

29 November 2012

## Adult Population Learning Activities. Year 2011

**41.1% of persons aged 18 to 65 years old have undertaken a training activity in the last year**

**Aside from mother tongues, the most widely spoken languages are English (49.7%), French (15.9%), Italian (2.0%) and German (1.9%)**

Four out of 10 persons aged 18 to 65 years old (12.3 million persons) carried out some type of training activity in the last year, according to the results of the Survey on the Involvement of the Adult Population in Learning Activities (AES) for the year 2011, which the INE is publishing for the first time today.

Men participated in educational activities somewhat more than women (41.7% as compared with 40.6%).

By age, 70.1% of persons aged 18 to 24 years old carried out an educational activity, as compared with 23.0% of the group aged 55 to 65 years old.

### Involvement of the population in training activities in the last year (Year 2011)

Percentage of the total population of each age group

|                                    | Total aged<br>18 to 65<br>years old | 18 to 24 | 25 to 34 | 35 to 44 | 45 to 54 | 55 to 65 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| FORMAL AND/OR NON-FORMAL EDUCATION | 41.1                                | 70.1     | 47.9     | 39.7     | 36.1     | 23.0     |
| FORMAL EDUCATION                   | 11.9                                | 52.1     | 14.5     | 6.2      | 4.1      | 2.1      |
| Men                                | 11.3                                | 49.8     | 13.2     | 5.6      | 3.8      | 1.8      |
| Women                              | 12.6                                | 54.5     | 15.7     | 6.8      | 4.4      | 2.4      |
| NON-FORMAL EDUCATION               | 34.8                                | 41.5     | 40.5     | 36.7     | 33.9     | 21.8     |
| Men                                | 35.5                                | 37.7     | 40.1     | 39.8     | 35.3     | 21.6     |
| Women                              | 34.1                                | 45.4     | 40.8     | 33.4     | 32.6     | 21.9     |

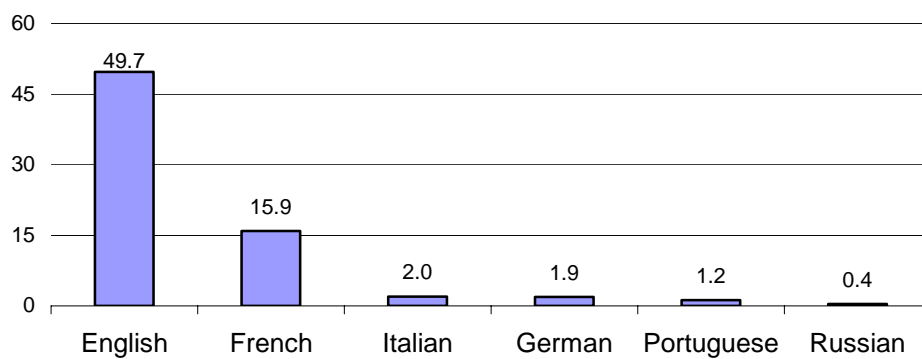
The Autonomous Communities with the greatest participation in educational activities were Castilla y León, Comunidad de Madrid, País Vasco and La Rioja, all with involvement exceeding 45%.

Conversely, those with the lowest percentages were Andalucía, Castilla-La Mancha, Comunitat Valenciana and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla, all with involvement under 40%.

## Linguistic and IT knowledge

Of the persons who spoke a language other than their mother tongues, the most commonly spoken were English, with 49.7%, French (15.9%), Italian (2.0%) and German (1.9%).

**The foreign languages most widely spoken**  
(Percentage as compared with the population that spoke a language other than their mother tongues)



Among the young persons aged 18 to 24 years old, the languages most spoken were English (with 63.3%) and French (11.6%). In turn, among the persons aged 55 to 65 years old, 26.0% spoke English and 29.5% spoke French.

## Knowledge of foreign languages by age group

percentages

|                    | English | French | Italian | German |
|--------------------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
| TOTAL              | 49.7    | 15.9   | 2.0     | 1.9    |
| 18 to 24 years old | 63.3    | 11.6   | .       | .      |
| 25 to 34 years old | 59.2    | 7.9    | 2.3     | 1.4    |
| 35 to 44 years old | 51.9    | 13.5   | 2.0     | 1.6    |
| 45 to 54 years old | 38.2    | 25.1   | 1.6     | 1.9    |
| 55 to 62 years old | 26.0    | 29.5   | 3.1     | 4.1    |

Regarding competence in languages, more than 45% of persons with knowledge of English admitted to having an intermediate level. 20.1% claimed to have an advanced level.

