



Lire et Ecrire
Communauté française

L'alpha au-delà de nos frontières

Une série de webinaires qui donnent la parole aux acteurs de l'alpha en Flandre et à l'étranger

Avec le soutien de :



FÉDÉRATION
WALLONIE-BRUXELLES



Union européenne
Fonds social européen

26 novembre 2020

National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA). Irlande



Dr Inez Bailey,
ex-Chief Executive Officer (jusqu'en aout 2020)

Adult Literacy in Ireland

- Brief history since 1980s
- Current policy and practice and FET Strategy 2020-2024
- A new 10 year strategy for adult literacy, numeracy and digital skills
- Impact of Covid on Adult Literacy from March
- Reflections

Brief history since 1980s

1. Volunteerism and NALA advocacy in 1980s

Community based response to people with literacy needs informs establishment of NALA & advocacy for funding of services /

2. Practitioner training, professionalisation and OECD IALS in 1990s

Link to higher education standards / research and advocacy

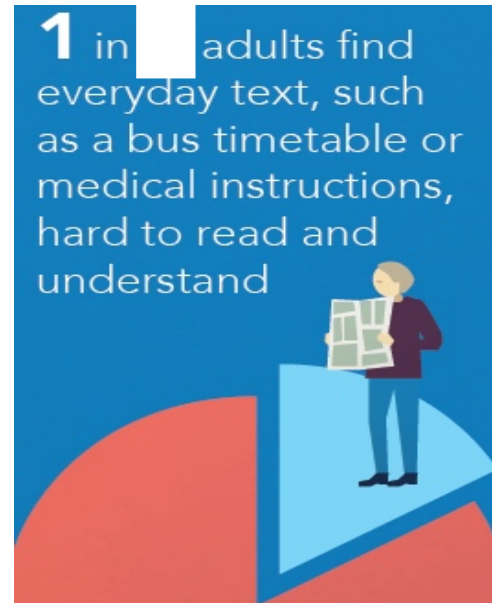
3. 1st national policy and implementation in 2000s

Top priority, participation target, new strategies

4. Consolidation and reform in 2010s

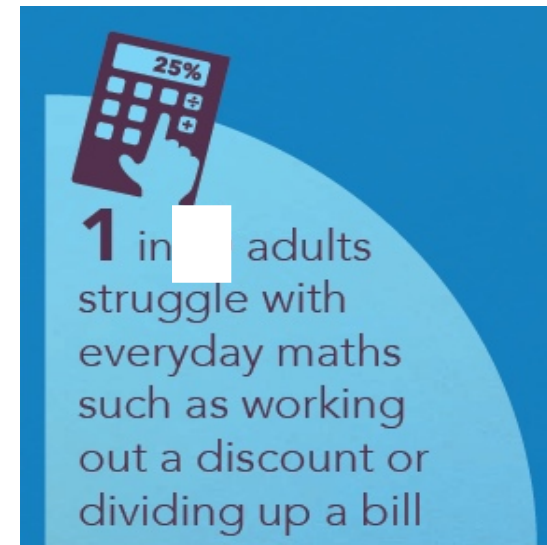
Data - 6 fold increase in participation, 10 fold funding increase and the Adult Skills Survey

OECD Survey of Adult Skills 2013



??% of Irish adults are at or below level 1 of literacy

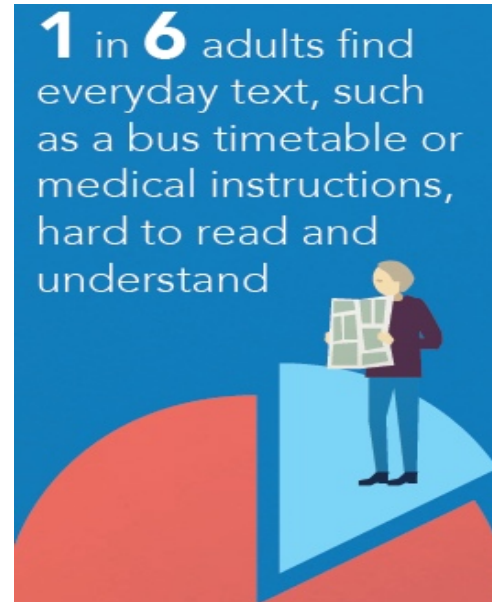
??% of Irish adults are at or below level 1 of numeracy



