

# The present and the future of Estonian adult education

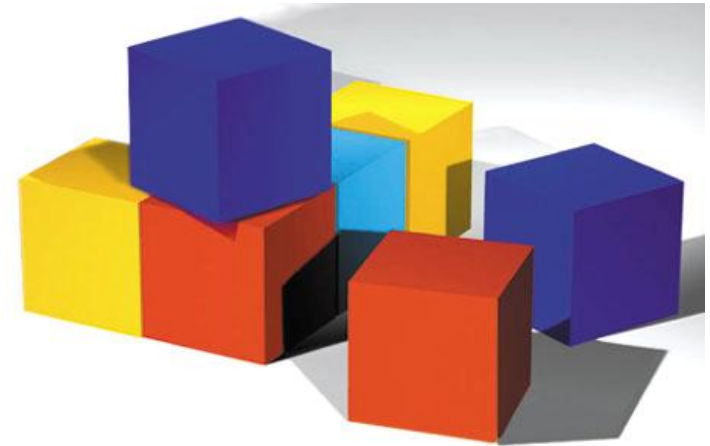
Birgit Lao

AEAE Andras

05.01.2006 Hotel Viru



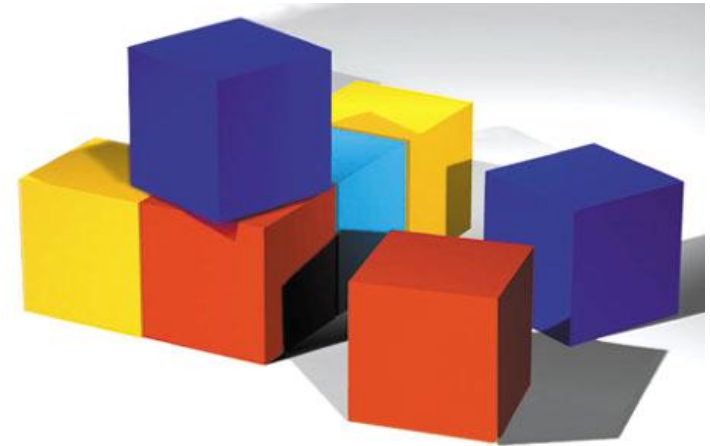
# History of Estonian adult education



3 key players:

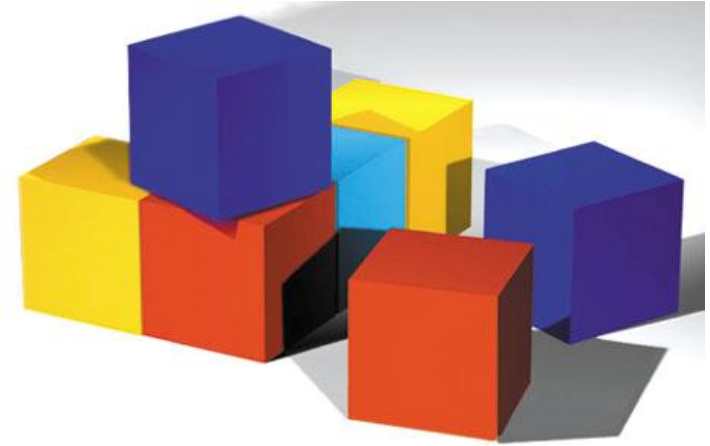
- University of Tallinn, Open University Centre for Continuing Education - 30 years
- University of Tallinn, Faculty of Educational Sciences, Chair of Andragogics - 20 years
- The Association of Estonian Adult Educators - 15 years.

# What is adult education?



Adult education is **comprehensive, organised education** of the adult population, which does not depend on the content, level or methods of learning and in the course of which adults develop their abilities/or improve their professional skills.

