

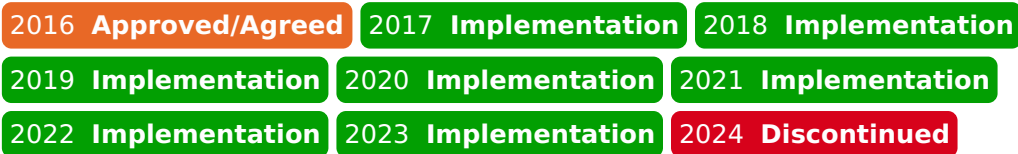
The 2016-23 non-formal adult education and CVET development programme

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 LITHUANIA

Timeline



ID number 28333

Background

Non-formal adult education creates opportunities for people to learn throughout life and meet cognitive needs, as well as improve their qualifications and acquire additional ones. This type of education is open to all those over 18 years of age, with services provided by 60 adult schools, centres and general education establishments across the country's municipalities, as well as at public and private institutions. Lithuania has made significant progress in access to education, ranking since 2010 among the top 10 EU countries with the highest number of people of working age (25-64) with at least an upper secondary education. However, it has lagged in terms of access to lifelong learning. There has therefore been a call for the development of alternatives to the education system that are accessible, attractive and valuable to society groups that currently have limited involvement in learning, including young people at social risk, adults and the rural population. There has been a need for the country to provide a wider range of incentives and training opportunities for people of all ages (including those living in remote rural areas), as well as develop everyone's ability to assess their situation in the labour market, and their knowledge and competences acquired through self-study or practice or non-formal education.

Objectives

The strategic goal of this policy is to aid the creation and development of non-formal adult education and continuing education, guaranteeing an accessible, socially just education system that meets the needs of individuals and society in the labour market. The programme's objectives are to:

- (a) create and develop a sustainable system of adult education;
- (b) reconcile lifelong learning with the needs of the country's economy and society.

Description

The programme, which was approved by the government in April 2016, relates to the

country's 2013-22 national education strategy. It aims to create a coherent adult education system and matching lifelong learning with the needs of society and the economy. Among the measures planned (and already implemented by 2018) was the creation of a network of adult education coordinators at municipality level. To support the network, the Qualifications and VET Development Centre (KPMPC) is putting in place national project coordinators for the implementation of the European agenda for adult learning. In 2015-17, the network of local coordinators organised events, gathered information about local providers of adult education programmes and the needs of local populations, and developed local action plans. In 2017, a total of 11 municipalities received funds to implement their development programmes for adult education. Based on progress in this area, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport made the decision to strengthen the funding mechanism. As of the end of 2019, EUR 3.5 million has been allocated to this mechanism.

2016 Approved/Agreed

2017 Implementation

2018 Implementation

2019 Implementation

In 2019, a large-scale project (No 09.4.2-ESFA-V-715-01-0002) continued in which adults acquire or strengthen their general and basic competences, increasing their motivation to engage in lifelong learning. The project has contributed to improvements in the quality of social and economic life, and reduced the risk of social exclusion among some adults. Quality educational content and its delivery to adult groups strengthens the system of non-formal adult education and lifelong learning.

2020 Implementation

In 2020, the project for the development of the adult education system by providing learners with general and basic competences (No 09.4.2-ESFA-V-715-01-0002) continued. The KPMPC provided training on general and basic adult skills in different municipalities on the following topics: Parental education (193 participants) and Intercultural communication (49 participants). KPMPC also provided training courses on basic skills (foreign languages, cultural and artistic education, project preparation and management) that aimed to improve the quality of non-formal adult education on the following topics: Adult non-formal education and continuing education planning training in municipalities, and Training in the preparation and implementation of adult non-formal education projects. A total of 82 people participated in these training sessions. Due to the pandemic, part of the events was moved to 2021.

In 2020, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports approved a new Lithuanian Council for Non-Formal Adult Education. The Council consists of 15 members delegated by State and municipal institutions, business self-government and employer organisations, organisations representing the interests of employees, and an association representing adult education. The activities of the Council have been renewed in order to involve social partners in the development and improvement of the adult education system.

2021 Implementation

In 2021, the implementation of the project Development of the adult education system by providing learners with general and basic competences (2016-23) continued. EUR 702 200 was allocated to adult education and non-formal vocational programmes, such as those conducted in many municipalities on the topic Intercultural communication (40 academic hours, 264 persons trained).

A two-part training programme on key competences was provided in seven municipalities to adults interested in lifelong learning opportunities with a total of 120 people trained.

62 new non-formal learning programmes have also been developed and approved.

2022 Implementation

During 2022, the project 'Development of internationalisation of vocational training and adult education system' was implemented (project No. 09.4.2-ESFA-V-715-04-0001).

The target group of the project was pedagogical and non-pedagogical staff of vocational training and non-formal adult education institutions.

During the course of the project, professional training for adult education institutions' professional and non-pedagogical staff was organised in the form of international internships, as well as training visits of foreign experts to Lithuania. Thanks to these measures, the internationality of the vocational training and adult education system and the international mobility of its participants have significantly increased.

Through participation in the project and internships, 95 employees of vocational training and adult education institutions improved their professional competences. This created prerequisites for improving the quality of adult training and increased the possibilities for lifelong learning of employees of vocational training and adult education institutions.

2023 Implementation

In 2023, an extensive survey was conducted to assess the demand and supply of non-formal adult training. The findings highlighted significant challenges, particularly in attracting and retaining adult learners, with low-skilled and low-income individuals being the most affected. Most municipalities engage with this target group in a fragmented manner, and adult learning is often not recognised as a priority.

To address these issues, strengthening information and outreach efforts at the municipal level is essential to raise awareness of lifelong learning opportunities. Additionally, fostering a learning culture is crucial to embedding education as a continuous practice rather than a one-time activity.

2024 Discontinued

Starting in 2024, lifelong learning (LLL) measures will be implemented through individual learning account platforms.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education, Science and Sport
- Qualifications and VET Development Centre (KPMPC)

Target group

Learners

Adult learners

Learners from other groups at risk of exclusion (minorities, people with fewer opportunities due to geographical location or social-economic disadvantaged position)

Thematic categories

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Acquiring key competences

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

Development programme for non-formal adult education and continuing education 2016-23. Decree No 347 of 6.6.2016

Initiative Development of the adult education system by providing learners with general and basic competences (No 09.4.2-ESFA-V-715-01-0002) (only in Lithuanian)

Information about the project 'Development of internationalisation of vocational training and adult education system', project No. 09.4.2-ESFA-V-715-04-0001

“ … ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). The 2016-23 non-formal adult education and CVET development programme: Lithuania. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2025 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/28333>