

Кирил Котун

Institute of Pedagogical and Adult Education NAPS of Ukraine, Kyiv

## **The legislative framework of adult education in Finland and Ukraine**

### **Introduction**

The role of adult education in the development of modern society is conditioned by the general acceleration of socio-cultural changes at both the global and local levels. The social importance of adult education is enhanced by modern demographic situation, that characterize of European countries; complex of socio-political environment where the full development of personality is impossible without the ability to actively participate in changing of social processes and adapt to increasing mobility for cultural; ethnic and linguistic diversity. Adult education - focused process of person development and education through the implementation of educational programs and services, implementation of education-information activities within and outside the secondary, vocational, higher and postgraduate education. In developed countries, adult education considers as a mechanism to achieve sustainable economic development; the guarantee of civil progress and democratic system of social life. Adult education aims to meet the challenges of full personality development, the formation of harmoniously developed personality that differing of spiritual riches<sup>1</sup>.

Lifelong education considers like the most universal term and includes all forms of adult education (family, school, higher education, social and continued professional). This is not a technical or legal term with a precisely defined meaning, but mostly general cultural term for the definition of a new paradigm

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<sup>1</sup> Adult education: encyclopedic dictionary (2014) / edit. by V. Kremen, Y. Kovbasiuk; Ukraine National academy of pedagogical sciences, National academy of state management by President of Ukraine [etc.]. – Kiev. – 496 s.

from sequential phased system of education to the individual. In modern society there is a transition from the concept of „education" to the concept of „lifelong education". Guiding principles are: new basic skills for all to ensure uninterrupted access to education, preparation and updating of skills needed in the information society; increased investment in human resources; innovative methods of teaching and learning for lifelong education system. A new system of evaluation of acquired education to consideration and recognition of non-formal and informal education; development of mentoring and counseling to ensure free access to information about educational opportunities worldwide rights etc.<sup>2</sup>

Let's try to consider the features of adult education and its legal framework in Finland. According to EAEA this country most involved in adult education. Also we analyze legislation framework and features of adult education in Ukraine.

### **Adult education in Finland**

Finland has a long history of participation and promotion of adult education. Adult education is also very popular and the participation rate is high in international terms. The main objectives of adult education policy are ensuring the availability and competence of the labor force, providing educational opportunities for the entire adult population and strengthening social cohesion and equity. The objectives should support efforts to extend working life, raise the employment rate, improve productivity, implement the conditions for lifelong learning and enhance multiculturalism<sup>3</sup>.

Adult education comprises education and training leading to a degree or certificate, liberal adult education and staff-development and other training provided or purchased by employers. In addition, it includes labor market training, which is mainly targeted at unemployed people. Finland has a long history of participation and promotion of adult education; according to the Ministry of Education currently more than 1.7 million citizens participate in different types of adult education each year in a country of around 5.2 million people. More than half of this number is made up of the working age population, which is also a high figure in international terms. The main emphasis of adult education is on further and continuing training designed to

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<sup>2</sup> Lukianova L., Anishchenko O. (2014) Adult education: short terminology dictionary. – Kiev. – 108 s.

<sup>3</sup> Finnish national agency for education. Adult education [http://www.oph.fi/english/education\\_system/](http://www.oph.fi/english/education_system/)

upgrade and update competencies and to promote enjoyment. This is based on the belief that general adult education responds to adults' self-development needs, offers learning opportunities catering for individual interests and preferences, and develops citizenship skills<sup>4</sup>.

The tasks of adult education policy are to ensure the availability and competence of the labor force, provide educational opportunities for the entire adult population, and strengthen social cohesion and equality.

The reform of adult education encompasses vocational adult education and training, apprenticeship training, adult education provided by higher education institutions, labor market training for adults, and staff training. A steering group was appointed for the preparatory work and it includes representatives from the ministries responsible for the reforms (the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and the Ministry of Employment and the Economy) as well as from national labor market organizations. The main proposals were completed in the summer of 2009 (Ministry of Education 2009: 11), and their implementation has begun. Some of the key issues include strengthening learning in working life, recognizing skills that have been acquired in different ways, facilitating opportunities to combine studies in a flexible way, enhancing adult education offered by higher education institutions, making information, guidance and counseling services more effective in order to improve the relevance of adult education, increasing study opportunities for the population groups that are least represented in adult education, clarifying the benefit systems available for adult education, and expanding the funding base. The implementation of the reforms to adult education requires extensive cooperation between the different ministries, labor market organizations as well as educational institutions and universities.

