

Adult learning in nine OECD countries

The first round of the Thematic Review on Adult Learning, which began in 1999, is almost over. Canada, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, and the United Kingdom (England) have taken part.

Highlights of the process included 10-12 day country visits, background reports and country notes on adult learning for all participating countries. In the Education Committee (EDC) and Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee (ELSAC) participants discussed a Progress Report back in autumn 2000; another report, Highlights, Emerging Issues and Lessons to Date, was discussed in autumn 2001; and the first draft of the Comparative Report in spring 2002. All relevant documentation can be found on the Thematic Review website (<http://www.oecd.org/els/education/reviews>). The Final Comparative Report will be published before end-2002.

Adult learning has become a priority policy issue in today's knowledge-based societies. Indeed, such was the success of our Review process that several countries have signed up for a second round.

Their enthusiasm also reflects the challenges we continue to face. Economic and social structures are under pressure, from new technologies for instance, and the emergence of new workplace practices, ageing populations and migratory pressures. OECD countries view adult learning as a key part of the response to these changes. All participants in the Thematic Review have reported on their countries' efforts to provide better learning opportunities for adults and reform current adult learning systems with a view to upgrade the skills of their populations. In the countries we visited, we found a diversity of suppliers from the public and private sectors, including businesses, playing a central role in the development of adult learning. A detailed review of policies, good practices and key features of adult learning systems will be included in the forthcoming Comparative Report.

Beatriz Pont

What's on?

Information and documentation for the activity can be found at: <http://www.oecd.org/els/education/reviews> (click on right hand side box "Adult Learning")

Other relevant OECD projects:

- The role of National Qualification Systems in promoting Lifelong Learning
- Mechanisms of co-financing lifelong learning
- ICT and education policies :
<http://www.oecd.org/education>
- Improving labour market opportunities for older workers
- Policies to enhance employment-related human capital
<http://www.oecd.org/employment>

Who to contact?

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Spain Visit 13-23 November 2001



Spain

Coordination

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Background Report

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Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs



Expert team

Rapporteur

Juan-Enrique Froemel, Chile

External experts

Antonio Morfin, Mexico
Paulo Federighi, Italy

OECD expert

Beatriz Pont, Administrator

Tuesday 13 November - Madrid

- 09.00 Department of Education, Vocational Training and Educational Innovation - Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport
- 09.15 Steering Group
- 09.30 Members of Background Report team and Team of Advisors
- 10.30 Statistics experts
- 12.00 National Employment Institute (INEM)
- 12.15 Round table with INEM and Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs experts
- 16.00 FORCEM (In-service Training Foundation) Headquarters
- 18.00 El Corte Inglés SA training centre in Madrid

Wednesday 14 November - Madrid

- 09.00 Department of Educational Promotion in the Community of Madrid
- 10.15 Agustina de Aragón CEPA (Adult Education Centre)
- 13.00 Navalcarnero Prison, Adult Education in Prisons
- 15.30 Department for the Promotion of Education, Regional Adult Education Centre
- 16.30 Las Acacias Regional Adult Education Centre (CREPA) and Regional Centre for Innovation and Training (CRIF)

Thursday 15 November - Santiago de Compostela

- 09.30 Department of Educational Planning and Vocational Training
- 10.00 Adult Education Service and Educational Planning and Innovation Service
- 12.00 University of Santiago de Compostela
- 12.30 "Proxecto Home"
- 13.30 Galicia Regional Government
- 16.00 Permanent Adult Education Centre in Vigo
- 18.00 Citroën company: Enterprise training

Friday 16 November - Santiago de Compostela

- 09.00 Galicia Employment Service
- 09.15 Occupational Guidance Service: Reintegration for the long-term unemployed and Professional Information and Guidance Programme
- 09.30 Occupational and Vocational Training in Galicia
- 09.45 Programmes in Workshop-schools, Craft Skills Centres and Employment Workshops
- 10.00 Galicia Qualifications Institute
- 12.00 Employment Workshop at Serra de Outes (La Coruña)

Monday 19 November - Valladolid

- 09.30 Red Cross Programme of Spanish for Immigrants
- 10.45 Valladolid Provincial Council Presentation by the Social Welfare Delegate
- 11.45 Department of Education and Culture
- 13.00 Mentor Classroom run by the Town Council of Medina del Campo
- 15.30 Medina del Campo Adult Education Centre
- 18.00 Muro Adult Education Centre

Tuesday 20 November - Valladolid

- 09.00 Valladolid National Centre for Occupational Training
- 11.00 Community of Castilla y León Director General of Employment
- 12.00 Public event: Award of Quality Club credits

Wednesday 21 November - La Rioja

- 09.00 Regional Minister for Economy of the La Rioja Regional Government
- 09.15 Institutional perspective: Optimising resources and the European perspective
- 12.30 TOBEPAL graphic arts company
- 16.00 Social and economic agents in La Rioja

Thursday 22 November - Madrid

- 09.30 National Qualifications Institute (INCUAL)
- 11.30 Community of Madrid Director General of Employment
- 12.00 Experimental Centre for Advanced Technologies (CEFAT) in the Community of Madrid
- 15.00 Background Report authors
- 16.30 Open University (UNED)
- 17.00 Adult education experts

Friday 23 November - Madrid

- 09.00 Presentation of the Draft of the Vocational Training Bill
- 09.30 Steering group: Proposal for the Country Note

Country Comments on the Thematic Review Visit

Spain took up the invitation to join the OECD Adult Education Review in the final stages of the first round of the Thematic Review. The decision involved the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Autonomous Regional Communities and Local Government Bodies. The work was planned and carried out jointly between the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, as was the actual country visit.

