

Adult Education Act

2010 No 27, 31 March

Entry into force 1 October 2010. Amended by Act No 162/2010 (entry into force 1 January 2011), Act No 126/2011 (entry into force 30 September 2011) and Act No 91/2015 (entry into force 5 August 2015 with the exception of Article 1 and Articles 4 to 7: entry into force 1 July 2015).

Any reference in this Act to “the Minister” or “the Ministry” not accompanied by express mention of or reference to a specific field of responsibility shall be understood as being a reference to the **Minister of Education, Science and Culture** or to the **Ministry of Education, Science and Culture** as responsible for the implementation of this Act.

Section I Scope, objective and definitions

■ Article 1 *Scope*

□ This Act pertains to the organisation of adult education as offered by education providers having received accreditation pursuant to the Act, and to Treasury appropriations toward the cost of operating such education programmes.

■ Article 2 *Objectives*

□ The objectives of adult education provided pursuant to this Act are:

- a. to provide those with limited schooling with increased opportunities for active participation in society;
- b. to provide those in the labour market who have limited formal education with suitable education and training opportunities and facilitate their re-entry into the education system;
- c. to enable people to increase their work-related skills and to take more responsibility in that respect;
- d. to make available the resources and solutions needed to meet the demands of industry for a more knowledgeable and competent workforce;
- e. to provide those with a reduced capacity for study or work with adult education adapted to their disparate situations and skill sets;
- f. to promote recognition of the value of education pursued outside of the formal upper-secondary and tertiary education systems;
- g. to ensure that education and experience acquired outside of the formal education system are appreciated to an appropriate extent; and
- h. to raise the general educational level in Iceland and strengthen the Icelandic education system.

■ Article 3 *Definitions*

□ For the purpose of this Act, the following definitions shall apply:

- a. *Adult education*: Any education, measure or counselling provided for the purpose of meeting the needs of persons with limited formal education but without being organised on the basis of the Upper Secondary Education Act or the Higher Education Act.
- b. *Validation of competence*: A systematic process whereby the overall knowledge and competences of a person are assessed. The assessment can be based on the formal education,

work experience, vocational training, leisure courses, adult education, social activities and life experience of the person concerned.

c. *Education provider*: An independently operated legal entity which provides adult education and has been accredited by the Minister under this Act.

Section II Organisation of adult education

■ Article 4 *General administration*

☐ [The Minister]⁽¹⁾ has responsibility for the general administration of adult education provided pursuant to this Act. This includes responsibility for:

- a. general policy making in the field of adult education in consultation with stakeholders;
- b. general administration related to the implementation of this Act;
- c. the affairs of the Education Fund;
- d. providing support for development and innovation in the field of adult education; and
- e. supervision and evaluation tasks.

⁽¹⁾Act No 126/2011, Article 523.

■ Article 5 *Functioning*

☐ Adult education should be focused on providing what is needed for individuals to participate actively in society, as well as on meeting the needs of businesses and the wider economy. As a general rule, the organisation of course offerings should be such as to allow participants to attend classes in parallel with their employment. Labour and employer confederations are to be consulted on the implementation of this Act; the Minister may delegate specific implementation tasks to institutions or associations operated by those confederations, in accordance with Article 15.

☐ Education providers operating on the basis of this Act are to be consulted regularly regarding the implementation of the adult education they provide. Adult education should as far as possible be organised so as to ensure that it is compatible with other education programmes, and that studies defined as adult education can be evaluated for credits within the general education system. The Minister may lay down specific rules on the classification of adult education programmes and their division into levels, based on skills and learning outcomes.

■ Article 6 *Certification of curriculum guides*

☐ The objectives, organisation and content of adult education must be described in curriculum guides or course descriptions drawn up for this purpose.

☐ Individual curriculum guides and course descriptions should be submitted for certification by the Minister or by an entity designated by the Minister to perform that task pursuant to Article 15. Such certification amounts to a confirmation that the education fulfils general requirements for the organisation and quality of the teaching, as well as any special requirements made in each case with regard to the content of the education.

■ Article 7 *Accreditation of education providers*

☐ Accreditation of education providers to provide adult education is to be granted by the Minister or by an entity designated by the Minister to perform that task. Accreditation should be granted based on an evaluation of:

- a. the teaching and learning facilities used;
- b. the organisation and supervision of the studies;
- c. the curriculum guides or course descriptions;
- d. the competences of those providing adult education as measured by their knowledge and experience;
- e. financial and insurance matters; and
- f. the existence of a quality assurance system focused on adult education.