

## Adults' Participation in Learning Activities

*Year 2012*

In 2012, 51.5 % of people aged 18-74 carried out at least one learning activity in the 12 months preceding the interview. Compared with the previous survey, conducted in 2006, the percentage has increased by about 5 percentage points (it was 45.7 %).

The participation is higher for men (54%) than for women (49.1%), and more frequent among graduates (80.5 %) than among people with primary education (17.6%).

Among the employed, the highest proportion of adults engaged in learning activities is recorded among those with a higher professional position: 79.7 % among managers, entrepreneurs and professionals, while it is 52.9% among blue collars and 37.4% for people working in not qualified jobs.

In the North-east regions 59.3% of individuals are engaged in learning activities, 56% in Central regions, 52.5% in the North-west area, while the level of participation in the South and in the Islands is the lowest (43.7%). Compared to 2006, the highest increase is recorded in the regions of Central Italy.

The "formal" educational courses, aiming at achieving qualifications recognized by the National system of qualification, are attended by 5.8% of individuals.

The "non-formal" training courses (with which it's not possible to get a qualification) are attended by 31.4% of people 18-74 years old, percentage almost doubled compared to 2006, when it was 18.1%.

Among those who have attended the "non-formal" activities, 34.5% benefited from a "training-on-the-job"; 30.9% participated in seminars, conferences and workshops, 3.7% participated in private lessons.

29.5% participated in "non-formal" activities paid by the employer, 11.7% in those organized by schools or universities, and 18.4% attended courses organized by sports associations.

The share of "excluded people", i.e. those who were unable to attend any course of study or training (even if they were wishing to) amounted to 25.4%.

The family duties (44.3%) and the cost of the courses (43.4%) are the main reasons for non-participation.

Among women, the main obstacle to the lacked participation is represented by family duties (53.6% against 31% declared by men) while men, besides the costs, signal work duties (38.3% compared to the 18.5% held by women).

The offer of training courses and/or study is considered insufficient and inadequate by people resident in the South and in the Islands area: 19% of those who did not attend training say they have not found activities appropriate to their needs and 52.9% have considered the cost of training too high.

The "informal" learning activities (self-organized and unstructured activities, carried out in order to acquire or deepen their knowledge on topics of personal interest) were attended from 33.8% of respondents

Among those who are engaged in "informal" learning, about half used the personal computer and 34.9% printed material (books, magazines), 14.6% used information reported by friends, relatives, family members, colleagues and 7.7% used media (television, radio, video).

Considering the European target, the percentage of people aged 25-64 who attend learning activities is 35.6%, compared to EU average (27 countries) of 40.2%.

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