*Liberal adult education* has the task of responding to changing educational needs and, through its activities, of strengthening social cohesion, active citizenship and the conditions for lifelong learning. The development programme for liberal adult education is scheduled for 2009-2012. The proposals of the preparatory committee (Ministry of Education 2009: 12) are serving as the basis for amending the legislation, funding system and the maintaining organization and institutional structure of liberal adult education. Responding to the educational needs of immigrants, those who need educational rehabilitation, the unemployed and senior citizens, as well as ensuring the regional availability of education are emphasized.

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<sup>4</sup> EAEA (2011) Country report Finland. (Helsinki). [www.eaca.org/country/finland](http://www.eaca.org/country/finland) (access: 16.08.2017).

*Apprenticeship training constitutes* the main form of learning in working life. An increasing share of vocational upper secondary education and training and vocational further education and training is arranged through apprenticeships. Apprenticeship training will be developed and expanded in accordance with the proposals of the rapporteur (Ministry of Education 2009: 1) and the policies connected to the reforms to adult education. In 2009, apprenticeship-type training was integrated into continuing education for people with higher education degrees. In addition, labor market training is provided in the form of apprenticeship training.

*The opportunities of teaching staff to constantly develop their professional competence* will be improved by the launch of the Osaava programme and the recommendations of the working group (Ministry of Education 2009: 16). Continuing education for teaching staff with an immigrant background will be a priority over the next few years. *The study opportunities of immigrants* will be enhanced at all educational levels. The focus areas with respect to the adult population will be to improve language teaching and enhance study opportunities that support employment and integration.

At the Ministry of Education and Culture, adult education comes under the Division for Adult Education and Training Policy of the Department for Higher Education and Science Policy. The Division handles issues relating to adult education, liberal adult education and the promotion of educational policy based on the principle of lifelong learning. The following issues come under the scope of the Division for Adult Education and Training Policy:

- Developing the conditions for national adult education policy and lifelong learning
- Vocational adult education and training, apprenticeship training and competence-based qualifications
- Adult education offered by higher education institutions and open learning
- General adult education and national certificates of language proficiency
- Liberal adult education and educational and guidance organizations
- Guidance on adult education, counseling and the recognition of competence acquired in different ways
- Assessing the need for and provision of adult education as well as guidance (permission to provide education and performance steering)
- Coordinating training for teaching staff and immigrants
- Legislation, funding and economic planning for the sector
- The quality of the activities, evaluations and international cooperation

The Council for Lifelong Learning is an expert body within the Ministry of Education and Culture, which considers issues relating to cooperation

between education and working life as well as the conditions for lifelong learning and developing adult education<sup>5</sup>.

*Finance and administration.* Parliament passes legislation concerning adult education and training and decides on the resources allocated to it in the state budget. The Ministry of Education and Culture prepares legislation and government resolutions concerning education and culture and steers activities in its sector. The Ministry has the overall responsibility for education policy and for self-motivated adult education. In Finland adult education is seen to comprise self-motivated studies, labor market training and in-service training.

The Ministry of Education and Culture is responsible for self-motivated education and the labor administration for labor market training geared to enhance the operation of the labor market and to reduce unemployment. The aims of in-service training, which is mainly purchased by companies and public sector organizations, relate to business economics and productivity. Adult education organizations are run by the government, local authorities, municipal consortia, private associations, foundations and companies. Education and training leading to qualifications is financed by the public administration, except university degree education, which is totally government-financed. Training leading to further and specialist qualifications is mostly publicly funded but may charge moderate fees.

About half of liberal adult education costs are covered by the government and the rest mostly comes from student fees and from the maintaining organizations. The purpose of state funding is to guarantee the largest possible provision without burdening the students with high fees. Adult education and training receives 12-13% of the appropriations allocated through the Ministry of Education and Culture main class in the state budget. Almost half of this funding is channeled to vocational training and one fifth to liberal education. Employers purchase staff-development training from adult education institutions and firms. The labor administration also purchases a great deal of different training for unemployed people and for those at risk of unemployment<sup>6</sup>.

*Adult education system.* Adult education and training is provided by some 550 institutions in Finland; some of them are specialized adult education providers. Main providers of adult education and training in Finland at pic.1.