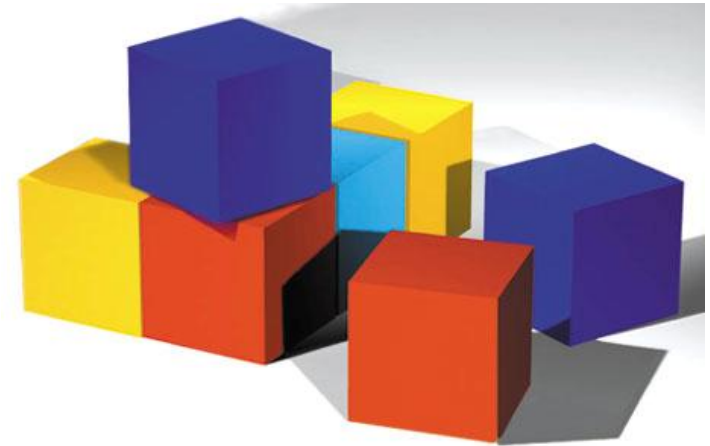
# Some statistics



in 2004

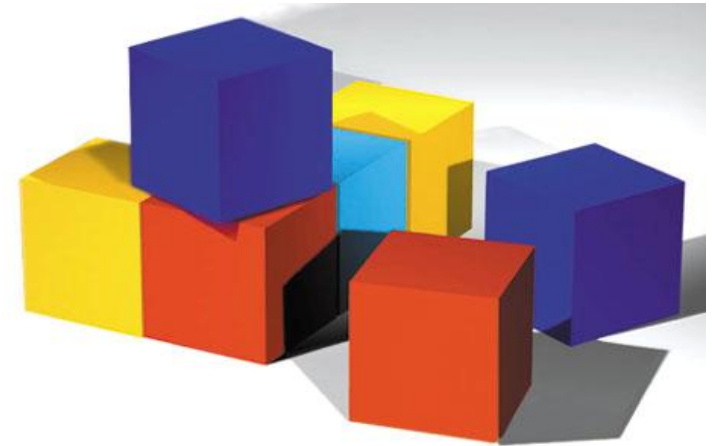
- **32 165** adults participated in formal education - 2,83 % of the adults (15 years <)
- 28% of adults (18-64 years) participated in adult training course
- **42 536** adults participated in popular education - 3,75 % of the adults (15 years <)
- There are approximately 6000 organisations whose main or side activity is adult training

# What is Andras?



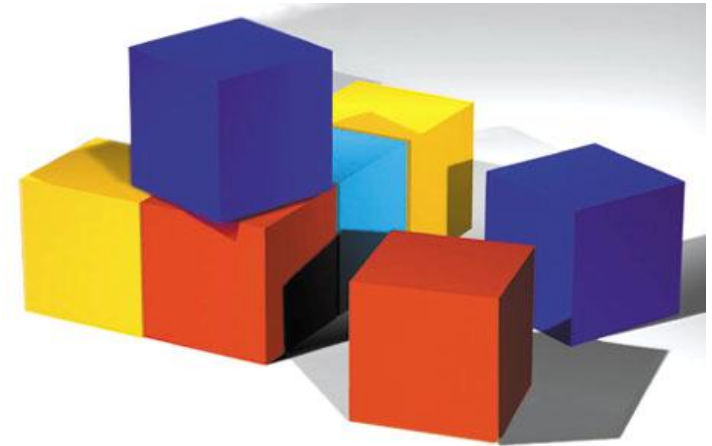
- was established as a non-governmental institution in 1991,
- unites the representatives of different branches of adult education in Estonia,
- represents Estonian adult education in Europe and the rest of the world,
- aims at increasing the competence of adult educators.

# Misson



To provide the prerequisites for **lifelong learning** in Estonia, to include the decision makers and all other stakeholders in designing the educational environment, and to motivate learners in the learning process.

