

Basic skills network: effective policies and strategies for adult education in the light of PIAAC?

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Outline

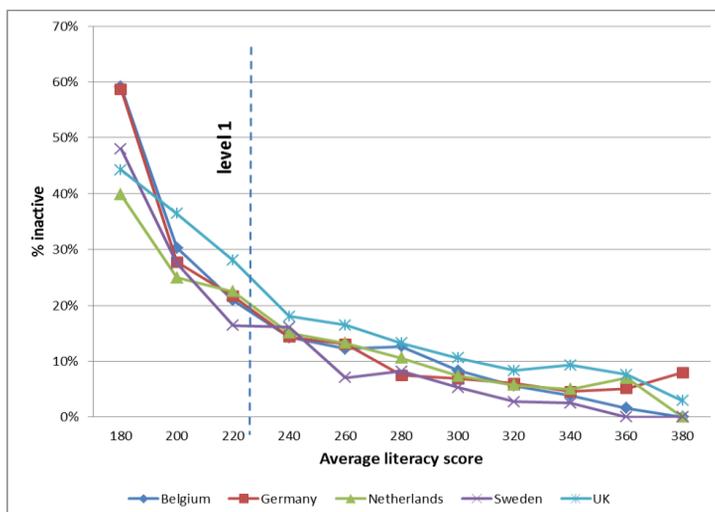
- PIAAC: skills and groups
- Digital skills
- Effective (?) interventions

Numbers: are PIAAC figures helpful?

PIAAC highlights the size of the group of low skilled adults (level 1 and below)

Large numbers of adults at low levels of proficiency (10%-27% across EU, 55 million in EU-17) generated **awareness** and **attention** from policy makers & media

Skills outside labour market



Basis skills – economic/social indicators

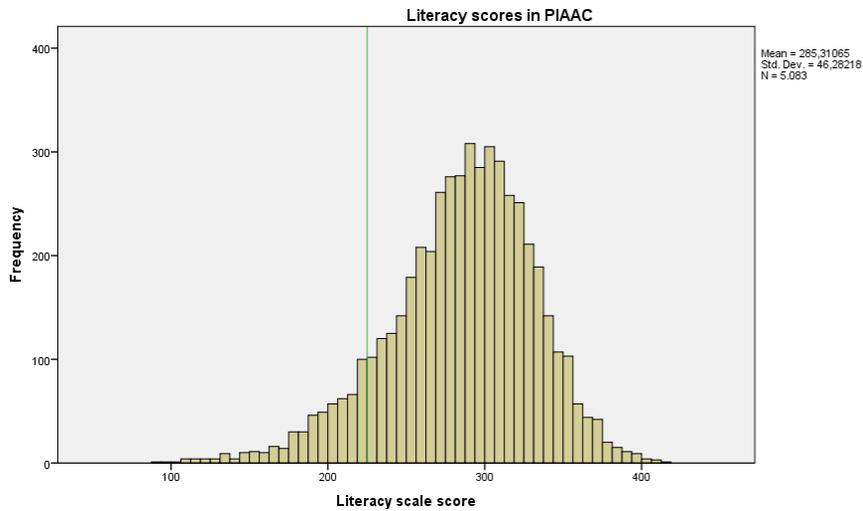
Higher levels of basic skills relate to

- Employment chances
- Type of employment contract
- active in voluntary work
- confidence in others
- health

But low skilled adults form a **heterogeneous** group; the majority of adults at level 1 participate actively in the labour market and/or in society. Not every low skilled adult has a problem!

