



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR  
THE EDUCATION OF ADULTS

## LET'S INSIST ON USING THE RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE FUND FOR ADULT LEARNING AND EDUCATION!

EAEA Statement  
March 2021

**The deadline for the Recovery and Resilience Facility is coming up, and EAEA sees it as absolutely necessary that all member states include an appropriate percentage for adult learning and education (ALE). The money should also be foreseen for systemic and methodological reforms and initiatives rather than hardware and existing programmes. EAEA therefore calls on the member states to include ALE in their plans and the European Commission to insist on its proper inclusion.**

The RRF requires EU Member States to draw up plans for their recovery and resilience. These should contain a coherent package of reforms and public investment projects to be implemented by 2026 in order to be eligible within the RRF. National reform programmes should be in line with the country-specific recommendations of the European Semester of recent years, but in particular those of 2019 and 2020.

According to the European Commission, "Member States will be encouraged to submit their national reform programmes and their recovery and resilience plans in a single integrated document. This document will provide an overview of the reforms and investments that the Member State will undertake in the coming years, in line with the objectives of the Facility." **This is a unique chance for the EU Member States to strengthen national and regional lifelong learning and adult education systems through coherent strategies and investment.**

Education, training and learning play a key role in the recovery from the COVID crisis. Basic, digital, transversal and professional skills are necessary for people in Europe, for society and the economy. EAEA especially welcomes that education and learning have, therefore, been included in the RRF as one of the flagship actions: "[Flagship] 7. Reskill and upskill – The adaption of education systems to support digital skills and educational and vocational training for all ages."<sup>1</sup>

The other flagships of the Facility highlight digitalisation and the climate transition – both will need to be embedded in the skills and competences of the people in Europe. Non-formal and community learning provide resilience, health and well-being, inclusion and cohesion. **EAEA believes that a successful recovery of Europe is not possible without the promotion of life skills – including digital and sustainability skills – through adult learning and education and therefore calls on Member States to use the available funds accordingly.** We therefore ask the European Commission to give the countries the relevant advice for their plans and when evaluating the plans.

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<sup>1</sup> from: [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda\\_20\\_1659](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_20_1659)



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EAEA calls on the European Commission to

- Insist on adequate resources for adult learning and education to be included in the national plans
- Ensure that the resources are being used for systemic and methodological initiatives
- ensure that key objectives are met during the implementation phase of the programmes;

EAEA calls on the EU Member States to

- use this unique opportunity to strengthen national and regional lifelong learning and adult education systems through coherent strategies and investment in the sector;
- adopt a holistic approach to adult learning, in which formal and non-formal learning have their equal place and where “life skills” - including digital skills and sustainability skills/green skills - are central.

***The European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA) is the voice of non-formal adult education in Europe. EAEA is a European NGO with 124 member organisations in 43 countries and represents more than 60 million learners Europe-wide.***