

Education and Training for adults: Policy and practice

Basket 11.10.2011

Vox, Norwegian Agency for Lifelong Learning...

... is an agency of the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research

- Established in 2001 in connection with the comprehensive Competence Reform
- Purpose: Serving adult learning within and outside working life

Main goals:

- to contribute to supporting active citizenship,
- improving employability and
- increasing participation in education



Education and training for adults

- Lifelong learning and opportunities for education
- Strengthen the adults competence throughout their career pathways
- The Adult Education Act
- The Education Act
- The Act on Folk High Schools



The Competence Reform 1999

Objective:

Increasing the adult population's

- employability
- social inclusion
- access to further learning
- general welfare



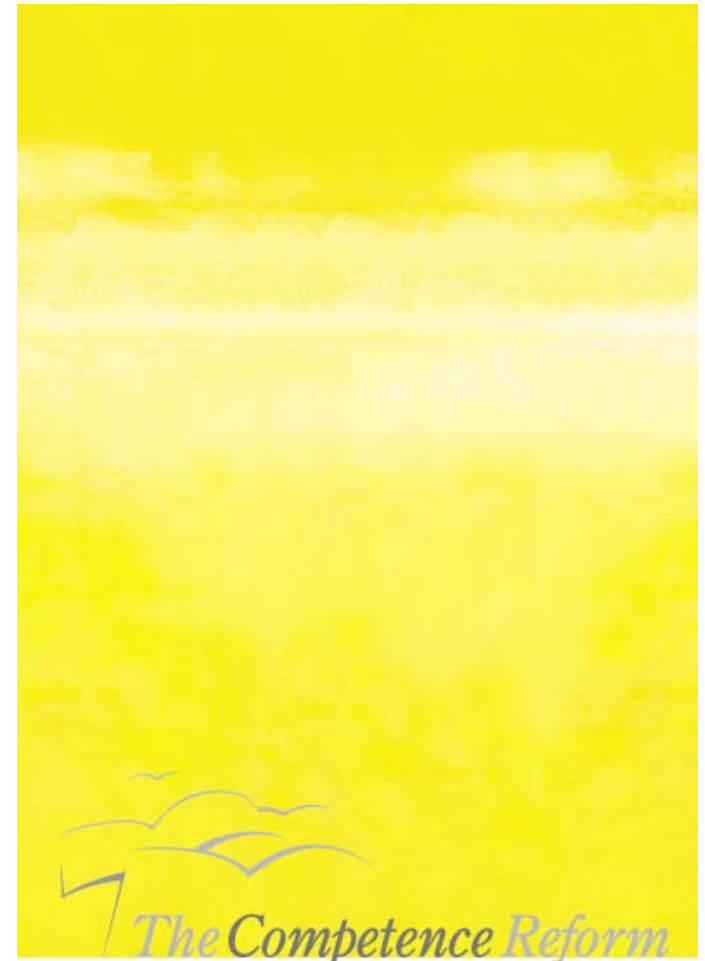
for the sake
of the
individual

for economic
growth

for the good
of society

Norwegian Adult Learning

- Statutory rights to primary and secondary education for all adults
- Provision adapted to the needs of the learner
- Bridges between vocational and academic education
- Validation of prior (non-formal and informal) learning
- Three-partite cooperation
- Cooperation between educational sectors



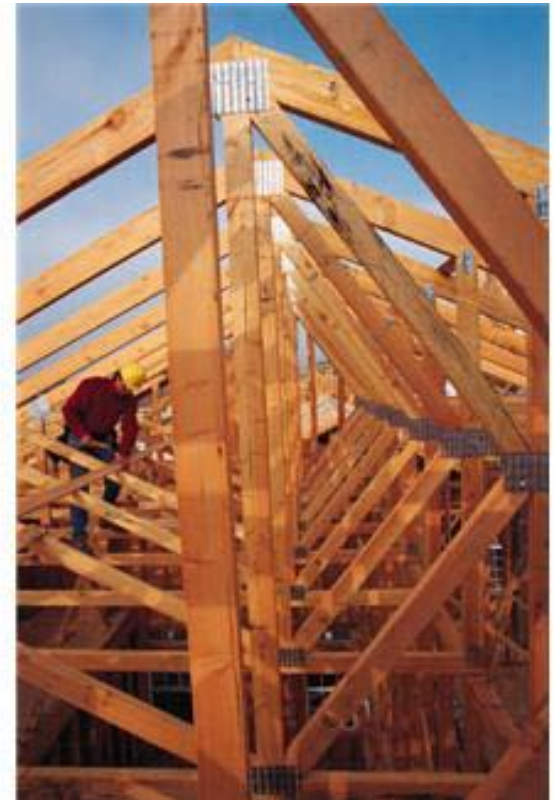
Towards a more flexible system



- Many adults with low basic skills do not need a full primary school course
- They need a possibility to attend flexible education geared towards basic skills

The Framework for Basic Skills in Adult Learning

- Competence goals
- Didactic handbook for providers
- Screening and testing
- Didactic models
- Digital tools
- Professional development



Addressing new challenges: Basic Skills

- Statutory right to basic skills training!
Municipalities should offer this kind of education for free
- The Education strategy:
 - Motivate adults to take training in basic skills
 - Extend the right to training in basic skills to adults so that it can be taken in combination with other upper secondary education
 - Initiate an information project to raise awareness among adults about rights to and opportunities for formal education
 - Provide better information on good models of flexible basic training for adults
 - Consider whether adults who failed upper secondary education ought to have the right to take such education once more



The Programme for Basic Competence in Working Life (BCWL)

- As part of the Government's competence policy the Programme for Basic Competence in Working Life (BCWL) was initiated in 2006.
- Background:
 - Experience from a previous initiative, the Competence Development Programme had revealed little interest in training from people with limited formal education.
 - Basic skills are considered a requirement when it comes to further training and, on the whole, participation in working life.



The Basic Competence in Working Life Programme (BCWL)

- Financed by the Norwegian government
- Concentrates on reading, writing, numeracy and digital skills
- Any enterprise in Norway can establish cooperation agreements with a learning provider and apply for funding from the programme
- The learning activity should take place in the workplace environment
- The courses have to relate to the competence goals in the Framework for Basic Skills for Adults

Goals

- The programme should help people acquire the basic competence that is necessary to meet challenges in a changing working life and social life.
- The activity should strengthen the participants' motivation for further training
- It should strengthen people's employability to avoid exclusion from working life.
- It should also help develop the quality of the services of the providers.



Challenges for Adult Learning in Norway



- Increasing participation
- Integrated guidance system
- Ensuring equal practice
- Quality of provision
- Validation of all learning
- Stronger cooperation between education and work life.

For more information

www.vox.no/english

margrethe.svensrud@vox.no