







Key figures on vocational education and training

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#### 1 Introduction

This brochure, prepared by Cedefop based on harmonised data from Eurostat (1), presents some key figures on vocational education and training (VET) and VET-related topics.

Some elements depicting the context of national education and training systems are given in the first part. The next two chapters form the core of the publication and present some basic indicators (2) on VET systems, characteristics of participants in VET programmes, training enterprises, participation in continuing vocational training (CVT) in enterprises and costs of CVT for enterprises.

Further information can be obtained from the joint publication series *Key data on education, Key data on vocational training* and from Eurostat's own publications and database.

<sup>(1)</sup> All data were extracted from Eurostat's New Cronos database in January 2003.

<sup>(2)</sup> Most data on VET are drawn from the VET data collection and on CVT from CVTS2 (see methodological notes).

# 2. Background information on the education and training system

The educational level is comparatively higher in candidate countries than in FU Member States

[Figure 1]
NB: Ireland: national data;
Luxembourg: the
percentage is
underestimated: most
young people take tertiary
education abroad and all of
them have completed
upper secondary education;
United Kingdom: the
definition of 'upper
secondary qualification' has
not been approved yet.

Source: Eurostat, Labour force survey

The percentage of people leaving school without an upper secondary qualification has been decreasing for several decades. Increasing numbers of young people continue studying beyond upper secondary education and the educational level of the population as a whole is rising.

Figure 1 shows the proportion of 22 year-olds who successfully completed, at least, upper secondary education (ISCED 3), in 2000.

In general, percentages of people with at least an upper secondary qualification are higher in candidate countries than in EU countries (where the average is 76%). However, figures vary largely across countries as well as the conditions determining successful completion (e.g. attending a certain number of hours, passing exams, obtaining a certificate). Iceland and Portugal have the lowest percentages (55 and 45% respectively). In contrast, the highest percentages (90% or above) are found in the Czech Republic, Finland, Norway, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Figure 1. Percentage of 22 year-olds having successfully completed at least upper secondary education (ISCED 3), 2000

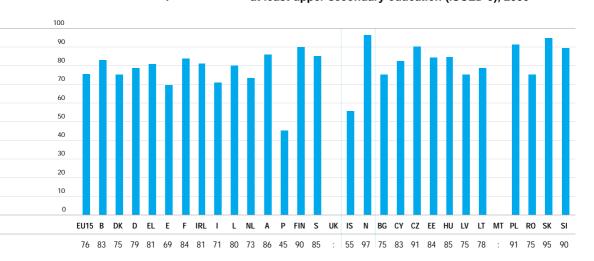


Figure 2 complements Figure 1. It compares the percentages of people who have not obtained an upper secondary qualification (ISCED 3) in different age groups.

It suggests the rise in education level attained is general: in all countries, the proportion of low-qualified is higher among older generations than young people. In 2000, only 29% of 25 to 34 yearolds in the EU did not obtain an upper secondary diploma (ISCED 3), compared to 54% of the 55 to 64 age group.

Differences between the two extreme age groups are relatively smaller in the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Iceland and Luxemboura.

In the EU southern countries, levels of education are still relatively low. Percentages of people who did not successfully complete upper secondary education in Italy, Portugal and Spain are above 40% for the 25 to 34 age group and above 75% for the 55 to 64 age group; they are slightly lower in Greece, although still quite high.

In candidate countries, almost all percentages for all age groups are lower than the EU average, suggesting a higher educational level.

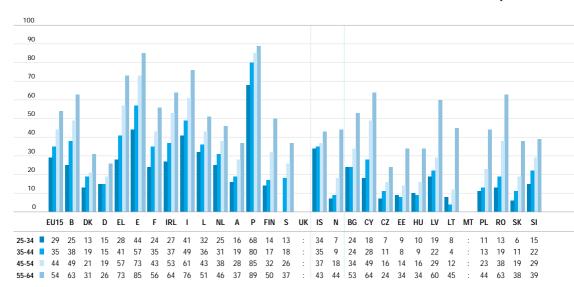
qualification (ISCED 3), by age group, 2000

Figure 2. Percentage of people without an upper secondary

Younger people are better qualified than older generations

[Figure 2] NB: Ireland: national data; United Kingdom: the definition of 'upper secondary qualification' has not been approved yet.

