



HELLENIC REPUBLIC



HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY

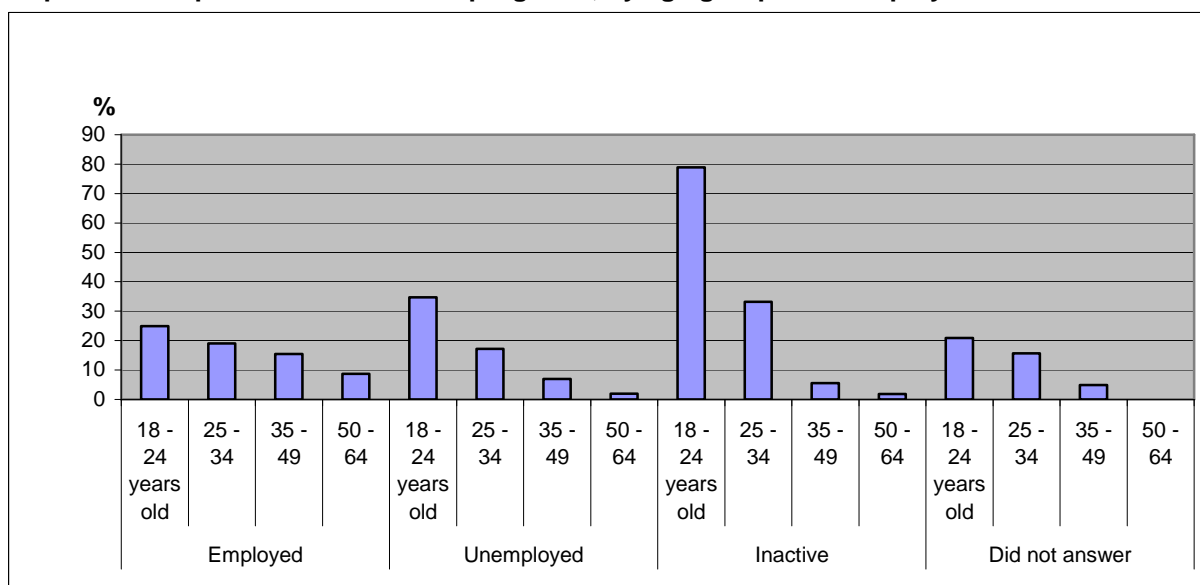
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## PRESS RELEASE

### ADULT EDUCATION SURVEY: 2012

The Hellenic Statistical Authority announces the results of the 2012 Adult Education Survey. The survey was conducted during the second half of 2012 and was addressed to persons aged 18 – 64 years old. The purpose of the survey was 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 learnt, as well as on the basic demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents, such as employment status, nationality and country of birth, educational level and profession of parents, gender, age and family status.

**Graph 1. Participation in educational programs, by age groups and employment status**



The lowest participation rate is recorded among persons aged 50 – 64 years old (4.9%), while the highest among persons aged 18 – 24 years old (54.5%). The mean participation rate is 16.3%.

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## Participation in educational programs

Educational programs can be classified in two main categories: programs belonging to the formal educational system and non-formal education programs.

**Formal educational system** is the institutionalized and hierarchically structured educational system, which consists of all educational activities that belong to the National Framework of Qualifications.

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

**Non-Formal Education** is any organized educational activity, which does not belong to the formal educational system. It can be either a single educational activity or part of a broader set of activities which are addressed to a targeted group of persons and aiming at specific educational objectives. It may include a wide range of educational programs, such as adult education, seminars, conferences, private lessons, driving lessons, dance or music lessons, etc.

Table 1 presents participation rates in formal or non-formal programs by gender, age group, employment status and educational level.

