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Encouraging Lifelong Learning for an Inclusive & Vibrant Europe

The ENLIVEN research models how policy interventions in adult education can become more effective. It implements and evaluates an innovative Intelligent Decision Support System to provide a new and more scientific underpinning for policy debate and decision-making on adult learning, especially for young adults.

Project duration:
1st October 2016 – 30th September 2019

What is ENLIVEN about?

The ENLIVEN project's overarching objective is to provide an innovative model and mechanism to support policy debate, policy formation and policy evaluation in lifelong learning. Integrating theoretical and empirical perspectives from social and computer sciences, it focuses on the needs of young adults. Based on an evidence-based analysis of where, when and why policies have been effective, it is developing a computer-based intelligent system to improve policy-making.

The ENLIVEN research combines bounded agency theory from the social sciences with case-based reasoning from computer science (in particular, artificial intelligence).

Eleven work packages in four clusters

- WPs1-3 examine adult learning programmes, policies and governance in Europe, looking at the multi-dimensional nature of social exclusion and disadvantage.

- WP4 examines country/region-level variation in lifelong learning participation rates using system characteristics; it focuses especially on disadvantaged and at-risk groups, and young people.

- WPs 5-7 examine the operation and effective-ness of young adults' learning at and for work, undertaking organisational case studies and cross-country comparative institutional analysis.

- WPs 8-9 develop the knowledge base for, and develop and trial, an Intelligent Decision-making Support System (IDSS) to support evidence-based policy-making and debate.

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Expected outcomes

ENLIVEN aims to enable policy-makers at EU, national and organisational levels to enhance the provision and take-up of learning opportunities for adults, especially for young adults – leading to a more productive and innovative workforce, and reduced social exclusion.

Interacting with policy makers and key research networks, ENLIVEN will make targeted interventions in policy and scientific debate, and deliver a state-of-the-art Intelligent Decision-making Support System to improve lifelong learning for young adults across Europe.

Communication

Our research findings will be important for three types of audiences:

The academic community

Members of the consortium will present project outcomes at various European conferences and publish journal articles and other papers and reports. An overall synthesis of the project will be published in a book, and a data repository will be set up.

Policy makers and practitioners

Each national team will organise a national dissemination activity inviting policy makers and practitioners in adult and vocational education, youth policies and work. Near the end of the project, a final conference will be held in Brussels.
Policy briefings will translate the findings into recommended policy actions. Each national team will also set up a National Youth Panel to provide a critical voice in drafting the policy recommendations. Finally, support for policy makers in designing effective policy actions will be undertaken through the development of an Intelligent Decision-making Support System.

The wider public

The project website – regularly updated – includes the purposes and objectives of the Consortium, news on activities, etc. It provides downloads of the policy briefings and contact details for journalists. The project also disseminates findings and encourages discussion through Twitter.
Consortium members interact with mass media in their own countries. They will write news and opinion pieces for the press and be available for interviews.
All research output, including the academic publications resulting from this project, will be available on an 'Open Access' basis.