

CREATE2Evaluate Erasmus+ (2020–2022)

IO2 –Mapping the Impact, Validation and Evaluation of Adult Education Policies.

Abstract

The 2017–2019 CREATE Erasmus+ project identified a lack of policy tools and complementary resources to evaluate the impact of adult education (AE) interventions, policies, and initiatives across Europe. The lack of policy tools was particularly acute within regions tasked with adult education policy formulation and implementation to progress towards the EU target of 15% participation by 2020 (See https://ec.europa.eu/assets/eac/education/library/reports/policy-provision-adult-learning_en.pdf)

The aim of the current CREATE2Evaluate Erasmus+ project (2020–2022, Intellectual Output 2 (IO2)), is to identify reliable tools for adult education evaluation at various layers of governance. Under IO2 eight EU partners working in the field of adult education at policy and implementation level, mapped their current policy landscape in terms of adult education evaluation, assessment, and monitoring. Partners conducted primary and secondary research, interviewed twenty-seven stakeholders in the field of adult education, and conducted a key-stakeholder survey which provided an additional thirty-six respondents. Project partners mapped and identified methods, tools, and resources to evaluate adult education programmes and initiatives that are used throughout their regions.

In this process CREATE2Evaluate project partners identified that EU wide adult education evaluation lacks a centralised systemic evaluation framework, is highly fragmented, and lacks common definitions and standards. Project partner feedback suggested that the primary focus of current evaluation policy is quantitative outputs and student specific learning outcomes. Within any quantitative outcome evaluation partners identified a range of gaps and inconsistencies in target group statistical data, and in private and non-formal evaluation provision. Whilst significant qualitative evaluation is conducted in adult education centres according to project partners, the valuable data emerging remains inaccessible due to lack of transparent systematic overarching analysis and learner protection requirements. This makes it particularly difficult for policy makers to assess the effectiveness of their adult education policies.

The outcome of the CREATE2Evaluate project (Intellectual Output 2, IO2) is to enhance the adult education (AE) by intervening at systemic level at the nexus between overarching AE–EU Policy (EU2020) and implementation. The CREATE2Evaluate Erasmus+ project (2020–2022) output will enable policy makers to better plan policy, share experience, and enhance in–country and inter–regional adult education policy and cross–border cooperation.

