

# European Lifelong Learning and Adult Education Strategies



## MEMORANDUM ON LIFELONG LEARNING: 2000

Calls for changes in how adult education is delivered, suggesting education and training systems 'must adapt' to an altered economic environment. It recognises formal and informal learning and commits to the promotion of active citizenship. However, the latter is mostly framed within a person's participation in the workforce.

## A PROGRAMME FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING: 2002

Formed as part of the Lisbon goals which were set in the lead up to the European Union constitutional document The Lisbon Treaty (2007), and interprets lifelong learning, and also human resources development policy, as an economic imperative

## LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMME (LLP) 2007-2013

Aimed to contribute to the development of lifelong learning by improving quality, attractiveness and opportunities for lifelong learning for all ages and socio-economic backgrounds. The bulk of the LLP budget is managed by National Agencies and networks, each of which distribute funding at national level.

## NEW SKILLS AGENDA: 2016

10 actions designed to:

- improve the quality and relevance of training and other ways of acquiring skills
- make skills more visible and comparable
- improve information and understanding of trends and patterns in demands for skills and jobs (skills intelligence) to enable people to make better career choices, find quality jobs, and improve their life chances

## EUROPEAN SKILLS AGENDA: 2020

Aims to promote skills for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience

Presents 12 actions to reach these objectives, including Action 8 on Skills for Life. This action will prioritise non-formal, life-wide learning, intergenerational, intercultural and community learning. Actions 9 and 10 promote Individual Learning Accounts and Micro-Credentials as a way to increase participation in learning and validate prior learning as well as enable adult learners to gradually build learning credentials.

## EUROPEAN EDUCATION AREA: 2021

Through the European Education Area, the European Commission is developing initiatives to allow that all EU Member States can harness the full potential of education and culture. The Education Area also aims to foster cooperation and collaboration between Member States in the areas of education and culture.

The Education Area addresses all sectors of education. For adult learning, it proposed that by 2025, at least 47% of adults aged 25-64 should have participated in learning during the last 12 months.

## ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME 2021-2027

A three tiered funding programme providing financial support for projects related to education at all levels.

In the new programme period since 2021, adult learners are able to get mobility funding under Erasmus+.

1996

## YEAR OF EUROPEAN LIFELONG LEARNING: 1996



## IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO LEARN: 2006

IA communication from the European Commission requiring adequate funding and provision of good-quality learning opportunities for older adults, as well as requesting appropriate recognition of prior skills/the validation of informal or non-formal learning.

## COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON A RENEWED EUROPEAN AGENDA FOR ADULT LEARNING: 2011

Interpreting adult learning as covering the entire range of formal, non-formal and informal learning activities, 'both general and vocational'. But: the document carries a strong labour market emphasis outlining the EC's commitment.

## UPSKILLING PATHWAYS: 2016

Aims to help adults acquire a minimum level of literacy, numeracy and digital skills, as well as acquiring a broader set of skills by progressing towards an upper secondary qualification or equivalent. Uses a three step progress to boost access to and take up of learning opportunities by developing a more tailor made approach and provision of validation or recognition after completion

## EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS: 2017

The right to education, training and lifelong learning is enshrined in the European Pillar of Social Rights (principle 1). In line with the headline target of the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, 60% of all adults should be participating in training every year by 2030. Too few people participate in regular learning after initial education across Europe.

2021

## NEW EUROPEAN AGENDA FOR ADULT LEARNING: 2021

The new European Agenda for Adult learning outlines a vision of how adult learning should develop in Europe by 2030 in five priority areas:

- governance of adult learning
- supply and take-up of lifelong learning opportunities with sustainable funding
- accessibility and flexibility to adapt to the needs of adult learners
- quality and inclusion, including through the professional development of adult learning staff, the mobility of both learners and staff, quality assurance and active support to disadvantaged groups
- the green and digital transitions and related skill needs

## MAKING A EUROPEAN AREA OF LIFELONG LEARNING A REALITY: 2001

Centralised the self-directed individualised learner and encouraged people to engage with flexible, measurable, transferable knowledge so that they could maximise employment opportunities.

## EUROPEAN STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING (ET2020): 2009

Its priorities are:

- to make lifelong learning and mobility a reality
- to improve the quality and efficiency of education and training
- to promote equity, social cohesion and active citizenship to enhance creativity and innovation at all levels of education and training.