



Folkbildning Norden – Nordic-Baltic Meeting

Country Report: Estonia

Estonian Non-formal Adult Education Association (ENAEA)

- ⇒ have 68 member organizations;
- ⇒ has new council and new president (elected by members). The new president is Reet Valgmaa, head of Study Centre TÕRU;
- ⇒ There are two board members (recruited by Council): Viive Jüriso is responsible for administrative matters and Tiina Jääger for programmes/projects and policy;
- ⇒ There are 5 employees in the Office: 2 board members, 2 project officers and 1 membership officers. We also have a volunteers.

The political situation for Folkbildning:

Due to complicated financial situation the study centers have had not any financial support from the government during last 2 years. ENAEA has ongoing negotiations with Ministry of Education and Research about financing of non-formal adult education.

In 2015 Parliament passed a new Adult Education Act in 2015. The non-formal adult education (incl. liberal AE) is quite formalized on one side and totally liberal on the other side. In case the provider receives (hope to receive) the support from state or local government budget (public money) it should fulfill the certain formal requirements, in case provider does not get public support there are no any demands.

The new Act defines liberal adult education as continuing education. The new approach is that the final decision whether the studies were for hobby or for employment can be made only at the learners' level not at the legislative level.

The priority group in adult learning is disadvantaged adult learners; include learners with lower education (9 years or less), unemployed, immigrants etc.

Adult Education Council at Ministry of Education has new membership. ENAEA is a member of AE Council.

New knowledge in the field of Folkbildning

The main analyses and surveys base on PIAAC.

Activities and projects:

Current projects are focused on disadvantage learners:

- ⇒ Implementation Outreach, Empowerment, Diversity (ImpLOED) is policy and networking project (ERASMUS+, K3);
- ⇒ Improving the effectiveness of adult education for disadvantaged groups (IMPADA) is evaluation and quality project (ERASMUS+, K2);
- ⇒ Learning communities as tools of inclusive learning (Estonian Ministry of Education and Research)

The Baltic Summer School has been an important event the recent years. In 2016 the BSS takes place 27-29 June in Lithuania.

ENAEA planning open discussions titled “Re-thinking liberal adult education”

Common themes:

Estonia has received a relatively small number of applications for asylum compared to other EU member states, but the number of applications has increased each year. From 1997 until May 2015, Estonia received a total of 709 applications, and protection was granted to 114 persons (including 74 refugees and 40 recipients of complementary protection).

90 applications for international protection were received in the first five months of 2015 (2014 total 147, 2013 total 97, 2012 total 77). Throughout the years, Estonia has received the largest number of applications for international protection from Russia, Georgia, Ukraine, Syria and Afghanistan. During next two years Estonia has promised asylum 550 refugees from Greece refugees camps.. To this are added these refugees who come independently.

At present, the centre of refugees accommodates persons from 18 different countries. The largest number of residents is from Ukraine, Armenia, Iraq, Albania, Dagestan and Georgia.

Some adult education centres started with language and culture course for refugees. The biggest challenge with what the teachers face is how to teach Estonian to adult learners who do not read and write.