

Basic Skills Training in the European policy context



The EBSN, who are we?

- ▶ A **policy level network** (policy makers and policy providers).
- ▶ promoting excellence in **policy design and policy implementation**, at European, national and regional level, for basic skills for adults (literacy, numeracy, digital skills, 2nd language for immigrants).
- ▶ currently consisting of 80 members (and 9 associated members outside Europe).
- ▶ Cooperating with the European Commission: Agenda, Upskilling Pathways - and EPALE Capacity Building Series.



European
Basic Skills
Network



Today's theme

- ▶ Basic Skills – what and why
- ▶ Basic Skills in current European policy
- ▶ New paradigms, new needs
- ▶ Consequences at provider and teacher level
- ▶ Suggestions for action



Basic Skills, which and why



PIAAC

Programme for the International
Assessment of Adult Competencies

- ▶ Approx 20% of European adults have low levels of literacy and numeracy
- ▶ A much higher percentage does NOT reach the level of functional literacy
- ▶ 25% of adults lack the skills to effectively use ICT
- ▶ Even lower levels in average for immigrant adults

**LITERACY, NUMERACY, DIGITAL SKILLS,
2nd LANGUAGE**



European Basic Skills Policy: Upskilling Pathways

Step 1 – Skills assessment

- ▶ To enable adults to identify their existing skills and any needs for upskilling.

Step 2 – Learning offer

- ▶ To meet the needs identified by the skills assessment. To boost literacy, numeracy or digital skills or allow progress towards higher qualifications.

Step 3 – Validation and recognition

- ▶ The opportunity to have the skills acquired validated and recognised.

Upskilling Pathways – the three steps



Member State flexibility to choose priority target groups, to build on existing provision ...

Employment,
Social Affairs
and Inclusion



European Basic Skills Policy: Upskilling Pathways

- ▶ Recommendation on UP adopted 2016. Reporting under way (incl open consultation)
- ▶ Preliminary results: stronger focus on basic skills
- ▶ New policy development in several countries
- ▶ Very varied picture of results so far
- ▶ Lack of cohesion between different elements (infrastructure, cohesion, guidance, teacher training...)
- ▶ Recognized need to continue the effort



European Basic Skills Policy: the New Agenda

(Nov 2021)

- ▶ Adult Learning in the wider sense, beyond upskilling of workers
- ▶ It confirms the relevance of Upskilling Pathways
- ▶ It calls for work at national level for stronger
 - ▶ governance and stakeholder cooperation
 - ▶ supply and access to lifelong learning opportunities,
 - ▶ accessibility, flexibility, tailoring to individual needs
 - ▶ quality, equity, inclusion and success in adult learning,
- ▶ Focuses on the green and digital transitions.



From policy to implementation



- ▶ Basic Skills as transversal skills: need for an “all of government approach”
- ▶ Relevance, flexibility, life-wide learning and learner-centered approaches > diversity and tailoring
- ▶ Digital Skills: a target and a tool
- ▶ Hybrid learning, distributed learning: new paradigm. Communities of practice?
- ▶ A moving target: need for LLL and for CPD



The EBSN: CBS and PDS

- ▶ CBS: Capacity Building Series
- ▶ PDS: Professional Development Series (new project!)
- ▶ OER collections on Epale
- ▶ MOOCs based on the OER collections
- ▶ Flexible provision + accreditation through virtual badges



EBSN
Capacity
Building
Series



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