Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS v2.0)
(user oriented)

Country: Greece

Compiling agency: ELSTAT

Domain name: ADULT EDUCATION SURVEY 2022

ELSTAT metadata

Reference metadata

1.   Contact   Top

1.1 Contact organisation	HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY
1.2 Contact organisation unit	LABOUR STATISTICS SECTION
1.3 Contact name	DIMITRIOS VATIKIOTIS
1.4 Contact person function	HEAD OF LABOUR STATISTICS SECTION
1.5 Contact mail address	PEIRAIOS 46 & EPOINTON str, GR 185 10, PIRAEUS, GREECE
1.6 Contact email address	d.vatikiotis@statistics.gr
1.7 Contact phone number	(+30) 2104852173
1.8 Contact fax number	Not applicable.

1

2. Metadata update	
2.1 Metadata last certified	December 2023
2.2 Metadata last posted	December 2023
2.3 Metadata last update	December 2023

3. Statistical presentation	

3.1 Data description

- The Adult Education Survey (AES) covers adults' participation in education and training (formal - FED, non-formal - NFE and informal learning - INF). The 2022 AES focuses on people aged 18-69. The reference period for the participation in education and training is the twelve months prior to the interview.

- Information available from the AES is grouped around the following topics:

  - Participation in formal education, non-formal education and training and informal learning
  - Volume of instruction hours
  - Characteristics of the learning activities
  - Reasons for participating
  - Obstacles to participation
  - Access to information on learning possibilities and guidance
  - Employer financing and costs of learning
  - Self-reported language skills

For further information see the 2022 AES legislation (http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/education-and-training/legislation) and the 2022 AES implementation manual (http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/education-and-training/methodology).

3.2 Classification system

Economic activity, was classified according to 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 11).

Field of education is classified according to ISCED 2011.

Geographical areas are classified according to NUTS classification.

3.3 Sector coverage

AES covers all economic sectors

3.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Learning activity: any **organised** activity that is **targeted** 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 recognised 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: the institutionalised and hierarchically structured educational system that comprises all educational activities that belong to the National Framework of Qualifications.

The formal educational system includes educational institutes that constitute a continuous "ladder" organised 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 organised educational activity that does not belong to the formal educational system. It can be a single education activity or part of a wider set of activities that is addressed to specific

persons with specific educational objectives.

It may include a wide range of educational programmes, 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 organised. It includes cases when someone is learning alone, or with the help of another person (a friend or relative, or colleague, etc.) who acts as a tutor. The learning process is organised by the person who is learning, without the involvement of a teacher or an educational institute.

3.5 Statistical unit
Individuals and learning activities

3.6 Statistical population
Population 18 – 69 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: 2007, 2011, 2016, and 2022

3.9 Base period
Not applicable

4. Unit of measure

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

5. Reference period

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

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:

At European level:
Basic legal act: Regulation (EU) 2019/1700
Implementing act: Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/861

At national level:

An "Approval, announcement, assignment, and distribution of the costs of conducting the statistical survey regarding the participation of the country's population in educational activities (Adult Education Survey), reference year 2022, approval of the use of statistical instruments and determination of their remuneration" was published in Governament's Official Jurnal.

6.2 Data sharing

NA

7. Confidentiality Top

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

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

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 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:

a) 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;

b) the anonymization criteria for the microdata provided to users;

c) the granting to researchers access to confidential data for scientific purposes.

For more information, refer to the website of the Hellenic Statistical Authority:

1. Provision of anonymized microdata of statistical surveys
2. Access to confidential data for scientific purposes

8. Release policy

8.1 Release calendar

At the end of December of each year ELSTAT publishes a release calendar announcing the precise release dates for the next year. The calendar is distributed to the press and is available free of charge to all interested parties.

8.2 Release calendar access

The calendar is disseminated on ELSTAT's website (http://www.statistics.gr) at the link: "Press Releases Calendar".

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

The AES runs every 6 years and the results are published with the same frequency.

10. Accessibility and clarity

10.1 News release

A press release with 2022 AES results for Greece is scheduled for 26/10/2023.

10.2 Publications

NA

10.3 On-line database
No exist

10.4 Micro-data access
Micro-data are available to users for free upon request to the Hellenic Statistical Authority, Statistical Information and Publications Division. Path: Products and Services>Statistical data request
http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistical-data-request
Confidentiality of the data is assured by the implementation of anonymization criteria.

10.5 Other
A number of tables with data on participation in education is uploaded at https://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-/publication/SJO18/- , together with the survey questionnaire. Custom tabulations are available through ELSTAT's portal at http://www.statistics.gr/el/provision-of-statistical-data **10.5.1 Metadata – consultations** Not applicable

10.6 Documentation on methodology
Available information on methodology includes - Questionnaires - Interviewers instructions - Metadata (Quality report) **10.6.1 Metadata completeness – rate** Not applicable

10.7 Quality documentation
Quality report

11. Quality management	

11.1 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.
Interviewers are trained before the begining of the fieldwork and collected questionnaires are checked for completeness and quality of information.In case of important problems in the completed interviews respondents were recontacted by ELSTAT personel.
The final data base is checked for data validity by ELSTAT and Eurostat.
Data were collected exclusively by electronic means (CAPI), thus helping to significantly accelerate the production of research results.

