



# Support the Ways to Literacy

Winter 2004

[www.support-the-ways-to-literacy.org](http://www.support-the-ways-to-literacy.org)

All over Europe, there is widespread need to detect and react properly to basic skills deficiencies shown by clients during early stages of social, vocational or educational counselling.

Since practically all people who are affected by reading and writing problems hide their deficits due to a feeling of shame and embarrassment, advisers working in these fields need to

be trained to employ strategies and methods to carefully unveil these facts without offending the social and cultural integrity of their clients.

The project "Support the Ways to Literacy" develops "Guidelines for Counselling Disadvantaged Adults" that will sensitize and inform advisers working in several areas about different aspects and phenomena of illiteracy or borderline basic

skills and, above all, the sociological and cultural background of people affected by it. In this way their knowledge about and awareness of different aspects of "functional illiteracy" shall be increased.

The project also develops a Curriculum for Training Seminars for Social and Vocational Counsellors, working with disadvantaged persons.



Education and Culture



## Skills for Life, the UK Government's strategy for improving adult literacy

and numeracy skills, sets out how we plan to tackle this problem. Its priority is to improve the skills of those groups where literacy and numeracy needs are greatest and where we can make most impact, particularly:

- Unemployed people and benefit claimants;
- prisoners and those supervised in the community;
- public sector employees;
- low-skilled people in employment; and
- other groups at risk of exclusion.

The initial aim is that **750,000 adults will improve their literacy and numeracy by 2004**, but in the longer term the campaign wants to make sure that England has one of the best adult literacy and numeracy rates in the world. And ultimately it wants to eliminate the problem altogether. The initiative is spending 2.1 billion Euro over three years. **More information:** <http://www.dfes.gov.uk>