Source: Eurostat, Labour force survey



The higher the level of education, the lower the risks of unemployment

Figure 3 compares unemployment rates of the 25 to 64 age group with the level of education attained.

In general, unemployment rates are lower for people with higher qualifications. In the EU on average, in 2000, the unemployment rate of people with a tertiary qualification (ISCED 5-6) was 4%, against 7% for those with an upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary diploma (ISCED 3-4) and 11% with, at most, a lower secondary qualification (ISCED 0-2). Many countries show similar patterns, although with varied intensity.

Four countries deviate from the general pattern: Greece, Portugal, Romania, where higher employment rates are observed for people with upper secondary qualification, and Norway, where the difference by level of education attained is negligible.

Unemployment rates are generally higher in candidate countries than EU countries, especially for low-qualified people.

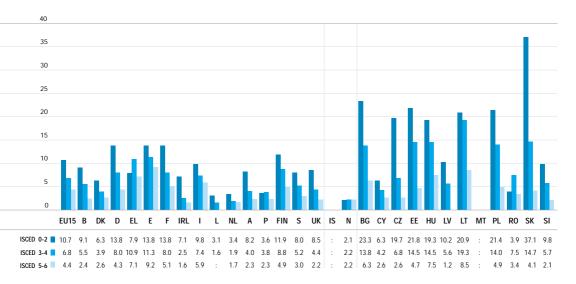


Figure 3. Unemployment rates in the 25 to 64 age group, broken down by education attainment level, 2000 (%)

[Figure 3] NB: Iceland and Luxembourg: because of the small sample size, part (or all) the data are not available.

Source: Eurostat, Labour force survey

If a higher education level is an important factor to reduce the risk of unemployment, age also seems to play a significant role. According to the Labour force survey, in general, unemployment rates of tertiary education graduates are higher for 25 to 34 yearolds than for older groups. This is the case in most EU and candidate countries, although discrepancies between age groups are less marked in the latter.

Young people and women have more difficulty entering the labour market

Similarly, women and men do not seem to have equal opportunities to find a job: with the same level of education, more women than men are unemployed.

> More and more students in tertiary education

In the EU, on average, the number of students enrolled in tertiary education has more than doubled in the past 25 years.

Figure 4 shows the number of students enrolled in tertiary education and their proportion to the overall number of pupils and students enrolled in the given country's education and training system. Percentages should be interpreted considering the educational structure, the number of places available in tertiary education establishments and demographic variations.

Figure 4. Enrolment in tertiary education, 1999/2000

| EU 15  | В   | DK  | D     | EL  | E     | FR    | IRL | I     | L   |
|--------|-----|-----|-------|-----|-------|-------|-----|-------|-----|
| 12 563 | 356 | 189 | 2 055 | 422 | 1 829 | 2 015 | 161 | 1 770 | 2   |
| 15%    | 14% | 15% | 12%   | 21% | 21%   | 14%   | 16% | 17%   | 3%  |
| NL     | Α   | Р   | FIN   | S   | UK    | IS    | N   | BG    | CY  |
| 488    | 261 | 374 | 270   | 347 | 2 024 | 10    | 191 | 261   | 10  |
| 14%    | 16% | 17% | 21%   | 14% | 13%   | 11%   | 17% | 17%   | 7%  |
| CZ     | EE  | HU  | LV    | LT  | MT    | PL    | R0  | SK    | SI  |
| 254    | 54  | 307 | 91    | 122 | 6     | 1 580 | 453 | 136   | 84  |
| 12%    | 15% | 14% | 16%   | 14% | 7%    | 16%   | 10% | 11%   | 19% |

[Figure 4] NB: Germany, Romania and Slovenia: ISCED 6 is excluded; Luxembourg and Cyprus: most students study abroad; figures are therefore underestimated; Czech Republic: only public schools are covered.