11.2 Quality assessment
Basic quality indicators (sampling errors, response rates) are computed and included as an annex in the quality report submitted to Eurostat
Response rates are at an acceptable level (Table 13.3.3.1).
The indicator "Participation rate in non-formal education and training (age 25-69)" fulfils the criterion provided by AES regulation while indicator "Participation rate in formal education and training (age 18-24)" misses the regulation criterion. (Table 13.2.1)

12. Relevance

12.1 User needs

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

Main users of AES data are international organizations (Eurostat, European Commission, OECD, Unesco) as well as many national authorities and establishments (Ministries, Universities, Research Institutes, etc,), press, and general public.

12.2 User satisfaction

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

12.3 Data completeness

Adult Education Survey in Greece collects information on all variables that are included in the relevant regulations .

13. Accuracy and reliability

13.1 Overall accuracy

As in any sample survey, the main sources of error is the fact that we infer population values from a random subsample of the population and the bias introduced by non-response or the inadequate design of the sample.

The non-response is rather high and there are indications that is not random (it is biger for persons of higher education).

Standard errors, coefficient of variation and 95% condidence intervals for selected indicators are presented in the following table.

Indicator	Estimated value of the indicator (weighted)	Coefficient of variation	Standard error	95% confidence interval
Participation rate in formal education and training, age 18-24 - %	49.7	0.040	0.020	[0.457-0.536]
Participation rate in non-formal education and training, age 25-69 - %	13.4	0.039	0.005	[0.124-0.145]
Participation rate in informal learning, age 18-69 - %	27.0	0.039	0.011	[0.249-0.291]
Share of job-related activities among non-formal learning activities, age 25-69 - %	84.2	0.053	0.045	[0.75-0.93]

13.2 Sampling error

2022 Adult Education Survey's sample is a random sample of persons, selected among the members of the households that there were surveyed for the Labour Force Survey during the period 2nd Quarter 2021 – 4th Quarter 2022.

The household's members were grouped by NUTS 3 area, sex and age group ("young" and "old") and a systematic sample of persons was selected from each group.

SPSS Complex Samples was used for the computation of standard errors, confidence intervals and coefficients of variation

For the computation, strata were the NUTS3 areas and clusters the four groups defined by sex and age-group in each NUTS3 area

13.3 Non-sampling error

The main issues concerning non-sampling errors in 2022 AES are:

1. **The shortcomings of the sampling frame:**

The original frame for the AES sample was the households selected and surveyed for the LFS survey. As a result, there are two sources of error:

a) the coverage issues with the "original" LFS sampling frame and

(b) the problem with the selected for the LFS households that did nor respond in LFS and, consequently, there were not included in the AES sampling frame

Concerning the problems related to the original LFS sampling frame, the main shortcomings are:

A) The number of dwellings where a private household is residing in an area at the time of the interview is not equal with the number of households residing during census. This may result in households with zero probability of selection. It affects also the probability of selection of primary sampling units which is proportional to the numbers of households residing in a particular group of blocks at the census (and not at the time of the survey).

B) Dwellings that are not used for household residence are included in the frame, resulting in overcoverage.

C) Does not include information on household characteristics (number of household members, age of household members) other than the household address.

Concerning the second stage of sampling, there were no out of scope persons (since the selection took in to account the age of the respondent at the time of the interview) and the over-coverage resulted from persons/households that did not live in the dwelling at the time of the interview.

2. **Non-response in AES**

Variables with highest non-response were variables associated with the characteristics of 3rd, 4th, and 5th non-formal activities and variables related with the cost of non-formal activities. It is probable that the high non-response if these variables is related to proxy interviews (it is higher for proxies) and also to the burdain from the repeated question on the characteristics of the non-formal activities.

There was no treatment of item non-response, with the exeption of variable HHINCOME where missing values were imputed with the use of a model.

3. **Problems due to recording of incorrect information (due to proxy interviews, misunderstanding of questions, etc.)**

In general, main sources of measurement error are poor design of a questionnaire, response bias (e.g., social desirability bias), and proxy interviews. In order to avoid - to a possible extent- measurment errors we followed the next actions:

-   The questionnaire of the survey followed closely Eurostat's model questionnaire, with few deviations.
-   All interviewers that worked in data collection attended a seminar, where the survey questionnaire was presented and detailed instructions were provided.
-   Proxy interviews were allowed but efforts were made to keep their percentage low.
-   Editing programs, identified illogical or improbable answers and in many cases respondents were recontacted in order to resolve the issue.

