

Finland - land rapport - country report

Vuxenutbildning och fritt bildningsarbete

Vuxenutbildningen riktar sig till vuxna och kan vara frivillig utbildning, arbetskraftspolitisk utbildning eller personalutbildning. Målet är att alla delområden skall bilda en fungerande helhet.

Utbildning som leder till examen, fristående examina samt tilläggs- och kompletterande utbildning ordnas i över tusen läroanstalter och högskolor. Vuxenutbildningen inkluderar också självständigt utnyttjande av informationsnät, bibliotek och läroanstaltarnas externa inlärningsmiljöer. En anmärkningsvärd del av inläringen sker på arbetsplatserna.

Vuxenutbildningens utmaningar

Över 1,7 miljoner medborgare deltar årligen någon form av vuxenutbildning. Över hälften av befolkningen i arbetsför ålder deltar i vuxenutbildning och deltagandet är stort även internationellt sett. Målet är att andelen av den vuxna befolkningen som deltar i vuxenutbildning skall växa till 60 % fram till 2008.

Vuxenutbildningen är en allt viktigare del av utbildningspolitiken. Utmaningar i framtiden är i synnerhet den åldrande befolkningen, den vuxna befolkningens motivering till utbildning, att öka mångkulturalismen samt att förbättra utbildningsmöjligheterna för personer med låg utbildning.

Vuxenstudiernas utmaning är fortfarande jämlikhet och utgångspunkten för utvecklingspolitiken är därför att förbättra förutsättningarna och jämlikheten inom vuxenutbildningen.

Målet är att

- kontinuerligt utveckla kunskapsnivån hos den vuxna befolkningen
- förbättra möjligheterna till vuxenutbildning för underrepresenterade befolkningsgrupper
- främja samhällshelheten, jämlikhet och aktivt medborgarskap

Kulturedeln kommer!

En arbetsgrupp, som tillsattes av undervisningsministeriet i juni, har berett ett preliminärt förslag till ett system med skattefria kultursedlar. Kultur- och idrottsminister Stefan Wallin stöder i detta skede gruppens förslag som innebär att kulturbegreppet skulle breddas till att omfatta också idrottsevenemang.

Arbetsgruppens preliminära förslag innehåller ett förslag till ändring av inkomstskattelagen. Utöver den idrotts- och motionsverksamhet på frivillig basis som nu är skattefri skall lagen också ange vilken kulturverksamhet som omfattas av skattefrihet. Kulturverksamhet skall i lagen avse besök på museer, teatrar, opera, biografier, konserter, konstutställningar eller något annat motsvarande evenemang eller någon annan motsvarande tillställning som har anknytning till olika konstgrenar. Också besök i vetenskapscenter och på **idrottsevenemang och deltagande i handledda kurser skall betraktas som kulturverksamhet.**

I arbetsgruppens preliminära förslag till bestämmelse anges en övre gräns på 400 euro för den skattefria förmånen. Det är att hoppas att de planerade skattemorötterna skall få arbetsgivarna att ta vara på tillfället att på detta sätt sörja för sina arbetstagares fysiska och psykiska välbefinnande, säger Wallin.

Education policy of the Ministry of education in Finland

The ministry of Education in Finland has published the Development plan of Education and research 2007 -2012. The efforts for development work are focused on universities and on vocational adult education. Teacher training is considered in the need for reformation. The lifelong learning of the teachers, tutors, facilitators etc. needs to be guaranteed through new structures and new means. New council for the training of teaching personnel was established.

“Folkbildning” will have a reformation plan of its own for years 2008-2012. The working grup is to be decided very soon. Key issue is who will take the leading position in the procedure. The political atmosphere requires very selective preparation as for the right people and for the right methods. VSY aims at a position in the core group.

The objective of the plan is to explore and propose amendments to the legislation, funding systems, network of different institutions and create new initiatives for management of resources. The outcomes should be based on the two evaluation reports made in 2007: one concerning the diversity of educational institutes and the other of effectiveness of “fritt bildningsarbete” and management of resources.

