

Metadata in Euro-SDMX format (ESMS)

Country: Greece

Compiling agency: ELSTAT

Domain name: ADULT EDUCATION SURVEY

ELSTAT metadata

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2. Metadata update

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2.1 Metadata last certified	March 2014
2.2 Metadata last posted	March 2014
2.3 Metadata last update	March 2014

3. Statistical presentation

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3.1 Data description

The Adult Education Survey (AES) is part of the EU Statistics on lifelong learning.

There has been two waves of data collection so far.

The first wave (pilot) of the survey - also named 2006 AES - has been carried out in 2007.

The second wave, which is the most recent data collection also named 2011 AES, has been conducted in 2012.

The survey was addressed to persons 18 – 64 years old and had as target to collect information on the participation of adults in educational programs, on the characteristics of the programs that the respondents attended during the last 12 months, on the factors that influenced their participation in educational activities, on the use of computer and internet, on foreign languages knowledge as well as basic demographic and socioeconomic characteristics like employment status, nationality and country of birth, educational level and profession of parents, gender, age and family status.

Parameters and main variables

The AES focused on the following parameters:

Participation in formal, non-formal and informal education (FED, NFE, INF)

Non-participation and obstacles to participation in training

Participation in FED, NFE and INF activities by field of education/learning

Share of the job related NFE

Volume of instruction hours in FED and NFE

Employer financing and costs of learning in FED and NFE

Module on language and ICT skills of the population

Module on social and cultural participation of the population

3.2 Classification system

Economic activity, was classified according to STAKOD 08 (ΣΤΑΚΟΔ 08) is used, which is identical (at 3 - digit level) to NACE Rev2.

Occupation, was classified according to ISCO-08.

Nationality and **Country of birth** are classified according to a specific classification used for the Adult Education Survey.

Level of education is classified according to International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 97).

Field of education is classified according to ISCED 97.

Geographical areas are classified according to NUTS classification.

3.3 Sector coverage

AES is a household survey

3.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Learning Activity: Any organized activity that has as target to improve the knowledge and skills of a person.

Adult Education: The whole spectrum of learning activities, of any content, level, and method, either officially recognized or not, either continuing or supplementing initial education, that are used by persons,

who are considered as adults by society, in order to develop their competences, to enrich their knowledge, to improve their technical or professional skill, or to change their prospects.

Formal Educational System: Is the institutionalized and hierarchically structured educational system that comprises of all educational activities that belong to the National Framework of Qualifications

The formal educational system includes educational institutes that constitute a continuous "ladder" organized in levels (primary - secondary - tertiary) where the completion of one level is a prerequisite for the entrance in the higher level.

Non Formal Education: Any organized educational activity that do not belong in formal educational system. It can be a single education activity or part of a wider activity that is addressed to specific persons with specific educational objectives

It may include a wide range of educational programs, as adult education, seminars, conferences, private lessons, driving lessons, dance, music lessons, etc.

Informal Learning: Informal learning refers to learning activities that are intentional but less structured and less organized. It includes cases when someone is learning alone, or with the help of another persons (a friend or relative, or colleague, etc) who acts as a tutor. The learning process is organized by the person who is learning, without the involvement of a teacher or an educational institute.

On the job training: Education in the workplace during which a person who knows a process teaches it to a colleague during the actual application of it or through a "real" example.

Activity status: The activity status comprises employed, unemployed and inactive.

3.5 Statistical unit

Individuals and learning activities

3.6 Statistical population

Population 18 – 64 years old, residing in private households, and staying (or intend to stay) at least 1 year in Greece. Individuals who permanently reside in collective houses (i.e. hospitals, hotels, asylums, homes for the elderly, orphanages, etc) are not covered by the survey.

3.7 Reference area

All NUTS 3 areas of Greece, with the exception of Mount Athos area

3.8 Time coverage

Adult Education Survey took place in the last Quarter of 2012

3.9 Base period

There is no base period in Adult Education Survey

4. Unit of measure

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Number of persons, %, mean, years (age), hours (of education), Euros

5. Reference period

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The Adult Education Survey's reference period for main variables (participation in educational, activities) is the 12 months before the date of the interview

6. Institutional mandate

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6.1 Legal acts and other agreements

Hellenic Statistical Authority is an independent authority responsible for the production and dissemination of

official statistics.

