

European Agenda for Adult Learning

Institutes for Adult Learning

12 December 2017

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2015-17 UK work programme coordinated by L&W Institute
funded by European Commission and UK government

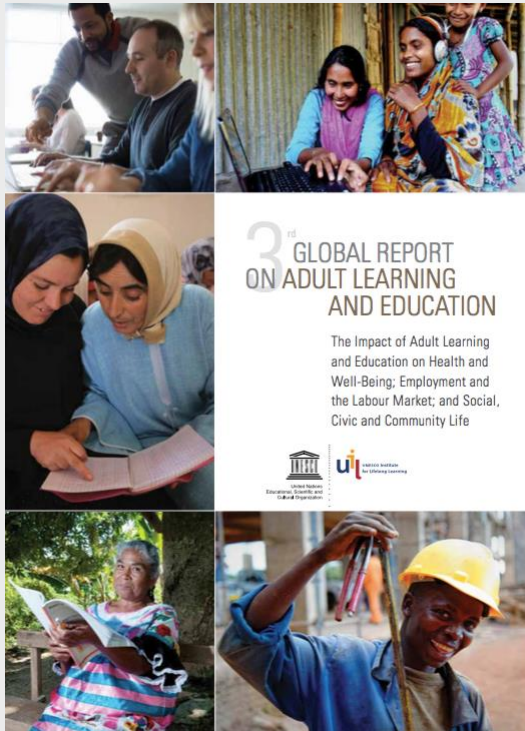
Development strands:

- adult basic skills (the Citizens' Curriculum),
- digital skills,
- and young adult employability

Research strands – the impact of adult learning on:

- health and well-being
- work and employment
- communities

GRALE (2016)



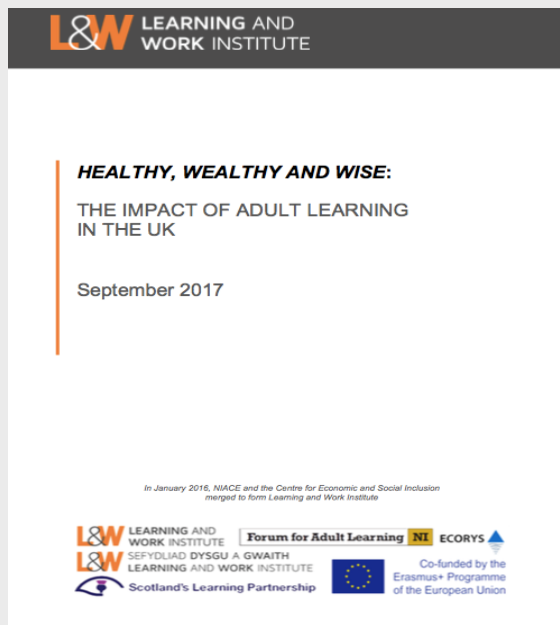
- 139 UNESCO member states responded to a monitoring survey
- Identifies trends in adult learning and how it responds to a changing world
- Looks at the impact of adult learning in 3 areas

GRALE III (2016)

Figure 0.1
The overlapping benefits of ALE

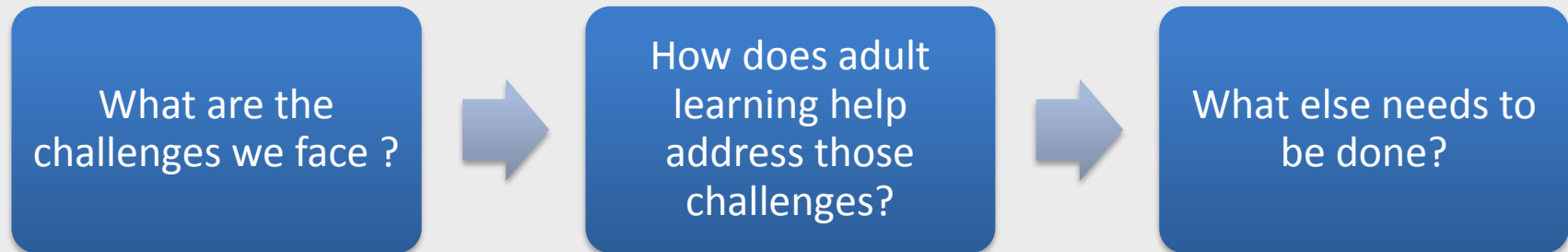


Healthy, Wealthy and Wise: the impact of adult learning in the UK



- The impact on: **health, work, and communities**
- The final report will have sections on **England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales** written by the Impact Forums
- Part of an **on-going discussion** over the coming months on EPAL

The report's narrative



10 challenges we identified



- **An ageing-population**
- **Lifestyle factors** impact on our health
- **Mental health** and well-being



- **Fair work**
- **Skills mismatches**
- **Productivity**



- **Poverty of place**
- **Engagement, involvement and empowerment**
- **Community safety and security**
- **Sustainable development**

How adult learning helps...



Healthy behaviours & attitudes
Longer life expectancy
A reduction in lifestyle diseases
Lower costs for acute healthcare



Skills & employability
Higher wages
Job satisfaction & commitment
Greater productivity & entrepreneurship
Tax revenues



Literacy & numeracy
Life skills such as resilience & self-confidence
Tolerance of diversity
Attention to the environment
Social cohesion
Political participation

Source: UNESCO GRALE III (2016)

What other countries believe...



HEALTH &
WELL-BEING

89% of countries agree that adult learning contributes “a great deal” to personal health and wellbeing



LABOUR MARKET &
EMPLOYMENT

More than 50% of countries agree that adult learning has a positive effect on employability and labour markets



SOCIAL, CIVIC &
COMMUNITY LIFE

Two thirds of countries say that literacy programmes help develop democratic values, peaceful co-existence and community solidarity

Source GRALE III (2016)

What needs to be done?

Policy

- A coherent “lifelong learning” approach needs to be adopted across government departments / devolved administrations (and funding siloes)
- Building on the sound evidence bases already developed through UNESCO and UK Government Foresight Team

Practice

- Education and employment funding agencies (across the UK) need to adopt more flexible approaches resourcing adult learning (with less dependence on qualifications as units of sale)
- Practitioners need support to work in different ways / across a wider curriculum

What next?

- Final report to include chapters on health, work, and communities; as well as public policy in England, NI, Scotland and Wales
- UK call for action for a lifelong learning approach
- 2017-20 work-programme agreed with EC and DfE on behalf of UK Government

Thank you