

Research on delivery of integrated literacy and numeracy (ILN) in VET

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 IRELAND

Timeline

2017 Design

2018 Implementation

2019 Implementation

2020 Completed

ID number 35660

Background

The Department of Education and Skills (DES) implementation plan included a specific objective to expand the evidence base to inform literacy and numeracy policy.

Objectives

The purpose of the study was to explore the benefits and challenges associated with integrated approaches and the extent of existing practice and evidence of impact.

Description

A study was commissioned to support the ambitions set out in the FET strategy (2014-19) for a FET sector where 'literacy and numeracy are being addressed effectively and are not a barrier to participation in FET or in achieving employment or education and training progression outcomes'.

Policy considerations for SOLAS

A key strength of existing ILN models is that there is a strong vocational focus and contextualisation of learning. This encourages learner participation as they recognise it is relevant for their FET area. It also ensures that literacy and numeracy provision is framed around supporting learners to achieve success in their FET programme.

The targeting of provision to particular learners on level 5 and 6 programmes and most level 4 programmes seems to reflect needs. These are the types of programme in which learners are most likely to require literacy and numeracy support, especially as the learner cohort evolves in response to the growing FET role in tackling unemployment.

There are issues with inconsistency in practice and variability in the proportion of students offered support. This mainly stems from the fact that there is no consistent approach being adopted by FET providers to screen learners' needs in relation to literacy and numeracy. There is also variable tutor buy-in, as some are not aware of the benefits of ILN. In some cases, it reflects a probable lack of demand/need for certain courses and learner cohorts.

Specific areas for policy considerations:

- collating and sharing ILN resources developed by FET providers;
- providing training to leaders in ETBs and providers on the organisational approaches to integrating literacy and numeracy, possibly using/adapting professional development courses that have already been developed (e.g. the SOLAS course targeted at community training centre managers);
- reviewing funding arrangements with Adult Literacy Services to ensure they are sufficiently incentivised to work with FET providers to deliver ILN programmes;
- supporting the FET sector to employ a consistent approach to conducting initial learner screening;
- ensuring support for a plurality of models for integrating literacy and numeracy within FET, reflecting there is no 'one-size-fits-all' approach to effectively integrating literacy and numeracy;
- promoting particularly effective features for delivering ILN that are already in use across the various delivery models.

2017 Design

Research on delivery of integrated literacy and numeracy was commissioned.

2018 Implementation

Research on delivery of integrated literacy and numeracy was concluded with policy recommendations.

2019 Implementation

Policy recommendations were drafted based on the report and incorporated into the FET services plan.

2020 Completed

Policy recommendations were incorporated into the 2020-24 FET strategy. A plan for the development of a new 10-year strategy for adult literacy, numeracy and digital literacy strategy was announced by government.

Bodies responsible

- Further Education and Training Authority (SOLAS)

Target group

Learners

Adult learners

Entities providing VET

VET providers (all kinds)

Thematic categories

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Acquiring key competences

Subsystem

Further reading

[Published report](#)

[Minister announcement on a new 10-year strategy](#)

Related policy developments

2021 **Approved/Agreed**

Transforming Learning 2020-24: Ireland's National Further Education and Training Strategy

The FET strategy 2020–24 was developed in consultation with the FET sector and other key stakeholders. Consultation was wide-ranging and included bilateral meetings, regional workshops and a public call for submissions.

 IRELAND

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Cite as

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<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/35660>