Validation event – 2021

Testing the PIAAC online self–assessment tool in the Italian network of Adult Education Centres - CPIAs

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WHAT ARE THE ADULT EDUCATION CENTRES-CPIAs?

CPIAs are public schools established by the Ministry of Education to encourage the personal, cultural, social and economic growth of citizens

Which courses can they attend?
- language and social integration courses for foreigners (Italian L2)
- programs aimed at acquiring middle school and upper secondary diplomas

Who can enroll in the CPIA?
- All Italian and/or foreign citizens over 16 years of age
- Foreign citizens must be in possession of a valid residence permit.

Who are the teachers?
- Teachers appointed by the Ministry of Education with specific experience in adult education.

Source: https://milano.italianostranieri.org/en/post/what-is-the-cpia

MAIN PURPOSES OF THE TESTING PROJECT

Enhancing the role of CPIAs as a service structure of an integrated territorial network for LLL

Supporting the process of credit recognition and the personalization of the individual training plan
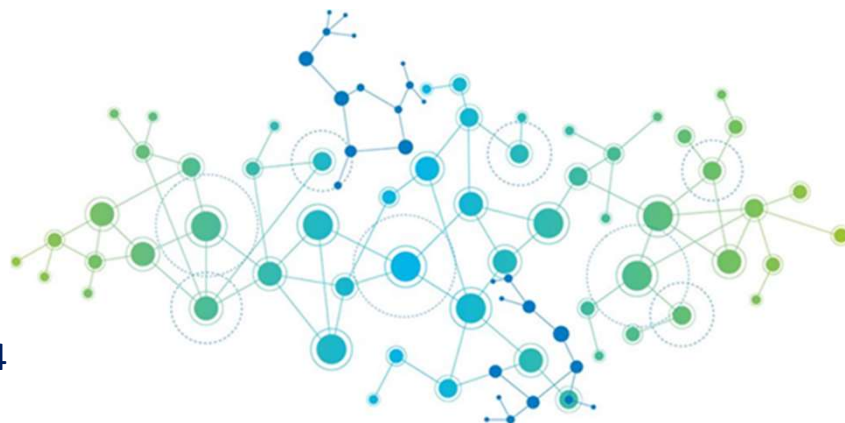
In addition...

➢ Contribute to the future development of the tool in collaboration with OECD

➢ A better integration among the different LLL services (e.g. CPI/CPIA)

THE TESTING DESIGN

**14 Adult Education Centres
in
14 Italian Regions**

316 students

34 teachers

- 60% are young people up to 34 years old
- 52% are men
- 81% are in possession of a Final diploma of the first cycle of education
- More than 60% re unemployed
- 47% are foreigners

- teachers took an actively part in the different phases of the project (design, training, management and results)

**Education and Skills Online Assessment**

Skills Assessed

THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF EDUCATION & SKILLS ONLINE

Background questionnaire
- Demographic characteristics
- Social and linguistic background
- Education level
- Employment status and occupation

Cognitive assessments
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Problem solving in technology-rich environments (optional)
- Reading components (optional)
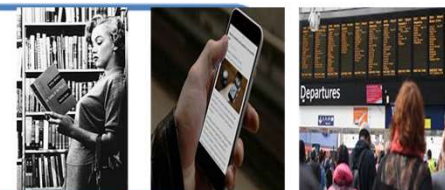
Noncognitive assessments (Optional)
- Skill use
- Career interest and intentionality
- Subjective well-being and health

https://www.oecd.org/skills/ESonline-assessment/abouteducationskillsonline/EducationSkillsOnline%20Info%202%20(2).pdf

