

Municipalities Support Adult Education

Project code: 2020-1-LV01-KA204-077426

NEWSPAPER No 1

10.03.2022

SHORT PRESENTATION



Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

MSAE

June 17, 2021
2nd virtual project meeting in Italy

Municipalities Support adult Education

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MISSION of the project

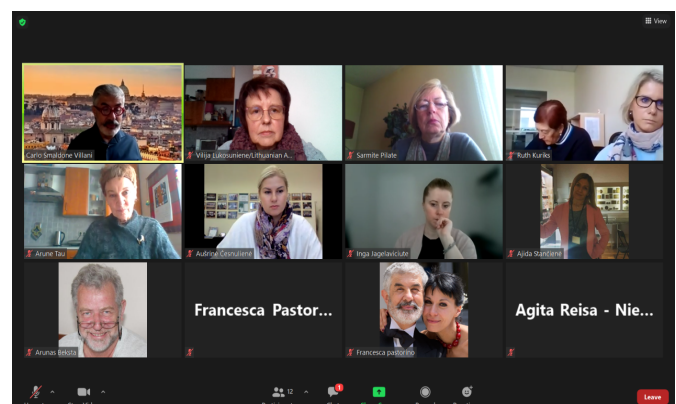
- To activate local governments to invest in education and awareness.
- To focus on the educational needs on different target groups.
- To show the upcoming needs of digital-literacy expressed by enterprises, public bodies and the local labor market.

GOALS

- Familiarize participants with tools, techniques and approaches of good practice examples of municipalities support to adult education.
- Increase participants' knowledge and understanding of the role of non formal education and different possibilities of local municipalities to support adult education.
- Facilitate the sharing of diverse experiences of partner countries
- Improve the cultural intelligence of participants.
- Improve the confidence of adult educators to lobby support for adult education.
- Promote cooperation and partnership among local municipalities and adult educators from different European Countries to further embed the European Dimension.

WHAT IS DONE?

- Each partner produced reports reviewing the situation of adult education and learning in the partner countries.
- All partners looked for examples of good practice in how municipalities support adult education in their countries, as municipal administrations, and other authorities working with adult education providers.
- Information about the project is being disseminated.
- Together with our partners, we developed a questionnaire that allows local government specialists, NSD coordinators to interview the local population and find out what the situation of the population's ICT skills is and what skills could be improved.
- In September, 2021 the first training sessions of the project were organized, in which, in addition to the project staff, other adult educators interested in co-operation between the municipality and adult education institutions took part.



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THE FIRST SHORT - TERM JOINT STAFF TRAINING EVENT

The training was organized online due to the Covid 19 pandemic. All partners contributed to the content of the training course. The event was focused on methodological and promotional materials tailored for Local Administration and Municipalities. There were discussions with experts and people involved in the realization of the project. Learners of the partner organizations exchanged best practices and all significant aspects on how to enhance local municipalities' role in supporting adult education.

Day 1

The participants acquired skills in the use of the Desk analysis and in creating and using the report of the questionnaire made online, including analysis of the specific target groups. Participants analyzed the Situation of Adult Education in the municipalities in Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Italy.



Interesting facts on Day 1

In Italy, only about 3 out of 10 workers in SMEs were involved in training activities. SMEs, even those engaged in innovative projects, often lack the financial resources and knowledge to invest in workers' skills. They also find themselves over-employing low-skilled workers, place little value on training or have little awareness of its benefits, and incur a higher cost of training per worker than large companies.

The Italian government has therefore included in its National Reform Program for 2021-27 the objective of developing a new set of public policy measures to support investment in the technical-scientific, digital, managerial, and financial skills of SMEs.

In Italy, 45% of adults do not have a secondary school diploma and 12.6 million individuals between the ages of 25 and 64 do not have a qualification higher than a secondary school diploma.

Lithuanian Law on Non-formal Adult Education and Continuing Education (2015) regulates non-formal adult education and continuing education, the basics of their structure, organization and financing.

The Council of the Municipality appoints a coordinator of non-formal adult education, but only 10% of municipal coordinators have adult non-formal education and lifelong learning as their main function, and 20% have allocated funding.