The legal framework concerning the organization and operation of ELSTAT is as follows:

- Law 3832/2010 (Government Gazette No 38, Issue A): “*Hellenic Statistical System Establishment of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) as an Independent Authority*”, as amended by article 90 paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Law 3842/2010 (Government Gazette No 58, Issue A): “*Restoration of fiscal justice, confrontation of tax evasion and other provisions*”, by article 10 of the Law 3899/2010 (Government Gazette No 212, Issue A): “*Urgent measures for the implementation of the assistance program of the Greek Economy*”, by article 45 of the Law 3943/2011 (Government Gazette No 66, Issue A): “*Combating tax evasion, staffing of auditing services and other provisions falling within the competence of the Ministry of Finance*”, by article 22 paragraph 1 of the Law 3965/2011 (Government Gazette No 113, Issue A): “*Operations Reform of the Consignment and Loan Fund, Public Debt Management Agency, Public Enterprises and Government bodies, the establishment of the General Secretary of Public Property and other provisions*” and by article 51 of the Law 4021/2011 (Government Gazette No 218, Issue A): “*Enhanced measures for the supervision and restructuring of Credit Institutions – Regulation of issues of financial nature – Ratification of the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF) Framework-Agreement and its amendments and other provisions.*”
- Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council, on the European statistics (Official Journal of the European Union L 87/164).
- Article 14 of the Law 3470/2006 (Government Gazette No 132, Issue A): “*National Export Council, tax regulations and other provisions*”.
- Article 3, paragraph 1c, of the Law 3448/2006 (Government Gazette No 57, Issue A): “*For the further use of information coming from the public sector and the settlement of matters falling within the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization*”.
- European Statistics Code of Practice, adopted by the Statistical Programme Committee on 24 February 2005 and promulgated in the Commission Recommendation of 25 May 2005 on the independence, integrity and accountability of the national and Community statistical Authorities, after its revision, which was adopted on 28 September 2011 by the European Statistical System Committee.
- Presidential Decree 226/2000 (Government Gazette No 195, Issue A): “*Organization of the General Secretariat of the Hellenic Statistical Authority*”.
- Articles 4, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 of the Law 2392/1996 (Government Gazette No 60, Issue A): “*Access of the General Secretariat of the Hellenic Statistical Authority to administrative sources and administrative files, Statistical Confidentiality Committee, settlement of matters concerning the conduct of censuses and statistical works, as well as of matters of the General Secretariat of the Hellenic Statistical Authority*”.

Adult Education Survey is harmonized with European legislation. The principal legal acts are

Regulation (EC) No 452/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2008 concerning the production and development of statistics on education and lifelong learning

and

Commission Regulation (EU) No 823/2010 of 17 September 2010 implementing Regulation No 452/2008

6.2 Data sharing

NA

7. Confidentiality

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7.1 Confidentiality policy

The issues concerning the observance of statistical confidentiality by the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) are arranged by articles 6, 7 and 8 of the Law 3832/2010, as amended by article 90 paragraph 8 of Law 3842/2010 and by article 10 of Law 3899/2010, as well as by article 8 of Law 2392/1996, which was brought back into force, in accordance with article 90 paragraph 8 of Law 3842/2010.

Furthermore, ELSTAT disseminates the statistics in compliance with the statistical principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice and in particular with the principle of statistical confidentiality.

7.2 Confidentiality – data treatment

7.2 Confidentiality – data treatment

- ELSTAT protects and does not disseminate data it has obtained or it has access to, which enable the direct or indirect identification of the statistical units that have provided them by the disclosure of individual information directly received for statistical purposes or indirectly supplied from administrative or other sources. ELSTAT takes all appropriate preventive measures so as to render impossible the identification of individual statistical units by technical or other means that might reasonably be used by a third party. Statistical data that could potentially enable the identification of the statistical unit are disseminated by ELSTAT if and only if:
 - a) these data have been treated, as it is specifically set out in the Regulation on Statistical Obligations of the agencies of the Hellenic Statistical System (ELSS), in such a way that their dissemination does not prejudice statistical confidentiality or
 - b) the statistical unit has given its consent, without any reservations, for the disclosure of data.
- The confidential data that are transmitted by ELSS agencies to ELSTAT are used exclusively for statistical purposes and the only persons who have the right to have access to these data are the personnel engaged in this task and appointed by an act of the President of ELSTAT.
- Issues referring to the observance of statistical confidentiality are examined by the Statistical Confidentiality Committee (SCC) operating in ELSTAT. The responsibilities of this Committee are to recommend on:
 - the level of detail at which statistical data can be disseminated, so as the identification, either directly or indirectly, of the surveyed statistical unit is not possible;
 - the anonymization criteria for the microdata provided to users;
 - the granting to researchers access to confidential data for scientific purposes.

When data are disseminated in a form that would potentially allow direct or indirect identification of a person, (e.g micro data set), a certain set of rules is applied in order to prevent unauthorized disclosure:

- information on NUTS 2 area is suppressed
- Nationality and country of birth are aggregated in 3 groups: Nationals / Non-nationals but nationals of an EU country / Non-nationals and non-nationals of an EU country
- Widowed, divorced or separated are combined in a single category on variable “marital status”
- Information on income is suppressed
- Information on type of participation in social activities is suppressed

In specific cases, and after the approval of the confidentiality committee of ELSTAT, one or two of these rules can be relaxed.

