

Thematic Review on Adult Learning

July 2004

Newsletter no 10

Topics Covered:

- The OECD Review visit to Hungary
- The OECD Review visit to the United Kingdom
- The OECD Review visit to Poland

Who to contact

Education and Training
Policy Division (EDU):
beatriz.pont@oecd.org

Employment Analysis and
Policy Division (ELSA):
peter.tergeist@oecd.org

Assistant to the Activity:
dianne.fowler@oecd.org
Tel: +33(0)1 45 24 99 64
Fax: +33(0)1 44 30 62 20

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www.oecd.org/edu/adultlearning

Moving toward the finale...

The **country visits** have been finalised: Nine countries have opened their doors to allow OECD review teams to learn about and analyse their adult learning systems. We have had the chance to meet with all kinds of relevant stakeholders, from Ministers of Education and Secretaries of State and car manufacturers to prisoners enrolled in basic literacy programmes. All have been open and frank about their views on the availability of learning opportunities, the key problem of motivation, and have presented us with good practices in adult learning. We want to thank all countries for their excellent organisation and warm-hearted hospitality.

We are now working on the **comparative report**, which will provide a more in-depth analysis of what we know and don't know about participation, drawing on data from the 17 participating countries. It will also attempt to clarify the issue of how to respond to key barriers that impinge on participation in adult learning: lack of time and motivation, of funding, lack of supply and quality. It will end with an analysis of how to provide more coherence in adult learning policies, based on country practices. The report will be finalised towards the end of 2004.

We are also starting to plan the **final conference**, to be held in Malmö, Sweden on March 10-11 next year (2005), thanks to the support of the Swedish Ministry of Education. We hope to bring together all participating countries, experts in the field, review team members and relevant policy makers in fruitful discussions concerning the effectiveness of adult learning policies and practices. Invitations to participate will be sent out in the fall. Don't miss it!

The team:

Dianne Fowler
Beatriz Pont
Patrick Werquin
from the Directorate for Education

and

Koji Miyamoto
Peter Tergeist
from the Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

Hungarian Visit: 18 – 26 March 2004

At the end of 2002 two Hungarian Ministries, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Employment Policy and Labour, decided to take part in the second round of the Thematic review on adult learning. We decided to participate in the full scale review because adult training (and not only adult education) has become a major programme for the government and is the subject of much public debate, largely as a response to our current perspective on labour market issues and our recent entry into the European Union.

Adult training policies, differentiated from “vocational training” two years ago, have advanced significantly, with programmes targeting specific groups of adults, as well as offering, among other benefits, personal income tax deductions and institutional and programme accreditation. However, the system is still in need of further development, particularly in terms of required efficiency. It is for this reason that we welcome the international expertise and critical input of the OECD.

The visit by the four OECD experts, which comprised of 17 meetings, was an ideal occasion to focus on the most challenging viewpoints and present practices of ministries, schools, universities, enterprises, training providers, labour offices, trade-unions and other important players. The preliminary conclusions of the team, as presented by the rapporteur, Ms. Evelyn Viertel, showed a clear insight into the Hungarian training system, especially in terms of its efficiency and the support of the state. We are looking forward with great interest to the Country Note, which will assist Hungary to modify our system to respond to the challenges of our labour market.

Mr. György Szent-Léleky
Hungarian National Coordinator

Hungarian Visit Programme

Thursday 18 March – Budapest

- 10.00 Meeting with author of Background Report and managers, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Education
- 11.30 Association of Adult Training Providers
- 14.00 National Adult Training Council

Friday 19 March – Budapest

- 09.00 National Adult Training Institution
- 11.00 Adult Training Accrediting Body
- 13.00 National Institute for Vocational Training
- 15.00 Central Statistical Office

Monday 22 March – Budapest

- 09.30 *Hunfalvy* Foreign Trading Vocational Secondary School
- 13.30 Training Centre of the Hungarian Industrial Association

Tuesday 23 March – Budapest

- 11.30 Ministry of Children, Youth and Sports Affairs
- 15.00 Color Textile and Commercial Co. Ltd.