**Table 1. Participation in formal and non-formal education programs during the last 12 months**  
%

		Total Number of persons	% of persons that participated in formal or non formal education programs	% of persons that participated in formal education programs	% of persons that participated in non formal education programs
2 ?Age group	25 - 34 years old	1,463,913	20.3	8.1	13.7
	35 - 49	2,451,690	12.5	1.3	11.6
	50 - 64	2,133,453	4.9	0.5	4.4
Employment status	No answer	53,428	5.5	5.5	0.0
	Employed	3,484,050	14.5	2.2	12.9
	Unemployed	1,047,679	10.0	2.4	7.9
	Inactive	1,463,900	6.5	3.8	3.1
Educational level	Primary	2,050,342	3.3	0.3	3.0
	Secondary	2,475,779	10.2	3.3	7.6
	Tertiary	1,522,935	25.5	4.6	21.7
1? Gender	Males	3,043,366	10.3	2.7	8.0
	Females	3,005,689	13.1	2.6	11.2
Total population aged 25 – 64 years old		6,049,055	11.7	2.6	9.6

### Participation in formal education programs

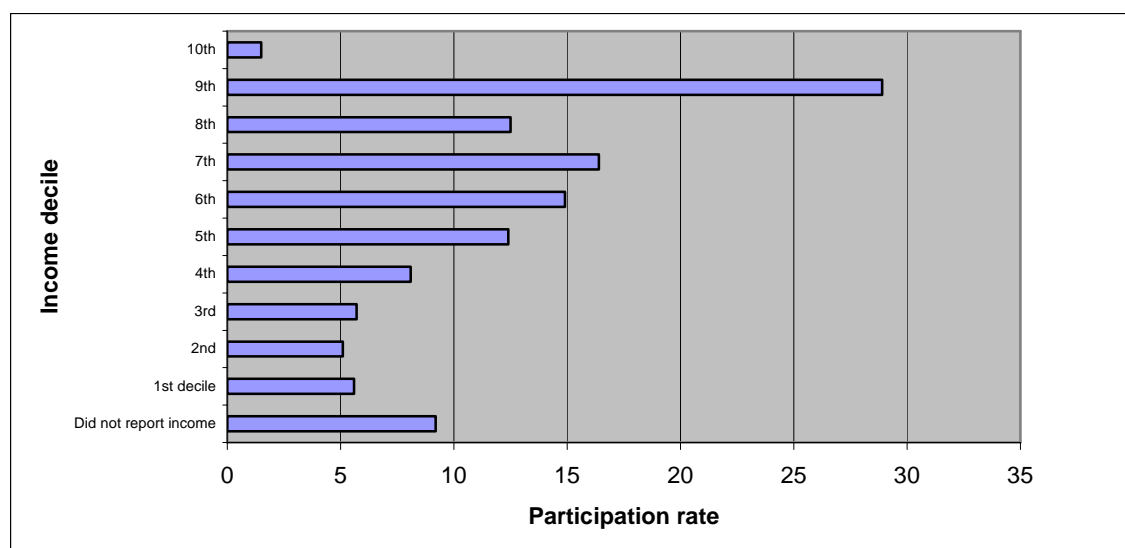
The participation rate in formal education programs for persons aged 25 – 64 years old was 2.6%. Participation in formal education programs is strongly correlated with age and educational level. Persons older than 34 years, as well as persons having completed only primary education have (record) very low participation rates in such programs.

## Participation in non-formal education programs

According to the results of the Adult Education Survey (Table 1), the participation rate in non-formal education for women is higher than men; employed persons participate more often than unemployed or inactive persons. Low participation rates are also observed for persons aged 55 – 64 years old.

