



LTTA in
Estonia
24-27.05.

Municipalities Support Adult Education

The project team visited the Haapsalu Vocational Education Center



External Relations Coordinator Heli Heimo and Training Manager Ingrid Kera introduced the learning opportunities to adults at Haapsalu Vocational Education Center. During the exchange of experiences, we learned that the majority of students in the educational institution are adults and learning is a very flexible and also they have well-functioning support system at the school. The school has a pleasant and unique learning environment and a friendly atmosphere.

Sustainability of the project

Partner from Italy gave us ideas what to consider to ensure the sustainability of the project. A project is sustainable if the results of the project are available to the target group of the project or other groups of the population for a certain period after its completion. The municipalities need an adult education (AE) coordinator who knows the educational needs of the population, who is able to address, involve and consult. The AE coordinator can be compared to the 'door opener' of an educational opportunities. The coordinator provides adults with the necessary support and assistance to take the first step in starting or continuing their studies. If we want to achieve greater municipal support for AE, the organization of AE in the municipality must be a planned and managed process.

Adult education and IT skills

On the first day of the meeting, all the partners gave an overview about situation of adult education in their countries and municipalities. Also was overview given about data analysis of websites and public electronic services of municipalities and their institutions, priorities of needs of IT skills for different target groups.

Adult learning is important in partner countries, as is improving digital skills. Learning opportunities for adults vary from country to country. For example, there are many free learning opportunities for adults in Estonia, including opportunities for people with lower levels of education to complete secondary education. Rather, there is a shortage of students in adult upper secondary schools.

Public e-services and IT skills

Although people use public e-services and their digital skills seem to be good in all partner countries there are skills that should be improved for example solving technical problems when working with computers, creating audio and video and web pages, working in Excel, collaborating on creating documents in the e-environment, creating audio and video, using data clouds, protecting computers against cybercrime, etc. These skills are not used effectively in everyday activities and are not understood completely by citizens.

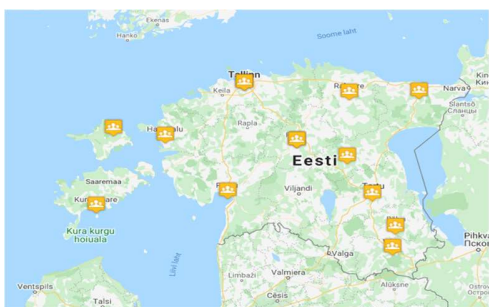
Kahoot!

We also had some fun! Our Lithuanian partner had prepared a quiz about Lithuanian digital skills in Kahoot. It was not easy to guess whether DESI's performance had improved or not, but it was fun.

Learning opportunities for adults in Folk High Schools

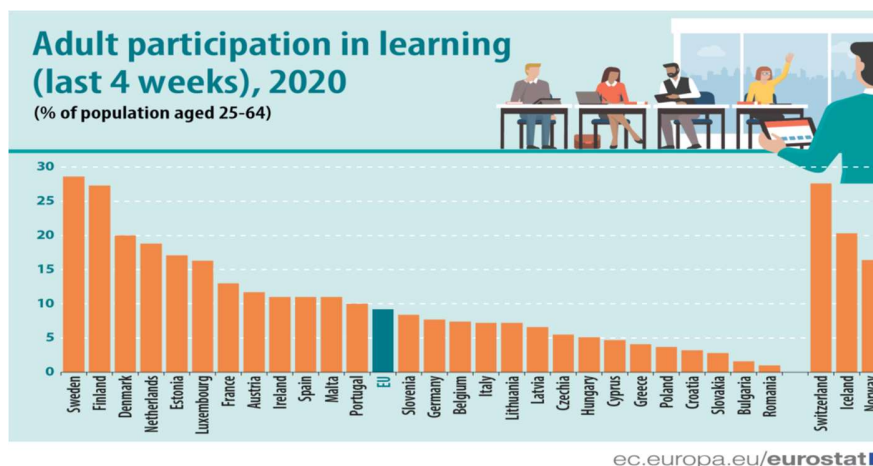
On the second day of LTTA Hannelore Juhtsalu introduced Tallinn Folk High School. This school is an adult education institution which provides non-formal learning opportunities to everybody through a wide range of courses and activities. Every year they offer ca 250 different courses/learning events per year (2021 - 17% online) and they have ca 3000 adult students per year.