In order to understand the current situation in Spain, it is important to take into account the complete decentralisation of all programme management, which is now carried out through the regional departments or ministries of the Autonomous Regional Communities.

The visit was intense and had a tight schedule. The Autonomous Regional Communities provided the documents, data and details of experience that would be of interest during the visit, and senior management actively participated.

Two important demographic characteristics that directly affect the Review can be highlighted. Low birth rates and an increased wave of immigration are responsible for modifying and varying the features of many of our regions. They have also introduced other important elements that need to be taken into account and make it necessary to constantly adapt the programmes, priorities and aims used in the planning of training programmes.

Besides this, it is also important to note the introduction of the New Vocational Training Bill. The bill aims to bring training programmes together and make full use of them irrespective of the managing organisation. It encompasses the need to make supply more flexible, adapt them to the new requirements of the labour market and obtain a more adaptable validation of knowledge.

This Thematic Review has provided a unique opportunity whereby suggestions coming from external and objective analysis can be incorporated into the new bill and allow us to obtain proposals aimed at this new reality.



OECD - Krivet International Conference on Adult Learning Policies

The OECD-KRIVET International Conference on Adult Learning Policies was held last 5-7 December 2001 in Seoul, Korea. The Conference covered a range of issues on adult learning policies from a comparative perspective. Areas of interest included: Meeting specific types of adult learning needs; choosing effective delivery mechanisms; and promoting learning in the enterprise and the role of different actors in the provision of adult learning. The highly successful Conference provided an opportunity for a fruitful exchange of information and practices among countries and there was plenty of lively discussion and debate. Documentation from the Conference can be found at the following web site address: <http://www.krivet.re.kr/nsemina/nsemina1/home.htm> .

The Conference Programme

5/12/2001

Session Chair

Opening address

Keynote speakers

ADULT LEARNING IN A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

Dr. Kisung LEE, KRIVET

Dr. Moo-Sub KANG, President of KRIVET

Adult Learning Policies : Changes, Challenges and Responses

Dr. Wan-Sang HAN, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education & Human Resources Development, Korea

Adult Learning: Will Cinderella Get to the Ball?

Mr. John MARTIN, Director for Education, Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD

The OECD Thematic Review of Adult Learning: Themes and Emerging Policy Directions

Dr. Abrar HASAN, Head, Education and Training Division, OECD

Prof. Zunsang HAN, Yonsei University, Korea

Ms. Helen KEOGH, Department of Education and Science, Ireland

Discussants

5/12/2001

Session Chair

Expert presentation

Country presentations

MEETING ADULT LEARNING NEEDS

Ms. Beatriz PONT, OECD

Recent Developments in Meeting Specific Adult Learning Needs

Prof. Albert TUIJNMAN, Stockholm University, Sweden

Sweden: Building an Infrastructure for Adult Learning

Mr. Anders FRANZÉN, Ministry of Education and Science, Sweden

Adult Education in Mexico

Ms. Luz Maria CASTRO, National Institute for Adult Education (INEA), Mexico

Basic Skills for Employability and Citizenship

Ms. Helen KEOGH, Department of Education and Science, Ireland

Changes in Adult Learning Needs and the Credit Bank System in Korea

Dr. Ji-Sun CHUNG, KRIVET

6/12/2001

Session Chair

Expert presentation

Country presentations

ADULT LEARNING DELIVERY MECHANISMS

Dr. Patrick WERQUIN, OECD

Formalizing the Informal: Creating Effective Systems for Adult Education

Prof. W. Norton GRUBB, University of California, Berkeley, United States

Assessment and recognition of non-formal learning in Europe: Main tendencies and challenges

Dr. Jens BJØRNÅVOLD, European Commission

Taking Prior Learning into Account to Define a Career Plan Through Training

Ms. Maria RUDOWSKI, Ministère de l'Éducation nationale, France

Learning Settings in Canada: Work in Progress

Dr. John BISS, Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training, Saskatchewan, Canada

ICT-based Distance Education for Adult Learners: A Case of Korea

Prof. In-Sung JUNG, Ewha Women's University, Korea

6/12/2001

Session Chair

Expert presentation

Country presentations

ADULT LEARNING IN THE ENTERPRISE

Dr. Jeong Taik LEE, Executive Director of Research,

Korea Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training (KRIVET)

Promoting learning in the enterprise: The lessons of international comparisons in the light of economic theory

Prof. Robert BOYER, CNRS, France

Switzerland: Reintegration to the labour market of unemployed immigrated workers, who are not used to learning

Mrs. Esther WIDMER, Secrétariat d'État à l'Économie (Seco), Switzerland

A Case Study of the Samsung Life Insurance Learning Management System in Korea

Prof. Dae-Bong KWON, Korea University, Korea

Adult Education in Greece

Mr. Christos DOUKAS, General Secretariat for Adult Education, Greece

Education and Training in Korean Enterprises

Dr. Byong-moo YANG, Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD (BIAC)

Joint union-management approaches promoting the training of adult workers - Experiences from OECD countries

Mr. Roland SCHNEIDER, Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC)

How e-learning works in corporate training

Mr. Hideaki SEKINE, IBM Learning Services, Asia Pacific Region, Japan

Special topic

presentations

7/12/2001

Session Chair

Summaries of sessions
by the Rapporteurs

Closing statements

CONCLUDING SESSION - TAKING STOCK

Dr. Abrar HASAN, OECD

Mr. Adama OUANE, UNESCO

Mr. Jorma AHOLA, Ministry of Education, Finland

Prof. David ASHTON, University of Leicester, United Kingdom

Dr. Abrar HASAN, OECD and Dr. Kang, KRIVET