

Thematic Review on Adult Learning

July 2003

Newsletter no. 7

New countries to participate in the review

Topics Covered:

- Nine countries to participate in a new round
- Calendar of Events
- The OECD Review visit to Austria
- *Beyond rhetoric: adult learning policies and practices*, a successful publication

The second round of the OECD thematic review on adult learning (TRAL 2) has been launched and is running smoothly. The final objective is to understand adults' access and participation in education and training and to enhance policies and approaches to increase incentives for adults to undertake learning activities in OECD countries. It is looking to respond to the need to make lifelong learning a reality for all, to improve learning opportunities of low skilled, disadvantaged adults and to sustain and increase employability. The review is a joint activity undertaken by the OECD Education Committee (EDC) and the Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee (ELSAC).

Nine countries participated in the first round (1999-2002) and nine countries are participating in the second round (2003-2004). A comparative report providing an analysis of adult learning participation and policies as well as good practices and recommendations from the first nine reviewed countries was published in early 2003 (*Beyond rhetoric: Adult learning policies and practices*, OECD, Paris).

Countries participating in the second round of the thematic review have chosen between two options: A full-scale review covering adult learning in a comprehensive manner (Austria, Hungary, Mexico, Poland), or a focused review addressing adult learning of the low-skilled and disadvantaged adults (Germany, Korea, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States). We have been in contact with most countries to organise their participation, which includes the preparation of Country Background Reports, the planning and scheduling of the visits between 2003 and 2004 and other arrangements.

All related documents can be found on the OECD adult learning website (<http://www.oecd.org/edu/adultlearning>). They constitute a valuable source of information for participating countries as well as for policy makers and researchers.

Beatriz Pont, OECD Directorate for Education

Calendar of events in 2003

TRAL 2 Country Visits

March 2003: OECD review visit to Austria

September 2003: OECD review visit to Mexico

October 2003: OECD review visit to the United States

December 2003: OECD review visit to Germany

Relevant conferences and seminars:

"A Systemic Approach to Co-financing Lifelong Learning", October 8-10, 2003, Bonn. International policy conference co-sponsored by the Ministry of Education and Research, Federal Republic of Germany and OECD with support of ELAP. The conference will reflect on recent experience and identify and elaborate systemic changes for a strategic approach to co-financing lifelong learning.

"ICT in Non-formal and Adult Education: Supporting Out-of-School Youth and Adults", November 12-14, 2003, Philadelphia. Roundtable organized by OECD and NCAL/ILI/PENN. The roundtable will focus on out-of-school youth and adults and target the question: How can ICT contribute to improved access and educational outcomes?

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.oecd.org/edu/adultlearning

“The visit of the OECD experts, in particular, was an opportunity for useful discussions and for challenging established viewpoints and practices.”

Those involved :

Austria National Coordinator:

Ernst Koller, *Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Culture, Dept. for Adult Education*

Helmut Höpflinger, *Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Labour, Dept. for International Employment Policy*

Background Report:

Peter Schlögl, *Austrian Institute for Research on Vocational Training (öibf)*

Arthur Schneeberger, *Institute for Research on Qualification and Training of the Austrian Economy (ibw)*

National Steering Committee:

Representatives of Federal Ministries for:

- Education, Science and Culture (BMBWK)
 - Economic Affairs & Labour (BMWA)
 - Social Security and Generation Relations (BMSG)
 - Agriculture and Forestry
 - Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW);
 - Finance (BMF)
- and
- Public Employment Service
 - Social Partners
 - Conference of Adult Education Institutions (KEBÖ)
 - Statistics Austria

OECD review team:

Rapporteur:

Prof. Norton Grubb, US

External experts:

Mr. Andre Schlaefli, Switzerland

Ms. Hanne Shapiro, Denmark

OECD experts:

Ms. Beatriz Pont, Education and Training Policy Division, EDU

Mr. Peter Tergeist, Employment Analysis and Policy Division, ELSA

Austria Visit: 4-13 March, 2003

The Austrian Ministries for Education, Science and Culture and for Economic Affairs and Labour decided to take part in the second round of the Thematic Review on Adult Learning, because – for various reasons – adult education has become a major issue in public discussions and policy-making in recent years. We thought that a close and comprehensive look into the highly diverse and manifold system of adult learning would enhance these discussions by supplying more detailed information (e.g. statistical data) and would help to further develop the system, and that an international comparison as well as the help of OECD-experts as “critical friends” would be very useful in this endeavour.

Even the compilation of the Background Report turned out to be a very productive task which, beyond describing the Austrian adult education system in detail, improved the communication between the different players.

The visit of the OECD experts, in particular, was an opportunity for highly useful discussions and for challenging established viewpoints and practices. In 42 scheduled meetings in Vienna, Graz, Linz, Krems and St. Wolfgang we met with more than 150 experts from the various fields and from all levels of adult learning, including the Ministers for Education, Science and Culture and for Economic Affairs and Labour. The preliminary conclusions of the team, which were presented by the rapporteur, Prof. Grubb, already evidenced clear insight into the Austrian adult education system. We are looking forward with great interest to the Country Note, which will surely help Austria to intensify the efforts to adapt our system to the challenges of the future.

