

RECOMMENDATIONS OF HIGH LEVEL GROUP (HLG) OF EXPERTS ON LITERACY

1. The HLG Report does not advocate any 'quick fixes' but stresses the need to develop a 'comprehensive vision on literacy that spans the entire life course' (p.31).
2. The Report recommends the involvement of a wide-range of stakeholders. Not only should literacy be the concern of policy makers, educators and publishers but also of business, celebrities, NGOs, youth workers, volunteers, media, parents, health professionals and Ministries of Finance.
3. The Report advocates the importance of creating a literate environment, improving the quality of teaching and ensuring inclusion and participation of all :
 - **Creating a literate environment:** the Report stresses the importance of making a wide variety of reading materials more readily available in all environments
 - **Improving the quality of teaching:** the report recommends that all teachers should have in-depth knowledge of reading development and should be aware of how to handle reading difficulties both at secondary and primary level. Moreover, the report also recommends that teachers are offered continuous professional development which will ultimately lead them to further autonomy and decision making regarding teaching methods to be employed in the classroom.
 - It is also recommended that schools *allow adequate time for reading activities* and children should be further encouraged to *choose* their own reading materials and enjoy the reading activities.
 - **Inclusion and participation:** All children should be supported in developing reading skills - particularly children from poorer socio-economic backgrounds. It is also necessary to provide migrant students with the required language and literacy screening. It is also recommended that efforts are made across all age groups to reduce gender gaps and also to improve digital literacy.
 - The Report recommends that ***young children should be exposed to story telling and immersed in a literacy environment from early days***. Children in primary schools should be motivated to read while adolescents should appreciate the extensive value of reading for the different purposes. Moreover, adults must be supported to overcome their humiliation and fears of asking for support to carry out the required training.
 - The HLG Report also recommends ***monitoring of standards and attainment levels*** - this is another factor which should be given high priority for the purposes of improvement of literacy skills.

The full report can be downloaded at: http://ec.europa.eu/education/literacy/what-eu/high-level-group/ways-of-working/index_en.htm