

## Methodological notes on Adult Education Survey

Adult Education Survey covers broad range of topics, connected to the education and training of adults, like participation in different forms of LLL (formal, non-formal and informal), reasons for non-participation, access to information on possibilities for education and training, use of computers, language skills, participation in cultural and social events.

The survey as type and contents was conducted for the time in Bulgaria in 2007 and in 2011 it was implemented using updated methodology. In the future it will be implemented once per 4-5 years. The methodology used had been prepared by Eurostat and was applied in all EU countries. All requirements for using the accepted definitions and classifications are fulfilled as well as for the results' representativeness and punctuality. The survey method is personal interview, i.e. the person had to answer personally and the possibility for some other member of the household to answer the questions was excluded.

The main goal of the survey is to assess the participation of active employed population (aged 25-64) in Lifelong Learning (LLL) and particularly in the three forms of LLL - formal education, non-formal education and informal learning.

When representing the results non-responses for some questions are excluded and are not submitted. Absolute data and relative shares included in the analysis are directly rounded, thus some of the totals are not equal to the sum of the components.

The participation in the different forms of LLL is observed for the reference period of 12 months before the moment of interview.

Lifelong learning includes all purposeful learning activities - formal and non formal, which are undertaken to improve knowledge, skills and competences of the person both for professional and common interest with personal and public goals.

Formal Education is education provided in the system of formal educational institutions - schools, colleges, universities, and in vocational schools and colleges, which leads to obtaining of an educational and/or professional qualification degree.

Similarly to the Formal Education, Non Formal Education is organized and purposeful but its successful completion does not lead to obtaining of an educational and/or professional qualification degree. The most widespread forms of Non Formal Education are courses, private lessons, seminars and workshops, guided on-the-job-training, instructions on a labour safety. Successful completion of Non Formal Education could be or could not be accompanied by a document - certificate, diploma, etc. The guided on-the-job-training is a special form of Non Formal Education. It is characterized by planned period of training, instructions or practical experience, using normal tools of work, either as the immediate place of work or in the work-situation with the presence of a tutor.

Informal learning is purposeful (intentional) learning activity aimed to enhance personal knowledge and skills. The most widespread forms (methods) of Informal learning are: training with the help of a family member, colleague or friend; usage of printed materials/issues - books, manuals, specialized journals, guidelines; PC usage; watching educational TV programmes or audio/video tapes with educational topics; visits of museums, historical and natural sights with a guide; visits of training centers, libraries and community centers with educational goals. . According to the Eurostat's recommendations in the present survey were not observed all types of informal learning and data are not comparable to AES 2007.

In the analysis are included non-formal education and informal learning activities with a minimal duration of 4 hours.

The number of unemployed is done on the basis of the respondent's own perception only, but not on the International Labour Organisation (ILO) criteria, i.e. the group of "unemployed" includes the persons who do not have a work, but simultaneously have not take any steps to find one or are not ready to start.

It is considered that the person 'can use' foreign language when she/he communicates actively or passively that requires comprehension and/or using words and language structure. Bulgarian and the language learnt in the early childhood in the family are not considered as "foreign language". Due the changes in general methodology data on foreign languages is not comparable to the pilot AES.