



Introduction to the EU Adult Education Survey (EUROSTAT)

DwB training – Athens February 2015



Outline

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- 2. Harmonisation, yes but how?*
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0. AES in a nutshell (1/5)

- *Five yearly data → latest data available '2011 AES' (used in this seminar)*
 - **Collected between July 2011 and June 2012**
- *Information on individuals (micro level) ...*
 - **Background information (sociodemographic variables)**
 - **Access to information on learning possibilities & obstacles to participation**
 - **Participation in education and training: three types of learning activities**
 - **Self-reported languages skills**
 - **Participation in cultural and social activities**





0. AES in a nutshell (2/5)

- *... and on learning activities (formal and non-formal learning activities)*
 - Level (ISCED 97), field, hours spent, cost of the training
 - Purpose (only non-formal)
 - Use, outcomes, reasons for participating

→ One weight for individuals, one weight for learning activities (non-formal learning activities)





0. AES in a nutshell (3/5)

- *Around 300 variables !*
- *Long questionnaire, especially for respondents who actually participated in education and training (interview lasting 45 minutes in average in some countries)*
- *The **only survey** dedicated to **education and training** in the European Statistical System (= > providing data comparable across countries)*
- *Proved to be a successful data collection in all participating countries*



0. AES in a nutshell (4/5)

- *Reference population:*

People aged 25-64, living in private households

Excluded: people in collective households and institutions

- *Sample size*

Minimum precision criteria to produce results both at country and EU level (half length of the confidence interval for participation in non-formal education and training of 1.4%)

'Maximum indicative size': 5000 records

0. AES in a nutshell (5/5)

- *Reference period : 12 months before the interview (advantages and drawbacks)*

- *Key concepts:*
 - Formal education and training
 - Non-formal education and training
 - Informal learning

- *Structure of the campus file*
 - Same as data made available to researchers
 - Sample of countries (approval)
 - Random selection of records per country



1. A history of the AES (1/3)

- *'Prehistory' : LFS ad-hoc module*
- *First dedicated survey at european level: AES 2005-2008*
→ **what Eurostat calls '2007 AES' or 'Pilot AES'**
- *First EU exercise **under legislation** : 2011 AES (collected in 2011 and 2012)*
- *Next wave to come in 2016/2017*





1. A history of the AES (2/3)

■ *Participation :*

2007 (Pilot) AES: Gentleman's agreement → Not mandatory for that round, but already 29 countries participating (**BE, BG, CZ, DK, DE, EE, EL, ES, FR, HR, IT, CY, LV, LT, HU, NL, AT, PL, PT, RO, SI, SK, FI, SE, UK and NO**)

- Results published on Eurostat's website in 2010-2011
- Lower level of harmonisation than 2011 AES but already quite advanced cooperation (Task Force: definition of a model questionnaire, concepts and recommendations)

2011 AES: EU regulation (N° 823/2010) → (**27 MS***, plus **NO, CH, RS**)

- Results published on Eurostat's website early 2013
- Higher level of harmonisation → better comparability

* HR not a Member State at that time



1. A history of the AES (3/3)

■ *Forthcoming wave of the Adult Education survey*

2016 AES: New EU implementing regulation

To be collected between July 2016 and March 2017

Content kept stable as much as possible compared to 2011 AES (variables names and categories) with amendments when necessary

→ simplifications (dropping social and cultural participation and other optional variables which were very rarely implemented)

→ improvements (outcomes, informal learning)

→ new needs ('guidance')

■ *Future of education and training statistics... ?*

→ on-going discussion, in the framework of a global regulation for EU social surveys (Integrated European Social Statistics)





2. Harmonisation... Yes, but how? (1/3)

Legal basis: a strength for a harmonized data collection

- Common framework directly applicable by countries
- Binding in all its dimensions
- Compliance is monitored by Eurostat
- Additional content at national level is possible
- Microdata required, but also a quality report





2. Harmonisation... Yes, but how? (2/3)

Example of the 2016 AES

- New Regulation n°1175/2014 published on 30 October 2014
- Defines the reference period, fieldwork period and standard requirements: variables (labels, filters and categories) + precision
- Link to the Official Journal:

Implementing Regulation

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2014.316.01.0004.01.ENG

Derogations (Belgium, Ireland, France, Malta and Finland)

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2014.316.01.0067.01.ENG





2. Harmonisation... Yes, but how? (3/3)

Methodological guidelines prepared by Eurostat

- With very important inputs coming from countries ('summarised' by Eurostat)
- Largely discussed within several fora (Task Force, Working group)
- Made available to all users, not only National Statistical Authorities
- Included in the Scientific Use File package

