

1) Does your organization recognize outstanding learners in any way? If yes, please specify how.

Unfortunately, the HFHSS doesn't have, and never has had, a prize that is awarded as part of the Hungarian adult learners' week. However, in 2008 the Hungarian Institute of culture, which is one of our adult learners' week organizational members, did start an award/recognition system. They asked learners and their families to write about how adult learning affects their family life. They received a lot of written applications for this, especially from children and young people, who explained the difficulties that they faced while their parents were studying. The winners (in this case the whole family; both parents and children) were announced as part of an important event during adult learners' week.

One of the winners started a blog about these personal stories and issues surrounding adult education, which you can find at the link below (it's in Hungarian!):

<http://felnottanulas.wordpress.com/rolam/>

The HFHSS always provides a forum for learners to share their stories. We invite them to our programs, as part of our professional events we try to arrange round table discussions in which they can participate. For example, during the European Civil Meeting which was held in Budapest in June this year we invited learners to share their experience of EU citizenship education and active youth. This gave real learners the opportunity to share their experiences with people from across Europe and gave some adult learning professionals to see what is really happening on the ground.



2) Is the recognition necessary and useful? Please explain.

We think that recognition of learning is very important! It allows learners to gain confidence and improve their self esteem, and can have a big impact on them and the people in their immediate and wider environments; both in the environments in which they learn and at home or at work. Unfortunately, the main stakeholders in adult education (such as the relevant ministries and Adult Education Institutions) are not putting any focus on recognition of learning at the moment.)

3) How has the learning experience/journey (of the outstanding learners) been shared and disseminated? What has worked especially well in this respect?

As mentioned above, there are no specific awards in terms of recognizing outstanding learners, although there have been many meetings that have centered around the learners and allowed them to share their stories. We publish such stories as often as we can in our literature and we even involve some learners in Grundvig mobility trips, which means that they can take their experiences to other parts of Europe. This can also motivate them to continue learning and may also encourage them to help people they know start learning as well. When holding events with visitors from other organizations we provide a forum for our learners to share what they have gained from their participation.

4. Do the people that are willing to share their learning experience need support or special training? If yes, what kind of support/training? How should it be done?

We try to be very sensitive in how we listen to learners before we involve them in any activities. We try to build up a very close and personalized contact and we always inform the audience about them in advance. We try to provide less formal ways for them to share their experiences and we try to gain a certain level of mutual trust.