



Economy and society

Adult learning (7)

Two-track audio
15:00 minutes

00:20 Students list options for further education. Nadine Amstad is doing further training to obtain the federal qualification for driving instructors. She is doing this for personal reasons. André Schläfli is the head of the Swiss Association for Adult Learning. He lists changes in the world of work and in job roles as incentives for further education, in addition to personal reasons.

In the past, craftsmen would take to the road and work in many different places. In this tradition, known in German as the «Walz», they would return with valuable new knowledge and experience.

03:53 Today companies invest a lot of money in training their employees. Human capital – employees' knowledge and skill – is essential for a company's competitiveness. And by investing in adult learning, an employer also ensures that his employees feel valued and supported.

In her training, Nadine Amstad is perfecting her driving skills while acquiring didactic expertise.

06:11 Where and how do you find the right form of further education? Given the vast amount of courses on offer, it is important to evaluate one's personal situation and goals carefully. Comparing the courses on offer against one's personal needs will help you make an informed choice. Nadine Amstad found out about vocational schools for driving instructors from a friend and from the Internet.

07:55 As early as 387 BC, the philosopher Plato founded an academy for philosophy and astronomy. Today the Swiss government is offering many different forms of education: universities, colleges of higher education, as well as professional education and training. Moreover, thousands of courses are run by private schools. A certificate of quality can help avoid courses that don't live up to what they pledge.

10:29 What is required of someone wishing to take further education? Nadine Amstad invests an enormous amount of time and money. Especially for women with a family, further education brings additional stress. Women tend to choose different courses than men, and, more often than men, they pay for their further education.

13:16 Students talk about what further education they dream of. Nadine Amstad is handed her diploma after passing her final exam successfully. At last, all the pressure is off and she is looking forward to starting work as a driving instructor.