



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR  
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## European Policy: Its impact on adult learning

Helsinki, 30 May 2016

### Agenda

- European challenges
- European Manifesto – European campaign next year – How can we organize this in the baltic / nordic countries?
- EAEA GA
- How do you see EAEA?



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## European Strategies & Initiatives

- EU 2020 & Juncker's 10-point agenda (Job, growth and investment)
- ET 2020 – working group on adult learning, workplace learning.
- European Agenda for adult learning
- Erasmus+
- ePale
- Paris declaration (Working group on citizenship)



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## ET 2020 Priorities

- making lifelong learning and mobility a reality
- improving the quality and efficiency of education and training
- promoting equity, social cohesion and active citizenship
- enhancing creativity and innovation, including entrepreneurship, at all levels of education and training
- Additional priority for European Agenda: Improving the knowledge base on adult learning and monitoring the adult-learning sector



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## Working groups

- Working groups are meant to help implement the ET 2020 agenda – the last round ended last November, a new round was launched earlier this year
- Consists of representatives of national governments (mainly ministries), social partners and other stakeholders (CEDEFOP, EUCEN, EAEA)
- There are 6 groups: higher education, school, VET, adult learning, digital skills, citizenship
- EAEA is represented in AL and citizenship
- Theme of adult learning: work-based learning, the programme is currently being launched



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## Do EU policies in education work?

### Subsidiarity :

- Member states are responsible, the EU level can only work with 'soft law', i.e. recommendations, working groups etc.

### Effect:

- Generally, the weaker a national system is, the more benefit the European level has
- There can be an attitude 'let's ignore what Brussels says'
- Nevertheless, European strategies, objectives and initiatives will influence the national discussion and direction
- They can become part of agreements, contracts, funding etc.
- **They can always be used as policy arguments and advocacy**



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## Why Europe? The civil society perspective

- Recognition of adult education as important part of education systems
- A driving force in countries where adult education is weaker
- Transfer of innovation for policies and programmes
- Creation of a European adult education community
- ePale as instrument to promote this European community



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## Advocacy challenges

- EAEA members think a European strategy is very important
- The unit for adult learning is in DG Employment, gets smaller, epale and Erasmus+ are in DG EAC
- Lifelong learning is becoming increasingly fragmented: Paris declaration (DG EAC, JUSTICE, HOME), skills (DG EMPL) – on the one hand, this increases the importance across sectors, but advocacy becomes more difficult



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## Other developments

- European Semester: country-specific recommendations in a one-year cycle
- Different structure with more power for vice-presidents
- More anti-European MEPs, less interest (?) in (adult) education, possibly less know-how in E & T issues
- Concentration on topics that will have an impact



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## Very new: Skills Agenda

- Is planned for late May / early June
- Skills forecasts indicate that job openings by 2025 will require high sets of skills
  - 46,3% will require high qualifications, 40% medium qualifications
  - Digital skills needed in most jobs
- 22.6 Mio unemployed people across Europe
  - Of which 4.5 Mio are young unemployed
- EC's first political priority is "A new Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment"



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## Three main challenges

- **Lack of skills:**
  - Insufficient level of skills (70 Mio adults in EU have low literacy/numeracy skills, 45% have low or no digital skills, migrants don't know the host country language; demand in high skills increases rapidly)
  - Lack of the relevant skills for the labor market (lack of technical skills, of work experience, lack of transversal skills. Work-based learning efficient but lacking)
- **Inefficient use of available skills**
  - Not exploited to their full potential (highly qualified in medium to low-level jobs; graduated women at home or in part-time jobs)
  - Lack of transparency of skills and qualifications (EU countries + refugees issue)
- **Difficulty in forecasting and anticipating skills**
  - No overview of skills needs in the EU; no skills forecast
  - Career guidance services are very unequal in EU



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## Main policy objectives

- Equipping more people with higher and more relevant skills
- Improving transparency and use of available skills
- Improve understanding of skills needs and trends in the labor market



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## Options currently discussed

- Baseline scenario: Continued implementation of existing activities and measures
  - EU2020 strategy, EU Semester, CSRs; EU Agenda for AL; Youth Guarantee, E+ Sector Skills Alliances...
- Option 1: Establish new priorities and improve existing instruments
  - Increase the focus on skills dimension in European Semester
  - Revise the European Qualifications Framework (with recognition of third country qualifications); of the Europass Council Decision (web-based integrated service?), align EU funding opportunities with skills needs



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## Options currently discussed

- Option 2: Establish new priorities and develop new instruments
  - Launch of a political initiative –partnership between world of education/training and business for skills development; how to give a skills dimension in all EU future funding instruments?
  - New initiative to foster basic skills & foster a minimum level of educational attainment ; for digital skills; for entrepreneurial skills; for SMEs to access to finance; establish a new benchmark on skills in the EU Semester
  - Explore ways to validate digital skills acquired outside of formal E&T within national and regional frameworks



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## Why we need members

- EAEA brings together the bottom-up and the top-down:
  - Need to inform both sides of what's going on
  - Need to know what the members' issues are
- We need members who understand and support us with
  - Advocacy and awareness raising
  - Engagement on the board
  - Shaping the future of our work
  - Bring expertise to the association



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## Why Europe?

- Be part of the community – learn from each other – share our knowledge
- Strengthen advocacy across Europe
- Support EAEA in advocacy – Erasmus+ etc.
- Support EAEA in developing innovation (projects etc)
- Make our voices heard!

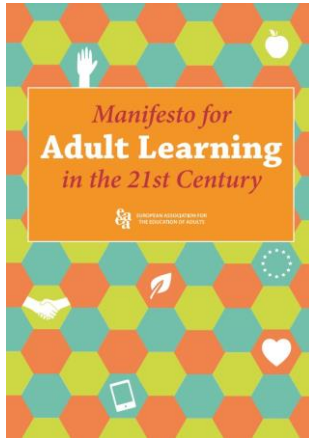


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## Presentation of the manifesto



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## European focus on AL

- Common campaign 2017
  - Manifesto
  - Benefits of AL
  - National festivals
  - Common nordic / baltic activity?



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## EAEA GA

- Prepare next year
- Innovation
- Agenda



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## How do you see EAEA ?



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## More information needed?

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# THANK YOU!