

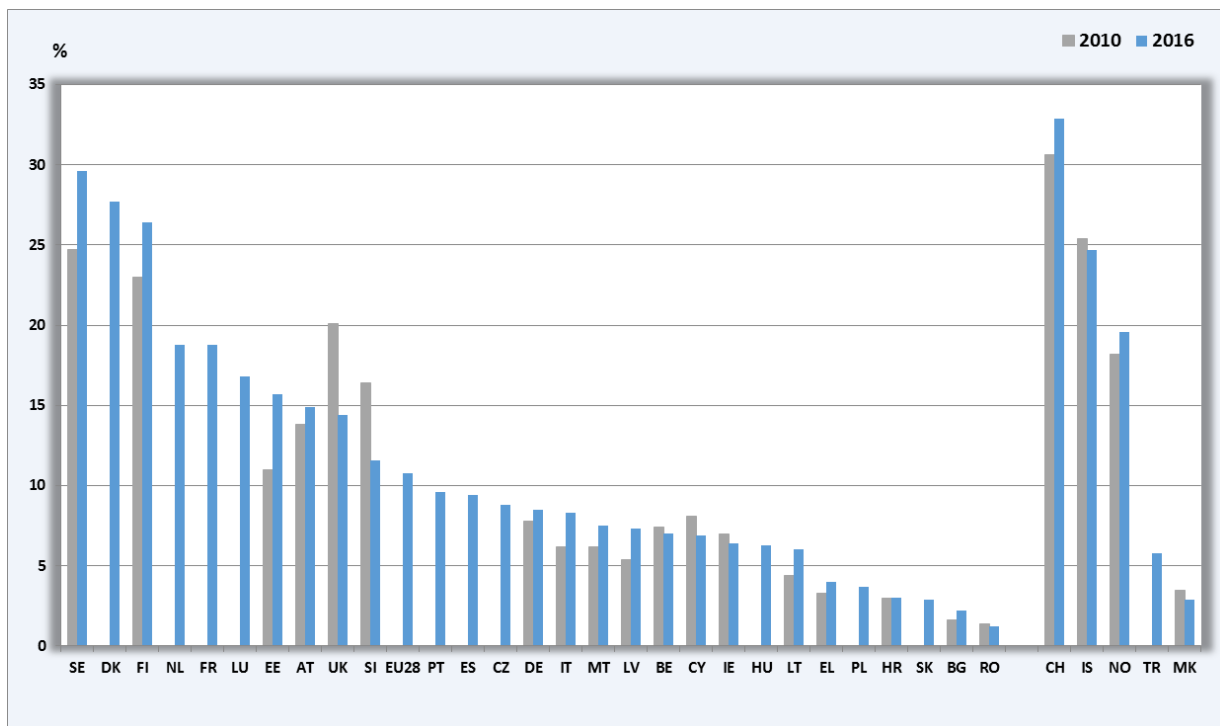
## 6. How many adults participate in education and training?

### Indicator 1050: adults in education and training (lifelong learning indicator)

Raising adult participation in lifelong learning is one key objective of the EU education and training 2020 strategy. A target has been set: by 2020, an average of at least 15% of adults should participate in lifelong learning in the EU. With adult learning activities being mostly non-formal and mostly job related (as reported by the adult education survey in the EU), CVET plays an important role.

The indicator below is participation in lifelong learning. It is defined as the percentage of the adult population aged 25-64 participating in education and training over the four weeks prior to the survey.

**Figure 1** Adults in lifelong learning (%)



Source: Eurostat, EU labour force survey.

## Key points

In 2016, 10.8% of adults in the EU participated in education and training (in the four weeks prior to the survey). Denmark, Sweden and Finland reported the highest percentages with participation rates above 25% (. In contrast, participation rates were lowest in Bulgaria and Romania (below 3%).

Among non-EU countries, participation of adults in lifelong learning varies considerably, with values for 2016 ranging between 32.9% (in Switzerland) and 2.9% (in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia).

