

31-10-2014
ah/tbk

DAEA response to the EU2020 strategy consultation

DAEA, the Danish Adult Education Association, is a member of EAEA, the European Association for the Education of Adults. DAEA supports EAEA's response to the EU2020 strategy consultation. Our main viewpoints are:

Adult learning contributes to more than economic growth

Europe2020 has recognized education as a key priority, which DAEA appreciates. However, we question the dominance of economic growth in the European debate. Europe is built on rights, justice and democracy as well as an economic rationale. Adult learning contributes to growth and employment, but also to strengthen democracy and active citizenship which is vital in societies in crisis.

Austerity measures and economic measures have become more important than the reduction of poverty, more inclusive societies, more adult learning and a more sustainable planet. European institutions should (re-)focus their attention to the well-being of people and planet, including a strong push towards a 'learning Europe' that will reinforce active citizenship, personal development and employability through adult learning.

Targets and flagship initiatives

OECD's PIAAC results demonstrated a huge lack of basic skills in Europe. DAEA therefore believes that it is important for Europe to push for progress in adult learning, either achieved by presenting an appropriate target or a flagship initiative that will contribute to progress.

Focus should be on under-represented groups in lifelong learning and under-represented countries. We need a 'Learning Europe'. The lack of learning has a negative impact on participation in society, on social exclusion, but also on Europe's competitiveness.

Stakeholder involvement

Stakeholder involvement, and in particular civil society involvement, has to be improved and strengthened. Whereas we welcome the consultation on "Stakeholder's consultation guidelines", current news show that for a topic such as TTIP (the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership between EU and US), only some stakeholders were consulted, and civil society in particular has been left behind closed doors. Such guidelines are only adequate if they are respected especially in the event of such important negotiations as the TTIP.

In order to improve stakeholder involvement in the field of education, DAEA asks for a structured dialogue in education, which we believe is the best way to integrate stakeholders in the strategies in this area.



We also demand regular support for civil society organizations, both at the national and at the European level. This is crucial to ensure that civil society can support the implementation of EU strategies.

Tools to achieve smart, sustainable growth

The current EU2020 strategy does not tackle the underlying structural weaknesses of the EU economy, despite laudable goals, because it is subordinate to the pursuit of GDP growth. The strategy should give far greater priority to achieving longer term objectives of increased wellbeing, social inclusion and environmental sustainability. A sustainable development contains three interrelated dimensions: environmental, economic and social.

DAEA supports greater public investment in appropriate research, lifelong learning, environmental and social improvements and other areas that contribute to a *long-term* development towards a more sustainable Europe.

Please contact Trine Bendix Knudsen (tbk@dfs.dk), General Secretary, or Annemarie Holm (ah@dfs.dk), development officer, for further information.