The government has launched three policy programs:

- Program on labor, entrepreneurship and work life
- Program on promoting health and well-being
- Program on well being of children, youth and families

Educational institutions' adult education not leading to a qualification had 2.3 million participants in 2006

According to data collected by Statistics Finland from educational institutions, a total of 5.7 million hours of teaching were given in adult education not leading to a qualification, which is 2 per cent more than in the year before. The number of participants (gross number of students) totalled 2.3 million, which is one per cent down from the year before.

The highest number of participants attended education organised as liberal adult education, where the gross number of students was 1.7 million and their net number was one million. The number of teaching hours was also highest in liberal adult education, at 2.8 million hours. The highest share (27 per cent) of all the teaching hours given in adult education not leading to a qualification was given in the field of culture, especially in crafts and design.

Educational institutions' adult education not leading to a qualification had 2.3 million participants in 2006

Type of education	Participants (gross)	Women %	Teaching hours
Further vocational education, not apprenticeship training	98 130	38	396 053
Further vocational education, apprenticeship training	1 961	56	20 056
Employment training for adults	51 868	49	1 016 866
Courses ordered by the employer	301 619	42	860 027
Education organised as liberal adult education	1 689 194	71	2 848 083
Open polytechnic teaching	16 028	66	152 855
Open university teaching ¹⁾	49 783	81	88 072
Other education	102 829	51	308 137
Total	2 311 412	65	5 690 149

¹⁾ Excl. data on open university teaching implemented by the universities themselves.

Source: Education Statistics. Statistics Finland

Participation in adult education 1980, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2006 in Finland

	1980	1990	1995	2000	2006	2006
	%	%	%	%	%	1 000
18–24-v.	30	43	42	49	41	190
25–34-v.	38	55	53	62	59	380
35–44-v.	36	57	54	62	59	430
45–54-v.	31	48	54	56	56	430
55–64-v.	15	25	31	33	38	270
Total	32	47	48	54	51	1 700

Source: Education Statistics.. Statistics Finland

Promoting adult learning on European level

The Finnish Adult Education Council, which is nominated by the government, has taken an active role in nominating candidates for different focus groups of the Action Plan called "It is always a good time to learn." There are several AE experts in different focus groups. EAEA has been asked to nominate its representative to the expert group. Janos Toth will continue as an EAEA rep for 2008 -2011. Other nominations are to be seen.

CONFINTEA VI

Finland will have a low profile in preparations towards CONFINTEA VI. The delegation for Brasil will be limited to 1-2 persons and no extra national activities are to be organized. The ministry will provide the country report requested by UNESCO by using the existing material. On the other hand Finland has been asked to assist the CONFINTEA conference by providing a case or presenting something (?). FAEA has been invited for the preparatory team.

The ministry of education in Hungary will host the European preparatory conference in December. EAEA will have an active role with the preparations.

VSY/FAEA in 2008

Development program 2008 -2012

The national development program of the "fritt bildningsarbete" is the most important product of the year 2008. Both the chair, Mr Aaro Harju, and the Secretary general will be closely involved in the process of producing contents to the program. There may appear a need for comparative study within other Nordic countries as for the adult education policy, legislation, public funding, trends and challenges.

A survey on the effectiveness of "folkbildning"

VSY has ordered a survey from a research center Palmenia to study the meaning and value of leisure time learning for the participants. Palmenia planned an internet questionnaire for the adult learners, invited some focus groups and produces a report from the material. 1900 participants on the non formal sector filled the questionnaire form. Report is to be published in 2008. The documentation and research is needed to fulfill the requirements for evidence –based arguments in the lobbying work.

NVL in Finland

A new NVL coordinator will start in March 2008. Carola Lindholm will stay in the "circles" but as an independent consultant.

Adult Learners` Week

- week 40 (28 September – 5 October)
- Good life by learning
- Sub themes:
- Conference on guidance and validation 2 – 3 October 2008;