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Erasmus+ Programme  
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Erasmus+ project 2015-1-LV01-KA204-013388 „Developing EU through online innovation

## SEMINAR

24-25.10.2016. Hungary, Budapest

„Sustainability in adult education“

How to use EU project funds in adult education?

### Main concepts

To deal with the subject first we have to define 2 concept “sustainability” and “adult education”. Both of them are a bit hard to explain there is no one accepted definition for them.

- Sustainability

There is no universally agreed definition on what sustainability means. There are many different views on what it is and how it can be achieved. The idea of sustainability stems from the concept of sustainable development which became common language at the World's first Earth Summit in Rio in 1992.

The original definition of sustainable development is usually considered to be: "Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Since then, there have been many variations and extensions on this basic definition.

- Adult education

The European Commission defines adult learning as, 'all forms of learning undertaken by adults after having left initial education and training, however far this process may have gone (e.g. including tertiary education).' (European Commission 2006b, p. 2)

Ecocenter Foundation is dealing with national and EU projects in the last 6 years. Most of the EU funded projects are Erasmus+ innovation transfers in the field of Adult Education.





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### **Situation in Hungary**

There is very low proportion of participants in high/adult education in Hungary. The statistics are shown that in high/adult education is a significant way related to the individual's educational qualification (the higher educational level of a person, mean a greater chance to learn as an adult), but in the case of Hungary compared to other countries there is an extremely large differences. Due to the above mentioned reasons, the motivation for learning is closely linked to the disadvantaged situation of people (socially disadvantaged people, early school leavers etc.).

### **Erasmus+**

The Erasmus + Programme of the European Commission, which supports education and training, youth and sport sector. The grant program allows the implementation of mobility, partnership and policy activities in the field of education and training to higher education, public education, vocational training and adult education sectors.

Europe must provide knowledge society, education, skills and creativity for their citizens. In our rapidly changing world Education systems need to adapt to new forms of teaching and learning, taking advantage of new opportunities. Formal education, training and non-formal learning is an important factor in creating new jobs and increasing the competitiveness of Europe. The Erasmus+ providing 14.7 billion EUR to strengthen European education, training, youth and sport professions between 2014 and 2020.

Main aims of Erasmus+

- Development of the key competencies and skills, particularly the most important skills in the labour market and social cohesion; by educational mobilities and by cooperation between education and training institutions and companies
- Strengthen the quality, the innovation and the internationalization in the educational and training institutions, primarily by international cooperation, and involvement of stakeholders beyond education-training
- Support of the policy reforms and the modernization of the education/training system's, especially with policy cooperation, and with more efficient use of the Union's transparency and recognition tools, and with sharing of good practices





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- Development of language teaching and learning, promotion of linguistic diversity and intercultural sensitivity

### **Advantages and disadvantages of using EU funds in adult education**

For Hungary and for other European countries there are several advantages of using EU funds, but also there are some disadvantage/difficulty. EU project funds are very good tool for expand the adult learning with special type of education which is not available yet in the country. Innovation transfer projects can ensure an applicable method/good practices of adult education course. The problem in Hungary that EU only gives money for the creation of the learning material and for pilot testing, but there is no further money for the continuous operation. Some of these project are not just need infrastructure for the education but teachers, trainers, consultants, tutors which can be very expensive for a training institution who most of the cases try to ensure these trainings for free of charges to the target group.

As the main aim of this EU funded project to create sustainable adult educational courses, so our Foundation's aim is providing these training after the closing of the project. For this reason we are cooperate with other foundations, high education institutions, universities, colleges, labour offices, unemployment offices, national bodies...etc.