

Literacy and Basic Skills Policy in Germany

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Leo.-level-One Study and its consequences („Alpha-Shock“)

- **14% of the employable population in Germany with severe literacy needs (7,5 Mio.) (Alpha-Level 1-3)**
- **Men (60%) more affected than women (40%)**
- **Native speakers (58%) more affected than non-native speakers (42%)**
- **57% of the affected population are employed**
- **Another 13 Mio. persons with considerable literacy needs (Alpha-Level 4)**

Shared responsibilities in the German system of adult education / literacy between Bund and Länder

- **The federal government (Bund)**
 - Funding short-term and mid-term programmes and projects
 - Funding research
 - Public campaigning
- **The federal states (Länder)**
 - Legislative responsibility in the field of education / adult education
 - Providing regular public funding for adult education and literacy measures
 - Use of regional ESF funding for literacy programmes
- **The federal agency for labour (Bundesagentur für Arbeit)**
 - Legal responsibility for promoting labour market integration
 - No responsibility for educational/literacy measures

National Strategy for literacy and basic skills (2012-2016)

- **Initiated by the Federal Ministry for Education and the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education (Länder)**
- **Central aspects:**
 - awareness raising
 - public campaigning
 - increasing the supply of basic skills measures
 - Increasing cooperation between Bund and Länder
 - Including strong partners from the non-state sector

Literacy agenda of the Länder in 2012

- **First systematic cooperation between the Länder in the field of basic skills**
- **Central aspects of the agenda:**
 - Increasing the supply of literacy courses (financed by ESF and Länder)
 - Establishing regional basic skills contact points
 - Increasing public campaigning
 - Exchange of good practice
 - Reporting every two years

National Decade for Literacy and Basic Skills

- **National framework for long term comitment of State (Bund and Länder) and the civil society**
- **Renewal of the Literacy agenda of the Länder in 2017**
- **Central aspects:**
 - enforcing public campaigning
 - expanding the supply of literacy classes (Länder)
 - increasing research on literacy
 - introducing and developing regional networks and improving professional competencies (Länder)
 - introducing professional standards for teaching
 - regular controlling and reporting
- **Coordination of activities and partners by a National Agency**

Unresolved issues (small selection)

- **Identifying and motivating potential learners**
- **Establishing financially stable and lasting learning systems**
- **Including refugees and migrants into the regular system of adult education / native and non-native speakers learn together (from a certain level)**
- **Improve teaching personnel's qualifications**
- **Bridging the gap for those that finished literacy class and haven't reached school graduation or vocational training**
- **Knowing what really works in literacy classes**

Thank you for your attention!
