

# STATISTICAL RELEASE

# DD60

Number 293 - Year LXVIII, 31.10.2023

**Education statistics**

SERB293 DD60 311023

## Adult Education Survey, 2022

**Adult Education Survey – AES** was conducted for the third time in the Republic of Serbia in 2022 according to Eurostat standards and methodology.

In this round of the survey, the sample was extended to include young people (aged 18-24), for whom the data show that more than two-thirds (67.8%) participate in some kind of formal or non-formal education and training. More than half of respondents of this age (58.2%) participates in formal education, while 29.9% of them participate in non-formal education.

**Table 1. Share of respondents aged 18-24 in formal and/or non-formal education and trainings (%)**

	Total	Males	Females
Share in formal and/or non-formal education and training	67.8	67.2	68.4
Share in formal education	58.2	54.5	62.3
Share in non-formal education and training	29.9	26.9	33.2

When it comes to adults, the situation is significantly different. According to the results obtained, the **participation rate of adults (25-69 years) in some form of formal or non-formal education or training is 19.9%** and is almost identical as in the previous survey cycle in 2016, when it was 19.8%.

Women (21.3%) are more represented than men (18.4%) in some form of education and training in the 12 month period preceding the survey. Unlike young people, adults more often participate in non-formal education and training (17.4%), while only 3.7% participate in formal education.

Observed according to the level of acquired education and employment status, the data show that both women and men who are employed and have completed upper-secondary school most often participate in lifelong education.

**Table 2. Share of adults (25-69) in formal and/or non-formal education and training (%)**

	Total	Males	Females
Share in formal and/or non-formal education and training	19.9	18.4	21.3
Share in formal education	3.7	3.1	4.3
Share in non-formal education and training	17.4	16.0	18.8
The highest completed education	Primary education	9.2	14.7
	Upper-secondary education	56.2	61.8
	Tertiary education	31.8	29.0
Employment status	Employed	52.3	46.1
	Unemployed	23.7	25.8
	Inactive	24.0	28.1

Of the respondents who participated in education/training, most of them participated in some form of non-formal education. They are mostly respondents from 25-34 age group, highly educated and employed.

**Table 3. Share of adults in non-formal education and training (%)**

		Total	Males	Females
Total	25-69	17.4	16.0	18.8
Age groups	25-34	25.8	22.1	29.7
	35-54	20.1	18.2	22.1
	55-69	9.1	9.3	9.0
Education level	Primary education	4.0	7.6	1.8
	Upper-secondary education	11.7	12.5	10.9
	Tertiary education	32.6	26.4	37.6
Employment status	Employed	27.0	21.9	33.4
	Unemployed	9.5	10.2	9.0
	Inactive	4.3	5.1	3.8

