Adult education ensures decrease of social exclusion

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Still a significant share of the European population is confronted with social exclusion. According to Eurostat (2017) 122.3 million citizens are at risk of poverty or social exclusion. This is almost a quarter of the European population (24.4%). An important question is how possibilities concerning increase of social inclusion in addition to a better labour market position for these citizens can be realised. Several studies show that by joining adult education chances in daily society for adult citizens can increase. If citizens join a course or training and their language skills will be increased, they seem to experience a personal growth and gain more self-confidence (Dymock, 2007; Dymock & Billet, 2008). These studies also show that the adult participants get better contacts with others. It seems that investment in adult education could possibly decrease social exclusion for adults.

Large study of adult education on impact of social exclusion

During the last ten years among 6835 participations of adult education a study has been conducted in order to analyse the impact of adult education. All participants filled in two questionnaires in 15 weeks (pre- and post-test). This instrument included variables like socio-demographic factors: gender, nationality, age, highest level of education, total years of education, diploma and (voluntary) work (based on a study of Verté et al., 2007). Besides the validated SIT-instrument (Social Inclusion after Transfer) of De Greef, Segers en Verté (2010) has been used in order to analyse the number of participants experiencing a decrease in social exclusion.

Based on the analyses it become clear, that almost half of the participants experience a decrease in social exclusion after joining a course of adult education (namely 46.3%).

Due to the investment in adult education a significant share of the participants experience to be less lonely in daily society. Thus by realising a strong infrastructure in adult education the rate of social exclusion among European citizens can decrease.

References