

# Literacy, Language and Integration

## **Vox, Norwegian Agency for Lifelong Learning...**

... is an agency of the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research – wor4king also for other ministries.

**Vision: Lifelong Learning for an inclusive society and working life.**

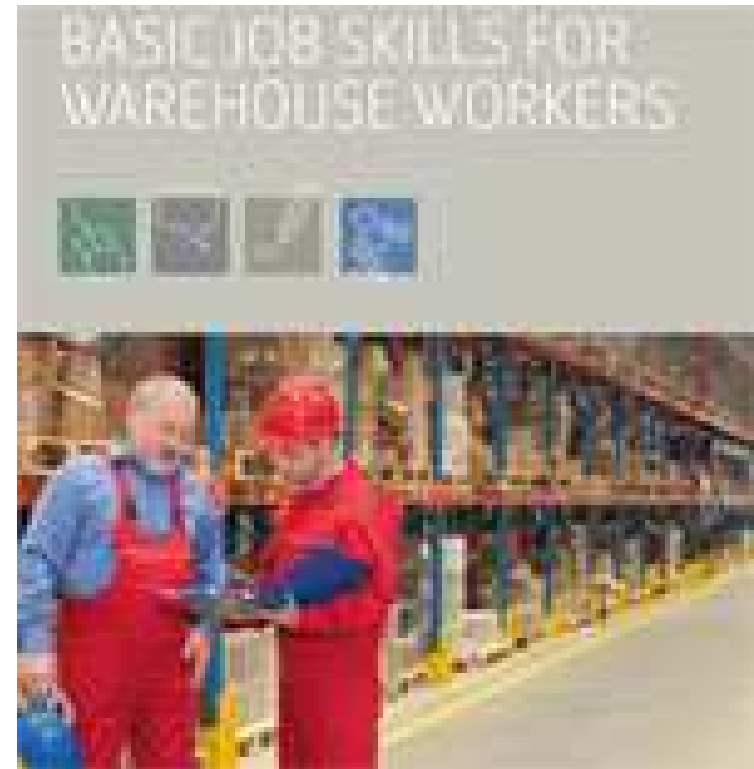
### **Main goals:**

- to contribute to supporting active citizenship,
- improving employability and
- increasing participation in education.



## Vox: fields of work

- Policy provision
- Basic skills for adults
- Immigrant integration
- Research, analysis, statistics
- National programs and subsidies
- Validation of prior learning
- National Unit for Career Guidance
- Information, awareness raising
- International cooperation