# How do we work?



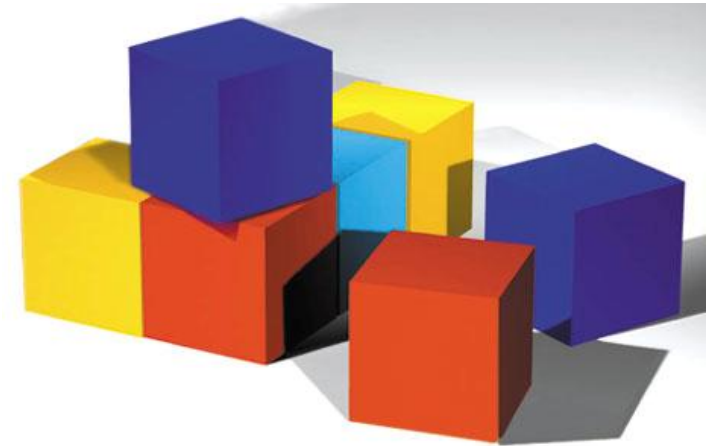
## *The Structure*

- General Assembly
- The Board of 5 members
- The Staff
  - Secretary General
  - Coordinator of the Adult Learners Week

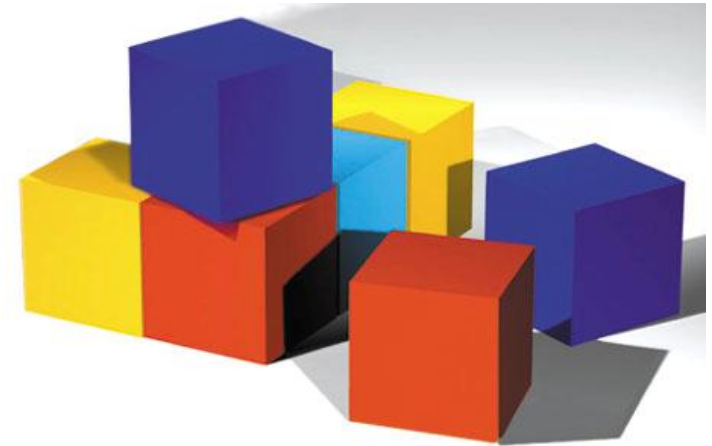
# How do we work?

## *Main activities include*

- participating in the development of the educational policy in Estonia,
- taking active part in propagating adult education and the concept of lifelong learning in Estonia, and also in designing the educational environment,
- organising events highlighting the value of education such as the Adult Learners Week and Adult Education Forum,
- participating in the execution of various international and European Social Fund projects,
- esteeming the profession of an andragogue and awarding professional qualifications,
- consulting member organisations and including them in the EU projects advancing the development of adult education.