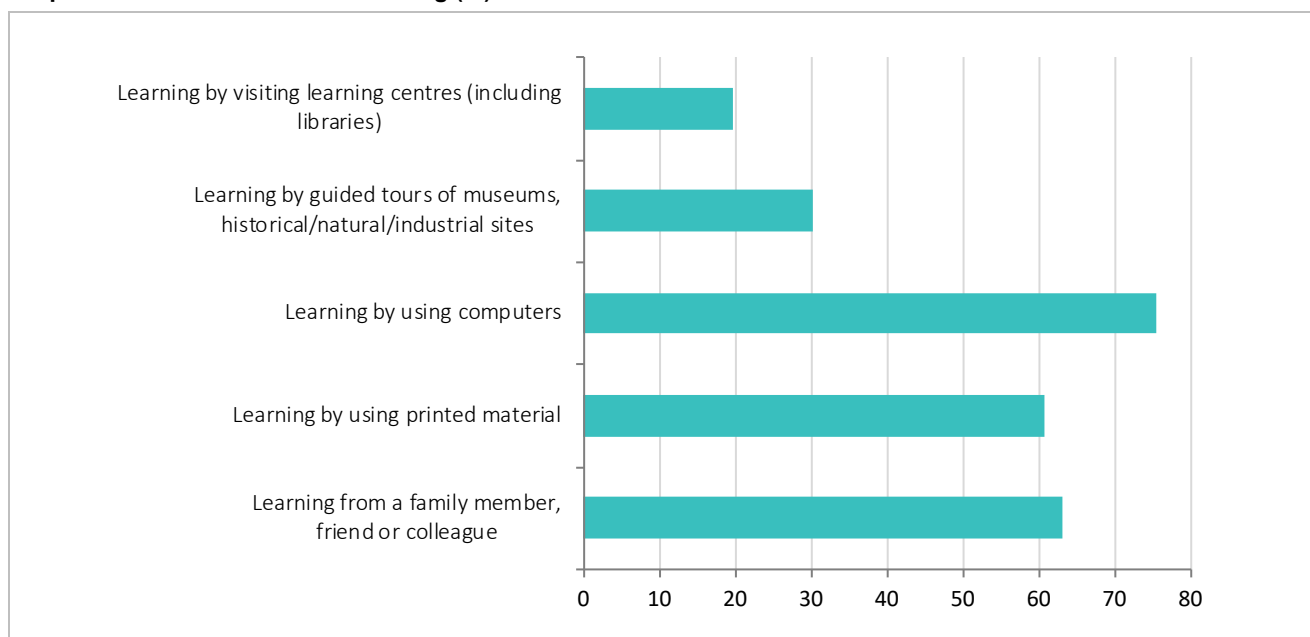
Nearly 80% of respondents did not participate in any form of formal or non-formal education. Almost two-fifths of respondents (39.6%) wanted to participate in some form of education, but were prevented primarily due to family reasons, training schedule, i.e. overlapping with working hours, trainings hold in remote places, as well as education/training costs (graph 1).

**Graph 1. Reasons for not participating in formal or non-formal education/training (%)**



Most of the respondents participated in some form of informal learning. About three quarters of them acquire new knowledge by using a computer (75.9%). 63.2% learn from family members, friends or colleagues. To a considerable extent (60.7%) the respondents also learn from printed materials (books, professional magazines, etc.), and to the smallest extent by visiting museums, libraries, learning centres, etc. (graph 2).

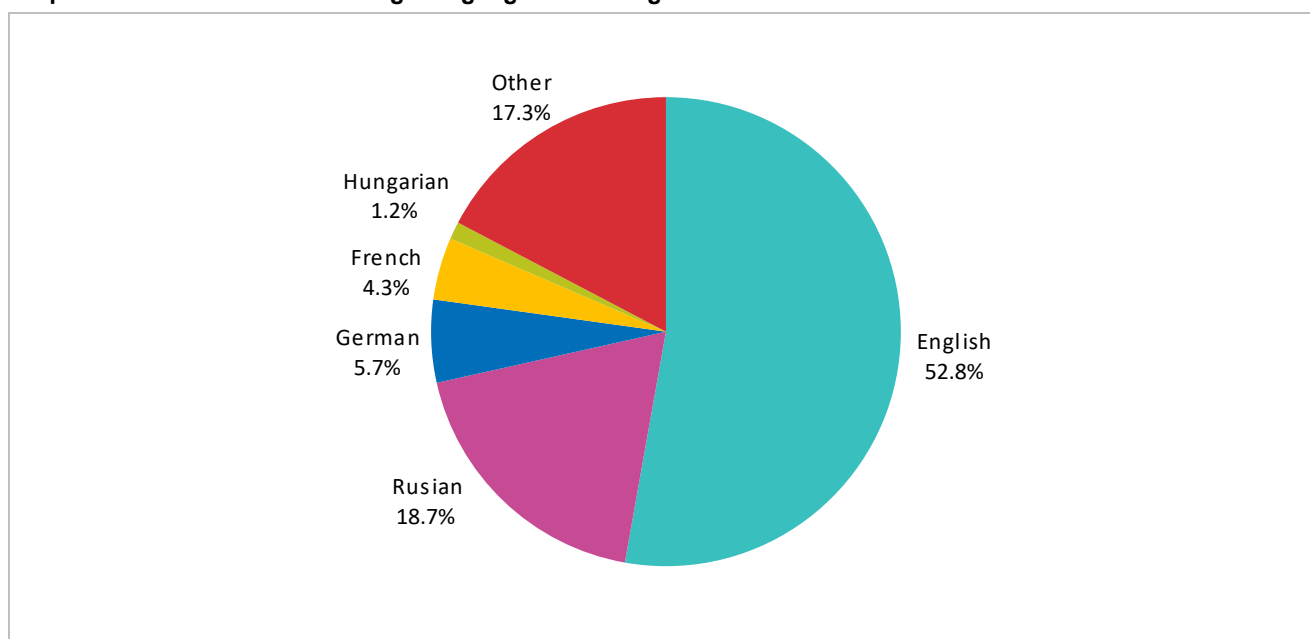
**Graph. 2. Methods of informal learning (%)**