Source: Eurostat, LIOF data collection

In most EU and candidate countries, the proportion of females at that level of education is higher than males. Disparities are still observed in certain fields of study. In all countries, more females enrol in 'education', 'humanities and arts', 'health and welfare', while males predominate in 'engineering, manufacturing and construction'.

### 3. Vocational education and training

The vocational stream predominates in upper secondary education

In general, distributing students between vocational and general streams at lower secondary level is not geared towards technical or (pre-) vocational specialisation. Rather, the aim is to create classes with more homogeneous competences within different general education structures.

Mostly, enrolling in the vocational stream is not possible before the end of compulsory education.

In general, a larger proportion of students enrol in the vocational stream than in general upper secondary education (54 against 46% in the EU as a whole – Figure 5).

More than two thirds of students are in the vocational stream in Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Slovenia and the UK.

In contrast, more than two thirds are in general education in the southern EU countries as well as Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Iceland and Malta. In Ireland, all students are enrolled in the general stream because there is no vocational stream in schools at that level.



Figure 5. Distribution of upper secondary (ISCED 3) students in general and vocational streams, 1999/2000 (%)

NB: Students in vocational training spending 90% of their time or more within the company are not included in the UOE data collection. The coverage of the UOE and VET data collections are different, which can explain some discrepancies. For instance, students in vocational training spending 90% of their time or more within the company are not included in the UOE data collection. Pre-vocational education is included with general education.

Belgium: including social advancement education; France: technological education is considered as vocational; Italy: provisional data. Students from istituti tecnici are included in prevocational education; United Kingdom:

including ISCED 4. Students in general education are counted at a given point

in time whereas students in vocational training are counted continuously, i.e. the total number of students in one school year.

Source: Eurostat. UOE data collection

In most countries, more females than males are in the general stream at upper secondary level. The United Kingdom is the only exception. In the EU as a whole, differences between genders are small (under 5%). In Iceland, Norway and the candidate countries, differences in the percentages of males and females are larger than in the EU.

In all countries, most VET participants enrol in upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary programmes (ISCED levels 3 and 4).

Figure 8 shows the distribution of females and males according to the ISCED level of the programme in which they are enrolled.

Most participants in VET programmes mainly attend an education and training establishment Contact with the work environment during education and training may help young people's transition onto the labour market.

In EU Member States, on average, more than two thirds of participants in VET programmes mainly attend an education/ training establishment (Figure 6). The highest percentages of participants (over 90%) in mainly school-based programmes are found in Belgium, Greece, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Denmark, Germany, Iceland, the Netherlands and Norway, however, show a different pattern, with most participants enrolled in alternate training programmes.

Only Italy (and Ireland) have programmes taking place almost exclusively at the workplace, the so-called *Apprendistato* and *Contratto di formazione-lavoro*.

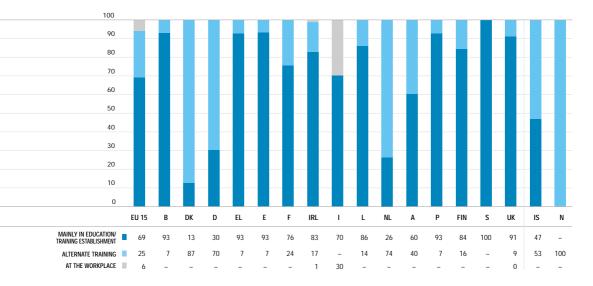


Figure 6. Distribution of participants in VET programmes by place of tuition, 1997/98 (%)

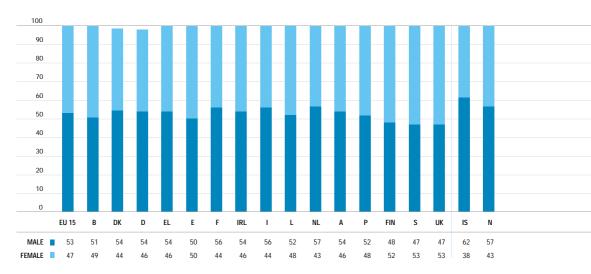
NB: Mainly in an education/training establishment: 75% or more of education/training time is spent in an education/training establishment, the rest is spent in a work environment (enterprise or other). Alternate training: between 10 and 74% of education/training time is spent in an education/training establishment, the rest is spent in a work environment (enterprise or other). At the workplace: less than 10% of education/training time is spent in an education/training establishment, the rest is spent in a work environment.