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<sup>5</sup> Finland Ministry of Education and Culture. Adult education policy [http://www.minedu.fi/OPM/Koulutus/aikuiskoulutus\\_ja\\_vapaa\\_sivistystyoe/?lang=en](http://www.minedu.fi/OPM/Koulutus/aikuiskoulutus_ja_vapaa_sivistystyoe/?lang=en)

<sup>6</sup> Finland Ministry of Education and Culture. Adult education policy. Finance and administration [http://www.minedu.fi/OPM/Koulutus/aikuiskoulutus\\_ja\\_vapaa\\_sivistystyoe/hallinto\\_ohjauksen\\_rahointi/?lang=en](http://www.minedu.fi/OPM/Koulutus/aikuiskoulutus_ja_vapaa_sivistystyoe/hallinto_ohjauksen_rahointi/?lang=en)

Adult education is available within the official education system in:

- adult upper secondary schools
- vocational institutions and vocational adult training centres
- national and private vocational institutions
- polytechnics and universities

and in liberal adult education in:

- adult education centers
- folk high schools
- summer universities
- study centers
- sports institutes

Adult education also includes staff-development and other training provided or purchased by employers. Labor market training is financed by the labor administration and mainly intended for unemployed persons and those aged 20 or over who are threatened by unemployment. Adults can study for qualifications or parts of qualifications in open instruction (such as Open University and open polytechnic) and attend training preparing for competence-based qualifications. An important part of adult education consists of further and continuing training designed to upgrade and update competencies.

General adult education responds to adults' self-development needs, offers learning opportunities catering for mature learners' own interests and preferences, and develops citizenship skills. The purpose of vocational adult training is to maintain and enhance competencies and promote employment. In language tests, adults can demonstrate their proficiency in nine languages.

Liberal education institutions offer courses in subjects relating to citizenship skills and society and in different crafts and subjects on a recreational basis. There are advisory organizations which arrange courses relating to various hobbies<sup>7</sup>.

Pic. 1. Main providers of adult education and training in Finland (number of institutions)

	Number of institutions
<i>Liberal adult education</i>	
Adult education centres	188
Folk high schools	79
Study centres	11

<sup>7</sup> Finland Ministry of Education and Culture. Adult education policy. Adult education system [http://www.minedu.fi/OPM/Koulutus/aikuiskoulutus\\_ja\\_vapaa\\_sivistystyoe/aikuiskoulutusjaerjestelmae/?lang=en](http://www.minedu.fi/OPM/Koulutus/aikuiskoulutus_ja_vapaa_sivistystyoe/aikuiskoulutusjaerjestelmae/?lang=en)

Summer universities	20
Physical education centres	11
<i>General adult education</i>	
Upper secondary schools for adults	49
<i>Vocational training (upper secondary level)</i>	
Initial vocational education providers	131
Specialised vocational institutions	28
Vocational adult education centres	10
<i>Tertiary education</i>	
Polytechnics	24
Universities	14

### Adult education in Ukraine

Adult education in Ukraine is in the legal framework established by the Basic Law, the Framework Law of Ukraine „On Education" and other laws, which to some extent on education („On General Secondary Education", „On post school education", „On Vocational Education" „On higher education", „On scientific and technical activity"), and other governing regulations of the education of employed and unemployed population. In these and other legislative acts adopted in the last two decades, declared ideas and create conditions for the development and self-identity throughout life.

The basis of adult education is a postgraduate education which is financed from the state budget in the amount of 1,0-1,3% of the total budget for education. These funds are used for training and retraining graduates. These funds are not enough to ensure a minimum at least every five years, systematic training of all economic activity. There are no systemic proposals to provide educational programs for adults considering their personal needs, capacity, age. Not developed grants from state and local budgets of those NGOs and institutions that engaged in adult education, and the activities of international donors too complicated. Overall, the country's lack of financial support and promotion of adult education, particularly through the establishment of tax incentives, direct payments for adult education etc. In most cases, adult education is a personal matter and responsibility. The role of adult education is not considered at the level of state policy.

However, the part of adults enrolled in the system of formal and informal education at the beginning of XXI century in the European Union exceeded

37%. The highest rates were in Sweden - 73%, Norway and Finland - 55%. Ukraine level of adults participation in different educational programs belonging to the fourth, the last group of countries in which the number of adults studying is less than 15%.

In Ukraine adult education as part of lifelong learning takes no proper place and not received appropriate recognition. The attitude of Ukrainian citizens to state and non-professional or non-formal education is characterized as treat personal affairs. With the exception of departmental programs to improve the skills of workers in the public sector and interagency programs retraining unemployed adult training programs funded by the participants of training.

Modern Adult Education in Ukraine consists mainly of postgraduate education. Providing professional and personal growth of adults, postgraduate education, adapt to modern changes both in production and non-productive economic sectors, and in the information technology society. Postgraduate education is aimed at combining personal development with increased professional capacity; ensuring the proactive nature of the preparation, training under the social requirements; motivating lifelong learning; creating effective technologies for adult education. The national system of postgraduate education reform requires taking into account the progressive changes in the European world educational space. In this regard it is important to determine the main directions and ways of its further development to ensure a high level of educational qualification, competence and competitiveness guidelines, methodological, pedagogical and scientific personnel in education.

