Efforts to increase adults participation in lifelong learning in Estonia

Kairi Solmann
Estonian Ministry of Education and Research

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Participation of 25-64 year old adults in Lifelong Learning in Estonia

Labour force survey 2006-2012
Possible explanations for the increase in participation level

• Launch of new programmes co-funded by European Social Fund
• Clear division of responsibilities within governmental sector
• Cooperation with non-governmental adult learning associations
• New target groups
• Regional approach
Division on responsibilities according to target groups

- **Ministry of Economic Affairs** – helps companies to improve the knowledge and skills of their workers.
- **Ministry of Social Affairs** – offers labour market training for unemployed adults.
- **Ministry of Education and Training** – to enable adults better access to both formal and non-formal education in order to improve the knowledge of people and their level of education.

Training opportunities for adults.
### ESF programmes of Ministry of Education and Research

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Program 1: WORK-RELATED TRAINING IN VET INSTITUTIONS AND DEVELOPMENT OF ADULT EDUCATION</th>
<th>€9 million</th>
<th>Program 2: TRAINING IN NON-FORMAL ADULT EDUCATION CENTERS</th>
<th>€4 million</th>
<th>Program 3: PR PROGRAM FOR ADULT EDUCATION</th>
<th>€1 million</th>
<th>Extra: open for applicants</th>
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Funding principles

• Training free for learners, accompanying costs covered by learners
• Money allocated to educational institutions – vocational schools and non-formal adult education centres.
• Cost of training covered, not institutional support
• 15 computer classrooms in non-formal education centres.
Training offered at VET institutions

- Training courses are offered on over 30 fields of education
- Training courses included fields that are not offered by private providers (private sector mostly offers classroom-training)
- Training in up-to-date facilities - making use of newly renovated vocational education institutions
Cooperation with non-governmental sector

Estonian Non-Formal Adult Education Association
• Network includes 80 non-formal education centers across Estonia, 50 participated in the programme
• Previous experience of cooperation
• Managing with the ESF rules and regulations was at the beginning challenging
Places where training was offered

Estonian Non-formal Adult Education Association
Popularisation of lifelong learning

• Program carried out by Association of Estonian Adult Educators Andras
• Regional network of coordinators
• Adult learners week
• TV campaign
Results

• More than 70 thousand adults have participated in training courses
• Drop-out rate was low (5-7%)
• Feedback from participants positive
• Non-governmental associations had important role
• Non-governmental associations have grown stronger
THANK YOU!

Kairi.Solmann@hm.ee
www.hm.ee