Wednesday 24 March – Miskolc

- 11.00 North Hungarian Regional Labour Development Centre
- 14.30 Miskolc State University Training Centre

Thursday 25 March – Mátészalka

- 12.00 Karl-Zeiss Co.Ltd.
- 14.00 Employment Centre *Nyíregyháza*

Friday 26 March - Budapest

- 09.00 Trade Unions
- 14.30 Wrap-up meeting with National Steering committee: Presentation of preliminary findings by OECD Review team

Those involved :

Hungarian National Coordinator:

Mr. György Szent-Léleky,
Ministry of Employment-Policy and Labour

Background Report:

National Steering Committee:

Ms. Zsófia Szép, main National expert, Ministry of Employment-Policy and Labour

Mr. György Szent-Léleky,
Ministry of Employment-policy and Labour

Mr. Zoltán Györgyi, Senior Researcher, Institute for Research of Education

Mr. János Sz. Tóth, President of the Hungarian Folks High School Institute, Head of EAEA

Mr. Zoltán Loboda, Deputy Head of Department, Ministry of Education

OECD review team:

Rapporteur:

Ms Evelyn Viertel, European Training Foundation

Experts:

Ms Irina Radevska, Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science (Policy in Higher Education department); Part-time lecturer, Sofia University

OECD:

Mr Koji Miyamoto, Employment Analysis and Policy Division, DELSA

Mr Patrick Werquin, Education and Training Policy Division, EDU

Those involved :**United Kingdom National Coordinator:**

Del Jenkins, Jobseeker Analysis Division (JAD), Team Leader, Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

Background Report:

Del Jenkins
Liz Such
Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

National Steering Committee:

Simon Judge, Partnership, Unemployed, Skills, Hardest to Help (PUSH) Divisional Manager, DWP
Claire Elliot, JAD Divisional Manager
Margot Hart, Skills Strategy Team Leader, DWP
Del Jenkins, JAD Team Leader, DWP
Stephen Thrower, OECD, Commonwealth and UNESCO Team Leader, Department for Education and Skills (DfES)
Marcus Starling, Adult Basic Skills Strategy Unit Team Member
Peter Vallely, Finance and Analytical Services Directorate Team Leader

OECD review team:**Rapporteur:**

Ms Åsa Sohlman, Consultant, Sohlman Senior Consultants

OECD experts:

Ms Beatriz Pont, Education and Training Policy Division, EDU
Mr Peter Tergeist, Employment Analysis and Policy Division, ELS

United Kingdom (England) Visit: 26-30 April 2004

In the United Kingdom, there are a range of policies in place to encourage adult learning, and in particular free provision for those who lack basic literacy or numeracy skills (those who are below the level of the average 11 year old), and also to enable everyone to reach the equivalent of ISCED level 2 (in GB terms, 5 good secondary school level qualifications or a National Vocational Qualification level 2). Despite this effort, there remain a large number of people with no or low qualifications who are much less likely to be in work and who are much more likely to pass on these limited opportunities to the next generation.

Government Departments are working closely together to try and develop a more effective system. The New Deal for Skills, for example, recognises the difficulties of engaging with those who often face multiple disadvantages.

Participation in the OECD review is an excellent opportunity to understand and exploit the best practice that others have developed.

Del Jenkins
UK National Coordinator

United Kingdom (England) Visit Programme**Monday 26 April – London/ Lewes**

- 09.30 DWP/DFES officials - Outline of Government Lifelong Learning Policies
- 15.00 Lewes Prison - An Overview of Education Provision

Tuesday 27 April – London/ Stoke on Trent

- 09.00 Jobcentre Plus “Real People Real Choices”
- 09.30 UFI (University for Industry) Video Conference
- 11.00 Visit to Jobcentre Plus
- 14.30 Voluntary Sector (Groundwork: Basic Skills Project Stoke) - Overview of “Link Up” and its contribution to Skills for Life, *Stoke on Trent*

Wednesday 28 April – Coventry/ North Warwickshire

- 10.00 Learning Skills Council officials, *Coventry*
- 14.00 North Warwickshire and Hinckley College, *North Warwickshire*

Thursday 29 April – London/ Lewisham

- 10.00 Introduction to Employer Training Pilots and Progress to Date (“Profit for Learning”), *Boardman House, Stratford*
- 11.30 Ilderton Motor Project, Employer taking part in the Employer Training Pilot, *Depfort*
- 14.00 The Salvation Army – Basic Skills Project
- 17.00 Private training provider/ Learndirect

Friday 30 April – London

- 09.30 Academic Seminar
- 11.30 Wrap-up meeting with National Steering committee: Presentation of preliminary findings by OECD Review team

Poland Visit: 13 – 21 May 2004

In Poland, a rapidly developing country, life long learning (LLL) is a big challenge. The last decade has seen the development and implementation of many measures to increase participation in continuing education and create awareness of its importance. Programmes have covered various areas of education and labour, and involved all partners acting and dealing with these issues.