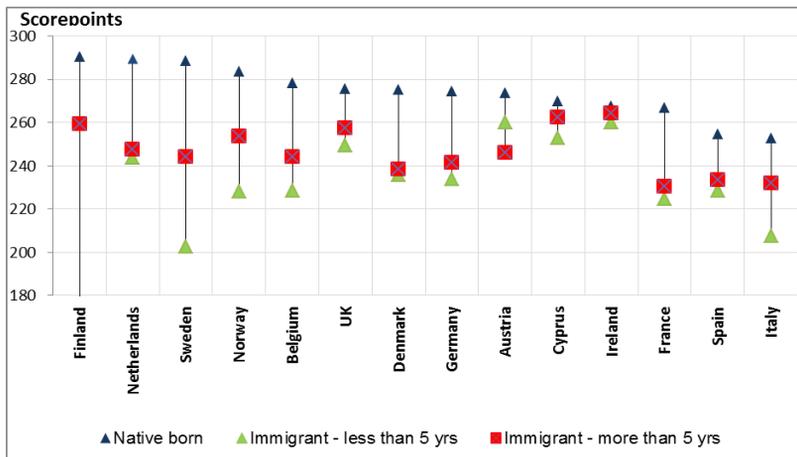
This poses a challenge for policy makers: difficult to reach large groups of low skilled adults & policy outcomes seem to fail to live up to expectations

PIAAC's "adults at level 1" definition is too broad to develop effective strategies

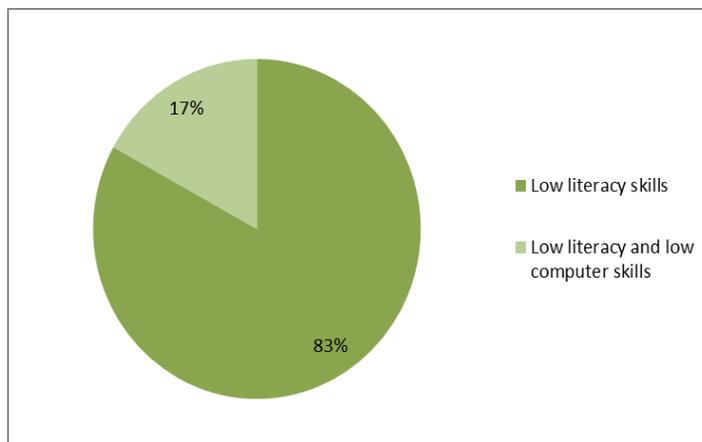


PIAAC-data does highlight specific (sub)groups of low skilled adults at risk, such as....

Skill gaps between old and newcomers



Adults with multiple skill deficiencies



Computer skills - nerds only?

21st century developments

- Robots
- Digitalisation
- Medialisation
- Knowledge based economy
- Flexibilisation
- Globalisation
- Individualisation

21st century skills

- Digital skills
- Communication
- Problem solving
- Collaboration
- Creativity
- Critical thinking
- Socio-cultural skills
- Self-regulation

Computer skills:

50% no/little computer skills

53% sufficient digital skills to get new job

Computer use 2007-2012

94% - 97%

71% - 87% among illiterates

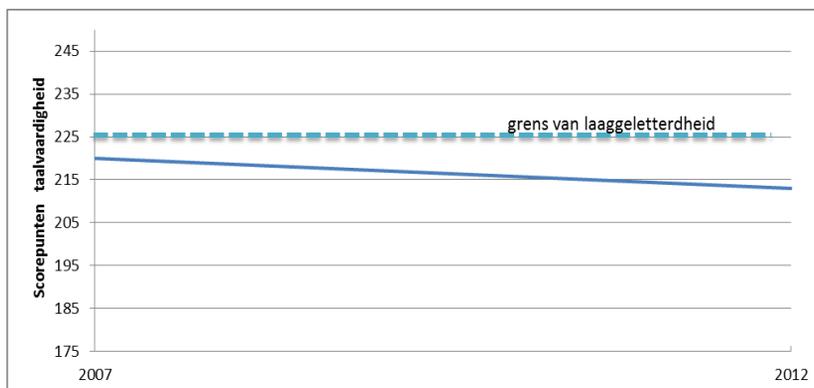
More consumptive than productive

At work

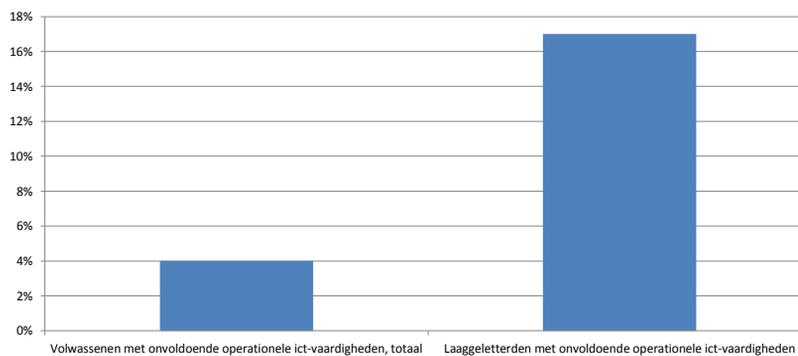
77% - 80% (20% complex tasks)

38% - 44%

Literacy skills of those without computer

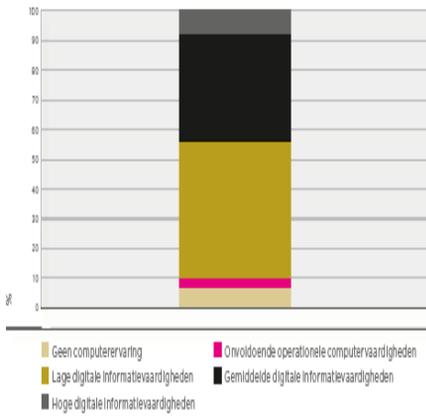


PIAAC Instrumental

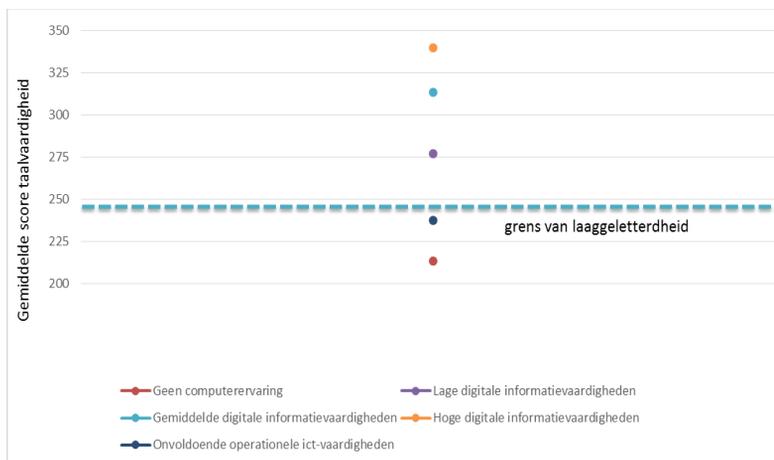
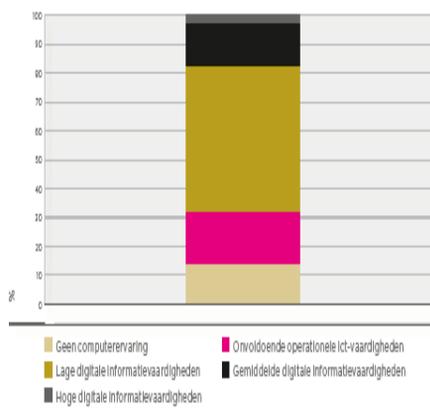


PIAAC Instrumental & Strategic

Figuur 2.6 Digitale vaardigheden van volwassenen in Nederland, naar type vaardigheid



Figuur 2.7 Digitale vaardigheden van laaggeletterden in Nederland, naar type vaardigheid