14. Timeliness and punctuality

	Αρχή	Τέλος	
14.1 Timeliness			

	Αρχή	Τέλος	
Preparation of the survey	November 2022	May 2023	
Fieldwork	May 2023	July 2023	
Reminders and follow-up	July 2023	August 2023	
Processing	July 2023	September 2023	
Transmission of dataset to Eurostat*	13/9/2023	18/9/2023	

14.2 Punctuality

The data was collected between May 2023-July 2023, i.e. outside the defined period (July 2022-March 2023).

15. Coherence and comparability

15.1 Comparability - geographical

There were no differences in the implementation of the survey in different areas of Greece, since the same definitions, type of sampling, questionnaire and data treatment was used throughout the whole country. The only difference between the implementation of the survey in different geographical areas is the response rate.

There are no differences or deviations from the ESS concepts and definitions. The Greek questionnaire followed closely the Eurostat's model questionnaire. (See the table 15.1 in the annex).

15.2 Comparability over time

There have been 2 main changes in the implementation of the AES survey, compared to the 2016 AES:

a) Data collection mode was CAPI (while in 2016 AES was mainly PAPI) and

b) 2022 AES sample was a sample of individuals (selected among the members of the households tha were surveyed for LFS) while the 2016 AES sample was a sample of households.

As fas as it concern definitions and questionnaire design there were no siginficant differences between the 2 implementations of the survey.

In general, there is no indication of important breaks between the 2 rounds of the survey.

15.3 Coherence cross-domain

- There are no available administrative sources that could be compared with AES results.
- AES results can be compared with results from other surveys, like CVTS and LFS - taking of course in to account the important differences between AES and these surveys.
- The most recent CVTS results have as reference period the year 2020, and as a result any comparison with the 2022 AES can refer only to the order of magnitude. According to CVTS, about to 182,000 persons participated in CVTS during 2020, while, according to AES, 189,000 employees that were working in a local unit with 10 or more persons, and participated in a non-formal activity that was job-related, paid by the employer and the respondent was employed when the activity started. If we assume that the participation in CVTS programs during 2022 was not substantially different from 2020, we may conclude that the AES estimate seems plausible.
- The comparizon with LFS data reveals that LFS underestimated (compared to AES) the adult participation in learning activities. This is probably due to the difference in the purpose of the two surveys, to the fact that AES questions on participation in education are more detailed, as well as to the methodological differences between the surveys (e.g.,sample size, sampling unit).

15.4 Coherence - internal

AES results for a given data collection round are based on the same microdata and results are calculated using the same estimation methods, therefore the data are internally coherent.

16. Cost and burden

The total cost for data collection was about 71,100 euros

17. Data revision

17.1 Revision policy

Not applicable

17.2 Revision practice

Not applicable

18. Statistical processing

18.1 Source data

The sampling frame that was used were the households surveyed (and responded) to Labour Force Survey in the period Q2_2021 - Q4_2022. To be precise, the sampling frame comprised of the 6th rotation group of the total sample of each quarter.

All the persons in these households were assigned in different groups (defined by NUTS3 area, sex and age-group) and a random systematic sample of persons was selected in each of these groups.The sampling interval at this stage was set up so as to end up with the desired number of persons in the total sample.

18.2 Frequency of data collection

Every 6 years.

18.3 Data collection

Data were collected by personal interviews (either telephone or face to face interview) using tablets. Since the persons participating in the survey, have already provided information for the LFS, data for some characteristics (for example, respondents country of birth) were imputed from LFS data.

The data entry program, included checks for the plausibility of the answers concerning «Year when the highest level of education was successfully completed» and "Starting year of the most recent formal education activity".

18.4 Data validation

 After data entry the data file was processed by a program that incorporated the rules for flow and accepted values for each variables as well as plausibility checks.

Coding was implemented at 2 stages:

The information for certain variables (field of highest education, field of formal and non formal activities, sector of economy, and occupation) were collected through open questions and the (verbal) descriptions were entered in to the data base. Then, coding programs assigned automatically codes to the verbal descriptions. The cases where the programs failed to assign a code, were coded manually.

18.5 Data compilation

    Imputation was used only for variable Net current monthly household income. This variable was collected either as exact value or as broad categories of income. Exact values of the variable for the non-respondents and for those that reported their household income in bands were produced using a generalized linear model.

    The final personal weights were computed in 4 steps:

i) A "design weight' – equal to the LFS design weight - was assigned to each person.
ii) The design weight in step1 was multiplied by a coefficient equal to N_group/S_group where

        N_Group = The number of household members in each particular group (that is, combination of NUTS3, sex and age-group)

         S_Group = The number of persons originally selected in each particular group

iii)   A non-response correction was computed for each Group (persons originally selected/persons responded)

iv) Finally, post stratification correction factors were computed for each individual so that estimations from Adult Education Survey are consistent with estimated (from the 4ht Quarter estimations of Labour Force Survey) population totals for post - stratification cells - that is, NUTS2, sex and age-groups combinations.

18.6 Adjustment

Not applicable.

19. Comment