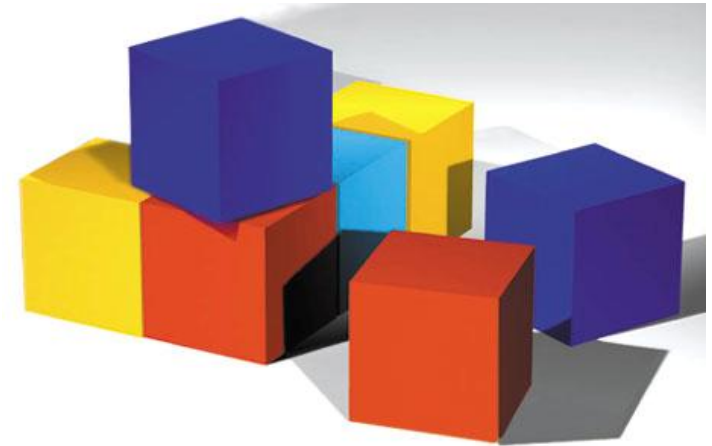


# Adult Learners Week



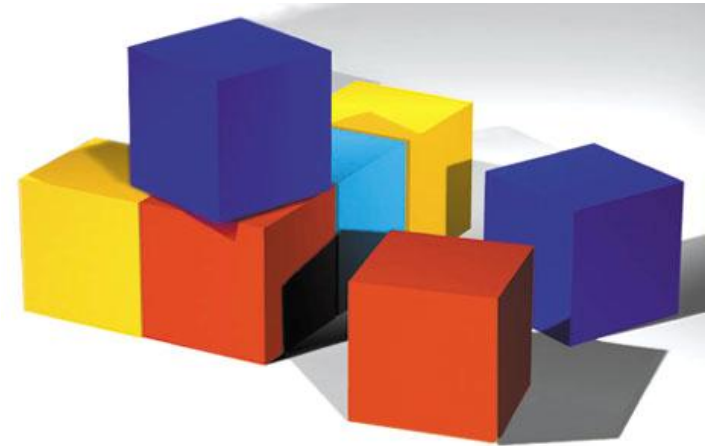
- Aim is to promote learning among adult population, to disseminate any information related to learning and studying, to acknowledge individuals and organisations who have shown remarkable example in learning, teaching and training.
- The week has been organised in co-operation with Ministry of Education and Science.
- The main events of ALW are: Opening Ceremony, acknowledging individuals and organisations for outstanding achievements in adult education, events on local level and Adult Education Forum.

# Adult Education Forum



- The forum is an event where adult education providers, local authorities, employers and social partners are expected to share their ideas and ideals on certain topics.
- The aim is to bring the concept of lifelong learning into people's consciousness through one day undertaking during which participants have the chance to share their ideas and views and get affirmation on their own activities.

# The professional qualification of adult educator/andragogue

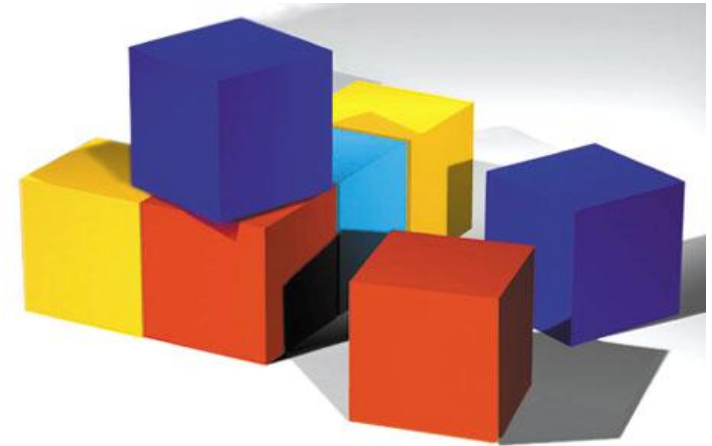


The professional standard of an adult educator is the set of requirements for the adult educator's professional qualification III, IV, and V.

## AREA OF APPLICATION

- 1) to determine the qualification requirements for the employees;
- 2) to develop curricula and training programmes;
- 3) to determine the requirements for the examination, verification and assessment of the professional qualifications;
- 4) to give a basis for comparison of the international professional qualifications' documents.

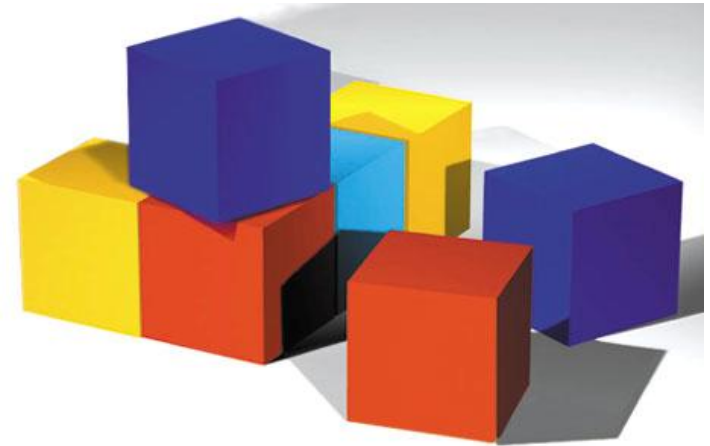
# Projects



- European Structural Fund projects,
- Grundtvig,
- Leonardo and
- Phare projects,

