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### **Basic skills: A necessary foundation in the adult life**

Having good basic skills in reading, writing, numeracy and digital skills gives every adult a good pathway to a job and job development, to lifelong learning, and to taking part in society. Yet the documentation from Europe and Denmark shows that many adults lack adequate reading and writing skills. In Europe it is estimated that 70 million Europeans lack adequate reading and writing skills. In Denmark we know from the Danish part of the OECD-survey 'PIAAC' from 2013, that 16% of the adults between the age of 16 and 65 lack basic skills within reading and numeracy.

In Denmark, the state and social partners work together on different programs strengthening the basic skills of adult people. The state offers screening and adult education for free. In addition, there are employers' associations and unions that have competence funds to support basic skills. In this oral presentation I will present and discuss:

a) programs and methods offered to the adults who lack basic skills;

b) experiences from companies who have taken action on screening and education within basic skills for their employees, who may be unskilled and skilled;

c) guidance and advice to companies, and to their employees.