

Adult Education and Learning in Norway

Legislation and development

Weiterbildung in Norwegen

Gesetzgebung und Entwicklungen

LISUM, 27 May 2010
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Adult Education and Learning in Norway

Legislation and development

- About Norway – Über Norwegen
- An overview of the field - Erwachsenenbildung
- Adult education and learning terminology
- Policy, legislation and position of adult education
- Bodies, providers and cooperation
- Participation - Mitteiler
- Methods - Methoden
- The countryside and the future... Ländliche Räume entwickeln?

About Norway Über Norwegen

- Germany is the most important trade partner (Das Wichtigste Handelspartner) for Norway.
- Norway delivers 30 % of the German consumption (der Verbrauch) of gas
- Norway has 3,6 million inhabitants (as Berlin...)
- Around 70% of Norway is mountains, rocks, stones... (Gebirgmasse, Bergstock)
- Main income from oil, gas, fisheries and new technology
- Norway is not a member (keine Mitgliedschaft) of the European Union
- Wintersport – as jump (Sprung), cross country (Langlauf) and Biathlon – is popular.

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Legislation and development

~~There are today several laws and regulations for different parts of adult education in Norway. The most common terminology used is:~~

- Adult community learning, liberal/popular adult education (bildung, politische bildung, volksbildung, aufklärung, aufklärungsarbeit)
- Adult education parallel to the ordinary school system (erwachsenenbildung)
- Adult education at the work place/educational leave (Berufsorientierung...)
- Further training (weiterbildung)
- recognition of skills/prior learning (die Kompetenz anerkennen)
- Adult education for immigrants and refugees, Norwegian as a second language etc. (Deutsch und weitere Angebote für Migrantinnen und Migranten)

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Legislation and development

1814 Norway separates from Denmark after 400 years. The Act of Constitution. (das Grundgesetz) A starting point for democracy and **enlightenment** (aufklärung) and learning... (With Sweden from 1814 until 1905). A young nation as independent (selbständig/unabhängig)

1852

1864

1905

1932

1958

1964

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1986

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2010

Adult Education and Learning in Norway

Legislation and development

1814

1852

The **first NGO for adult learning** – The Association for Popular Enlightenment. Lectures for adults. Widening democracy... More and more people got the right to vote. (Aufklärungsarbeit, Politische Bildung)

1864

1905

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1814

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The first **residential folk high school** (heimvolkshochschule) and the first University Extension or **Popular University** (volkshochschule) founded and established.

1905

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Norway separates from Sweden. Becomes a monarchy (Königtum). King Haakon VII. Rise of popular movements. Invention of the **study circle** as the tool for learning by dialogue. A growing working class (die Arbeiterbewegung). Books to be shared... (Lehrbücher zu teilen)

1932

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The Norwegian Association for Adult Learning founded (Verband die Erwachsenenbildung). The Workers Education Association. (Arbeit und Leben) The first **public grants** to liberal adult education. State funding og books for study circles die “Lernengruppe”) and evening classes (Kurs)..

1958

1964

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The first **White Paper on popular adult education**, including NGOs, libraries (bibliotek) and cultural organizations

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The first White Paper on adult education as a joint system, **adult education run by study associations and the public schools**. Reform: From 7 to 9 years of primary & secondary school established during the 1960th. A “gap” for many adults... Preparation for an act...

1976

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The Adult Education Act (das Gesetz für Erwachsenenbildung) passing the Parliament. Emphasis on liberal adult education and the role of the study associations. A rise and widening participation all over the country

1986

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“The purpose of adult education is to help the individual to attain a more meaningful life. This act shall contribute to providing adults equality in access to knowledge, insight and skills which promote the individual’s endeavors to find their own values and help in their personal development, and thus strengthen the basis for independent achievement and cooperation with others in work and community life.”

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Laws and Regulations

- The act...
- Adult education (AE) free from curricula and exams
- AE run by voluntary organizations/adult education associations (volkshohschulen)
- AE at the work place (Berufsorientierung, Berufsbildung)
- Basic AE (Basis Kompetenz...)
- Responsibilities and subsidies...
- Public grants for all...(Zuschuss von Staat erhalten)

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Laws and Regulations

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The first White Paper on **lifelong learning** (lebenslangen lernen), emphasizing learning at the work place and the question of paid educational leave (“die Lernen Beurlaubung”)

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1996 **The Competence Reform** initiated; learning for life and learning
for work, formal and informal competences recognized (erkennung)

2000

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2010

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Legislation and development

- **The competence reform 1998 - 2005**
- The right to educational leave (not paid)
- The right to recognition and valuing of prior learning and both formal and informal skills and competencies
- Access to further education on the basis of recognition of prior learning and competencies
- The right to primary and secondary level of school for adults
- Promotion of basic skills for adults (read and write...)
- Promotion of learning at the work place

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The new **Education Act** (das Ausbildung Gesetz) for primary, secondary and upper secondary education, including the rights for (some) adult

2006

2009

2010

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- **The education act and adults...**
- The right to primary and secondary education (gymnasium) for adults
- Free of charge (kostenlos, frei, gratis)
- A responsibility for the Counties (die Länder)
- Organized by the schools or new institutions
- The NGO-based Adult Education Associations and Distance Education Associations may be used as providers

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Initiating a **Green Paper on adult learning** associations and learning in the civil sector, that is liberal or popular adult education and learning

2009

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A new law passed the Storting – a law covering adult education and learning which is not a part of the formal system, but the non formal sector, NGOs, study associations, distance education...

2010

The law and regulation is active...

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- Methods in adult education and learning – and how to reach out, how widening participation?
- Evening classes, Adult Schools, weekend seminars, study circles
- The Nordic concept of study circles; foundation, development, rise and fall...
- Study Circles: No teacher, learning by experience, equal dialogue, democratic learning, input and output, work between the meetings etc.

HOW THE STUDY CIRCLE FUNCTIONS

Knowledge and experience input

Dialogue Communication Respect Equity Shared purpose

LEARNING PLAN
CURRICULUM
Structured and/or
flexible, with:

Learning goals
and
Attituderelated goals

HIDDEN CURRICULUM:

Democratic attitudes

Self-esteem

Confidence
Organising
skills

Creative skills

THE STUDY CIRCLE
(SELF DIRECTED
DEMOCRATIC LEARNING
IN GROUP OF EQUALS)

LEARNING
RESOURCES
Printed materials
Library
Lectures
Film/Video/DVD
ICT/Internet/virtual
communities
Local Communities
Environment etc.

Knowledge and competence outcomes

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- Adult education in the countryside
- Small groups allowed
- Self directed learning (study circles)
- Distance learning (e-learning)
- Combinations of self study and meetings (at Adult Education Centers or Libraries)
- Engagement and voluntary work (Ehrenamtlich)
- Idealistic and political
- Strong people's culture in local communities (the quire (Chor), the clubs, the cooperation...)

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Questions for the future...

- Adults needs and motivation
- Basic Skills and Basic Skills Program
- Drop outs
- Prisoners
- Handicapped
- Aged
- Refugees
- Democracy and active citizenship
- Critical consumerism and environment
- What about the countryside?

-
- ◉ Vielen Dank für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit!
 - ◉ Thank you very much for your attention!
 - ◉ Tusen takk for oppmerksomheten!
 - ◉ sb@vofo.no
 - ◉ www.vofo.no