Early school leaving reducing as the LLL key priority in ASIA and Europe: Current situation in Latvia

The activities of the existing educational institutions do not adequately promote the adult participation in learning. Disregarding the fact that the state education system offers evening (shift) schools as an instrument of engagement of such people in the learning process, in Latvia in the third quarter of 2010 from the total number of 245.6 thousand inhabitants (aged 18-24) 72.9 thousand of them did not have secondary education but 30.7 thousand of them were not engaged in any kind of learning.

One of the obstacles preventing the adults from returning to school is the discrepancy between the offer provided by the school and the demand the adults can accept. Simultaneously in the regions of the country there is a trend that evening (shift) schools are closed down and they are merged with the general secondary schools which does not promote the adult engagement in learning.

Taking into consideration the fact that the generation of adults (aged 18-24) will constitute the main ratio of labour in 2020 and the fact that knowledge society demands highly qualified labour for new kind of jobs (the EU study „New skills for new jobs”), it is necessary to study and analyse the good practice of Europe and Asia regarding the promotion of adult learning (aged 18-24).

General Information about the project

Study duration: 2011 - 2013

The Aim of the study:

The aim of the collaborative ASEM good practice case study is to elaborate evidence practice based recommendations for LR MOES on how to increase the ratio of young adults (aged 18-24) with basic and secondary education and who are motivated to learn (EU 2020: ESL 10%) and what measures should be taken in order to attract them acquiring basic and secondary education.

Study objectives:• To identify new challenges (obstacles) and opportunities on how to overcome the obstacles which should be taken into account when defining the education policy regarding engagement of adults (aged 18-24) with incomplete basic or secondary education in the learning process.
• To work out the recommendations for the development of the state policy for diminishing the ratio of early school leavers up to 10% on the basis of evidence findings of good practice of Latvian and international cases how to support the involving adults with incomplete basic or secondary education in the learning process.

Study stages:
1. Survey 2011-2012
2. Interviewing 2012
3. Describing of best practice patterns 2013

Expected results: The results of the study have to reveal what changes have to be introduced in order to more effectively engage adults in learning by using the existing infrastructure, analyzing obstacles (challenges) and good practice of how to eliminate obstacles (good practice of opportunities) in engaging adults with incomplete basic or secondary education in the learning process.

The Sample of the Study

The ASEM Latvian Survey findings (stage 1 of the study) and evidence based conclusions and recommendations - were done collaboratively by members of Research Network 4 from the Philippines, Latvia and Lithuania - will be presented follow.

Data selection Instruments

1. Survey on E-Learning (ASEM LLL Hub RN1)
2. Survey on Workplace Learning (ASEM LLL Hub RN2)
3. Delphi method, survey on core competence of learning facilitators in adult education (ASEM LLL Hub RN3)
4. Survey on learning motivation and learning opportunities for employees and employers (ASEM LLL Hub RN4)
5. Survey on difficult study subjects for detecting teachers’ didactical approach (ASEM LLL Hub RN5)

Conclusions and recommendations

The ASEM Latvian Survey findings (stage 1 of the study) and evidence based conclusions and recommendations - were done collaboratively by members of Research Network 4 from the Philippines, Latvia and Lithuania - will be presented follow.

Contributors:
Prof. Dr.habil.paed. Inna Maslo, project leader, ASEM LLL research representative of University of Latvia
Prof. dr. Vaiva Zuzeviciute, ASEM LLL research representative of Vitautas Magnus University (Lithuania)
Prof.Dr. , dean Zenaida Gueraza-Reyes, ASEM LLL research representative of Normadis University (Philippines)
Ph D. student Aina Nikolajeva, 1. Mudrij Novgorod University.
TRIP I grant doctoral student 2011 -2012 at the University of Latvia
Senior researcher, Dr.paed. Rita Birziņa, University of Latvia
Researcher Tamara Pigozne, University of Latvia