*In addition, **two "satisfaction questionnaires"** and **two focus groups** have been completed with the aim of collecting information on the potential use of the PIAAC online tool in the CPIAs.*
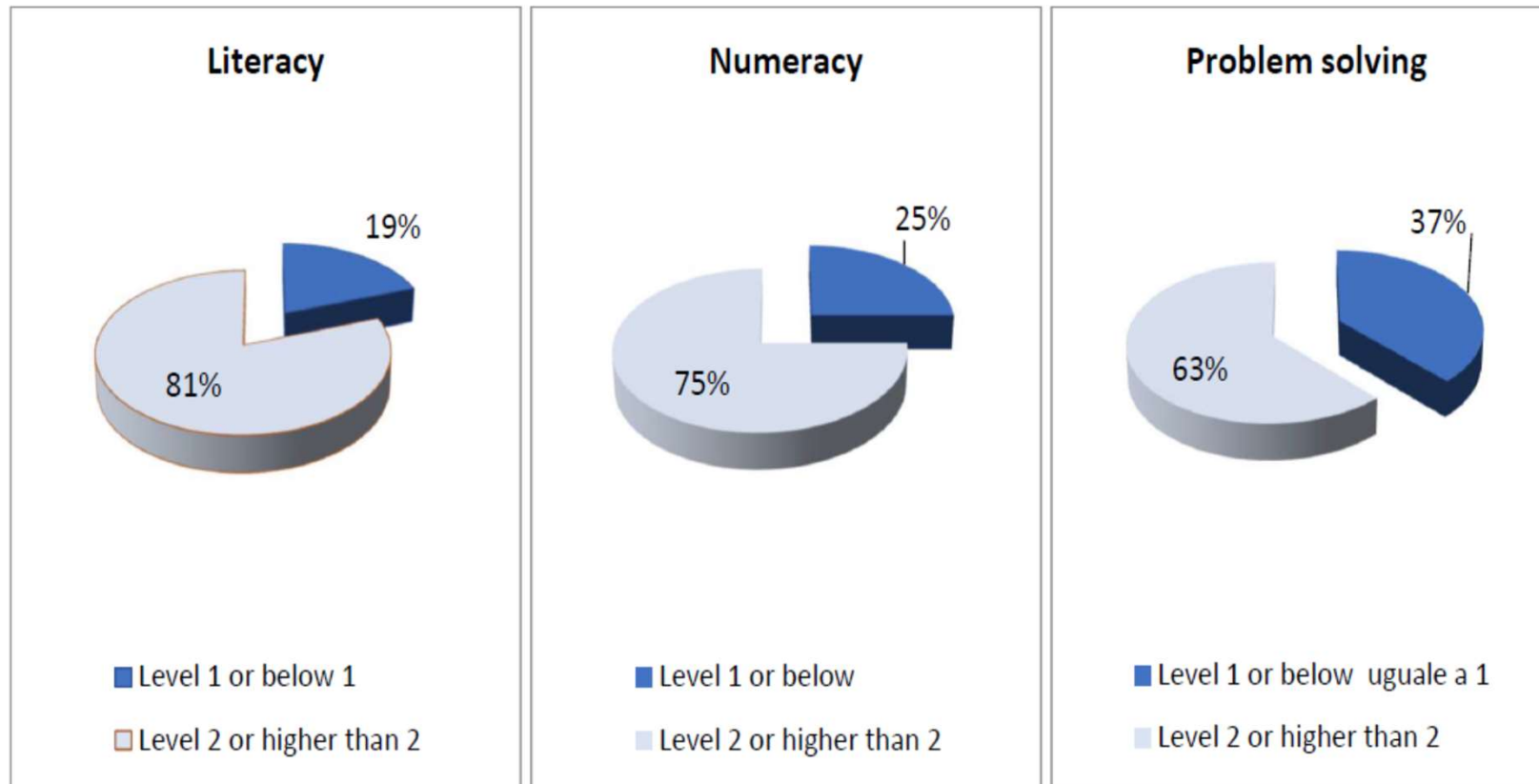
Focus goups for teachers

Questionanaire for students

Questionnaire for teachers

4 main topics:

I. PIAAC online usability

II. PIAAC online usefulness in the CPIAs context

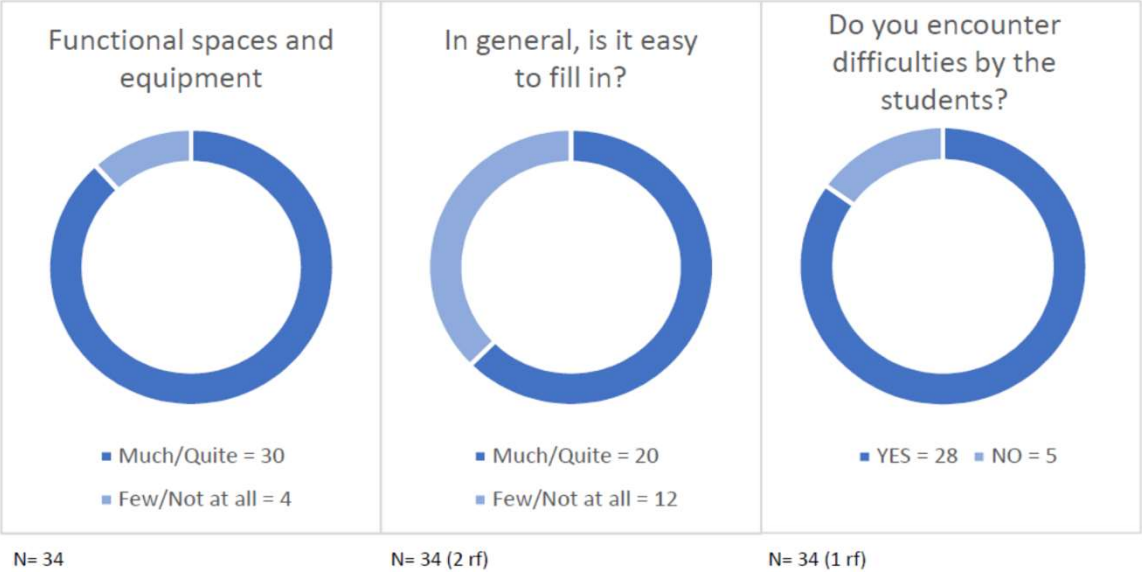III. Comparison with other assessment tools

IV. Opinions on the testing

COGNITIVE SKILLS LEVELS

8 out of 10 students are in an area of potential credit recognition

Literacy

19%

81%

■ Level 1 or below 1

□ Level 2 or higher than 2

Numeracy

25%

75%

■ Level 1 or below

Level 2 or higher than 2

Problem solving

37%

63%

■ Level 1 or below uguale a 1

Level 2 or higher than 2

Source: ANPAL, Eperimentation of PIAAC E&S online in the Centers for Adult Learning (CPIA, 2019)

FEEDBACK FROM TEACHERS…

Functional spaces and equipment

- Much/Quite = 30
- Few/Not at all = 4

N= 34

In general, is it easy to fill in?

- Much/Quite = 20
- Few/Not at all = 12

N= 34 (2 rf)

Do you encounter difficulties by the students?

- YES = 28
- NO = 5

N= 34 (1 rf)

Source: ANPAL, Eperimentation of PIAAC E&S online in the Centers for Adult Learning (CPIA, 2019)

Usability

Confirmed by FOCUS GROUPS

Utility

At the beginning

9
24

- Much/Quite
- Few/Not at all

During the course

13
17

- Much/Quite
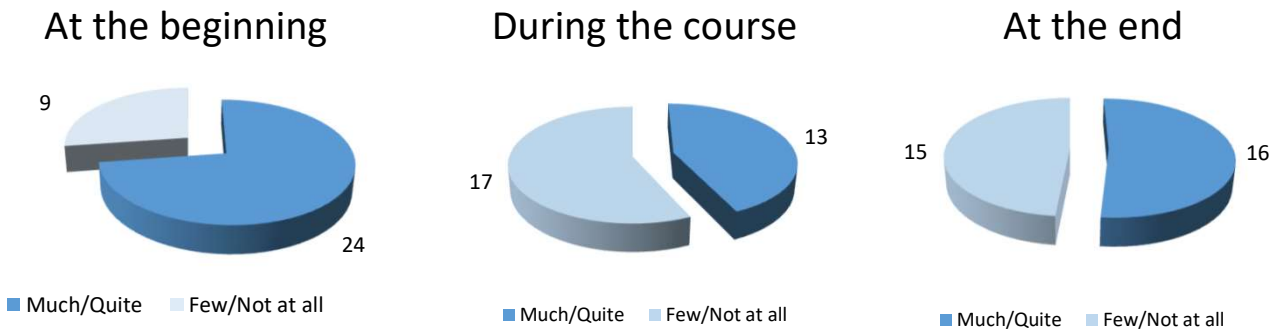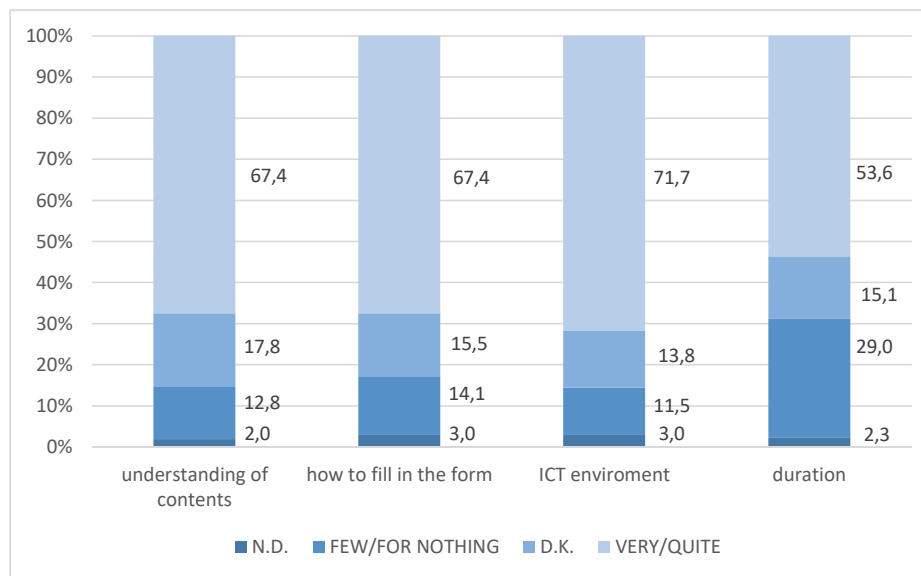- Few/Not at all

