

### The final lap

The Thematic Review on Adult Learning is reaching its final stages. Eight countries have been visited so far and the information that has been accumulated is extensive. The final lap includes the last country visit and the preparation of the Comparative Report. Regretfully, the United States had to pull out of this round of the Review. It is now a good time to consider the important deadlines.

The last visit to Spain will take place in November. Meanwhile, during the fall Committee meetings - the Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee (ELSAC) and the Education Committee (EC) - the Delegates will have the opportunity to examine a document including a number of emerging issues, highlights and lessons to date, as well as a detailed outline of the Comparative Report.

The first complete version of the Comparative Report will be presented during the Spring 2002 Committee meetings. The participating countries will have the opportunity to express their opinions and react to the text at the meeting and within a deadline to be announced at that point. These comments will be taken into account when preparing the publication of the final Comparative Report.

I also want to announce further good news: A number of countries have already expressed interest in a second round. The adventure should continue...

Patrick Werquin

### What's new?

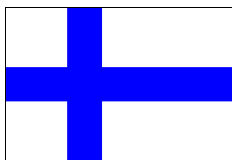
- October 4-6, 2001: International Conference on Transitions, Aarau, Switzerland ([www.transitions.ch](http://www.transitions.ch)).
- November 13-23, 2001: Thematic Review visit to Spain.
- December 5-7, 2001: International Conference on Adult Learning Policies, Seoul, Korea.
- A number of Background Reports and Country Notes can be found in the website (<http://www.oecd.org/els/education/al>).

#### Who to contact?

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# Finland Visit 1-9 February 2001



## Finland

### Co-ordination

Jorma Ahola  
Ville Heinonen  
Ministry of Education

### Steering and background report

Representatives of:  
Ministry of Education  
Ministry of Social Affairs and Health  
Ministry of Labour  
Ministry of Trade and Industry  
the Social partners  
the Adult Education Council of Finland  
Statistics Finland  
Finnish Broadcasting Company YLE  
Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities



## Expert team

### Rapporteur

Martina Ni Cheallaigh, Ireland

### External experts

Richard P. Phelps, United States  
Vincent Vandenberghe, Belgium

### OECD experts

Anne Sonnet, Administrator  
Patrick Werquin, Principal Administrator

- Thursday 1 February** Place: Helsinki  
08:30-09:30 Steering group and authors of the Background Report: Discussion of the Background Report  
09:30-10:30 National Board of Education and Higher Education Evaluation Council  
11:30-13:30 Adult learning in government policy: Education, social, employment and industrial policy  
14:00-15:00 Adult learning from the point of view of the Parliament  
15:30-16:30 TV and new media in adult learning
- Friday 2 February** Place: Helsinki and Järvenpää  
08:30-09:30 Statistics Finland  
10:00-11:00 Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities  
13:00-16:00 Adulta: Vocational Adult Education Centre
- Monday 5 February** Place: Helsinki and Hämeenlinna  
08:30-10:30 The social partners  
13:30-16:00 Häme Polytechnic
- Tuesday 6 February** Place: Tampere  
08:30-11:00 University of Tampere  
12:30-16:00 Liberal adult education: Adult Education Centre, Upper Secondary School for Adults and Päivölä Folk High School
- Wednesday 7 February** Place: Helsinki  
08:30-10:00 FOCUM: Swedish-speaking upper secondary vocational institute  
10:00-10:45 Provision for low qualified adults: Siikaranta Folk High School  
10:45-11:30 Provision for immigrants: Amiedu Vocational Adult Education Centre  
13:00-14:00 Jollas Institute: the S-Group's training and education centre  
14:30-16:30 Metso Corporation: Human resources development
- Thursday 8 February** Place: Joensuu  
08:30-11:30 Employment and Economic Development Centre for North Karelia, Joensuu Employment Office and North Karelia Vocational Adult Education Centre  
12:30-16:00 Regional development program, Provincial State Office of Eastern Finland, University of Joensuu, Vocational Training Centre, Kitee Learning Centre and Kitee Evangelistic Folk High School
- Friday 9 February** Place: Helsinki  
08:30-11:30 Researchers on adult learning: University of Turku, University of Helsinki, University of Tampere, Statistics Finland and University of Lapland  
13:00-14:00 Steering group: Proposal for the Country Note

# Portugal Visit 12 - 19 March 2001



## Portugal

### Co-ordination

Lisete Matos  
Maria Teresa Braz Gonçalves  
National Agency for adult education and training (ANEFA)

### Background Report

Under responsibility of ANEFA

### Steering

Maria Márcia Trigo  
José Alberto Leitão  
Lisete Matos  
Maria Teresa Braz Gonçalves  
Simone Araújo  
ANEFA