Promoting equal opportunities for both sexes has been one of the European Commission's priorities.

In the European Union, on average, more males than females enrol in VET programmes, although differences between sexes are small: 53% of VET participants are males and 47% are women. The widest discrepancies (over 10 percentage points) are observed in Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, the Netherlands and Norway. In contrast, participation is balanced in Belgium and Spain.

Although the difference in participation by gender is small, men are still better represented in VET programmes

Figure 7. Distribution of participants in VET programmes by gender, 1997/98 (%)



NB: Denmark: the percentages do not reach 100% because data cannot be broken down by gender for some programmes or programme parts.

However, at tertiary level (ISCED 5), females outweigh males in all countries but Spain (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Distribution of participants in VET programmes by ISCED level and gender, 1997/98 (%)

|             |         | EU15 | В  | DK | D  | EL | E  | FR | IRL | ı  | L  | NL | Α  | PT | FIN | S   | UK | IS | N   |
|-------------|---------|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|----|----|-----|
| ISCED-2     | FEMALES | 3    | 8  | -  | 2  | -  | 1  | 1  | 4   | -  | 45 | 24 | -  | 8  | -   | -   | :  | -  | -   |
| ISCE        | MALES   | 3    | 5  | -  | 3  | -  | 1  | 1  | 3   | -  | 47 | 27 | -  | 13 | -   | -   | :  | -  | -   |
| ISCED-3     | FEMALES | 70   | 52 | 88 | 80 | 48 | 61 | 68 | 30  | 73 | 48 | 76 | 51 | 52 | 73  | 100 | :  | 72 | 100 |
| 138         | MALES   | 73   | 64 | 88 | 88 | 64 | 60 | 76 | 26  | 66 | 47 | 73 | 65 | 56 | 82  | 100 | :  | 86 | 100 |
| ISCED-4     | FEMALES | 7    | 9  | 6  | -  | 21 | 30 | -  | 27  | 1  | -  | 0  | 42 | -  | -   | -   | :  | 2  | -   |
| ISCI        | MALES   | 5    | 8  | 8  | -  | 13 | 31 | -  | 36  | 1  | -  | 1  | 31 | -  | -   | -   | :  | 4  | -   |
| ISCED-5     | FEMALES | 14   | 31 | 6  | 17 | 31 | 8  | 31 | 38  | -  | 7  | -  | 7  | 39 | 27  | -   | :  | 26 | -   |
| <u> SC </u> | MALES   | 10   | 23 | 4  | 9  | 24 | 8  | 23 | 35  | -  | 6  | -  | 4  | 31 | 18  | -   | :  | 10 | -   |
| NMC         | FEMALES | 6    | -  | -  | -  | -  | -  | -  | -   | 25 | -  | -  | -  | -  | -   | -   | :  | -  | -   |
| UNKNOWN     | MALES   | 9    | -  | -  | -  | -  | -  | -  | -   | 34 | -  | -  | -  | -  | -   | -   | :  | -  | -   |

Figure 9 shows the distribution of participants in VET programmes by age group. In the European Union, on average, a majority (65%) of VET participants are between 15 and 19 years old; the 20 to 24 age group is the second most represented group, with 23%. This is consistent as most VET participants enrol in programmes at upper secondary level (ISCED 3).

In most countries, the majority age group is 15 to 19 year-olds. Apart from this rather common characteristic, the age distribution of VET participants varies considerably from country to country. Italy and Luxembourg have the highest proportions of young people under 15. Ages are more balanced in Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Spain. In Denmark and Finland, over 25% are older than 25.

