



A participative approach to curriculum development for adults in addiction recovery across the European Union.

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## **Deliverable 3.4:**

### **Final Policy and Practice Review (Annex 1)**

**WP3: Establishing Context: Policy and Practice Review**

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## Work Package 3

# Addiction Treatment and Recovery: A Review of Policy and Practice

### Annexe 1: Education systems in the partner countries

Italy's education system is based on non-compulsory kindergarten (3-6 years of age) followed by two further phases. The first phase is compulsory and consists of Primary School (5 years) and Middle School (3 years). The second phase is split into two; High Secondary School, which lasts for 5 years and comes under the jurisdiction of the State and is provided by Lyceum, Technical Schools or Professional Institutes, and Education and Vocational Training, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Regions. Vocational training can be divided into initial vocational training for young people entering work for the first time and continuing vocational training for people who are already working and want to improve their skills, or people excluded from the labour market and who wish to retrain for a new or a better job. These courses, which are mostly free, enable participants to gain the skills and qualifications required by the labour market. Access to university is reserved for students who pass the State exam at the end of their secondary schooling. University programmes are divided into two cycles; three years plus two years of specialisation. Adult learners pay for their education.

In Cyprus education is compulsory from the entry stages of pre-primary, primary, and lower secondary level until the age of 15. Higher secondary education is provided by lyceums, and within these, some technical schools provide vocational education training. Technical schools offer two separate three- year programmes which cover theoretical and practical pathways. Adult education and training is provided by the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, the Ministry of Finance, and private institutions. Adult education refers to formal and informal learning, as well as vocational education and training. Vocational training for adults is widely available for employees, the unemployed, and other vulnerable groups through a mixture of public and private provision. Employees participate in training programmes which address job-specific skills derived from company needs, while the unemployed acquire both horizontal and job-specific skills for improving their employability. However, the percentage of 25 to 64 year-olds participating in education and training is lower than the EU average (Cedefop, 2012). Adult learners are funded by the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Ministry of Labour, and Social Insurance, the Ministry of Finance and private institutions.

Within England there are five stages of education: early years, primary, secondary, Further Education (FE) and Higher Education (HE). Education is compulsory for children between the ages of five and sixteen. The term FE refers to all non-advanced courses taken after the period of compulsory education. In England, further education is often seen as forming one part of a wider learning and skills sector, alongside workplace education, prison education, and other types of non-school, non-university education and training. Responsibility for funding post-16 learning in England is shared between the Department for Education (DfE) and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). The Education Funding Agency (parent organisation is the DfE) is responsible for distributing state funding for 16 – 19 year olds. The Skills Funding Agency (parent organisation is BIS) funds adult FE and skills training. The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) is the non-departmental public body of BIS responsible for the distribution of funds to universities and colleges of further and higher education.

Adult learners in England can apply for a range of grants, loans and bursaries to help pay for courses and training, however, the amount available is often dependent on income or other criteria (e.g. disability, dependent children). Tuition fees for HE were first introduced in 1998 as a way of funding tuition to undergraduate and postgraduate students at universities. As a result of the establishment of devolved national administrations for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, different arrangements now exist with regard to tuition fees across the UK. Financial support is available for the cost of university study through a system of grants (dependent on family income) and loans (paid back under a future income-related formula). Universities also provide direct financial support through scholarships which vary from institution to institution both in terms of amount and eligibility criteria.

The Department of Education and Skills (DES) oversees the formal education systems in Ireland at primary, secondary and third level. Compulsory education covers ages four/five to sixteen. Within recent years there has been a significant change in educational provision for adults with new organisational arrangements emerging. These are distinct from the university/information technology sector;

Further education is now provided through the following bodies;

- Education Training Boards (ETBs) which provide full-time adult provision through Post Leaving Courses (PLCs), Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme (unemployed over-21s) and Youth reach courses (under-25s who are out of school or in need of education). Part-time provision is via the Back to Education Initiative (BTEI), Adult Literacy and Community Education courses.
- Solas, the further education and training authority which offers apprenticeships and skills training.
- The Department of Social Protection (DSP) links with PLCs and also oversees the Bridge to Work / Job Bridge Initiative and Community Employment Scheme. As these bodies are new, the areas of responsibility and reporting relationships are still being defined.

All post-compulsory education, particularly at college level, is heavily reliant on being funded by the student; e.g. course costs for PLCs and Third Level incur registration fees (e.g. up to €1.000 for a PLC) and university undergraduate student have to pay a Student Contribution Charge and Student Centre Levy. Means tested grants are available to some students to offset costs.

The Romanian educational system consists of four levels: kindergarten, primary, secondary and higher education. Kindergarten is optional for children aged three to six. Formal, compulsory schooling, also called primary school, begins at age six or seven. This level of education (transitioning to secondary schooling) is obligatory until the tenth grade (age 16). At the post-compulsory level there are 3 options included in the public system funded by the government:

1. Professional schooling at Level two for two years (16 to 18) and four years (15 to 18)
2. Specialized Technical Vocational education for three years (18 to 21)
3. Higher education programmes for four to six years (from 19).

In addition to the state funded system, the National Agency for Adult learners sets the standards for continuing education and formal training. Vocational training and adult education are provided

through public or private institutions. Fees are paid by the learners and entry requires the minimum of a high school degree. The Ministry of Labor provides employability programmes, EU or government funded, for any adult who is unemployed and ex-employees, who are beneficiaries of unemployment benefit for one year after the end of the employment.

## References

Cedefop. 2012. *Vocation education and training in Cyprus: a short description*. Luxembourg: Publications office: European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training.

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