## Expert team

### Rapporteur

Robert Boyer, France

### External experts

Ross Finnie, Canada  
Johnny Stroumza, Switzerland

### OECD experts

Anne Sonnet, Administrator  
Patrick Werquin, Principal administrator

### Monday 12 March

Place: Lisbon and Seixal

- 09.00-11.00 Welcome to ANEFA. Discussion of the Background Report with the steering group.
- 11.30-12.30 Officials from Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour and Solidarity, National Institute of Statistics
- 14.00-15.30 Vocational training centre, Institute of employment and vocational training (IEFP), Seixal: Centre of recognition, validation and certification of competencies (CRVCC)
- 16.00-17.30 Community Training course for adults, Seixal

### Tuesday 13 March

Place: Alentejo

- 10.30-11.30 ESDIME, Local development association, ANIMAR, Portuguese Federation of local development association and Regional unit of ANEFA
- 12.00-13.00 Vocational training centre (IEFP), Aljustrel
- 14.30-16.00 Training course for adults, ESDIME

### Wednesday 14 March

Place: Lisbon

- 09.00-10.30 National Institute of Statistics and Department of statistics from Ministries of Education and Labour and Solidarity
- 11.00-12.30 Employer Organisations
- 14.30-17.30 Trade Union Organisations

### Thursday 15 March

Place: Porto

- 09.00-10.30 Regional structures from the Northern Region: Commission of Co-ordination of the Northern Region, IEFP, Regional Director of Education, Association of Enterprises from Portugal (AEP) and Regional Unit of ANEFA
- 11.00-13.00 Vocational training in an automotive firm: Salvador Caetano
- 15.00-16.30 Institute of Social Solidarity (CIVITAS)

### Friday 16 March

Place: Braga and Lisbon

- 9.00-12.30 Industrial Association of Minho: Employer organisation with a training centre hosting a CRVCC
- 19.00-20.00 Minister of Labour and Solidarity

### Saturday 17 March

Place: Lisbon

- 10.00-12.00 Researchers in adult education: Consultant to the Prime Minister, University of Porto, Consultant for ANEFA, University of Minho, Secretariat *Entre-cultures*, High Institute of sciences of labour and enterprises, High School of education of Porto, Neurologist, IEFP and Institute for innovation in training (INOFOR)

### Monday 19 March

Place: Lisbon

- 09.00-10.30 General Directors of Ministries of Education and Labour and Solidarity: Design and implementation of adult education and training policies
- 11.00-13.00 Welcome by the Secretary of State of Education
- 14.00-16.00 Steering Group from ANEFA: Proposal for the Country Note

# Country Comments

## Finland

The Thematic Review on Adult Learning will contribute towards future developments in adult education and training in Finland. Writing the national Background Report has been a good starting point for national discussion and appraisal of the state of adult learning in Finland. It also represents an important part of the ongoing efforts toward the monitoring of adult education. In the future, among different purposes, it will be used in the work of the recently established adult learning parliamentary working party. The working party will look at the effectiveness of the adult education and training system in the lifelong learning perspective, evaluate educational provision and make proposals for further development of Finnish adult education and training policy.

The Finnish adult education sector is comprehensive in content and in terms of educational institutions. Efforts were made to devise a programme that would give the OECD team a good overall picture of Finnish adult education and training in its various sectors and its geographical distribution. During the visit, the OECD team heard the views of the regional and central administrations and other major players in the adult education field.

The discussions conducted with the OECD review team were productive and offered new insights into adult education. The team was sufficiently detached from the Finnish education system to pose unexpected and pertinent questions. For Finnish adult educators, who were asked to justify the reasons for doing things their own way, it was a constructive learning experience. The short but productive visit gave us the opportunity to look at our system from different angles. This will influence our understanding of the adult education system far into the future.

We take this opportunity to thank the OECD team for their visit. The cold February days and the fascinating discussions were especially conducive to an analysis of adult education policy.

## Portugal

Portugal proposed to the OECD a review that centred on the adult population with low educational and professional attainment, i.e. those with less than nine years of schooling. While we were aware that this option limits the comparison with other countries that are participating in the Thematic Review, the decision was justified when considering that Portugal has a deficit in the formal certification of its active population. Presently, Portugal is making considerable efforts to improve this situation, with the development of a variety of very focused programmes. The creation of the National Agency for education and training of adults (ANEFA), under both the Ministry of Labour and Solidarity and the Ministry of Education, is part of this effort.

We prepared a compact and diversified programme to allow the five OECD experts to better understand the Portuguese education and training system for adults. This included meetings in the field with professionals, researchers, social partners and representatives from other institutions at a central, regional and local level. The Minister of Labour and Solidarity and the Secretary of State of Education also met with the team.

Our main concern was that the OECD experts would understand the Portuguese reality in this area. Especially important was that they recognise the dynamic factors and the political will that has been set into motion as a result of the recent agreement on Employment, Labour Market, Education and Training, signed by the Government and the social partners.