Regarding the ability to use **computers and the Internet**, and the frequency thereof, 33.8% of persons believed themselves to be advanced users. Conversely, 22.0% claimed never to use them.

**Frequency and ability to use computers and the Internet, by sex. Year 2011 (Population aged 18 to 65 years old)**

Percentage

|       | Never used computers or the Internet | Only surfed the Internet | Basic computer or Internet user | Advanced computer or Internet user | Expert computer or Internet user |
|-------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| TOTAL | 22.0                                 | 0.6                      | 18.5                            | 33.8                               | 25.1                             |
| Men   | 20.1                                 | 0.7                      | 16.5                            | 31.5                               | 31.3                             |
| Women | 23.8                                 | 0.5                      | 20.6                            | 36.2                               | 18.9                             |

The ability to use computers decreased with age. Among young persons aged 18 to 24 years old, 78.0% used computers and the Internet, and 58.9% were advanced or expert users. In turn, among the persons aged 55 to 65 years old, 48.1% used computers or the Internet and 27.9% considered themselves advanced or expert users.

**Frequency and ability to use computers and the Internet, by age. Year 2011 (Population aged 18 to 65 years old)**

Percentages

|                    | Never used computers or the Internet | Only surfed the Internet | Basic computer or Internet user | Advanced computer or Internet user | Expert computer or Internet user |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| TOTAL              | 22.0                                 | 0.6                      | 18.5                            | 33.8                               | 25.1                             |
| 18 to 24 years old | 3.8                                  | 0.3                      | 8.7                             | 45.5                               | 41.7                             |
| 25 to 34 years old | 7.8                                  | 0.8                      | 14.4                            | 40.7                               | 36.4                             |
| 25 to 44 years old | 16.2                                 | 0.6                      | 21.1                            | 35.5                               | 26.7                             |
| 45 to 54 years old | 28.5                                 | 0.6                      | 23.5                            | 30.1                               | 17.3                             |
| 55 to 65 years old | 51.9                                 | 0.5                      | 19.7                            | 19.9                               | 8.0                              |

**Characteristics of educational activities**

3.6 million students who participated in **formal education** (or education provided in the system of primary schools, secondary schools, universities and other education institutions that lead to attaining an official qualification) undertook an average of 1.1 activities in the last 12 months. To this end, they spend an average of 598 hours, with an average expenditure of 1,202 euros per student.

47.2% of the studies undertaken were university studies, and 17.2% of them were post-secondary studies.

85.7% of formal education activities were classroom activities, and 14.3% were distance activities (using computers or correspondence courses). Men chose the distance learning modality in 12.7% of cases, as compared with 15.7% of women.

## Distribution of the population that undertook formal education activities in the last year, according to type

Percentage

|                    | First stage of Secondary education | Intermediate-level studies | Post-secondary studies | Advanced studies | University and equivalent studies |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| TOTAL              | 13.7                               | 12.6                       | 17.2                   | 9.3              | 47.2                              |
| 18 to 24 years old | 9.6                                | 2.2                        | 23.9                   | 11.6             | 52.7                              |
| 25 to 44 years old | 15.4                               | 21.1                       | 10.7                   | 7.3              | 45.5                              |
| 45 to 65 years old | 24.6                               | 23.9                       | 13.5                   | 7.1              | 30.9                              |

In turn, 10.4 million persons participated in **non-formal education** (organised and sustained educational activities not leading to attaining an official qualification). These persons undertook an average of 1.5 courses in the last 12 months. To this end, they spent an average of 120 hours, with an average expenditure of 939 euros.

The most population subjects were those relating to social sciences, trade education and law (for example, accounting courses, public relations, secretarial work and others), with 19% of the total.

Subjects relating to health and social services (nutrition courses, health services and others) represented 13.9%, services (prevention of occupational risks, catering, hairdressing and others) accounted for 12.7%, with IT accounting for 12.0%.

92.0% of non-formal education activities were undertaken in classroom settings, and 8.0% were via distance learning.

