



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR  
THE EDUCATION OF ADULTS

## ADULT LEARNING AND EDUCATION IS KEY FOR THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

### EAEA welcomes the Council Resolution on a New European Agenda for Adult Learning

EAEA Statement

December 2021

**The European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA) is happy to support the Council Resolution on a [new European agenda for adult learning 2021- 2030](#), which was adopted by the Council on 29 November 2021.**

Earlier this year, EAEA [campaigned for a strong European policy in adult learning and education](#). We proposed a new and strong European Agenda for Adult Education which recognises adult learning as a separate sector of the education system and that covers all aspects of adult learning and education (ALE) as well as outlines an ambitious plan for the further development of, in particular, community and non-formal ALE.

EAEA is, therefore, pleased that the Council Resolution highlights the following issues:

- The importance of formal, non-formal and informal adult learning. We believe that promoting all these areas is essential to leave no one behind, to promote inclusion and to engage all adults in learning.
- The need for a shared vision for strengthened adult learning provision, where the social dimension of adult learning, as well as employability, are considered. It also addresses the need for accessibility and flexibility of learning programmes to promote the participation of vulnerable groups.
- It underlines that adult learning can contribute to active citizenship and community learning. It also supports personal, social and professional development and fulfilment, health and wellbeing, in accordance with the individual's current and future needs, active ageing, talents and aspirations. Adult learning plays a crucial part in responding to current and future challenges and opportunities in life and at work, leading to sustainable communities.
- It emphasises that adult learning is crucial for the green and digital transitions. Non-formal ALE contributes to the implementation of the Green Deal and promotes sustainable development and action. There will be no Greening Europe without ALE.
- It stresses that adult learning needs a holistic approach including inter-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaboration.



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- It also refers to the participation of 65+ adults in ALE, to support their full integration and participation in society, and calls for the development of comparative evidence and data on their participation in adult learning.
- It emphasises that adult learning should, preferably and where appropriate, and in line with the principle of subsidiarity, rely on continuous and regular funding rather than on subsidies related to projects or programmes.

EAEA also welcomes the new EU targets for participation (which follow the Adult Education Survey rather than the Labour Force Survey that was used in the past):

- At least 47 % of adults aged 25-64 should have participated in learning during the last 12 months, by 2025.
- At least 60 % of adults aged 25-64 should have participated in learning during the last 12 months, by 2030.

EAEA underlines the need for adequate support for infrastructure, civil dialogue and funding in adult learning. **Adult education should be recognised in its diversity, as also mentioned in the new agenda, but the fragmented ALE landscape should not lead to a (further) reinforcement of fragmented funding structures.** We emphasise that long-term and adequate funding of adult education is necessary to ensure a high quality of provision.

EAEA encourages **National Coordinators to work directly with civil society organisations to ensure a collaborative community-based approach in the delivery of this key adult learning programme.** In addition, we urge all National Coordinators to utilise learner voice as a core element within all activities placing particular emphasis on the voices of people from marginalised and vulnerable communities.

EAEA calls on EU Member States to follow this ambitious European agenda, especially the recommendations for the national level that include a holistic approach as well as inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral cooperation. EAEA and its members are keen to work with all involved levels to implement the agenda.

*For any questions or comments, please contact the EAEA Secretary-General Gina Ebner ([gina.ebner@eaea.org](mailto:gina.ebner@eaea.org)) or Head of Policy Raffaella Kihrer ([raffaella.kihrer@eaea.org](mailto:raffaella.kihrer@eaea.org)).*

***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 120 member organisations in 43 countries and represents more than 60 million learners Europe-wide.***