



Individual learning accounts story from Slovakia:

The devil is in the detail

Juraj Vantuch
PaFo 25 May 2023





„Learning Slovakia“ strategy paper **2017**

Measure 3-09. Supporting adult education *(due to the low participation in LLL)*
Goal 2030: Thanks to the **appropriate support tools**, the share of adults in LLL
has increased.



ILA : €200 annually for **all adults** outside of formal education,
to cover or reduce the price of an accredited course or non-accredited but a registered and published in a dedicated portal
Promoted as **expansion** of the labour market training (both: people and content)

Not accepted by the government (+ minister dismissed)





National Programme for the Development of Education **2018**

„Learning Slovakia“ proposal on **ILA of 200 euros annually** accepted, but **not for all** :

a **piloting** suggested

Approved by the government with a timeline and costs set (Piloting after 2020 parliamentary elections **postponed**)

Heavily discussed during the **Recovery and Resilience Plan** prep

(finally **not included** in the RRP: due to the ownership conflict???)





The LLL and counselling strategy for 2021-30 (24 November **2021**)

The Action plan of the Strategy for 2022 – 2024 (20 April **2022**)



National Implementation Plan (**2022**)

Thematic unit 1.13: **Individual learning accounts** as a tool for individualised support in persons' further education (retraining) and a **pilot scheme for strengthening the motivation** of adult participation in LLL.

- Creation of an **IT platform and mobile application** for the implementation of the ILA scheme (ESIF, 2023)
- **Pilot scheme** for strengthening the motivation of adults to participate in LLL (State budget, **€1 million in 2022**, €10 million in 2023+2024)





Policy paper on **Micro-credentials and ILA** prepared by the State Institute of VET (2023)

Gáľlová, Ľ. et al., (2023). *Nové prvky kvalifikačných systémov na rozvoj zručností*. ([New elements of qualification systems for skills development]). Available at <https://europass.sk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/EUROPASS-DOKUMENT-NOVE-PRVKY.pdf>

- International experience and discourse
- **Conceptual framework clarified**
- Recommendations for policy makers

Conceptual framework clarified (three options):

1. Accounts with the possibility to cumulate annual contributions from the state
2. Training rights (in the number of hours embedded in the law)
3. **Training vouchers (single-use)**






Policy paper on Micro-credentials **and ILA**

Basic recommendations

Gálová, Ľ. et al., (2023). *Nové prvky kvalifikačných systémov na rozvoj zručností*. ([New elements of qualification systems for skills development]). Available at <https://europass.sk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/EUROPASS-DOKUMENT-NOVE-PRVKY.pdf>

- A nationwide non-claimable **pilot scheme of €200 training vouchers** with a pre-determined budget for **working-age** residents, not in formal education.
 - Not only for learning itself, but also for **career counseling or validation** of prior learning.
 - The main goal is to **popularize** the tool, so no restrictions on participation...
 - **Substitution of private funding** by public sources remains a risk.
 - **Collecting data** within the pilot scheme for **adjustments in the next cycle**.
 - Easily navigable **information portal** about training offers.
- 



Public employment service (ESF funded) **voucher scheme**

"Don't lose your job – get trained“

(accelerated since February **2023**)

-
- Aimed at increasing the supply of professions officially registered as lacking in the labour market, developing digital and green skills
 - Labour offices approve vouchers on the basis of a justified joint application by the learner and the training institution (funding fully processed by labour offices)
 - Not only unemployed but also to labour offices' atypical target groups (the self-employed, those working in SMEs and those on maternity or parental leave)
 - Variety of accredited courses offered for upskilling and reskilling
 - Lessons learnt by the start of 2024

21 430 vouchers, out of 29 581 applications, as of 18 May 2023





The devil is in the detail

More questions than answers?

-
- **Conceptual framework (account/ training rights/ voucher)?**
 - **Systemic solution (sustainability)?**
 - **Funding (Total volume/ Contributions to individuals - co-funding)?**
 - **Reasonable administration?**
 - **Information or eShop portal?**
 - **Deadweight/Matthew effect?**
 - **Restrictions/Limits/Targeting?**
 - **„Ownership“?**
- 