8. Release policy

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8.1 Release calendar

There is no specific release calendar

8.2 Release calendar access

Not applicable

8.3 User access

The data are released simultaneously to all interested parties through a Press Release. At the same time,

the press release is distributed electronically to the subscribers. The press release is subsequently posted on the website of ELSTAT (<http://www.statistics.gr>).

There is no internal government access to the data before their release to the public.

9. Frequency of dissemination

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The AES runs every 5 years

10. Dissemination format

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10.1 News release

Adult Education Survey results

10.2 Publications

None

10.3 On-line database

None

10.4 Micro-data access

Micro-data are available for a fee to users upon request to the Hellenic Statistical Authority, Statistical Information and Publications Division, 46, Pireos & Eponiton str, P.O. BOX 80847, 18510 Pireas (tel. (30) 210-4852 311, Fax: (30) 210-4852 022, e-mail: data.dissem@statistics.gr).

10.5 Other

- a) A number of tabulated data are available to users on the website (<http://www.statistics.gr>).
- b) Cross-tabulated data, are available to users upon request to the Hellenic Statistical Authority, Statistical Information and Publications Division, 46, Pireos & Eponiton str, P.O. BOX 80847, 18510 Piraeus (tel. (30) 210-4852 311, Fax: (30) 210-4852 022, e-mail: data.dissem@statistics.gr).

11. Accessibility of documentation

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11.1 Documentation on methodology

Available information on methodology includes:

Questionnaires

Quality report

Metadata in SDMX format

11.2 Quality documentation

Quality Reports of Adult Education Survey are available in www.statistics.gr

12. Quality management

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12.1 Quality assurance

Adult Education Survey complies with Eurostat standards concerning the selection and the size of the sample, the design of questionnaires, and the information collected.

Collected questionnaires are checked for completeness and quality of information. The final data base is checked for data validity by ELSTAT and Eurostat.

12.2 Quality assessment

Adult Education Survey is considered a reliable source of information with a methodology that meets high standards. Nevertheless, Adult Education Survey is a sample survey and as a result, the results are accompanied by sampling errors.

Basic quality indicators on Adult Education Survey, (sampling errors, response rates) are computed and included in a standard quality report submitted to Eurostat.

13. Relevance

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13.1 User needs

AES has as target to cover the need for comparable statistics on education, training and lifelong learning.

13.2 User satisfaction

ELSTAT does not carry out a user satisfaction survey specifically for the users of the Adult Education Survey.

13.3 Completeness

Adult Education Survey in Greece collects information on almost all variables that are included in the relevant Council Regulations – only a limited number of optional variables was omitted (see quality report)

14. Accuracy and reliability

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14.1 Overall accuracy

The size of the Adult Education Survey sample allows for the production of estimates with satisfactory accuracy at country level

14.2 Sampling error

The following tables include sampling errors for a number of indicators produced by AES

<i>Indicator or subindicator</i>	<i>Number of respondents</i>	<i>Estimated proportion</i>	<i>Standard error (with respect of sampling plan)</i>	<i>95% confidence interval</i>
Share of the job related activities in non-formal education	398	71,2	2,4	66,5- 75,9
Share of non-formal activities which took place during paid working hours	398	45,0	2,3	40,5 - 49,5
Share of non-formal activities which took place during paid working hours or were paid at least partially by the employer	398	53,4	3,4	46,7 - 60,1
Participation in informal learning	467	10,5	0,7	9,2 - 11,9

<i>Indicator or subindicator</i>	<i>Estimated value</i>	<i>Coefficient of variation</i>
Average amount paid by participant for all the expenses related to the most recent formal education activity	838,7	8,9

Average amount paid by a respondent for all the expenses related to the randomly selected **non-formal** education activities

295,3

10,4

14.3 Non-sampling error

Frame errors: The sampling frame is based on the 2001 census results. The primary sampling units consist of a number of building blocks.. The design and selection of the primary sampling units is based on the number of private households residing permanently in these areas at the 2001 census. The secondary sampling units (that is households and dwellings) are selected after the selection of the primary sampling unit and after the compilation of a complete list of the private household dwellings in the PSU. The list is updated every 6 quarters (when a new systematic sample of dwellings is selected in the primary sampling unit).

The sampling frame is based on the 2001 census results.

The main issues pertaining to the frame quality are:

- a) The more the time interval elapsed since the census, the less accurately the probabilities of selection reflect the "real size" of the selected primary sampling units.
- b) Sample size can be different, and even significantly different from the expected size, due to considerable changes in the "size" (that is, the number of household dwellings) of a PSU.
- c) It is difficult to control the way listings are updated. Over-coverage and under-coverage can be both present.
- d) the sampling frame includes only private households residing in "normal" dwellings. Population living in collective households (conscriptits, persons living in hospitals, hotels, asylums, homes for the elderly, orphanages, etc) is not covered by the sampling frame.

