



Project Result 1: The Importance of Blended Learning for low-qualified Adults Summary



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1 BACKGROUND

Nowadays, it is of high importance to further educate oneself in order to be competitive on the labour market, and also for private life. But there are still a lot of people who have only a low level of qualification.

And for these people, it is even more difficult to participate in continuing education due to several factors: (1) factors that have to do with the learner him-/herself, (2) factors related to the educational system and (3) socio-economic factors.

According to the research done within this project, **many educational programs are not offered to low-qualified adults as the prejudice that these people are not able to successfully participate is still widespread.**

2 IMPORTANCE OF OFFERING BLENDED LEARNING TO ALL ADULTS

To support adults with a lower level of qualification in further educating themselves, it is important that adult education providers offer as many courses in as many different settings as possible to these learners and help them in developing their competences.

One educational setting that is very often only limited to people with higher qualifications is blended learning.

During the research activities for this project, it became clear that **blended learning should not only be offered to these people, but also to low-qualified adults.**

The reasons for this are:

- These learners are often in situations that make it impossible to participate in face-to-face courses (children, living in rural areas, etc.)
- When learning in blended mode, adults can develop a lot of competences they will need for their future (digital competences, personal competences, etc.)
- Blended learning allows adults (and adult educators) to adapt their learning process to their individual needs
- Nearly all adults have the equipment required for blended learning, they have at least a smartphone with internet access
- They are able to successfully participate in blended learning settings, they only need adequate support



3 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICY MAKERS

It is crucial for policy makers to **recognise the importance of offering blended learning courses to all adult learners**, regardless of their background.

When offering blended learning to this target group, teachers and trainers must get the feeling that they are supported by the educational system as well as by their employer. This can be ensured by:

- providing teachers/trainers with required equipment, platforms and tools
- offering trainings on blended learning to adult educators
- supporting them in case of any technical problems
- promoting exchange and collaboration between adult educators

Through internal and external evaluation, the quality of blended learning with this target group can be assessed and improvements for both, the learners and the adult educators, can be made.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADULT EDUCATORS

In the following, some recommendations for adult educators that want to implement blended learning with the target groups of low-qualified adults can be found:

- communicate the advantages of blended learning, but also your expectations of your learners
- support the learners in developing the competences required for blended learning before starting with the learning contents
- build a strong relationship with the learners, so that they know that they are not alone
- offer individualised learning possibilities based on the different learning styles and on different levels of qualification
- set clear rules and elaborate a learning plan together with the learners
- support the learners in building learning communities
- use different methods and practical activities that motivate the target group
- adapt existing face-to-face materials to make them more attractive for online learning

There are some challenges and at the beginning, it might be difficult to work with low-qualified adults in blended learning mode, but when supporting them in getting used to this setting and being patient with them, they can be very successful and **get motivated for participation in continuing education** in future.

More detailed information can be found in the policy paper: <https://access2learn.eu/open-educational-resources/>.





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