A special category of adults who are learning are unemployed. The total number of unemployed in Ukraine is about 8.3 million persons (for the International labor organization methodology - 1.9 million; 5.1 million are hidden unemployed, 1.3 million part-time working / week). Strategic approach to solving these problems demonstrates the European Union. Thus, the Strategy intelligent, sustainable and inclusive growth „Europe 2020“, adopted by the European Commission (COM (2010) 2020) in Brussels in 2010, among the priorities of the states' plans to develop new capabilities and more jobs.

Special attention needs training and retraining adults with special needs. Article 24 of the Convention on Disability Rights Council of United Nations, ratified by Ukraine Law № 1767-VI (1767-17) 2009, stated that „States recognize the right of persons with disabilities to education. For the purposes of this right without discrimination and on the basis of equal opportunity, States shall ensure an inclusive education at all levels and lifelong learning“.

For society, professional learning of disabled people - a reduction of tensions on the labor market, increasing social productivity, solving social problems. In recent years in Ukraine intensified its efforts aimed at adapting



the disabled in society, providing conditions for obtaining their education, professional training according to their needs and opportunities, creative use of foreign experience. Thus, international experience provides people with disabilities a wide selection of available forms of education: individual, distance education, external studies, „school counseling classes", „school of second chance", „evening school" and „inclusive" form of teaching.

Now, one of the most common opportunities to get an education for the elderly is a study in the Third Age Universities, activity which contributes to the weakening of social differentiation and related tension in society, providing people of old age new opportunities for self-realization.

Universities of the Third Age - is innovative projects aimed at practical implementation of the principle of lifelong learning. In Ukraine, they are created only in some big cities such as Kyiv, Lviv. However, in addition to universities of the third age, are educational institutions of gerontologic education may also represent the academy, public schools, discussion clubs, project groups, courses, consulting agencies, workshops, technical, sports, health, rehabilitation, computer and other centers, lectures, specialized training institutes, training courses for the elderly etc.

## **Summary**

For the modern development of adult education in Ukraine need to provide legislative and regulatory framework that specifies the goals, objectives and functions of adult education. Provide forms of financing of adult education in society. The main problems of adult education in Ukraine that need to solve are: imperfect legal framework regulating the activities of the adult educational process, their rights and obligations, the nature of interaction with government coordination mechanisms between the different providers, as well as the principles and schemes of funds from the budget; uncertainty of the status of adult education in Ukraine as an integral part of the national educational system that inhibits an integrated system of lifelong learning; low level of cooperation among government agencies, NGOs and social partners; lack of systematic recognition and certification of formal, non-formal, informal adult education, a key component of which is a system of accreditation and evaluation of previous experience, competencies acquired personality; the absence in the list of priorities of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine structures required for the development, coordination, quality management and funding of adult education; the urgency of creating a training state centers for adults teacher specialists; the need to create faculties and departments of andragogy in all institutions of higher education and educational institutions of educators

retraining and enter a term „andragogy” in the list of specialties for postgraduate professional education. An important issue is developing criteria needs, planning, monitoring, reporting, and study international experience in adult education.

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**Keywords:** adult education, Finland, Ukraine, lifelong education, legal framework, modern society, adults.

In the article the term of adult education in the context of social and economic transformations is considered, including enabling adaptation to modern society; legal framework and especially the development of adult education in Finland and Ukraine are described; the structure of adult education in selected countries at the present stage of knowledge evolution of information society, as well as reasonable establishment of adult education as an important factor of lifelong learning of modern society are highlighted.

### **Законодавче забезпечення освіти дорослих у Фінляндії та Україні**

**Ключові слова:** освіта дорослих, Фінляндія, Україна, освіта впродовж життя законодавча база, сучасний соціум, дорослі.

У статті розкрито поняття освіти дорослих у контексті сучасних соціально-економічних трансформацій, зокрема щодо уможливлення адаптації в швидкоз-

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мінюваному соціумі; обґрунтовано законодавчу базу та особливості розвитку освіти дорослих у Фінляндії та Україні; висвітлено структуру освіти дорослих у вибраних країнах на сучасному етапі еволюціонування знань інформаційного суспільства; обґрунтовано становлення освіти дорослих як важливого чинника навчання сучасного суспільства впродовж усього життя.

#### **Podstawy prawne edukacji dorosłych w Finlandii i na Ukrainie**