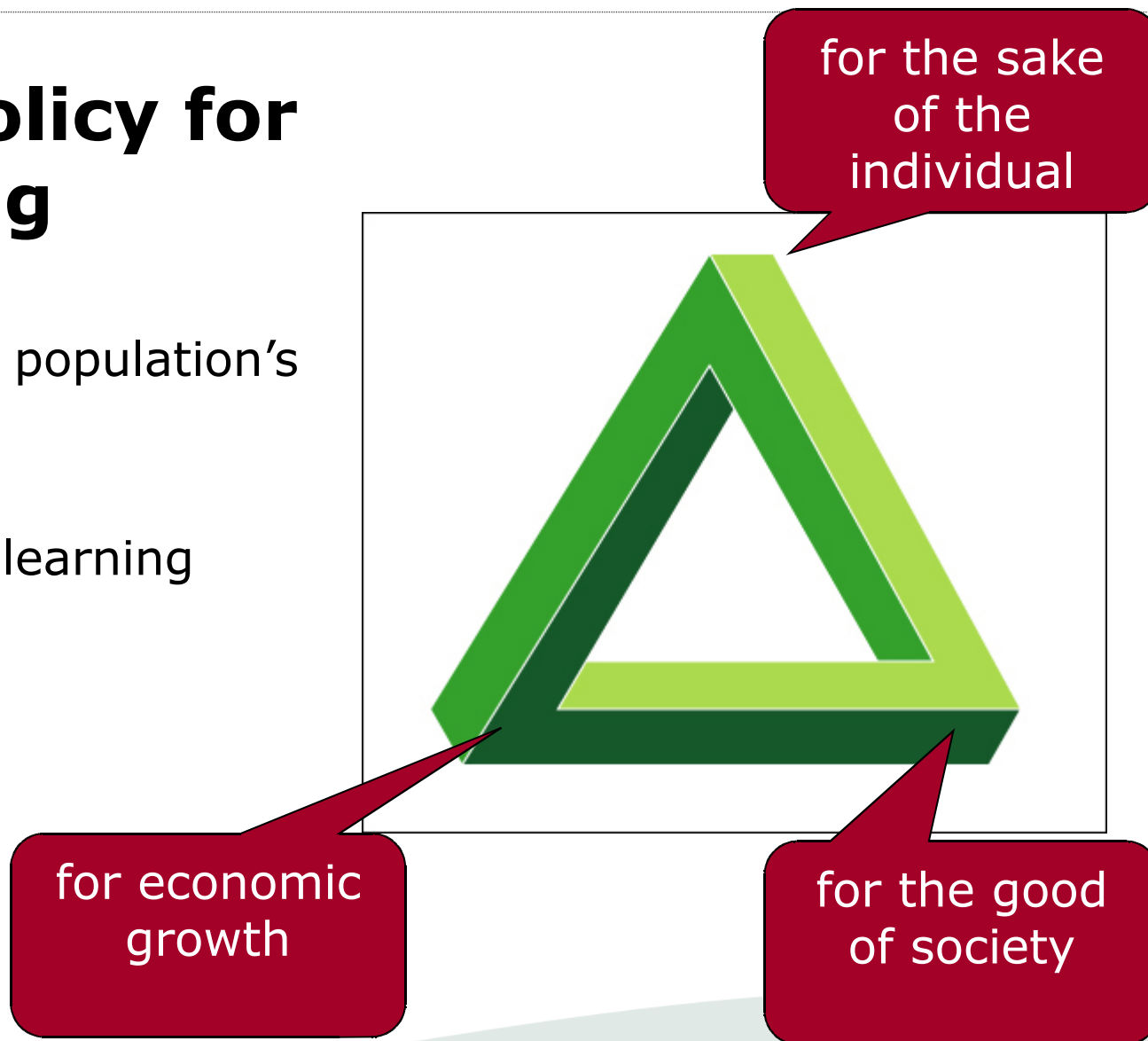


# Norwegian policy for Adult Learning

## Objective:

Increasing the adult population's

- employability
- social inclusion
- access to further learning
- general welfare



# Literacy: Defining the issue

- Literacy versus alphabetism
- Initial literacy versus functional literacy
- Strictly literacy or multiple literacies



## According to the European Union

- **Baseline literacy:** Having the knowledge of letters, words and text structures that is needed to read and write at a level that enables self-confidence and motivation for further development.
- **Functional literacy:** The ability to read and write at a level that enables someone to develop and function in society, at home, at school and at work.
- **Multiple literacy:** The ability to use reading and writing skills in order to produce, understand, interpret and critically evaluate written information. It is a basis for digital participation and making informed choices pertaining to finances, health, etc.

# The moving target: increasing gaps

- Ever increasing demands as societies and economies develop
- The multiplication of literacies
- Demographic changes
- Illiteracy as inheritance (family learning)
- Literacy and language learning



## Adult literacy in Europe

- Who is the target group?
- Do we have analphabets?
- Who is an analphabet?
- Do we need specialized teachers?
- Is it worth the effort to solve this problem?
- Should adults get any priority?





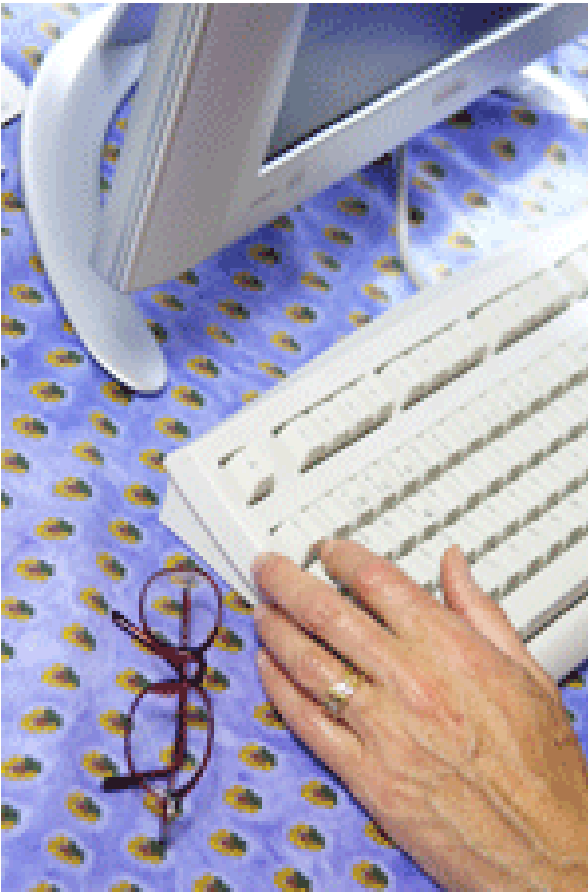
## Not only for immigrants...

*In most countries, there are significant proportions of adults who score at lower levels of proficiency on the literacy and numeracy scales.*

*Across the countries involved in the study, between **4.9%** and **27.7%** of adults are proficient at only the lowest level in literacy and **8.1%** to **31.7%** are proficient at only the lowest level in numeracy."*



## Basic skills for integration



- Need for diagnostic tests – not only about previous knowledge but also about likely progression rate
- Need to address both language and literacy, in synergy with each other but as separate issues
- Is it possible to alphabetize in the mother tongue?
- Need to use digital tools in the training!
- Relevant learning: learning at work
- Symbiosis between formal and informal learning
- Need to create balanced policy and practice

# What is the European Basic Skills Network, EBSN

- An independent policy network cooperating with the European Commission
- A meeting place operating with a multi-stakeholder approach, at policy maker and policy provider level
- Regional authorities are very welcome to apply for membership!



## **EBSN's SIGs**



- Special Interest Groups
- **EBSN SIG 6: Basic Skills for Integration**

Each EBSN SIG runs a closed discussion group in Epale.

### Objectives:

- General exchange of experience
- Collaborative work to create Open Online Courses for Professional Development of Staff.

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