

Vapaa Sivistystyö ry

FRITT BILDNINGSGÄRBE RF

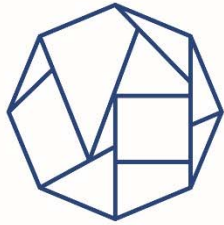
Finnish Adult Education Association

ACTIVITY REPORT 2017

The Finnish Adult Education Association's mission during the year 2017 has been to promote the status of non-formal education and its means of operation. It is the association's vision to be a forceful campaigner and voice for non-formal education. The main aim has been to secure and improve the preconditions for the activities of educational institutions. The Association's affiliates are Bildningsalliansen, The Finnish Association of Adult Education Centres (Kansalaisopistojen liitto KoL) The Finnish Lifelong Learning Foundation (Kansanvalistusseura – KVS), Study centres, Folk High Schools in Finland, Summer Universities in Finland, Svenska Folkskolans Vänner, SFV and Finnish Sports Institutes (Urheiluopistojen yhdistys).

A central focus for the lobbying and advocacy work during the year 2017 has been to secure public funding for non-formal education as well as to secure esteem for it and equally so its visibility in the Parliament, the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Finnish National Agency for Education. Other central advocacy focuses were the development of education for immigrants and associated with it, an amendment of the liberal adult education act. The association met decision-makers and representatives of the administration and it also presented submissions and statements concerning topical issues in regard to the drafting of laws, development projects and other projects in the education administration and in Parliament. During this year the yearly nation-wide meetings with members of parliament were coupled with regional meetings with MPs.

The single most important advocacy undertaking concerned an amendment to the liberal adult education act with the aim of securing that the means for funding education about immigrant integration plans should be covered to 100 per cent by state subsidy. The Finnish National Agency for Education prepared a curriculum recommendation to this end, in the preparation of which representatives of non-formal education participated. The new guidelines allow for a flexible and efficient organisation of education for immigrant integration. The Parliament allocated 4 927 000 euro as separate funding for this education.



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A representative of the association participated in a working group of the Ministry of Education and Culture that finalised a report *Work in transformation and life-long learning - The report of a working group investigating development needs for life-long education* ("Työn murros ja elinikäinen oppiminen – Elinikäisen oppimisen kehittämistarpeita selvittävän työryhmän raportti") 8.2.2018. The working group presented 24 action proposals to make life-long learning more effective at all educational levels. They included also proposals concerning non-formal education, vocational training and open high school education, that were introduced in 2018.

In addition to lobbying and advocacy the association launched promotional information and participated in international cooperation in non-formal education. The most important of these bodies are the European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA) and the

Folkbildning i Norden - network. Travel costs for participation in educational events and congresses to the Nordic countries and the EU-area was supported by a specific grant.

During this activity period support was continued for the promotion and coordination of research concerning non-formal education together with the academic network for non-formal education, freedom and responsibility, SVV, (Sivistystyön vapaus ja vastuu), as well as the cooperating universities. A separate study on the status, role and significance of non-formal education in the Finnish educational system and in society at large was started this year.

The association's work was led by the executive committee, with its chairperson handling the association's activities on a part-time basis. All affiliated organisations were represented in the executive committee. The executive committee was supported by a part-time office and information secretary. The association's turnover in 2017 was 123 665,29 euro.