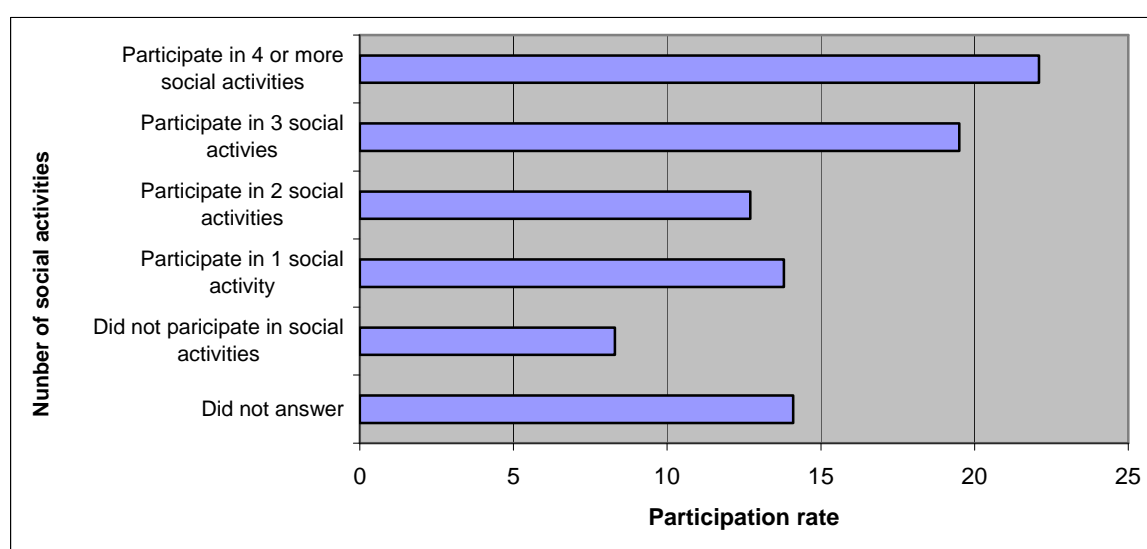
Participation rates differ considerably depending on household income. The relation is almost linear: with the exception of the highest income group, the higher the household income, the higher tends to be the participation rate in non-formal programs (Graph 2).

**Graph 2. Participation in non-formal educational activities by household income**



A similar relationship is observed between the number of “social activities”<sup>1</sup> reported by respondents and the participation rates in non-formal activities (Graph 3).

**Graph 3. Participation in non-formal educational activities by number of social activities**

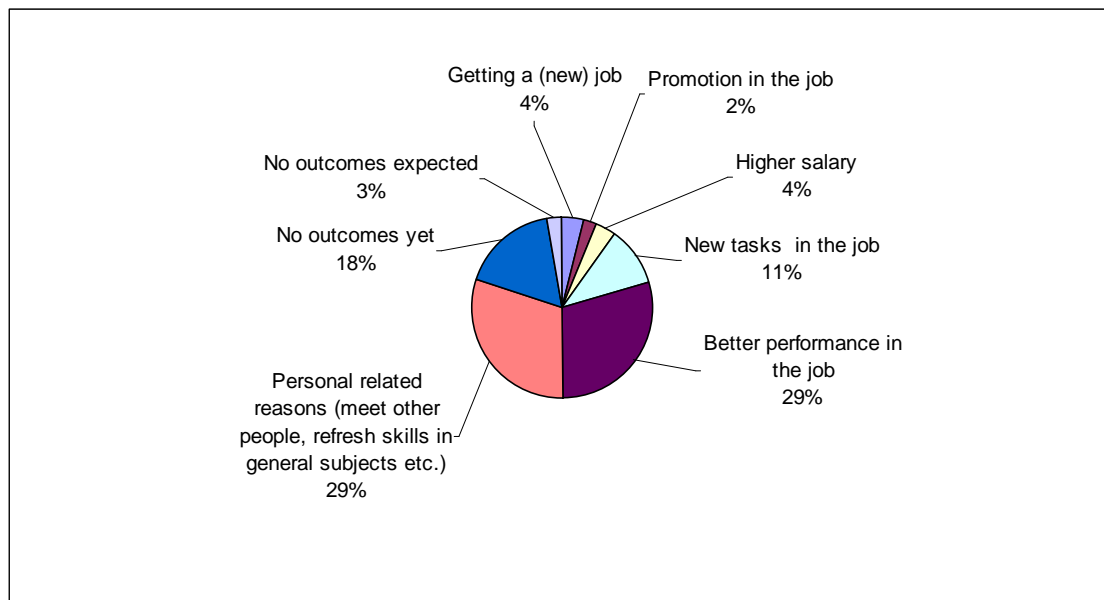


<sup>1</sup> The participation in social activities was recorded in a relevant question in the questionnaire of the Adult Education Survey, where respondents reported if they participated in voluntary activities, political parties, trade unions, religious or professional associations, sport clubs, etc

## Outcomes from the participation in non-formal education activities and willingness to participate in educational activities

The persons that participated in non-formal educational activities were asked to report any outcomes of this participation. The most frequently reported outcomes are better performance in job and personal satisfaction (because they improved their knowledge, they met new people, etc.)