Main aim of the international projects is to have multicultural experience, exchange ideas and to know the colleagues abroad

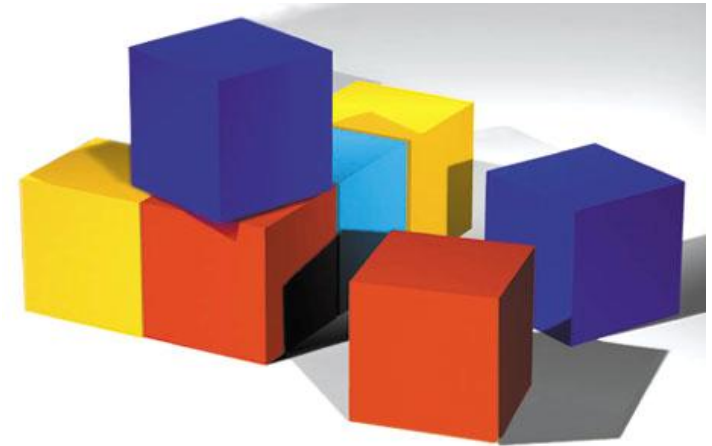
# Overview of the system



## *Adult education providers:*

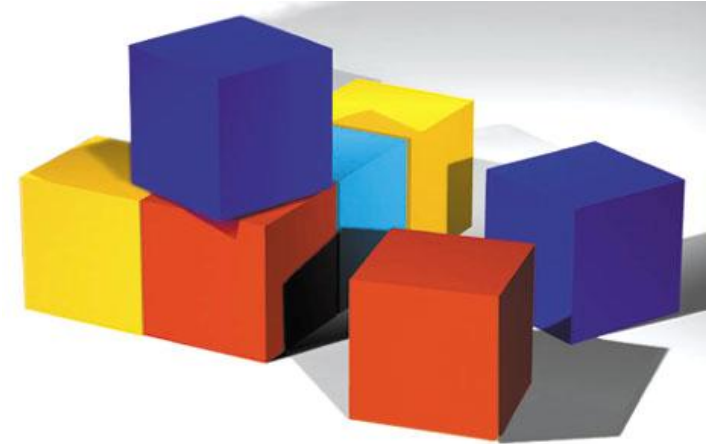
- **FORMAL** - adult gymnasiums, vocational education centers, open universities;
- **NON-FORMAL** - vocational education centers, open universities, private or non-profit training organizations, professional associations, folk universities;
- **INFORMAL** - ...everywhere!

# Coordination



- Ministry of Education and Science, department of vocational and adult education.
- Two umbrella organizations:  
AEAE Anrdas  
The Estonian Non-formal Adult Education Association
- The Adult Education Council - on the basis of Adult Education Act. Representatives of ministers, employers and employees' organisations, training providers and others.

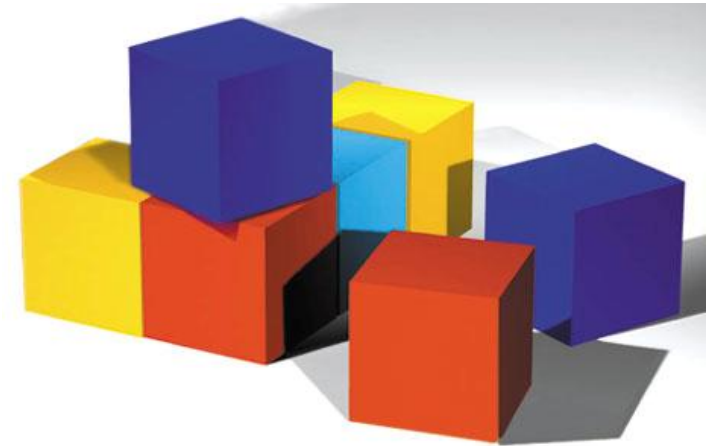
# Education opportunities 1



Participation in adult education has become popular as well as necessary in contemporary society since it allows a person to develop his or her abilities, acquire knowledge, raise the level of professional competency and participate actively in social process.

