

# Grundtvig's contribution to professional development of adult education staff

## Grundtvig impact study “Analysis and exploitation of the results of in-service training activities 2000-2009”

Main findings, conclusions and recommendations

# Overall satisfaction with Grundtvig IST activities

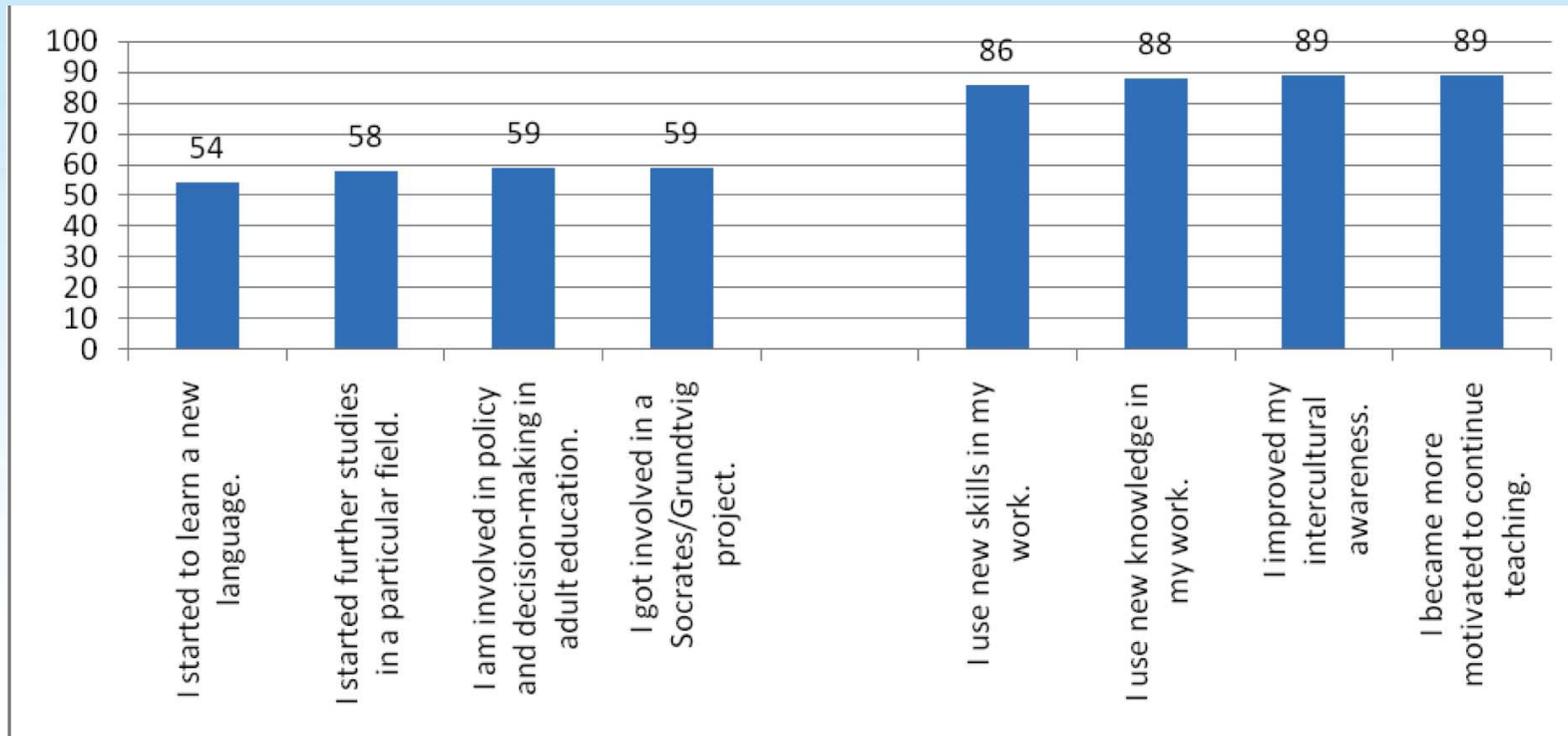
Providers: 83.5%

Beneficiaries: 94%

## Providers: main benefits and impact

- increased international network
- supported staff development (new knowledge or skills)
- helped increase the interest of staff in European topics
- provided cultural benefits
- led to the use of new teaching methods/approaches in the organisation
- encouraged staff to develop European cooperation projects
- **resulted in financial benefits for the organisation**
- **has had (or will have) an impact on the local community**
- **led to changes in the way the organisation is managed**

# Beneficiaries: impact on participants



## Beneficiaries: impact on home institutions

- Stronger European dimension in teaching (78.2%)
- Sustainable partnership with foreign organisations (70%)
- Developed a transnational project (66.7%)
- Joint transnational courses/training modules (62.6%)

# Provision – Main Findings

- has encouraged the **opening of many organisations** to an international audience
- has encouraged organisations to develop a **European dimension** and introduce it in their training offer
- has offered a channel for **dissemination of existing good practice** and for the **development of innovation**
- has provided an **innovative funding model** for professional development in Adult Education (model considered **adequate**)
- has created the premises for the **development of a community of adult education providers**
- has lifted the **professionalisation of adult education** onto the political agenda

# Provision – Main Findings

- the activity **design often ignores the Grundtvig (policy) priorities**
- the design often **ignores minimum requirements for quality training**
- the **activities developed outside centrally-funded projects** show, overall, a **lower level of quality**
- it has been a **challenge for NAs to validate free market courses**
- the **number of courses in the Training Database is too high** in comparison with the number of grants offered
- providers often lose motivation to offer activities due to **uncertainty of funding**

# Participation – Main Findings

- highest level of impact reported in terms of **European dimension and professional networking**
- high satisfaction with **funding model, amounts and conditions**
- the **role of NAs in providing support** was positively evaluated
- the typical beneficiary holds a Master's Degree, comes from a major city and has accumulated significant experience in adult education BUT has **no formal training** in adult education
- certification received is of **little value in recognition and validation of professional development** BUT credit-rated certificates were often recognised for career progress

# General Conclusions

- There is significant impact in terms of **increasing the European dimension of Adult Education**, at all levels addressed.
- There are **no clear, transparent and efficient quality assurance and quality control mechanisms** in place, including for quantification of work input and certification.
- There is an **imbalanced coverage** of thematic areas and priorities.
- There is a **high level of satisfaction** with the IST Action.
- Providers find it difficult and de-motivating to compete on a **semi-free, partially-controlled market**.

# Recommendations

- Encourage the **development of quality assurance mechanisms** among providers, including for credit-rated certification and for regular and long-term assessment of impact.
- **Eliminate** the possibility of funding **language training**.
- Support the development of relevant quality **training activities through centralised funding**.
- **Limit the number of eligible training activities** to reflect the total number of grants available per year.
- Appoint an external, independent expert group to act as **regulator at European level** for the Grundtvig IST sector.