**Graph 4. Reported outcomes from participation in non-formal educational activities**



**Table 2. Participation in educational activities and willingness to participate in more activities**

		Did not answered		Participated in education and did not want to participate any more		Participated in education and wanted to participate more		Did not participate in education and did not want to participate		Did not participate in education and wanted to participate	
		Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%
Gender	Males	324,785	10.7	148,768	4.9	126,728	4.2	1,977,895	65.0	465,191	15.3
	Females	344,819	11.5	171,170	5.7	166,671	5.5	1,742,581	58.0	580,448	19.3
Age	25 - 34 years old	191,537	13.1	107,756	7.4	137,508	9.4	703,287	48.0	323,824	22.1
	35 - 49	274,122	11.2	142,332	5.8	135,279	5.5	1,444,677	58.9	455,281	18.6
	50 - 64	203,945	9.6	69,850	3.3	20,611	1.0	1,572,512	73.7	266,535	12.5
Employment status	Did not answer	11,529	21.6	2,959	5.5	0	0.0	32,559	60.9	6,381	11.9
	Employed	367,098	10.5	248,687	7.1	199,775	5.7	2,088,286	59.9	580,203	16.7
	Unemployed	122,301	11.7	30,619	2.9	54,580	5.2	528,798	50.5	311,381	29.7
	Inactive	168,676	11.5	37,674	2.6	39,043	2.7	1,070,833	73.1	147,674	10.1
Educational level	Primary	237,950	11.6	40,850	2.0	19,598	1.0	1,521,917	74.2	230,027	11.2
	Secondary	264,153	10.7	100,525	4.1	117,244	4.7	1,506,702	60.9	487,155	19.7
	Tertiary	167,501	11.0	178,562	11.7	156,557	10.3	691,857	45.4	328,457	21.6
Total population aged 25 – 64 years old		669,604	11.1	319,938	5.3	293,398	4.9	3,720,476	61.5	1,045,639	17.3

Table 2 presents the attitude of respondents concerning the participation in educational activities (of the formal or non-formal educational system).

The majority for respondents (61.5%) reports that they did not participate in educational activities and that they did not want to participate. The only exceptions are the group of persons aged 25 – 34 years old and the persons having completed tertiary education. The majority of persons in these two groups either participated or wanted to participate in educational activities.

The group with the higher percentage of persons that did not participate but wanted to participate is the unemployed.

### Computer and Internet use

The percentage of persons using computers or the Internet differs considerably with age and educational level. For example, while almost all persons having completed tertiary education report that they have used, at least, once a computer or have accessed the Internet, the same holds for only 1 out of 4 persons having completed primary education.

It should be noted that the percentage of persons having used a computer or the Internet is higher for males than females, while there are no significant differences between employed and unemployed. On the contrary, less than half of the inactive persons (who seem to be older and of lower educational level) have ever used a computer or have accessed the Internet.

**Table 3. Computer and Internet use, by gender, age group, employment status and educational level**

%

		% of persons that have used computer	% of persons that have used Internet
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Males</b>	65.7	66.7
	<b>Females</b>	60.1	60.3
<b>Age</b>	<b>18 – 24 years old</b>	91.8	92.1
	<b>25 - 34</b>	84.0	83.4
	<b>35 - 49</b>	65.9	67.8
	<b>50 - 64</b>	35.2	35.1
<b>Employment status</b>	<b>Did not answer</b>	53.9	55.2
	<b>Employed</b>	69.3	70.0
	<b>Unemployed</b>	71.7	71.8
	<b>Inactive</b>	44.7	45.2
<b>Educational level</b>	<b>Primary</b>	25.5	27.5
	<b>Secondary</b>	72.9	73.4
	<b>Tertiary</b>	93.8	92.7
<b>Total population aged 18 – 64 years old</b>		<b>63.0</b>	<b>63.5</b>

## Knowledge of foreign languages

45% of the respondents reported that they knew at least one foreign language. The percentage of persons knowing 2 or more foreign languages is 16.4%. (Table 4.)