Austrian National Coordinator

Austria visit programme

Tuesday 4 March

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|-------|---|
| 08.30 | Welcome: BMBWK and BMWA officials responsible for OECD Review |
| 09.00 | Federal Minister for Education, Science and Culture |
| 10.00 | BMBWK officials: adult education policy in the school, tertiary and general adult education sector |
| 11.00 | Authors of Background Report |
| 13.30 | Steering Committee |
| 15.00 | BMWA and PES officials: training policy of public employment service; training in enterprises |
| 16.00 | BMSG/BMLFUW/BMF officials: training for the health and agricultural sector; adult education for young adults and senior citizens; tax allowances for further education/training |

Wednesday 5 March

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|-------|---|
| 09.00 | Vienna City Council and regional organisation of Austrian Adult Education Centres (VWV): regional adult education policy |
| 10.30 | Federation of Austrian Adult Education Centres; Adult Learning Centres Vienna (VHS 12, 16, 21): Second chance education/open access, basic training, literacy programmes, ODL, inter-cultural learning/integration of migrants, learning centres/cross-institutional learning, gender mainstreaming |
| 13.30 | Training platform of the Austrian Trade Union Federation |
| 14.00 | Social Partners |
| 16.00 | Territorial Employment Pact Vienna (WAFF), Public Employment Service, Social Welfare Office: regional labour market policy and qualification strategies |
| 18.00 | International Business College Hetzendorf: school/college/post-secondary course for employed persons |

Thursday 6 March

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|-------|---|
| 12.00 | In-service training at Charles Vögele Austrian Incorp., Graz |
| 14.15 | Education Centre Raiffeisenhof (Graz): vocational and technical training in the agriculture and forestry sector |
| 15.15 | Institute for Further Education in Rural Areas Styria (LFI Styria); schools for agriculture |
| 16.00 | Economic Society Styria |
| 18.15 | In-service training and human resources management at MAGNA-STEYR car production, Graz |

Austria visit programme (continued)

Friday 7 March

- 08.30 Labour Market Service Styria – directorate: regional training policy
09.30 Labour Market Service Styria – local employment office: client counselling and planning; local training policy
14.45 Fachhochschul courses for employed students
15.15 Commercial providers of adult education and training
16.00 Counselling and guidance in adult education
16.45 Open and distance learning in the university sector
17.00 Job and study fair (BEST)

Monday 10 March

- 09.00 Institute for Business Promotion Vienna (WIFI-Wien): courses for and in enterprises, Fachhochschul courses for employed persons, WIFI specialist academy (Fachakademie); e-learning, etc.
11.00 Austrian Universities Continuing Education Network (AUCEN): Continuing education in universities; continuing education in staff development
14.15 University for continuing education: Danube University Krems (DUK)
15.00 Students of Danube University Krems
16.30 Adult Learning Centre Krems (VHS Krems)

Tuesday 11 March

- 09.00 Regional learning: regional education centre, special coaching programme at local PES, in-service training at Salinen Austria Ltd.
10.00 Federal Institute for Adult Education St. Wolfgang: training of teachers/trainers/counsellors and personnel of adult education institutions
13.30 Technical College for employed persons Linz (Linzer Technikum); foreman courses (BFI Linz)
14.30 Teacher Training College (Pädagogische Akademie Linz): courses for adult educ.
15.30 Allowances for persons in further education/training (Bildungskonto Oberöster)
16.00 Forum Adult Education Upper Austria (regional KEBÖ); Office of the Land Government of Upper Austria: regional adult education policy

Wednesday 12 March

- 09.00 Vocational Training Institute (BFI) and the Centre for Vocational Training and Rehabilitation (BBRZ) Linz
15.00 Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Labour
16.00 KEBÖ-presidency / Forum of Catholic Adult Education Institutions; Federation of Austrian Adult Education Associations (Ring Österr. Bildungswerke): voluntary commitment in adult learning, etc.

Thursday 13 March

- 09.00 Meeting with academics/researchers
11.00 Meeting with steering committee: Presentation of preliminary findings by OECD review team.

Beyond rhetoric: Adult learning policies and practices, OECD (2003)

OECD (2003), *Beyond rhetoric: Adult learning policies and practices* analyses means for improving access to and participation in adult learning as well as its quality and effectiveness. It does so by reviewing current learning opportunities, the reasons for non-participation, and the different policies and approaches in place to improve both access and participation. It is based on the analysis and information from nine countries that participated in the first round of the OECD thematic review on adult learning: Canada, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom (England). The publication has been quite successful among policy makers and specialists involved in the field of adult learning.

The highlights, a short summary of key conclusions, are available in English, French, German, Japanese, Portuguese and Spanish on our website.

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.oecd.org/edu/adultlearning

Ordering the publication

Beyond Rhetoric: Adult Learning Policies and Practices is available from:

OECD Publications
2 rue André Pascal
75775 Paris Cedex 16, France

Tel : + 33 (0)1 4910 4235
Fax : + 33 (0)1 4910 4276
Email : sales@oecd.org

Online orders : www.oecd.org

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