## Formal and non-formal education indicators. Year 2011

Population aged 18 to 65 years old

|            | Participants (in thousands) | Hours of training per participant | Average expenditure (euros) | Classroom courses (%) | Distance courses by computer (%) | Correspondence courses (%) |
|------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Formal     | 3,558.9                     | 598                               | 1,202                       | 85.7                  | 12.4                             | 1.9                        |
| Non-formal | 10,375.5                    | 120                               | 939                         | 92.0                  | 6.7                              | 1.4                        |

## Ongoing training and the employment market

34.6% of persons who undertook training activities did so for work-related reasons (either because they were necessary for their work, or because they considered them useful when seeking work).

Most of these activities were concentrated in non-formal education (28.5%). Men (30.9%) were more involved than women (26.1%) in this type of work-related activity.

## Involvement in work-related education activities. Year 2011

Percentage of persons who undertook educational activities

|       | Persons who undertook work-related formal and/or non-formal education activities | Persons who undertook work-related formal education activities | Persons who undertook work-related non-formal education activities |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| TOTAL | 34.6                                                                             | 9.6                                                            | 28.5                                                               |
| Men   | 36.7                                                                             | 9.0                                                            | 30.9                                                               |
| Women | 32.6                                                                             | 10.1                                                           | 26.1                                                               |

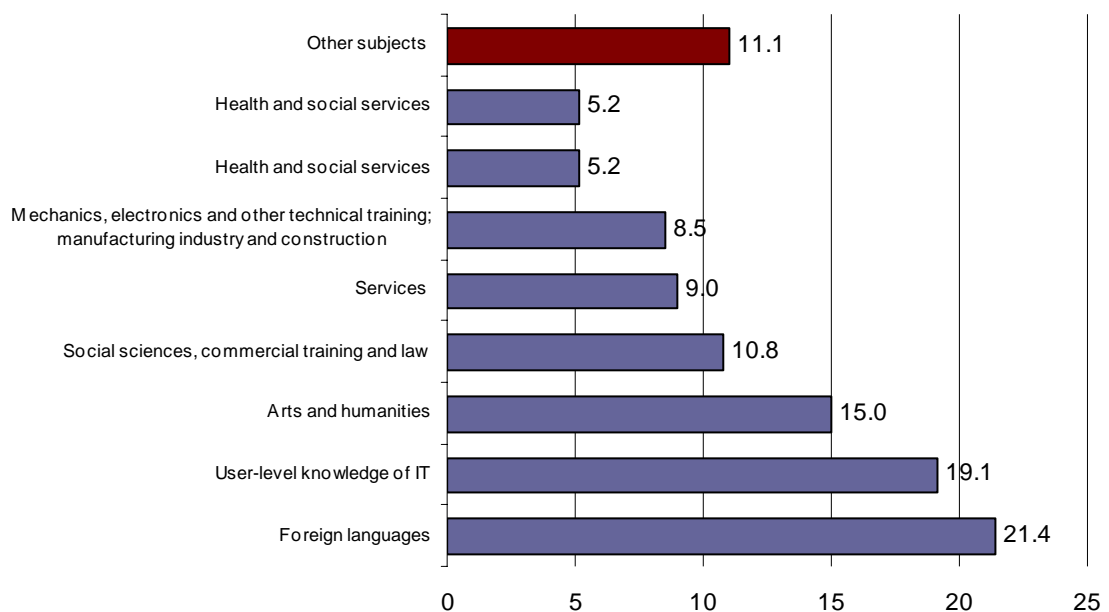
76.9% of persons who undertook work-related, non-formal education activities did so mainly during paid working hours. 78.6% of persons carried out these activities paid by the employer.

### Self-taught persons

Another type of learning activity is informal learning, which consists of acquiring knowledge in a less organised and structured way than non-formal education, and without attending any educational institution.

More than 5.5 million adult persons (18.7%) tried to acquire knowledge on their own. The main study subject was foreign languages, followed by user-level IT, arts and humanities and social sciences, commercial training and law.

### Main study subjects in informal learning (percentages)



The most customary learning means were the computer (41.7%), learning through a relative or friend (30.4%), and printed material (25.8%).

### Difficulties in involvement in educational activities

One out of five adults aged 18 to 65 years old had the intention of learning or continuing to learn, but were not able to do so. The difficulties hindering them included incompatibility between the work schedule and the training schedule (31.9% for men and 26.1% for women), lack of time due to family commitments (17.1% for men and 30% for women) and lack of support from the employer or from the public employment services (21.3% for men and 17.6% for women).

48.9% of persons did not undertake educational activities because they were not interested, due to a lack of time, or due to family reasons (30.0%), because the training was not compatible with their work schedule (17.7%), or because they did not need more training (11.7%).