**Table 4. Knowledge of foreign languages by gender, age group, educational level and nationality**

		Know only their mother tongue		Know 1 foreign language		Know 2 or more foreign languages	
		Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%
<b>Age</b>	<b>18 – 24 years old</b>	86,619	11.8	449,126	61.0	200,424	27.2
	<b>25 - 34</b>	306,395	20.9	868,589	59.3	288,929	19.7
	<b>35 - 49</b>	876,214	35.7	1,165,383	47.5	410,094	16.7
	<b>50 - 64</b>	1,350,050	63.3	567,313	26.6	216,090	10.1
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Males</b>	1,345,888	39.4	1,562,452	45.7	507,201	14.8
	<b>Females</b>	1,273,390	37.8	1,487,959	44.2	608,335	18.1
<b>Educational level</b>	<b>Primary</b>	1,607,190	74.9	483,131	22.5	55,367	2.6
	<b>Secondary</b>	882,318	29.4	1,613,163	53.7	510,515	17.0
	<b>Tertiary</b>	129,769	7.9	954,117	58.4	549,655	33.6
<b>Nationality</b>	<b>Greek</b>	2,586,696	40.6	2,861,091	45.0	917,224	14.4
	<b>Foreign</b>	32,582	7.8	189,320	45.1	198,312	47.2
<b>Total population aged 18 – 64 years old</b>		<b>2,619,278</b>	<b>38,6</b>	<b>3,050,411</b>	<b>45,0</b>	<b>1,115,537</b>	<b>16,4</b>

There are three groups where the percentage of persons knowing at least one foreign language approaches or is higher than 90%. These are the persons aged 18 – 24 years old, persons having completed tertiary education and persons with foreign nationality. The group with the lowest share of persons knowing a foreign language is the group of persons having completed primary education.

The English language is the language that is reported more often as a foreign language learnt. Table 5 present the 7 foreign languages that are most frequently reported by the respondents.

**Table 5. Most frequently reported foreign languages**

	Number of persons	%
<b>English</b>	3.720.938	89,3
<b>French</b>	528.559	12,7
<b>Greek</b>	433.435	10,4
<b>German</b>	314.680	7,6
<b>Italian</b>	76.128	1,8
<b>Spanish</b>	68.676	1,6
<b>Russian</b>	60.735	1,5

	EXPLANATORY NOTES
<b>Adult Education Survey</b>	<p>The Adult Education Survey (AES) has been carried out twice so far.</p> <p>The first wave (pilot) of the survey was carried out in 2007 and the second wave was conducted in 2012.</p> <p>The AES survey covers participation in education and lifelong learning activities (formal, non-formal and informal learning) including job-related activities, characteristics of learning activities, self-reported skills as well as modules on social and cultural participation, foreign language skills, IT skills and background variables related to main characteristics of the respondents.</p>
<b>Institutional mandate</b>	<p>The 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 .</p>
<b>Reference Period</b>	<p>The reference period of the survey for main variables (participation in educational activities) is the 12 months before the date of the interview.</p>
<b>Coverage</b>	<p>The survey covers the population aged 18 – 64 years old, residing in private households, and staying (or intending 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.</p>
<b>Definitions</b>	<p><b>Learning Activity:</b> Any organized activity whose target is to improve the knowledge and skills of a person.</p> <p><b>Adult Education:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Formal Educational System:</b> Is the institutionalized and hierarchically structured educational system that consists of all educational activities that belong to the National Framework of Qualifications</p> <p>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 entry to a higher level.</p> <p><b>Non-Formal Education:</b> Any organized educational activity, which does not belong to the formal educational system. It can be a single education activity or part of a broader set of activities, which is addressed to a targeted group of persons with specific educational objectives</p> <p>It may include a wide range of educational programs, as adult education, seminars, conferences, private lessons, driving lessons, dance, music lessons, etc.</p> <p><b>Informal Learning:</b> 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 person (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.</p>

<b>Methodology</b>	The estimates of the Adult Education Survey are produced by a suitable unbiased estimator which takes in to account: a) the probability of selection of every sampled household, b) the response rate in every primary sampling unit, c) the estimated population, based on the 2001 census results, allocated by NUTS II areas, gender and age group.
<b>References</b>	More detailed information on the Adult Education Survey (methodology, tables, etc.) definitions can be found at <a href="http://www.statistics.gr">www.statistics.gr</a> .