The survey on adult education is one of the few surveys that also provides data on knowledge of foreign languages.

According to self-evaluation, 87% of respondents aged 18–69 speak one foreign language, about 60% use two languages, while about 42% of respondents can communicate in three or more foreign languages. Most respondents use English, followed by Russian, German, French and Hungarian (Graph 3).

**Graph 3. Self-assessment of foreign languages knowledge**



**Note:** According to the official AES methodology, the respondent assesses the own knowledge of foreign languages, and foreign languages are also considered to be the languages of the peoples of the former Yugoslavia.

## Methodological explanations

The Adult Education Survey is conducted in accordance with the standards and regulations of European Statistical Office (Eurostat): EU REGULATION 452/2008, 2019/1700, 2021/861 when it relates to methodology, organization, sampling procedure, questionnaire design and definitions of lifelong learning and training. Harmonization of methodologies, definitions and classifications with international standards allows comparison of the great number of data obtained from the survey with equivalent data from other countries, particularly European. The survey is conducted in our country in 2011 for the first time, as pilot survey, financed from IPA funds and from 2016 it is regularly conducted according to periodicity, determined in EU regulations.

**Aim** of the Adult Education Survey is collecting the data on participation of adults (aged 25-69) in education and trainings (formal and non-formal education, as well as informal learning). Conducting of the survey is of particular importance, knowing that it is based on standardized methodology for all EU member states and internationally comparable data are provided.

The survey is conducting in six-year periodicity, with reference period 12 months preceding the interview.

The survey was conducted in accordance with the Plan of official statistics for 2022 and pursuant to Law on Official Statistics („Official Gazette of RS”, no 104/09 and the EU Regulations 452/2008, 2019/1700, 2021/861 on creation and development of education and lifelong learning statistics.

The survey was conducted on the territory of the Republic of Serbia without Kosovo and Metohia, on the planned sample of 7000 households. Realized sample encompassed 5 372 respondents aged 18-69 (a single randomly selected respondent in a single household selected in the sample).

**Adult education** encompasses all learning activities during lifetime (after completing formal education), with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and competences from personal and social aspect, as well as from the aspect connected with the employment.

### Formal education

Formal education implies structured and institutionalized system regulated by the state (The Ministry of Education). Formal education means: defined objective and level of education, plan and program, rules for acquiring high education level, conducted in educational institutions within the formal educational system. After completing formal education, delivered are certificates and diplomas recognized by the competent ministry.

### Non-formal education

Non-formal education/training is any institutionalized learning organized through structured programs, which is not part of the formal educational system. Those are learning processes organized with the intention to acquire qualifications for work and other activities, as well as to improve personal skills. Non-formal education is realized through: courses, workshops and seminars, training at work place, private lessons.

### Informal learning

Informal learning is learning that is planned, but not organized and structured (not institutionalized). Informal learning covers learning in the family, in the work place or in daily life, on self-directed, family-based or socially - directed basis. It takes place through: learning from family members, friends and colleagues; use of various printed materials (books, professional magazines); use of computers, Internet downloads; use of various television, radio, video or audio materials.

---

Contact: [sava.boskocevic@stat.gov.rs](mailto:sava.boskocevic@stat.gov.rs), Phone: 011 2412-922, ext. 440

Published and printed by: Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, 11 050 Belgrade, Milana Rakica 5

Phone: +381 11 2412922 (telephone exchange) • Fax: +381 11 2411260 • [stat.gov.rs](http://stat.gov.rs)

Responsible: Dr Miladin Kovačević, Director

Circulation: 20 • Periodicity: six-years