The different status of the Coordinator has a direct impact on activities and results. When educational institutions are the Coordinator, it is better to cooperate with Municipal councils and administration departments, Providers and business entities, explain needs, collect information about trained Participants, Providers and their programs.

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In Estonia Non-formal education for adults system changed as Adult Education Act and Continuing education standard came to effect since 2015.

In order to receive public funding, registration in the Estonian education information system is required. There are certain requirements for curricula and for the documents certifying the passing of and participation in continuing education. Curriculum should be based on the learning outcomes and achievement of the learning outcomes to be assessed.

In Estonia Local government is not responsible for adult education. There are 79 local governments and only some of them have adult education in their development plans. Local governments do not participate in the adult education field, their awareness of the problem is low.

Latvia's NIID database shows an imbalance in the structure of adult education programs: 74% of all programs are non-formal education programs and only 8% of programs allow to obtain a professional qualification.

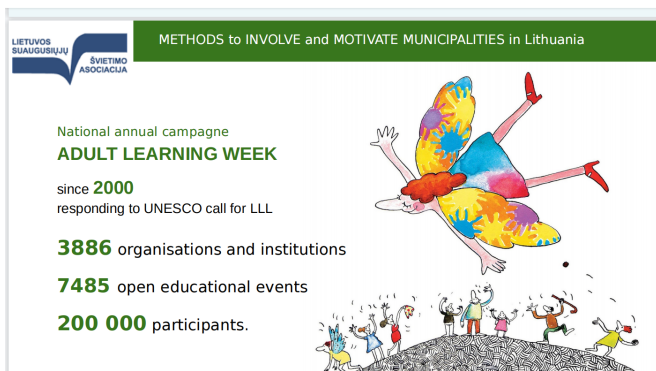
A quarter of all programs correspond in content to business and administration, while engineering and technology, architecture and construction, manufacturing and processing together account for 18% of all programs

According to the place of implementation, 73% of the programs are implemented in Riga and 27% in the rest of Latvia.

Day 2

Participants were provided with information about examples of good practices in all partner countries and how the municipalities support Adult Education, about methods how to involve and motivate municipalities, about local administrators role in adult education. The organization of adult education and new ways to motivate adults to LLL were analyzed.

Interesting facts on Day 2



LIETUVOS SUAUGUSIŲJI ŠVIETIMO ASOCIACIJA

METHODS to INVOLVE and MOTIVATE MUNICIPALITIES in Lithuania

National annual campagne
ADULT LEARNING WEEK
since 2000
responding to UNESCO call for LLL

3886 organisations and institutions

7485 open educational events

200 000 participants.

Lithuanian Association of Adult Education (LSŠA) presented the traditional 22-year nationwide adult learning week and how self-government is motivated to support the idea of this campaign.

Coordinators of non-formal adult education in municipalities keep contact with the Municipality regarding the support and organizational issues of the Week, make contact with local media and coordinate the management of the National Opening Conference with the LSŠA, Municipality, potential leaders of local workshops, if the Municipality has agreed to host the Conference.

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Estonia's partners from "Andras" presented the national adult education network in every county (15 counties and the capital Tallinn). The regional networks include adult educators, representatives of local governments/municipalities, the Unemployment Insurance Fund, education and career counseling centers, village movements, libraries and other organizations. Activities: popularization of AE, Involvement of different parties to joint work, Cooperation workshops in county level.

Based on the experience of this network and other implemented projects, "Andras" presents the following recommendations for local government:

- To involve themes for lifelong learning/adult education in strategic documents - development plans and action plans.
- To keep up to date with adult education statistics in rural municipalities/regions and identify the target groups most in need of support.
- To map possible cooperation partners in adult education in the region.
- To create cooperation and systematic information between different adult education actors.
- To disseminate and recognise success stories and good examples.

Latvian Adult Education Association (LAEA) presented what is needed for municipal support to AE: purposeful adult education policy, the purposeful offer of adult education programs, good quality and usefulness of training, what depends to the greatest extent on adult educators professional competence and understanding of the deputies about the nature and tasks of adult education.

