the European Pillar of Social Rights has been implemented mainly in countries with traditionally strong social welfare systems.



It has been implemented in some areas.



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF ADULTS



The European Pillar of Social Rights has been implemented in our country in some areas. Here we think especially of the area of adult basic competences with a focus on vulnerable target groups (unemployed, workers with low educational levels, older people, young adults who have dropped out of school and early school leavers). [...] At least 50% of adults from vulnerable target groups must be involved in supportive information and guidance activities and basic skills programmes.

SLOVENIA

The primary piece of adult learning policy currently linking Ireland to the European Pillar of Social Rights is the European Agenda for Adult Learning (EAAL). [...] The EAAL is an important platform in Ireland to ensure the cross-collaboration of professionals working in the adult and community sector and for keeping important areas for policy development, like recognition of prior learning in the policy spotlight.



IRELAND



The implementation takes place through a system of adult education that is basically open to all adults. The education system is characterised by a high degree of permeability. However, at the same time, there are many social and geographical differences in terms of access to learning.

AUSTRIA

The European Structural Fund supports the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights. Specifically, the European Social Fund projects and other key initiatives have social cohesion as their main priority, such as the Youth Employment Initiative. They play an essential role in the implementation of the Pillar.



ROMANIA



A number of policies in a wide range of areas support the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, however, they have not been created specifically in response.

UK

Elements of it were implemented, new funding schemes for vulnerable groups established; however, it probably wasn't always visible that these initiatives were motivated by the Pillar.



GERMANY



Hard to say, as the intentions of the Pillar are in line with most Swedish policies and the Swedish government is a driving force behind the proclamation and signing of the Pillar. But we can see that the government takes the remarks of the European Semester seriously. One of the specific remarks is addressing the relatively large number of young people in Sweden who are neither studying nor working. ALE is seen as one of the answers to this challenge.

SWEDEN

Measures were taken to foster the employment of vulnerable groups, and some initiatives were launched to increase participation in adult education. However, the visibility was low.



GREECE



Public policy in France is based on the recommendations and official texts of Europe. The Skills Investment Plan established by the state is the application of the provision of training and education for adults for all.

FRANCE

Lifelong learning has great importance in various strategic documents and in daily life - there are many different ways for adults to develop their skills and knowledge (including free options) and most formal learning is free. Organisations value the development of their employees (but private companies often do not want to invest in it). This is reflected in the high participation in lifelong learning. Quality assurance [...] has been an issue for a long time [...] in Estonia. Specific analyses of labour and skills needs have been made and some are currently in progress.



ESTONIA

Involvement of civil society/adult education organisations in the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights in the EAEA members' countries:

We are not aware of any civil society consultation processes in our country.

EAEA's survey data suggests that, while in countries that have fully implemented the European Pillar of Social Rights, adult education organisations have been involved in civil society consultation processes and its implementation, other countries have rarely or not been consulted on the Pillar.

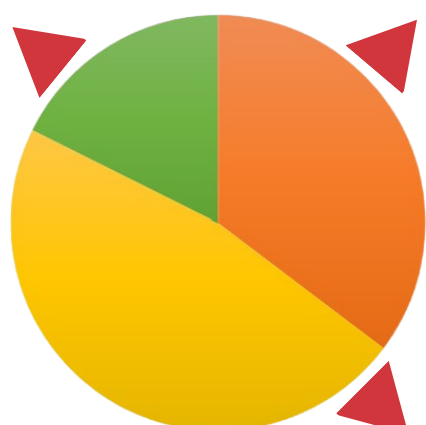


My organisation/other organisations in the sector have been involved in civil society consultation processes.

My organisation/other organisations in the sector have not been involved in any civil society consultation processes.

The role of the European Pillar of Social Rights for promoting adult learning and education in the EAEA members' countries:

It does not play an important role as social policies, including adult learning and education and lifelong learning policies, in my country/region are stronger than those proposed in the European Pillar of Social Rights.



It plays a very important role and ties in with national/regional policies and strategies.

It plays/can play an important role in promoting new national/regional policies and strategies.

Enhancing the visibility and importance of European policies requires strong national and European umbrella organisations who have the means to advocate and inform their members.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To the European Commission

- 1 To ensure stronger coherence between the European Pillar of Social Rights and strategies and policies on adult education and lifelong learning
- 2 To increase its efforts in promoting European policies and strategies to increase adult participation in lifelong learning
- 3 To promote the implementation of European policies such as the European Pillar of Social Rights at the national and regional level

To the EU Member States

- 1 To recognise the right to (lifelong) learning, as proclaimed in the European Pillar of Social Rights, in national education and lifelong learning systems
- 2 To involve civil society in adult learning in the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights at the national and regional level
- 3 To support adult learning and education both structurally and financially and enable civil society to create national umbrella platforms that can help with the implementation of the objectives of the Pillar