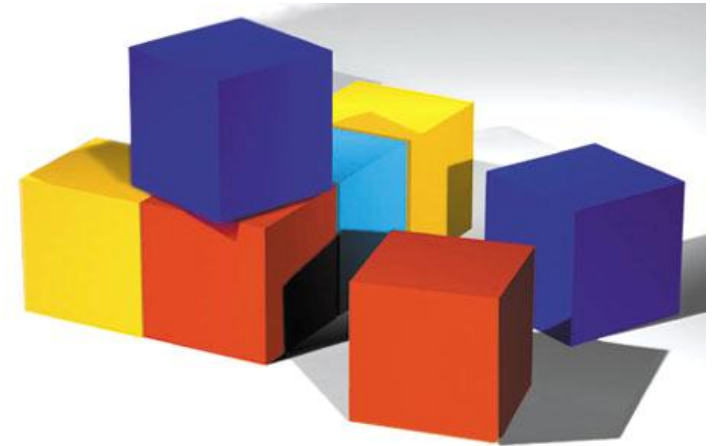
**Formal education** - basic education and general secondary education can be acquired in **adult upper secondary schools** and in **evening courses** or **distance learning departments** opened in general education schools. In total over 30 institutions.

# Education opportunities 2



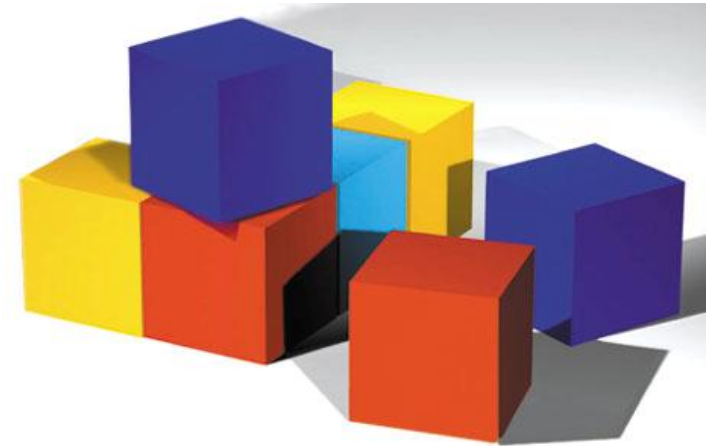
- To provide adults with the opportunity to acquire secondary vocational education outside the daytime study form, the state finances distance learning places in vocational educational institutions
- Applied higher educational institutions and universities provide flexible study forms for adult learners for acquiring higher education.

# Education opportunities 3



- **Professional education and training** is provided by many private schools, but also by applied higher educational institutions, universities and vocational educational institutions and also professional associations.

# Finances



- Acquisition of basic and general secondary education is tuition-free;
- Professional education and training: 3% salary fund for teachers, 2-4% for officials and supported training courses for unemployed and job seekers;
- 45 non-formal training centers get administrative support from the state budget;
- Possibility for income tax deduction.