Most participants in VET programmes are between 15 and 24

[Figure 9]
NB: The data collection is targeted primarily at programmes for young people (see methological notes).

Figure 9. Distribution of participants in VET programmes by age group, 1997/98 (%)



## Continuing vocational education and training

North-south divide in the proportion of training enterprises in the EU In general, enterprises from EU countries provided more CVT than candidate countries in 1999 (Figure 10).

On average, 62% of enterprises in the EU provided continuing vocational training. However, values are different across countries. Denmark heads the list with 96% and Greece, Spain, Italy and Portugal have the lowest rates (from 18 to 36%).

In candidate countries, values range from 11% in Romania and 28% in Bulgaria to 69% in the Czech Republic.

100 90 80 70 50 40 30 20 10 0 TOTAL 79 71 72 91 69

Figure 10. Enterprises providing CVT as a percentage of all enterprises, 1999

Source: Eurostat, CVTS2

Figure 11 explores the relationship between providing CVT and the size of the enterprise.

In all countries, the percentages of enterprises offering CVT are higher in medium-sized than in small enterprises and higher still in large enterprises. In 16 of the 25 countries which took part in the survey, more than 90% of enterprises with 250 employees or more provide continuing training. In contrast, the values for small enterprises range from 8% in Romania to 95% in Denmark. These are the two countries at the opposite ends of the scale for providing CVT courses (see Figure 10).

In 14 countries, the differences between medium-sized and large enterprises are small (from 0 to 12 percentage points). They are more marked in southern EU countries as well as Bulgaria and Hungary.

Proportion of enterprises providing CVT increases with size

Figure 11. Enterprises providing CVT as a percentage of all enterprises, by class size, 1999

|        | EU 15 | В   | DK  | D  | EL | E  | F  | IRL | ı  | L  | NL | Α  | Р  | FIN | S  | UK | N   | BG | CZ | EE | HU | LV | LT | PL | R0 | SI |
|--------|-------|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 10-49  | 56    | 66  | 95  | 71 | 11 | 31 | 70 | 75  | 20 | 67 | 85 | 68 | 17 | 78  | 88 | 85 | 84  | 24 | 62 | 58 | 32 | 49 | 37 | 36 | 8  | 35 |
| 50-249 | 81    | 93  | 98  | 87 | 43 | 58 | 93 | 98  | 48 | 83 | 96 | 91 | 46 | 97  | 99 | 91 | 97  | 34 | 84 | 85 | 51 | 70 | 60 | 52 | 13 | 72 |
| 250 +  | 96    | 100 | 100 | 98 | 78 | 86 | 98 | 100 | 81 | 99 | 98 | 96 | 78 | 99  | 99 | 98 | 100 | 62 | 96 | 96 | 79 | 91 | 80 | 63 | 38 | 96 |
| TOTAL  | 62    | 70  | 96  | 75 | 18 | 36 | 76 | 79  | 24 | 71 | 88 | 72 | 22 | 82  | 91 | 87 | 86  | 28 | 69 | 63 | 37 | 53 | 43 | 39 | 11 | 48 |

Source: Eurostat, CVTS2

Provision of CVT varies across enterprise sectors Figure 12 looks at the relationship between providing CVT and economic activity (defined according to the EC classification of economic activities - NACE Rev.1).

In all countries apart from Slovenia, the highest percentages of enterprises providing CVT are in the 'financial intermediation' branch (NACE J). (Denmark and Ireland have equally high figures in other sectors as well.) In general, 'real estate, renting and business activities' (NACE K) comes second both in the EU and candidate countries. The other sectors are placed lower. In candidate countries, the percentages recorded for 'wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods' (NACE G) are comparatively low.

The widest discrepancies in the percentages of training enterprises by economic activity are found in Greece, Hungary, Italy and Portugal (over 40 or 50 percentage points) and, to a lesser extent, in Belgium, Ireland, Latvia and Slovenia (over 30 percentage points).