*Metadata to account for national deviations
(mentioned in national quality reports...)*





3. An AES... what for? (1/3)

*The **only** EU social survey dedicated to education and training*

- Education and training holds a high profile on the Commission's agenda, but also at national level
- Gives information on participation in education and training, which can be broken down by basic sociodemographic characteristics
- Can be the background for in-depth analyses on the topic, thanks to a detailed data collection both from the individuals and the learning activities perspective





3. An AES... what for? (2/3)

*The **only** EU social survey dedicated to education and training*

- *The AES is at the heart of the EU statistical tools on education and training (wider scope than other social surveys with educational variables on board, more detailed and higher age coverage than administrative data)*
- *Links with the Labour Force Survey will strengthen in the future (LFS educational variables to come closer to AES concepts in the coming years)*



3. An AES... what for? (3/3)

Dissemination of the survey

Anonymised microdata

- Anonymised data made available to the researchers' community for a long time now (starting with 2007 AES)
- Already around 20 project proposals submitted to Eurostat (2011 AES)

Indicators based on AES results

- Several datasets (tables displaying indicators) on [Eurobase](#)



4. Methodological hints (1/4)

Anonymised dataset

- Standard and country-specific criteria (resp. approved and required by countries (through a consultation of the Education and Training Statistics Working Group) have been applied to make the dataset held by Eurostat usable by researchers → ***Scientific use file***

Campus file (used in this training session)

- Based on the anonymised data, with additional criteria
 - Only a selection of a few countries, which accepted to give use of the data for the purpose
 - Some records deleted ('big' households)
 - 800 to 1200 records randomly selected by country

4. Methodological hints (2/4)

About weights

RESPWEIGHT

- Classic, in all social surveys to make the sample representative of the target population...

NFEACTWEIGHT

- Derived from RESPWEIGHT, it takes into account the number of learning activities of the respondent (and therefore of the selection probability)
- To be used for detailed analyses of the characteristics of the learning activities



4. Methodological hints (3/4)

About limitations of the survey

- Many optional variables were very scarcely implemented
- Some 'blocks' of variables proved to be problematic in many countries → **Informal learning in particular**
- Some items subject to high non-response (especially those concerning amounts paid for the training)

→ *In case of doubt, please refer to the national (and EU) quality report (available to the public, along with other metadata, on [CIRCABC](#))*





4. Methodological hints (4/4)

Some useful links

Link to Eurostat's database

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>

Link to the folder dedicated to Adult Education Survey on CIRCABC (web platform for shared documentation)

<https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/ac6f3889-ab25-4f75-9c7a-de997f65e2db>

Link to Eurostat's page on access to microdata

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/microdata/overview>





Thank you for your attention !

*For **further information** on the AES, please refer to the metadata made available on [CIRCABC](#)*



National samples of the 2011 AES

COUNTRY	2011 AES sample sizes					
	Younger people*	25-64 Target population	Older people**	Total	Min age	Max age
BE	0	5526	0	5526	25	64
BG	726	5447	0	6173	18	64
CZ	1177	7969	1044	10190	18	69
DK	0	3660	0	3660	25	64
DE	0	6213	0	6213	25	64
EE	0	3324	0	3324	25	64
IE	0	12582	0	12582	25	64
EL	620	5420	0	6040	18	64
ES	1916	15913	0	17829	17	64
FR	1340	12517	0	13857	18	64
HR						
IT	1133	8703	1757	11593	16	75
CY	0	2404	0	2404	25	64
LV	0	5048	0	5048	25	64
LT	696	4251	441	5388	18	69
LU	0	3310	0	3310	25	64
HU	0	7367	0	7367	25	64
MT	0	2882	0	2882	25	64
NL	0	3036	0	3036	25	64
AT	681	5073	0	5754	18	64
PL	3377	22522	1734	27633	18	69
PT	1535	11308	1346	14189	17	70
RO	1396	11034	1221	13651	18	69
SI	586	4013	344	4943	18	69
SK	745	4255	0	5000	18	64
FI	0	3605	0	3605	25	64
SE	0	3096	0	3096	25	64
UK	56	3170	298	3524	24	69
NO	512	2677	147	3336	16	68
CH	0	9660	0	9660	25	64
RS	0	4534	0	4534	25	64
Total	16496	200422	8429	225347		