As a result, the political decisions, law provisions, social partners' agreements and the programmes implemented by a wide range of organisations have focused on the formal, informal and non-formal education of adults.

Participation in the Thematic Review on Adult Learning has been a golden opportunity to collect information and analyse the system of adult education within Poland today. The Background Report, prepared by Polish experts, provides a description of the current system, identifies development trends and also provides statistical data.

Despite recent positive developments there still exists obstacles, barriers and a lack of understanding about the role of LLL. Therefore, on conclusion of the Review, we will be grateful for any suggestions and views from the OECD experts. We look forward with interest to the Country Note which, we hope, will provide valuable insight for all the stakeholders, allowing them to better envisage possible achievements and to analyse existing deficits. We also expect to gain some new ideas from the experiences of the other 16 countries participating in the OECD review.

Magdalena Nojszewska
Polish National Coordinator

Poland Visit Programme

Thursday 13 May – Warsaw

- 09.30 National Steering Committee and authors of the Background Report
- 14.00 Main Statistic Office, Department of Social Policy
- 16.00 Official dinner

Friday 14 May – Warsaw

- 09.00 Polish Craft Association
- 11.30 Trade Unions – All-Poland Alliance of Trade Unions
- 14.00 Polish Confederation of Private Employers
- 16.00 Confederation of Polish Employers

Monday 17 May – Łódź / Pabianice

- 10.00 Craft Chamber, **Łódź**
- 12.00 Voivodship (Province) Labour Office, **Łódź**
- 14.30 Poviát (Local) Labour Office and representatives of local authorities, *Pabianice*

Tuesday 18 May – Dobieszków / Łódź

- 09.00 Centre of Training & Upgrading of Voluntary Labour Corps, *Dobieszków*
- 11.00 Meeting with the Chef of Voluntary Labour Corps, **Łódź**
- 13.00 Centre for Teachers Training & Practical Education, **Łódź**
- 15.00 Vocational Education Centre, **Łódź**

Wednesday 19 May – Warsaw

- 09.00 Main Office of Voluntary Labour Corps
- 11.00 The Polish Security Printing Works S.A. (Enterprise providing training)
- 14.00 Polish Agency for Enterprise Development
- 15.30 Macrosoft S.A. (Enterprise providing training)

Thursday 20 May – Stare Lubiejewo/ Mińsk Mazowiecki/ Warsaw

- 09.30 Folk University, *Stare Lubiejewo*
- 13.00 Centre of Continuing Training, *Mińsk Mazowiecki* (Mazovia Province) & representatives of kuratorium & local authorities
- 16.00 Warsaw School of Economics, *Warsaw*

Friday 21 May – Warsaw

- 09.00 Ministry of National Education & Sport, Department of Vocational & Continuing Training
- 10.30 Wrap-up meeting with National Steering Committee: Presentation of preliminary findings by OECD Review team

Those involved :

Polish National Coordinator:

Magdalena Nojszewska –
Dochev, *Labour Market
Department, Ministry of
Economy & Labour*

Background Report:

Prof. As. Irena Elżbieta
Kotowska
Dr Małgorzata Podogrodzka
Anna Baranowska
Warsaw School of Economics
Co- authors:
Elżbieta Strojna, Halina Iżycka,
Magdalena Nojszewska,
*Labour Market Department,
Ministry of Economy and
Labour*

National Steering Committee:

Ministry of Economy & Labour:

Ms Hanna Świątkiewicz-Zych,
Deputy Director
Ms Elżbieta Strojna, Head of
the Continuing Learning
Division
Mr Zdzisław Sadowski, Adviser
to the Minister
(*Labour Market Department*)

Ms Dorota Koprowska, Head of
Staff Training Department,
Institute for Terotechnology,
Radom

Ministry of National Education & Sport:

Mr Jerzy Wiśniewski, Director
of Educational Strategy &
Structural Funds Department
Ms Zofia Stypińska, Head of the
Continuing Learning Division,
Department of Vocational &
Continuing Training
Ms. Zofia Kaczor-Jędrzycka,
President of Polish Union of
Folk Universities
Mr Robert Pawlak, Senior
Expert, Educational Strategy &
Structural Funds Department

OECD review team:

Rapporteur:

Mr Stefan Wolter, Managing
Director, Swiss Coordination
Centre for Research in
Education

Experts:

Mr Helmut Zelloth, European
Training Foundation

OECD:

Ms Beatriz Pont, Education and
Training Policy Division, EDU
Mr Peter Tergeist, Employment
Analysis and Policy Division,
ELS