Figure 12. Enterprises providing CVT as a percentage of all enterprises, by economic activity (NACE Rev. 1), 1999

|     |      | EU 15 | В   | DK  | D   | EL | Ε  | F  | IRL | ı  | L  | NL | Α  | Р  | FIN | s   | UK | N  | BG | CZ | EE | HU | LV | LT | PL | RO | SI |
|-----|------|-------|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| NAC | E D  | 56    | 68  | 95  | 73  | 17 | 38 | 77 | 90  | 23 | 75 | 90 | 73 | 19 | 77  | 90  | 86 | 85 | 29 | 70 | 60 | 34 | 53 | 41 | 35 | 12 | 53 |
| NAC | E G  | 65    | 72  | 100 | 83  | 18 | 41 | 76 | 77  | 25 | 75 | 87 | 74 | 24 | 85  | 94  | 83 | 87 | 25 | 63 | 60 | 39 | 51 | 39 | 33 | 9  | 30 |
| NA  | CE J | 91    | 100 | 100 | 100 | 66 | 74 | 88 | 90  | 71 | 89 | 97 | 97 | 67 | 100 | 100 | 94 | 98 | 47 | 89 | 89 | 79 | 84 | 69 | 61 | 27 | 66 |
| NAC | CE K | 74    | 86  | 98  | 87  | 39 | 41 | 81 | 90  | 27 | 80 | 90 | 87 | 43 | 86  | 90  | 92 | 96 | 36 | 77 | 70 | 48 | 60 | 54 | 55 | 21 | 60 |
| NAC | E O  | 70    | 75  | 100 | 89  | 12 | 33 | 80 | 58  | 14 | 80 | 88 | 79 | 29 | 93  | 100 | 89 | 92 | 24 | 70 | 49 | 35 | 60 | 42 | 46 | 12 | 69 |
| ОТ  | HER  | 57    | 63  | 91  | 65  | 15 | 29 | 69 | 72  | 23 | 59 | 86 | 65 | 18 | 79  | 84  | 86 | 80 | 29 | 67 | 66 | 31 | 51 | 45 | 43 | 11 | 46 |
| ТО  | TAL  | 62    | 70  | 96  | 75  | 18 | 36 | 76 | 79  | 24 | 71 | 88 | 72 | 22 | 82  | 91  | 87 | 86 | 28 | 69 | 63 | 37 | 53 | 43 | 39 | 11 | 48 |

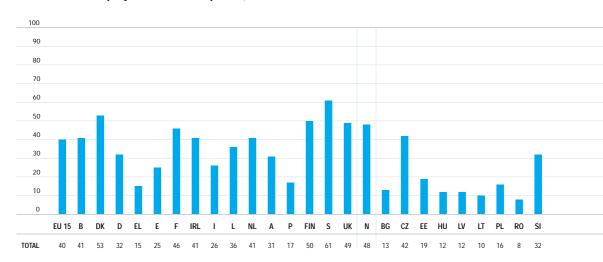
Source: Eurostat, CVTS2

Naturally, participation and financial contribution are correlated with and reflect, to a certain extent, the degree of provision by enterprises.

As Figure 13 shows, the percentage of employees taking part in training in enterprises (40% on average) is considerably larger in EU Member States than in candidate countries. Among EU Member States, Denmark, Finland and Sweden are in the lead, with over 50% participation. In candidate countries, the Czech Republic has the highest percentage (42%). Greece and Portugal, for the EU, and Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania and Romania, for the candidate countries, get the lowest proportions of employees taking part in CVT (around 15% for the EU and 10% for candidate countries).

Discrepancies in CVT participation across countries

Figure 13. Employees participating in CVT courses as a percentage of employees in all enterprises, 1999



Source: Eurostat, CVTS2

Little gender difference in CVT participation

Of the 25 countries for which data are available (Figure 14), gender differences are minimal (maximum 5 percentage points) in all countries but the Netherlands, Norway, Bulgaria and the Czech Republic.