The best practices in Dobele & Jaunpils municipalities were presented. In both municipalities there is strong cooperation between AE institutions, they have proved the necessity and importance of AE and in strategic documents of both municipalities is included AE. The example shows good results can be achieved only if there is cooperation of all institutions and organizations in the municipality, both - horizontally and vertically.

Italian partner "Prometeo" presented his view how to motivate municipalities to participate in AE. Adult education is firstly made in order to fight against unemployment, so more municipality do for the adults the better they do for the local economy. More education means more jobs, more companies and more private activities and at the end it means more taxes for the local government. Motivation is around the discipline and/or subject that can be chosen by local government, like social life, social and economic problems, social security and others social problems. The last reason is political: municipality can reach more people in the same time when they are gathered together inside a school.

Another motivation is what is coming back to the local government after funding adult education: political, social and economical return. One problem is that in Italy we have some rich municipalities but many small local authorities are in the rural areas and they have other priorities. They can ask for the European money if they ask for adult education and municipalities are always happy to have more money to use.



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Day 3

On the third day, the main focus was on the continuity and sustainability of the project results: all partners presented how they plan to ensure MSAE sustainability and the best examples of sustainability of previous projects. Virtual visits to adult education institutions in Italy were organized by Prometeo.

Interesting facts on Day 3

Good examples of sustainability

Italy/Prometeo. After the SEAL project "Senior Education for Active Learning" there were organized some focus groups in order to plan the future projects under the E+ rules, and one of them is related with a project addressing multi morbid senior people which have suffered or are suffering for the consequences of covid-19 and a stable working group with senior in order to face with the future concepts for the incoming deadlines.

Estonia/Andras. *Adult Education Coordinators Network* - the national network, with its branches in all Estonian counties, serves as the primary channel of dissemination (providing information about learning opportunities and conditions, support services, etc.) for the target groups (lower levels of education, no specialised qualification and/or outdated skills). The network is run by a voluntary coordinator whose paid job is in certain aspects related to adult education.

Tallinn Folk High School - non-formal adult education institution governed by the local municipality. The organization offers wide variety of non-formal learning opportunities, more specifically theoretical and practical courses, organizes hobby groups and cultural events. The overall aim is to enhance one's creativity, talents, entrepreneurship and social skills, basic knowledge and skills necessary for everyday life. People come to folk high school voluntarily, motivated by their own interests and needs for personal growth and fulfillment.

Latvia/LAEA. Balvu NGO "Ritineitis" after implementation of the project has created little shop where are organized regular masterclasses for craftsmen. After social entrepreneur courses 3 enterprises still continue to work: baking bread; making food products from peas and therapy service.

In the project "Robots for intergenerational gap" was prepared a program in an interesting and easy way to program lego robots for grandparents together with grandchildren. This programme was licensed in local government by 2 organizations involved in the project and now is offered already for several years for young people and children.

Lithuania/LAAE. After implementation of the project "Development and implementation of a continuous qualification model for andragogues-practitioners" were created various duration Learning programs (8, 16, 24, 36 hours) for various target groups: adult educators in AE schools, VET, libraries, museums. An andragogical mastery program for the advanced adult educators was developed.



In the project "Inspiring Guide for Learn to Learn" there was created a tool for self-assessment of L2L competence and recommendations for its improvement in 5 languages, the tool is still used: the total test was performed by 11000 persons (January, 2021).

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Interesting facts on Day 3

How we can promote MSAE project

Latvia/LAEA. One way to do it, is cooperation among organizations and strengthening partnerships not only at regional or national level, but also at local level.

One of key stones for MSAE project sustainability and delivering/ exchanging information & best practice can be AE coordinators or responsible persons about AE in the municipality, which in the same time is a central coordinator of information exchange among several institutions involved in AE.

Lithuania/LAAE. The task is to motivate municipalities and coordinators of non- formal AE to use questionnaires for survey of IT skills and to design learning programs according to the needs of citizens (using results of IT survey). Project material will be used in national, regional and local events of AE (Adult learning week, regional meetings of AE, meetings of LSSA members). The examples of good practice will be analyzed among adult educators, their institutions and communities and the new best practice examples of municipalities support and cooperation between municipalities and AE will be searched.

Partners



Website of the project: <http://fees.altervista.org/>