



EAEA response to the proposal on 'Erasmus for all'

EAEA welcomes the proposal on 'Erasmus for all', especially the proposed increase in budget. EAEA agrees with the identified challenges for Education and Training. We also welcome the fact that the programme will support the participation of partners from non-EU countries.

Nevertheless, EAEA would like to add that there is also the low participation of adults in lifelong learning and the low level of skills and qualifications of a large number of adults in Europe. In order to reach the 15% participation rate target for 2020 but also to support the benchmark for higher education on the one hand and fewer school drop-outs on the other hand, strong adult education systems, providers, methodology, staff and provision across Europe is needed. More specifically, there is the need to increase the participation especially of adults with low qualifications who participate seven times less than higher qualified ones. Additionally, in times of a crisis that is not only financial but also concerns European cohesion and identity, adult education has to be the place for European active citizenship, which a strong adult education programme can further develop and promote.

The only answer to these challenges is to promote adult learning – on the one hand through policy and the New Agenda for Adult Learning but also through the corresponding programme.

EAEA therefore has the four main proposals:

- Adult Education and Learning has to remain a sector of its own. It is desirable that there are close links with vocational training, but nevertheless **a distinct programme for non-formal and non-vocational adult education** is necessary in order to tackle the challenges mentioned above.
- As there is no certainty that the increase in budget will be adopted, a minimum allocation that enables progress for adult learning for Europe is necessary. The 2% minimum allocation to Adult Education is completely inadequate in view of the demographic ageing of Europe and the need to increase the participation of adults in lifelong learning and **at a very minimum this should be increased to 7% like schools and youth.**
- This programme should also **support the implementation of the New Agenda for adult learning** and set objectives and targets for the different member states in order to ensure access to non-formal adult education and learning.
- While we understand the need for efficiency, we would like to call the EC to balance the need for bigger and more efficient projects with the need to be **inclusive**. A lot of work in adult education (and other sectors) is done by small organizations and they should still have the opportunity to participate in the new European Programme.