OECD Survey of Adult Skills 2013

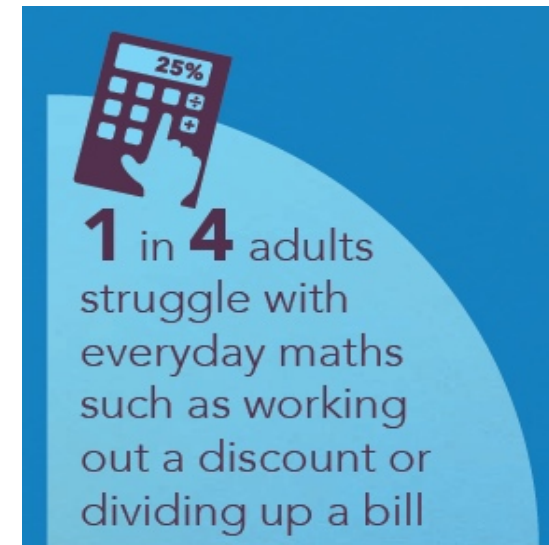


Reference: CSO (2013) Programme for Assessment of Adult Competencies [PIAAC 2012](#) Survey Results for Ireland



18% of Irish adults are at or below level 1 of literacy – 521,550 people

25% of Irish adults are at or below level 1 of numeracy – 754,000 people



Current policy and practice and FET Strategy 2020-2024

Largely group based tuition in community centres operated by Education and Training Boards with funding from SOLAS

Tuition options-workplace, family, ESOL, numeracy

Integrated approach to literacy and numeracy across all programmes

Focus on awareness raising (access), intensive tuition and certification (validation) and progression (higher level programme; employment)

Research and development of guidelines to aid implementation

A new 10 year strategy for adult literacy, numeracy and digital skills

- Research to inform a whole of government approach (domains of health, family, community and work, as well as learning)
- NALA advocacy campaign and pre election manifesto commitments
- Election (February 2020) and new Government (June 2020)
- Commitment in the Programme for Government to “develop and implement a new 10-year strategy for adult literacy, numeracy and digital skills within the first year of the government”.
- New Minister for Further and Higher Education launches work on the new strategy on 8th September 2020 chairing the first multi-stakeholder strategy group meeting in mid-October

Impact of Covid on Adult Literacy from March

- All ETB literacy learning paused with some remote support.
- Learn with NALA replaced www.writeon.ie offering an online and blended learning solution for use by individuals learning alone or supported through a local centre see courses@nala.ie
- There is access to national qualifications at EQF Level 1 and 2.
- There is also a phone based service.
- Contributed to a national stakeholders group concerned with mitigating educational disadvantage which highlighted specific barriers, challenges and solutions to learning during Covid 19. €8m allocated to community education to assist learners most in need.

Reflections

- Evolving literacy demands in society
- Contemporarising adult literacy philosophy and practice
- Importance of informed advocacy – policy entrepreneurs
- Understanding the breadth of evidence – from the OECD to the adult

References and Resources

- Bailey, I (2007). Overview of the Adult Literacy System¹ in Ireland and Current Issues in its Implementation at <https://www.alm-online.net/images/ALM/conferences/ALM14/proceedings/ALM14-proceedings-p016-033.pdf>
- Bailey, I (2006). Review of adult learning and literacy: Volume 6: Connecting Research, Policy, and Practice. edited by Comings, J., B. Garner, C. Smith. National Center for the Study of Adult Learning and Literacy (U.S.) (NCSALL). pp.197-240
<https://1lib.eu/book/1085362/8c4e55?regionChanged=&redirect=15301226>
- NALA Annual Report (2020)
<https://www.nala.ie/publications/nala-annual-report-2019/>

Thanks for your attention.

National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA). Ireland



NALA

National Adult Literacy Agency

Áisíneacht Náisiúnta Litearthachta do Aosaigh

nala.ie



L'alpha au-delà de nos frontières

Une série de webinaires qui donnent la parole aux acteurs de l'alpha en Flandre et à l'étranger



Plus d'infos :

lire-et-ecrire.be/webinaires2020



Lire et Ecrire
Communauté française

Avec le soutien de :



FÉDÉRATION
WALLONIE-BRUXELLES



Union européenne
Fonds social européen