The Association of Estonian Folk High Schools - connects 13 folk high schools in different counties



Adult education system and state support in Estonia

Ena Drenkhan from Ministry of Education and Research gave us overview about adult education system and how Ministry of Education and Research supports and promotes lifelong learning. Adult education is divided into formal education and continuing education. Flexible study opportunities have been created for adult learners: distance learning and evening courses, external study, and part time study, as well as participation in various courses. Although the participation of adults in lifelong learning has increased significantly over the last decade, not all target groups (e.g. men, people with a mother tongue other than Estonian, people with lower levels of education, etc.) are willing to upgrade their skills. But employers are not sufficiently motivated to develop their employees' skills, including digital skills.



Overall Estonia has a quite good education support system. In education we have system that considers prior learning and work experiences. Career counselling is offered by Unemployment Office for unemployed and employed adults free of charged. Adult learners have opportunity to take study leave up to 30 calendar days per year. In order to complete one's formal education, one can apply for a supplemental study leave (15 days). Also, when participating in work related training or formal education, the student will also be paid the average wage for 20 days during supplemental study leave, the student will be paid the minimum wage.

Unfortunately, all adults are not aware of all the study and support opportunities that are offered to them and Estonia has to develop cooperation between different stakeholders, raise awareness of adults about lifelong learning and learning opportunities

Haapsalu supports adult education

The participants of the project were received by the Haapsalu City Government, where education specialist Kristina Traksman gave an overview of the contribution and support of the city of Haapsalu to education and adult education. There are many different opportunities how municipalities could support adult education. For example, Haapsalu supports adult hobby courses such as folk dance, choir, handicrafts.

Community work specialist Maire Vilbas from Haapsalu City Government gave us short overview about her work. Her heart and energy have been gone to contributing to the development of the rural community and living environment. There are 56 villages in the rural area of Haapsalu. The rural area is divided into 5 localities. There is at least one village house or village house in each locality center for meetings, hobbies and training. The creation of opportunities for non-formal education activities for adults has been systematically planned and developed since 2000. The local government has largely been an initiator, financier, supporter, and inspirer.

First, buildings or premises were provided to the communities in the village centers for free use, repairs were carried out from the municipal budget, and the village elders were encouraged to form and elect village elders. The activities of the associations, including non-formal education projects, are supported from the local government budget. As a result, there are 32 NGOs in rural areas (28 of them and 4 associations), 28 village councils have elected 21 village elders and 9 deputy village elders, and 5 village houses, 3 association rooms, 1 community center and 3 farms have become non-formal education centers.

The line of Maire Vilbas activity for at least the last 5 years has been cooperation. Cooperation between communities, between communities and businesses, between communities and local government, and between communities and schools. This has made it possible to launch great collaborative projects that promote non-formal adult learning activities.

In Haapsalu we had a guets Tiiu Aavik – The learner of the year 2020 and adult educator. She shared her story how she was unemployed. She started to study and became an adult educator and an entrepreneur. She has a excellent vision to the future - adult education should be more thoroughly included in the development plans of the county and local governments and there should be a rule that premises, hardware, software and the Internet are available for computer training to county citizens.

There are a lot of students in the adult gymnasium of Tallinn

Last day of our LTTA we went to Tallinn Old Town Adult Gymnasium, where Robert Ossipov introduced learning opportunities, gave us short overview how local government supports school and also, we had tour of the school building. Student Anu Lipp shared her learning experiences. Opprtunities are very flexible and all students are well supported by teachers.

