


CHANCE: new opportunities for adults (upskilling pathways project)

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 POLAND

Timeline



ID number 28479

Objectives

The main objectives of this initiative are:

- (a) improving and modernising the education and training offer for adults with low levels of basic skills (literacy, numeracy, ICT skills);
- (b) improving adults' access to education, especially of those at risk of exclusion, and disadvantaged groups (e.g. migrants, older adults, unemployed);
- (c) raising adults' labour-market-relevant skills and competences and active participation in society.

Description

From October 2018 to December 2021, the Foundation for the Development of the Education System and the Educational Research Institute are implementing the CHANCE: new opportunities for adults project - a new upskilling pathways project; the Ministry of Investment and Economic Development (currently the Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy) is supervising this project, which is aligned with the Recommendation of the Council of the European Union of 19 December 2016 on upskilling pathways: new opportunities for adults. The main goal of the project is to design and pilot innovative models to support different groups of adults with low levels of literacy, numeracy and ICT skills. The models will consist of effective ways of reaching and motivating selected target groups, conducting skills assessments, providing individually adjusted learning offers, and validating learning outcomes. The project consists of three major phases:

- (a) research phase, including the selection of priority target groups, development of specifications and requirements for the models;
- (b) developing and piloting of the models (to be conducted by entities selected from an open call for proposals);
- (c) preparing recommendations (addressing, in particular, the issues of the effectiveness of supporting adults with low levels of basic skills, the financial efficiency of the intervention and best practices for implementation).

The models (including skills assessments, training programmes and the validation of learning outcomes) will be based on the learning outcomes approach. The activities will provide beneficiaries with the opportunity to validate acquired skills and progress towards

higher qualifications relevant to the labour market. Partners in the project include government bodies, social partners, non-governmental organisations, experts, and sectoral associations.

2018 Implementation

The first phase of the project included qualitative research and analysis of current initiatives for adults, such as projects, surveys, reports and strategy documents. The priority target groups were selected and specifications and requirements for tailored models supporting adults with a low level of basic skills were developed.

2019 Implementation

In 2019, the first phase of the project was completed. The selected priority target groups were:

- (a) employees (especially from small and medium-sized enterprises);
- (b) unemployed or inactive adults;
- (c) adults from disadvantaged areas (rural areas, small towns and/or post-industrial municipalities);
- (d) people aged 50+;
- (e) immigrants;
- (f) adults with intellectual disabilities;
- (g) adults with physical and/or sensory disabilities;
- (h) adults affected by abuse (e.g. physical, mental, economic).

2020 Implementation

In 2020, the second phase of the project was carried out; it will continue in 2021.

The results of the open call for proposals were announced. The selected entities have started developing and piloting the models.

A considerable number of models have been developed to address the needs of different target groups. For instance, four models addressed the needs of employees in SMEs, eight focused on those over 50 and six targeted unemployed or inactive adults. They offer the participants flexible options to improve their literacy, numeracy, digital and social competences, as well as the opportunity to progress towards higher qualifications.

2021 Implementation

The second phase continued in 2021. In total, 31 best models were tested by institutions such as NGOs, local government units, labour offices and public libraries. The implementation of the models was regularly monitored by the ministry. The project team supported grant recipients by providing consultations and analysing documents relating to diagnosis, education support and validation. The evaluation of the models tested and qualitative studies of the participants – people with a low level of basic skills – were conducted. Design thinking workshops were provided to grant recipients with the best-designed activities for adults.

2022 Implementation

The third (last) phase focused on preparing recommendations to the government to be used in developing coherent strategies for raising adults' basic skills and will be continued in 2023. They included conclusions from the piloted models and covered such aspects as the effectiveness of the pilot projects, the cost-effectiveness of the interventions, and best practices.

A draft of recommendations to the government and regions to implement upskilling pathways in voivodeships was prepared. The recommendations took the form of a

practical handout. They present how to provide education offers to improve adults' basic skills.

2023 Completed

A new model of educational support was planned for displaced persons from Ukraine as this group had not been considered and needed specific upskilling pathways.

Due to Russian aggression in Ukraine, many Ukrainians decided to move to Poland. Many of them struggle with difficulties arising from shortages in basic skills, especially related to the lack of Polish language competences. Thus, a new programme for Ukrainians was carried out. It sets up an education offer in the fields of Polish institutions, finding a legal job, knowledge of Poland, finances, transport and communication, and Polish language classes. During this phase, 39 institutions received funding, and almost 3 000 people improved their skills.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Investment and Economic Development
- Educational Research Institute (IBE) (until 2025)
- Foundation for the Development of the Education System (FRSE)

Target group

Learners

Adult learners
Older workers and employees (55 - 64 years old)
Unemployed and jobseekers
Low-skilled/qualified persons

Entities providing VET

VET providers (all kinds)

Thematic categories

Transparency and portability of VET skills and qualifications

Learners' possibilities of accumulation, validation and recognition of learning outcomes acquired non-formally and informally

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Providing for individuals' re- and upskilling needs
Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

Subsystem

CVET

Further reading

[CHANCE: new opportunities for adults' project](#)

[New project on upskilling pathways](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

Human capital development strategy

The strategy update was coordinated by the ministry responsible for family, labour and social security. The final version of the document was adopted in 2019.

 POLAND

Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

Integrated skills strategy

In 2017, the education ministry initiated the development of a national skills strategy (integrated skills strategy – *Zintegrowana Strategia Umiejetności* – ZSU). The strategy covers the whole area of education and training, i.e.

 POLAND

Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” Cite as

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