Digital problem solving

Higher among those with higher literacy skills

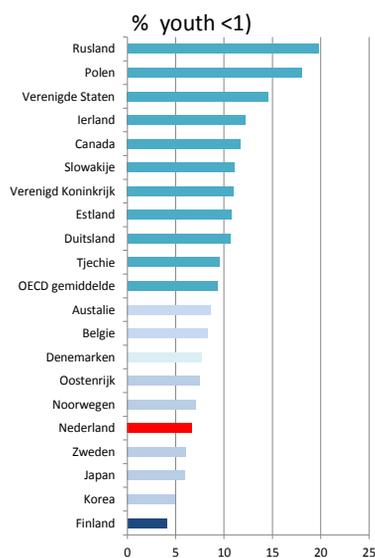
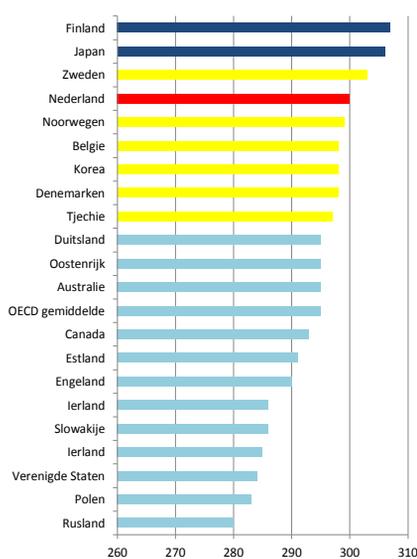
Higher among those with higher numeracy skills

Higher among higher educated

Higher among men

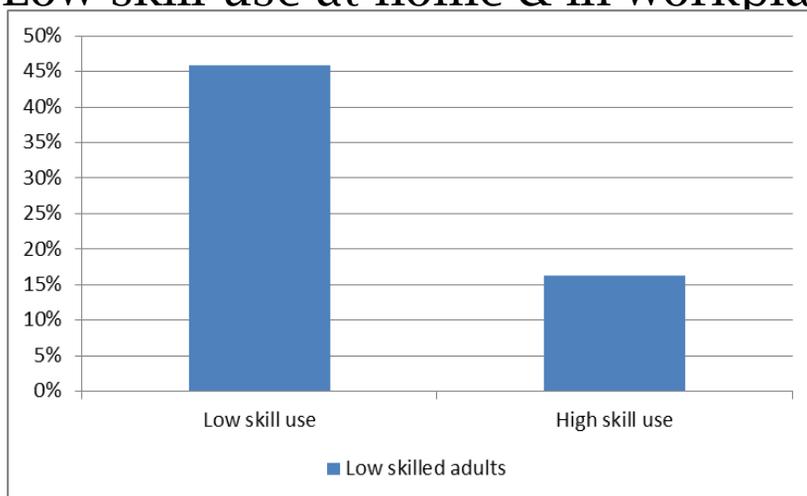
Higher among natives

Other learning strategies & attitudes



PIAAC provides some evidence as to why low skilled adults are difficult to reach...

Low skill use at home & in workplace



- **unconsciously unskilled:**
- >95% of working low skilled adults state that own reading skills are sufficient to do the job (ALL study)
- Low skilled adults systematically **overestimate** their literacy skills (Olson, Smyth, Wang & Pearson, 2011)

So, what to do...? - Reactive

Click-call-face

Assisted digital

Paper version

- Fewer sanctions
- Lack of skills vs. lack of motivation

So, what to do...? - Proactive

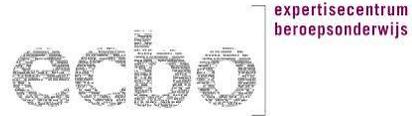
Differentiate

- Continuous rather than categorical
- Migrants & older natives
- Low digital skills: computer course
- Low digital & low language: library
- Cold feet: assistance in context

So, what to do...?

Screening instrument

Websites



So, what to do...?

Clap politely and don't ask overly tough questions

(but please, do ask!)

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