At the end

15
16

- Much/Quite
- Few/Not at all
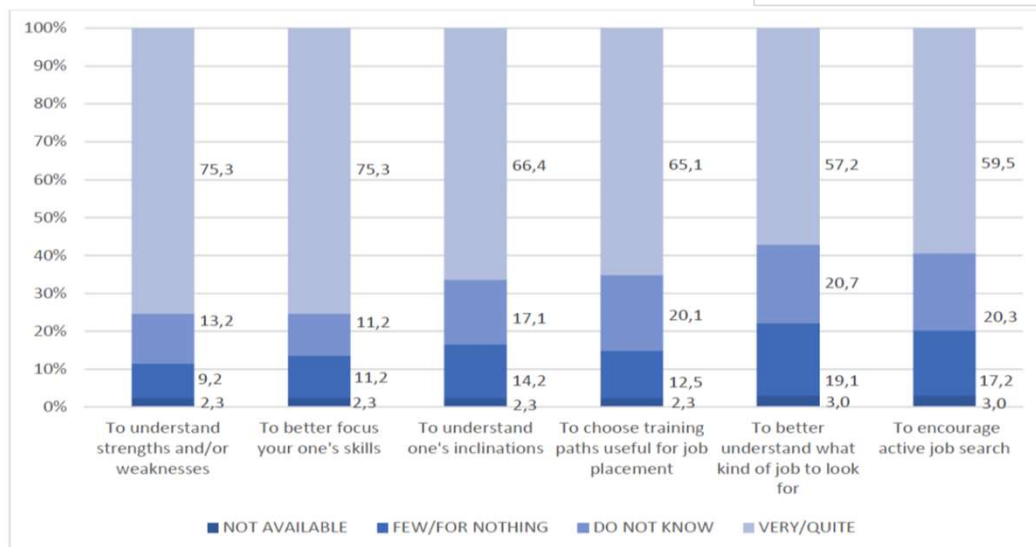
FEEDBACK FROM STUDENTS...

Usability

Utility

Source: ANPAL, Eperimentation of PIAAC E&S online in the Centers for Adult Learning (CPIA, 2019)
N= 304

Lessons learned

✓ 92% of students are able to face standardized tests on ICT platform

✓ The usability and usefulness of third party, authoritative, standardized tool, such as PIAAC online, to support of the different phases of VNFIL, the credits recognition and personalization of the pathway.

✓ An extensive use of this kind of tool can guarantee the quality assurance of the process by providing a common and homogeneous standard

✓ The importance of using this kind of tool in complementarity with other tools already used

✓ The advantage to have an internationally recognized and multilingual tool

✓ The necessity to have an offline version of the tool for no connection contexts

✓ The necessity to integrate the tool with standardized tests for assessing other typologies of skills

✓ The necessity to reduce the duration of the test to avoid negative effects on the level of participation

Future plans

❑ The progressive expansion of the NQF through the definition of national reference frameworks of key competences, in coherence with the European sectoral frameworks and the international standards and classifications as reference points for VNFIL

❑ Possible lines of integration between adult education and work services

❑ Large scale recurrent analysis in support of the Italian strategy for LLL and evidence based policies

❑ Providing feedback to the Implementation of a second release of the PIAAC on line tool taking in consideration the pilot testing projects realized in other countries involving different target groups

Thank you for your attention

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