Undercoverage (the percentage of persons that are not covered by the sampling frame) is estimated at about 1%. These are mainly persons residing in collective households and persons residing in houses outside builded areas.

Overcoverage (the percentage of dwellings that are not used by households or the households were not eligible for being surveyed and were included in the sampling frame of Adult Education Survey) is estimated at about 30%.

Non response errors: Non response errors are due to non-contacts (failure to come into contact with the household) or to the refusal of the household to provide information.

Non response rates for 2011 AES were

Non response rate (%)	35,9
Of which : Non-contacts (%)	15,6
Refusals (%)	17,9
Inability to respond (%)	
Rejected interviews (%)	2,5
Other reasons(%)	

Response errors: There are many factors that can lead to wrong (or false) answers provided by the respondents.

1. The main problems when reporting learning activities were related with the distinction between:
 - a) ISCED 5 and ISCED 4 programs of formal education
 - b) seminars and courses
 - c) guided on the job training and seminars
 and
 - d) guided on the job training and activities that are no learning activities
2. The measurement of participation in informal learning is extremely sensitive in the formulation of relevant questions and the way they are understood by the respondent (and probably the interviewer).
3. Questions on the use and the outcome of the learning activities provided in many cases contradicting results

15. Timeliness and punctuality

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15.1 Timeliness

	<i>Start date</i>	<i>End date</i>
<i>Preparation of survey</i>	15/2/2011	15/5/2012
<i>Fieldwork</i>	1/6/2012	15/9/2012
<i>Processing (quality control, editing, imputation, etc.)</i>	15/8/2012	4/1/2013
<i>Transmission of data to Eurostat</i>	12/1/2013	12/1/2013
<i>Dissemination of national results</i>	1/5/2013	1/6/2013

15.2 Punctuality

16. Comparability

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16.1 Comparability - geographical

The definitions of the variables used in the Greek Adult Education Survey are fully in line with Eurostat Regulations

16.2 Comparability over time

Results from the 2 round of Adult Education Survey are in principle comparable since there are no important changes in the survey methodology

17. Coherence

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17.1 Coherence cross-domain

Results from the Adult Education Survey are not directly comparable with variables on lifelong learning coming from the Labour Force Survey data (quarterly data where the lifelong learning variable has a reference period of 4 weeks.)

17.2 Coherence internal

The AES estimates have full internal coherence, as they are all based on the same set of microdata and they are calculated using the same estimation methods

18. Cost and burden

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Total cost for data collection 58.720 euros

19. Data revision

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19.1 Revision policy

Survey estimates are not revised.

19.2 Revision practice

NA

20. Statistical processing

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20.1 Source data

Adult Education Survey is a sample survey covering the population living in private households. The AES used a subset of LFS sample and consequently the selection of households to be surveyed follows a two stage stratified sampling scheme.

Total country is stratified in 182 strata. These strata are formed by allocating municipalities and communes of every NUTS 3 in three different groups (Agglomerations and Municipalities with 10.000 inhabitants or more, Municipalities and Communes with 2.000 to 9.999 inhabitants, and Communes up to 1.999 inhabitants). The exceptions are Athens and Thessaloniki agglomerations, which are divided into 31 and 9 strata, respectively.

At the first sampling stage, 2640 clusters (groups of dwellings) are selected with probability proportional to their "size" (that is, proportional to the number of households residing in these areas at 2001 census).

At the second sampling stage a systematic sample of dwellings is selected in every primary sampling unit. All households residing in selected dwellings are asked to participate in the survey. All the individuals who are members of the selected households are interviewed.

20.2 Frequency of data collection

Data are collected every 5 years.

20.3 Data collection

The selected households were interviewed by personal, face-to-face, interviews. A paper questionnaire is used.

20.4 Data validation

Data are validated through a series of checks that detect inconsistencies (for example, between dates reported by interviewed persons, between educational attainment and profession, etc) and also problems in the flow or the data values. When detected, these problems are resolved by re-contacting households, if possible.

20.5 Data compilation

The Adult Education Survey results are produced by weighting sample data. Data weights are computed in a 2 – step procedure. In the first step, a design weight is assigned to each person in the data file. This weight is determined by the estimated probability of selection of the particular household where the person lives .

At the second step, data were post stratified: Totals are computed for 208 post – stratification cells, which are defined by 13 NUTS 2 areas x 8 age groups x sex. These totals are estimated by weighting sample data (individuals) by design weights and non response correction factor. Finally, post stratification correction factors are computed for each individual so that estimations from Adult Education Survey are consistent with estimated population totals for post - stratification cells. These estimations are based on the 2001 census results, and births, deaths and known migration for the following years

20.6 Adjustment

The AES quarterly results are not adjusted

21. Comment

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