Figure 14. Employees participating in CVT courses as a percentage of employees of all enterprises, by gender, 1999

|         | EU 15 | В  | DK | D  | EL | Ε  | F  | IRL | ı  | L  | NL | Α  | Р  | FIN | s  | UK | N  | BG | CZ | EE | HU | LV | LT | PL | RO | SI |
|---------|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| MALES   | 41    | :  | 52 | 34 | 14 | 25 | 48 | 40  | 27 | 34 | 44 | 31 | 17 | 48  | 60 | 50 | 40 | 16 | 46 | 18 | 13 | 13 | 10 | 17 | 8  | 32 |
| FEMALES | 38    | :  | 54 | 29 | 16 | 26 | 44 | 43  | 23 | 39 | 35 | 32 | 17 | 53  | 61 | 46 | 66 | 9  | 35 | 20 | 11 | 12 | 9  | 15 | 7  | 33 |
| TOTAL   | 40    | 41 | 53 | 32 | 15 | 25 | 46 | 41  | 26 | 36 | 41 | 31 | 17 | 50  | 61 | 49 | 48 | 13 | 42 | 19 | 12 | 12 | 10 | 16 | 8  | 32 |

Source: Eurostat, CVTS2

European enterprises invest between 0.5% and 3.6% of labour costs in CVT courses Total expenditure on CVT courses is the sum of direct costs, staff time costs and the balance of contributions to national or regional training funds and receipts from national or other training arrangements.

Total expenditure as a percentage of labour costs of all enterprises in 1999 ranges from 0.5% in Romania to 3.6% in the United Kingdom (Figure 15). Percentages are generally higher in the EU (2.3% on average) than in candidate countries.

Direct costs of CVT courses as a percentage of labour costs vary between 0.3% in Romania and 2.8% in the United Kingdom.

Figure 15. Costs of CVT courses as a percentage of total labour costs of all enterprises, 1999

|   |                           | EU 15 | В   | DK  | D   | EL  | E   | F   | IRL | ı   | L   | NL  | Α   | Р   | FIN | S   | UK  | N   | BG  | CZ  | EE  | HU  | LV  | LT  | PL  | RO  | SI  |
|---|---------------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| D | RECT COSTS                | 1.4   | 0.6 | 1.7 | 0.9 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 1.0 | 1.5 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 1.7 | 8.0 | 0.7 | 1.3 | 1.6 | 2.8 | 1.4 | 0.7 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.8 |
|   | BOUR COSTS<br>ARTICIPANTS | 0.8   | 0.9 | 1.4 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 0.6 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 1.1 | 1.3 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.3 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.5 |
|   | TOTAL                     | 2.3   | 1.6 | 3.0 | 1.5 | 0.9 | 1.5 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 1.7 | 1.9 | 2.8 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 2.4 | 2.8 | 3.6 | 2.3 | 1.0 | 1.9 | 1.8 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 1.3 |

Source: Eurostat, CVTS2

## 5. Methodological notes

#### **Abbreviations**

CVT Continuing vocational training

EU European Union

VET Vocational education and training

#### **Country codes**

EU15 European Union average

В Belgium DK Denmark D Germany EL Greece Ε Spain F France IRL Ireland Τ Italy

L Luxembourg
NL Netherlands
A Austria
P Portugal
FIN Finland
S Sweden

UK United Kingdom

N Norway IS Iceland BG Bulgaria CY Cyprus

CZ Czech Republic

ΕE Estonia HU Hungary LV Latvia LT Lithuania ΜT Malta PLPoland RO Romania SK Slovakia SI Slovenia