# Structural Funds

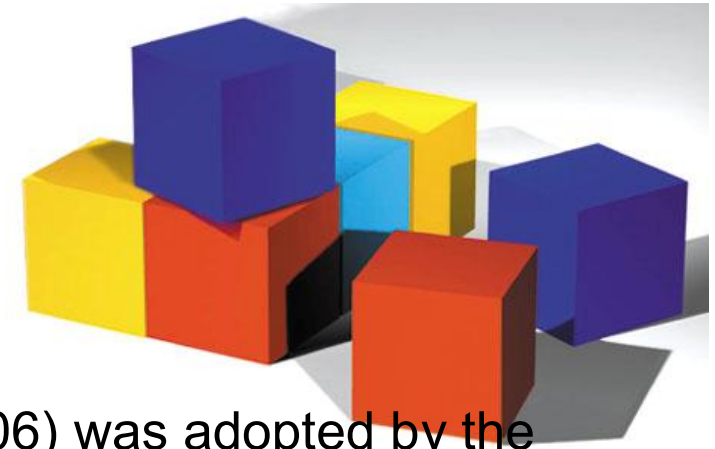


For applying the finances from ESF the Estonian National Development Plan was created where one measure is dedicated to lifelong learning - **measure 1.1: Educational System Supporting the Flexibility and Employability of the Labour Force and Providing Opportunities of Lifelong Learning for all.**

Activities under the measure 1.1:

- provisions of working adults and adults with low competitiveness with professional education and training,
- training of training providers,
- creation of an information system on education opportunities of adults,
- development and introduction of a system for taking previous study and work experience into account,
- provision of the counselling service,
- further development and application of the professional qualification system

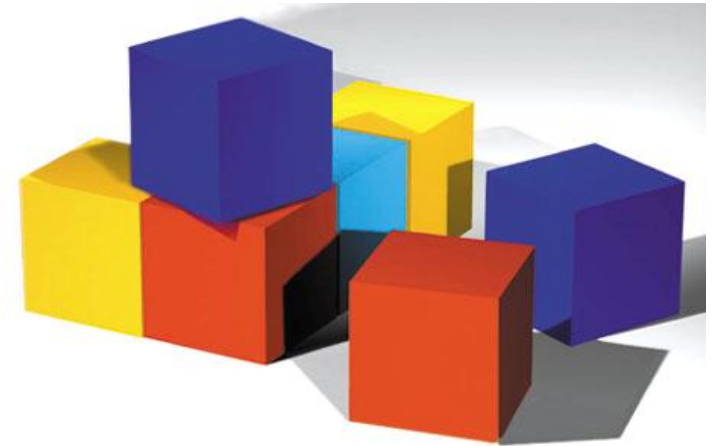
# National priorities



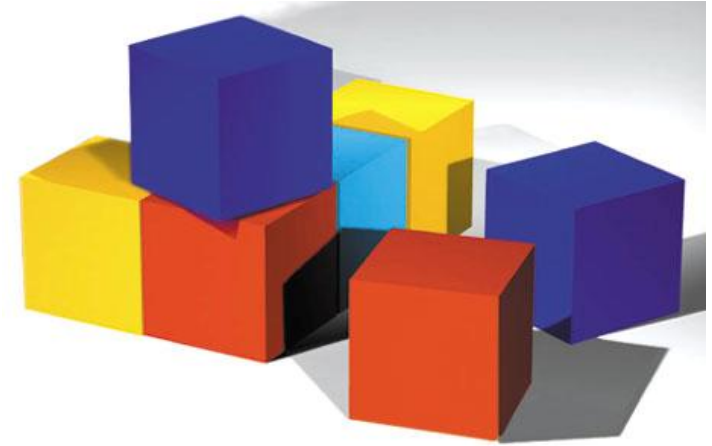
National priorities for adult education (2004-2006) was adopted by the Government.

- Creation of better opportunities for adults **accessing lifelong learning** and giving an **opportunity to return** to the education system for those who have given up their studies,
- Development of an **adult counseling system**, incl. enabling career counseling and development of an education opportunities information system aimed at adults,
- Development of a **system for taking previous study and work experience into account**,
- Development of the **adult education funding model**, incl. motivating companies through the tax system to invest in the training of their employees,
- Ensuring the **quality of adult education**, incl.. professional training

# About learners



- In 2001 13% of people participated in adult education - women studied for self-development, men for improving their professional qualification.
- People with higher income participate in training more than people with lower income.
- Very low motivation to study among people 50+, especially non-Estonian men.
- Main subjects - languages, IT...
- New research shows a boost in training participation - 50%!?



**Thank you!**