### Educational characteristics of adult persons

29.0% of persons aged 18 to 65 years old had completed university or advanced studies, 25.7% had completed post-secondary studies or intermediate-level training cycles, and 45.3% had completed first-stage secondary studies, primary studies or no studies.

Regarding the educational trajectory, 5.1% of persons whose highest educational level was the first-stage of secondary education or lower began a higher a higher educational level than that of their maximum studies, though without completing it. The main reasons for not completing it were that they preferred to work (31.1%), family commitments and personal reasons (17.5%), or they did not need it for their job (17.1%).

## Distribution of the adult population that would like to improve their educational level. Year 2011

Percentage

|                                                        | They once began a higher level of training than their highest study level | They did not begin any higher level of training than their highest study level |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Highest educational level                              |                                                                           |                                                                                |
| TOTAL                                                  | 3.2                                                                       | 96.8                                                                           |
| First stage of secondary, primary and without studies  | 5.1                                                                       | 94.9                                                                           |
| Intermediate-level studies <sup>(1)</sup>              | 4.3                                                                       | 95.7                                                                           |
| Advanced studies and university and equivalent studies | 1.1                                                                       | 98.9                                                                           |

(1)The 'Intermediate-level studies' level includes: post-secondary studies, intermediate-level technical-professional teaching and the equivalent.

53.4% of personas aged 18 to 65 years old had an educational level in line with the most frequent educational level in their occupation or in the job that they performed. On the other hand, 73.5% had completed studies in a subject that was not in line with their occupation.

Regarding intergenerational educational mobility, 74.5% of persons had attained an educational level higher than that of their parents. Both participation in educational activities and knowledge of a language other than their mother tongue were greater, the higher the educational level of the parents.

**Involvement of adult persons, by educational level of their parents. Year 2011**

Percentage

|                                                           | Involved in Formal Education | Involved in Non-Formal Education | Involved in Informal Learning | Spoke a language other than their mother tongue(s) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Highest educational level of their parents <sup>(1)</sup> |                              |                                  |                               |                                                    |
| Primary education and without studies                     | 6.6                          | 30.1                             | 15.4                          | 43.0                                               |
| Secondary education                                       | 16.4                         | 33.8                             | 18.7                          | 57.7                                               |
| Post-secondary education or the equivalent                | 21.4                         | 49.1                             | 28.4                          | 73.6                                               |
| University studies or the equivalent                      | 28.0                         | 50.6                             | 28.1                          | 82.0                                               |

(1) This considers the maximum between the highest educational level of the father and the highest educational level of the mother of the person interviewed.

## Methodological note

The Survey on the Involvement of the Adult Population in Learning Activities (AES) offers information regarding the participation of the population aged 18 to 65 years old in education and learning activities. It also provides information regarding linguistic and IT knowledge and educational characteristics (study path, intergenerational educational mobility and the relationship between the educational level and the work performed).

The Survey conducted in 2011 implies the implementation of the European Adult Education Survey project in Spain, this project being coordinated by Eurostat, and which is carried out in all European Union countries. These are standardised statistics supported by Commission Regulation (EU) No. 823/2010, of 17 September 2010, relating to the production and development of statistics on education and ongoing learning, and therefore, they refer to the statistics regarding adult involvement in ongoing learning.

The objective of the AES is to ascertain the training and learning activities undertaken by the adult population (lifelong learning), studying the activities undertaken in the 12 months prior to the interview. Though the target population established on a European level is that comprising persons aged 25-64 years old, the Spanish case extends the research to include persons aged 18 to 24 years old, and up to 65 years old.

The AES is sample research aimed at adults aged 18 to 65 years old who live in family households. The reference period is one year, considering the 12 months prior to the interview.

### Definitions

**Formal education** is that education provided in the system of primary schools, secondary schools, universities and other education institutions that lead to attaining an official qualification. They normally constitute a continuous scale of full-time education for children and young persons, which generally begins at the age of 5-7 years old, and continues to the age of 20-25 years old.

**Non-formal education** entails organised and sustained educational activities which do not lead to obtaining an official qualification. Non-formal education may take place both within and outside educational institutions, and cater to persons of all ages.

**Informal learning** is defined as those activities which are carried out with the intention of learning, but are less organised and structured than educational activities.

The highest educational level of the parents is considered to be the maximum between the highest educational level of the father and the mother of the person interviewed.