#### Symbols in tables

— ni

not availablenegligible

#### Description and coverage of the instruments used:

- The Community labour force survey (LFS) is a household survey carried out annually. It focuses mainly on employment and unemployment but also includes a few questions on participation in education and training and educational level attained. It covers EU Member States, EFTA and candidate countries.
- The UOE (Unesco/OECD/Eurostat) data collection is the instrument through which the three organisations collect comparable data on key aspects of education systems. It is annual and based on administrative sources. It covers EU Member States, EFTA and candidate countries.
- The data collection on vocational education and training (VET) is also based on administrative sources and collects semiaggregated data on VET programmes (programme units) and participants. It was carried out annually from 1994 to 2000 before being frozen. The latest data processed and available are those from 1999, referring to 1997-98. It covers EU Member States, Norway, Iceland and Switzerland.
  - VET programmes are defined as providing participants with the skills, knowledge and competences necessary to get a specific job or a set of jobs. Thus, the data collection instrument is targeted primarily at young people.
- The second European survey on continuing vocational training in enterprises (CVTS2) was carried out in 2000/01 in all Member States, Norway and nine candidate countries (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland -Pomorskie region only, Romania and Slovenia).

Continuing vocational training courses are defined as events designed solely for providing continuing training away from the place of work, e.g. in a classroom or training centre, at which a group of people receive instruction from teachers/tutors/ lecturers for a period of time specified in advance by those organising the course.

Data are classified according to the **International classification of education (ISCED)**, revised in 1997:

- ISCED 0 Pre-primary education: initial stage of organised instruction. It is school- or centre-based and is designed for children aged at least 3.
- ISCED 1 Primary education or first stage of basic education:
  This level begins between 4 and 7 years of age, is compulsory in all countries and generally lasts from five to six years.
- ISCED 2 Lower secondary education or second stage of basic education: It continues the basic programmes of the primary level, although teaching is typically more subject-focused. Usually, the end of this level coincides with the end of compulsory education.
- ISCED 3 Upper secondary education: This level generally begins at the end of compulsory education. The entrance age is typically 15 or 16. Entrance qualifications (end of compulsory education) and other minimum entry requirements are usually needed. Instruction is often more subject-oriented than at ISCED level 2. The typical duration of ISCED level 3 varies from two to five years.
- ISCED 4 Post-secondary non-tertiary education: These programmes straddle the boundary between upper secondary and tertiary education. They serve to broaden the knowledge of ISCED level 3 graduates. Typical examples are programmes designed to prepare students for studies at level 5 or programmes designed to prepare students for direct labour market entry.
- ISCED 5 First stage of tertiary education: entry to these programmes normally requires the successful completion of ISCED levels 3 or 4. This level includes tertiary programmes with academic orientation (type A) which are largely theoretically based and tertiary programmes with occupation orientation (type B) which are typically shorter than type A programmes and geared for entry into the labour market.
- ISCED 6 Second stage of tertiary education, covering programmes leading to an advanced research qualification (PhD or Doctorate).

#### **ISCED 97 fields**

The classification comprises 25 fields of education (at two-digit level) which can be further refined into three-digit level.

The following nine broad groups (at one-digit level) can be distinguished.

- 0 General programmes
- 1 Education
- 2 Humanities and arts
- 3 Social sciences, business and law
- 4 Science, mathematics and computing
- 5 Engineering, manufacturing and construction
- 6 Agriculture and veterinary
- 7 Health and welfare
- 8 Services

NACE Rev.1: Council Regulation (EEC) No 3037/90 of 9 October 1990 on the statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community. Commission Regulation (EEC) No 761/93 of 214 March 1993 amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 3037/90 on the statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community.

| NACE D          | Manufacturing                                    |
|-----------------|--|
| NACE G          | Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor      |
|                 | vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household |
|                 | goods  |
| NACE J          | Financial intermediation                         |
| NACE K          | Real estate, renting and business activities     |
| NACE O          | Other community, social and personal service     |
|                 | activities                                       |
| Other           | Mining and quarrying; Electricity, gas, water;   |
| (C, E, F, H, I) | Construction; Hotels and restaurants; Transport, |
|                 | communication                                    |

#### **Sources**

- European Commission (2002). Key data on education in Europe. European Commission (1999). Key data on vocational training in the European Union.
- European Communities. First survey of continuing vocational training in enterprises in candidate countries (CVTS 2). Statistics in focus, Theme 3, 2/2002.
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