Between 2013 and 2016, the lifelong learning indicator for the EU as a whole did not change much (up by 0.1 percentage points). This was also the case (over the same period from 2013 to 2016) in Belgium, Croatia, Lithuania, Malta, and Portugal. In contrast, over the same period, participation rates in some Member States clearly went up. Increases by 1.0 percentage point or more were observed in Estonia, Italy, Finland, and Sweden.,). Clear drops (by 1.0 percentage points or more) were instead observed in the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic, Ireland, and Luxembourg.)

**Table 1 Adults in lifelong learning (%)**

Country code	Country	2010		2016		Recent change				
		Value	Flag	Value	Flag	Range	Country	EU28		
EU28	European Union (28)			10.8	b	'13-'16	↗	0.1		
BE	Belgium	7.4		7.0		'13-'16	↗	0.1	↗	0.1
BG	Bulgaria	1.6		2.2		'13-'16	↗	0.2	↗	0.1
CZ	Czech Republic			8.8	b	'13-'16	↘	-1.2	↗	0.1
DK	Denmark			27.7	b					
DE	Germany	7.8		8.5		'13-'16	↗	0.6	↗	0.1
EE	Estonia	11.0		15.7		'13-'16	↗	3.1	↗	0.1
IE	Ireland	7.0		6.4		'13-'16	↘	-1.2	↗	0.1
EL	Greece	3.3		4.0		'13-'16	↗	0.8	↗	0.1
ES	Spain			9.4	b	'14-'16	↘	-0.7	→	0.0
FR	France			18.8	b	'14-'16	↗	0.4	→	0.0
HR	Croatia	3.0		3.0		'13-'16	↘	-0.1	↗	0.1
IT	Italy	6.2		8.3		'13-'16	↗	2.1	↗	0.1
CY	Cyprus	8.1		6.9		'13-'16	↘	-0.3	↗	0.1
LV	Latvia	5.4		7.3		'13-'16	↗	0.5	↗	0.1
LT	Lithuania	4.4		6.0		'13-'16	↗	0.1	↗	0.1
LU	Luxembourg			16.8	b	'15-'16	↘	-1.2	↗	0.1
HU	Hungary			6.3	b	'15-'16	↘	-0.8	↗	0.1
MT	Malta	6.2		7.5		'13-'16	↘	-0.1	↗	0.1
NL	Netherlands			18.8	b	'13-'16	↗	0.9	↗	0.1
AT	Austria	13.8		14.9		'13-'16	↗	0.8	↗	0.1
PL	Poland			3.7	b	'13-'16	↘	-0.6	↗	0.1
PT	Portugal			9.6	b	'13-'16	↘	-0.1	↗	0.1
RO	Romania	1.4		1.2		'13-'16	↘	-0.8	↗	0.1
SI	Slovenia	16.4		11.6		'13-'16	↘	-0.9	↗	0.1
SK	Slovakia			2.9	b	'13-'16	↘	-0.2	↗	0.1
FI	Finland	23.0		26.4		'13-'16	↗	1.5	↗	0.1
SE	Sweden	24.7		29.6		'13-'16	↗	1.2	↗	0.1
UK	United Kingdom	20.1		14.4		'13-'16	↘	-2.2	↗	0.1
MK	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	3.5		2.9		'13-'16	↘	-0.8	↗	0.1
IS	Iceland	25.4		24.7		'13-'16	↘	-1.6	↗	0.1
NO	Norway	18.2		19.6		'13-'16	↘	-1.2	↗	0.1
CH	Switzerland	30.6		32.9		'13-'16	↗	2.5	↗	0.1
TR	Turkey			5.8	b	'14-'16	↗	0.1	→	0.0

Arrows ↗ or ↘ signal a positive or negative change. Arrow → indicates: no change.

(b) Break after 2010. Therefore baseline data not included.

Source: Eurostat, EU labour force survey.

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