



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Regional Literacy Conference Addressing “*Literacy Challenges
in Europe with a sub-regional focus:*”

Building Partnerships and Promoting Innovative Approaches.
(Baku, Azerbaijan, 14-16 May 2008)

“Basic Competence in Working Life”



United Nations Literacy Decade

EFFECTIVE PRACTICE

Presented at the UNESCO Regional Conference in Support of Global Literacy "Addressing Literacy Challenges in Europe with a sub-regional focus: Building Partnerships and Promoting Innovative Approaches", 14-16 May 2008, Baku, Azerbaijan

Programme name: Basic Competence in Working Life

Implemented by: VOX, The Norwegian Institute of Adult Learning

Basic facts

Country: Norway

Starting year: 2006

Outreach: Nationwide

Target Population: 300.000 Norwegian workers are assumed to lack the competence they need, and constitute therefore the target population of the programme

Language of instruction: Norwegian

Operating in: 69 enterprises in 2007 and 78 enterprises in 2008.

Main Funding: governmental funding

Contact: Bjørg Ilebakk, bjorg.ilebakk@vox.no

Website: www.vox.no

Brief Description

Norway has taken part in two large international surveys concerning basic skills in the adult population: the International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS) and the Adult Literacy and Life Skill Survey (ALL). Although Norway had a high score compared to other countries, there are still a large number of adults whose basic skills need to be addressed. Depending on how the statistics are interpreted, at least 400,000 adults (aged 16 – 65) score below the level in reading and numeracy that is considered a minimum to function in a satisfactory way in working life and social life.

The Programme "Basic Skills in Working Life" started in 2006 to address these challenges. The purpose of the programme is to fund and monitor basic learning

projects in enterprises, or projects aiming at preparing people for working life in cooperation with the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration. The programme is funded over the National Budget, making it financially viable for private and public enterprises to start up basic skills development schemes for their employees and job-seekers.

Basic competence is a comprehensive term that includes various fundamental skills. The programme deals with reading and writing, numeracy and the use of digital tools.

To increase the quality of teaching and ensure an education tailored to the needs of the individual, a national framework for basic skills for adults has been developed as a sub-project under the programme. The framework comprises descriptions of levels of competence, guidelines for providers, mapping tools and tests, and a model for teacher training.