

MAIN RESULTS FROM THE ADULT EDUCATION SURVEY 2022

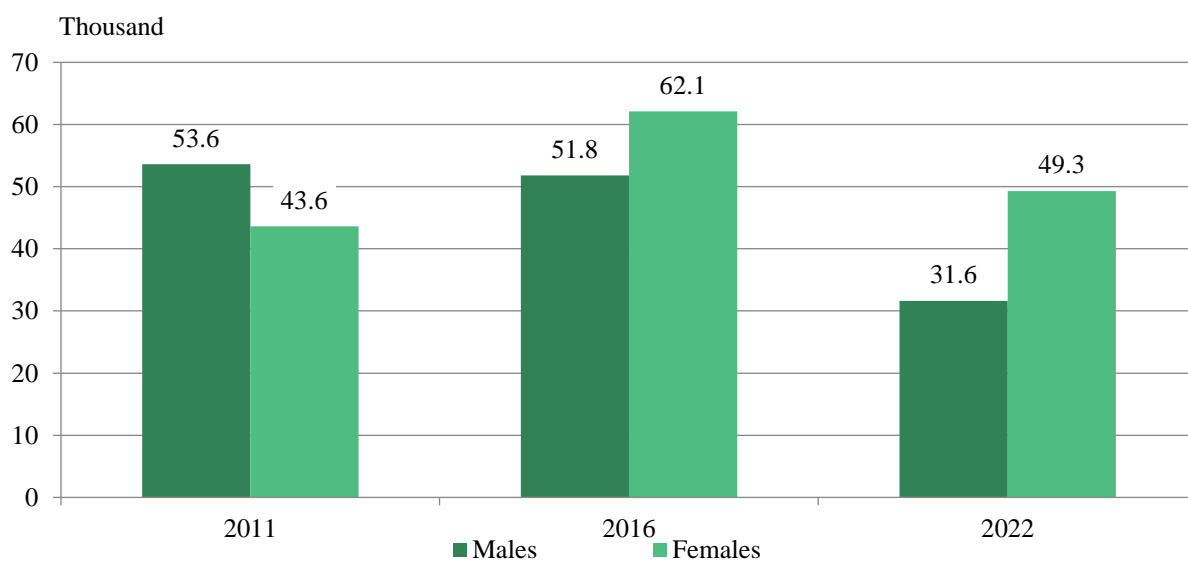
(PRELIMINARY DATA)

Population aged 25 - 64 participated in formal education or training¹

Of all individuals in active labour age (25 - 64 years), 81 thousand persons (or 2.4%) were enrolled in formal education in the last 12 months. Women in the surveyed age group were more often students in formal education - 2.9%, than men - 1.9%. Of all persons enrolled in formal education or training, the highest share was of those enrolled for acquiring Master's degree - 35.3 thousand persons, or 43.5%.

Participants used online learning materials² during the training are 75.1 thousand (92.7%), and 68.4 thousand (84.4%) contacted lecturers or educational institutions through a website or specially set up group on social networks.

Figure 1. Participants in formal education and training aged 25 - 64 years in 2011, 2016 and 2022 by sex



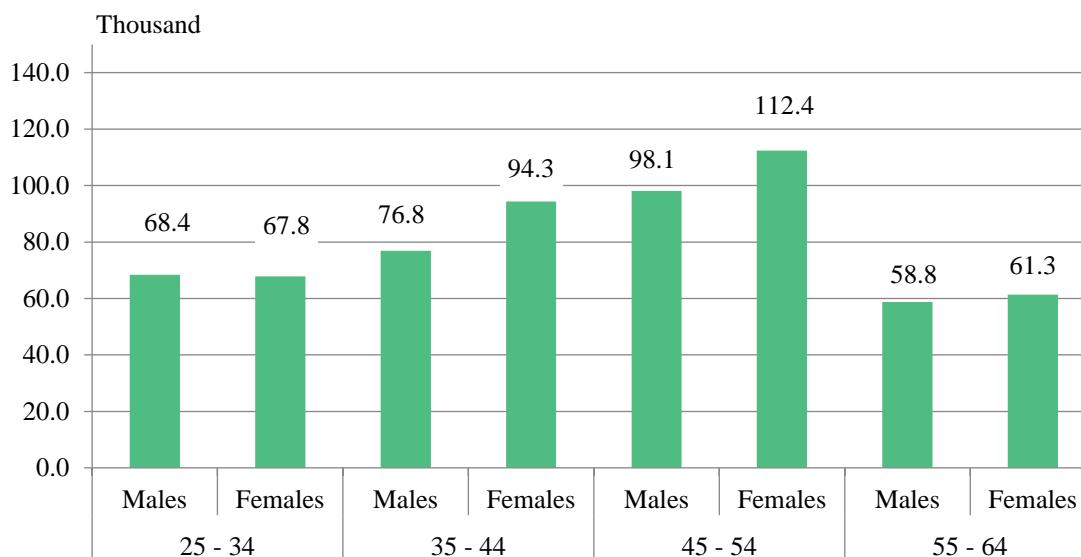
¹ Formal Education includes formal educational system (schools, colleges, universities, centers for vocational training) and leads to obtaining of an educational and/or professional qualification degree.

² Electronic textbooks, audio-visual materials, online dictionaries and etc.

Population aged 25 - 64 participating in non-formal education or training¹

According to the survey, 637.9 thousand persons (18.9%) aged 25 - 64 participated in at least one non-formal training in the last 12 months. Compared to the previous survey wave, there was a decrease of 3.6 percentage points.

Figure 2. Participants in non-formal education and training by age and sex



The distribution of the participants in non-formal learning according to the highest level of education completed was as follows:

- 4.7% of those with basic (lower-secondary) or lower education;
- 16.1% of those with upper-secondary;
- 31.1% of those with tertiary education.

Concerning the labor status of the persons, the share of non-formal education participants was highest among the employed - 26.1%.

The share of guided-on-the-job training² was highest among training activities 13.8%, followed by enrolled in courses (4.2%), educational seminars and workshops (3.6%) and private lessons (1.1%).

Population aged 25 - 64 participating in informal training³

The results of the survey showed that 1 481.6 thousand people, or 43.8% of the population aged 25 - 64, participated in informal learning in the last 12 months. Women were more active than men, 46.9% and 40.81%, respectively.

¹ Organized and purposeful education or training, but its successful completion does not lead to obtaining of an educational and/or professional qualification degree. The most widespread forms of non-formal education are courses, private lessons, seminars and workshops, guided on-the-job-training, instructions on a labour safety.

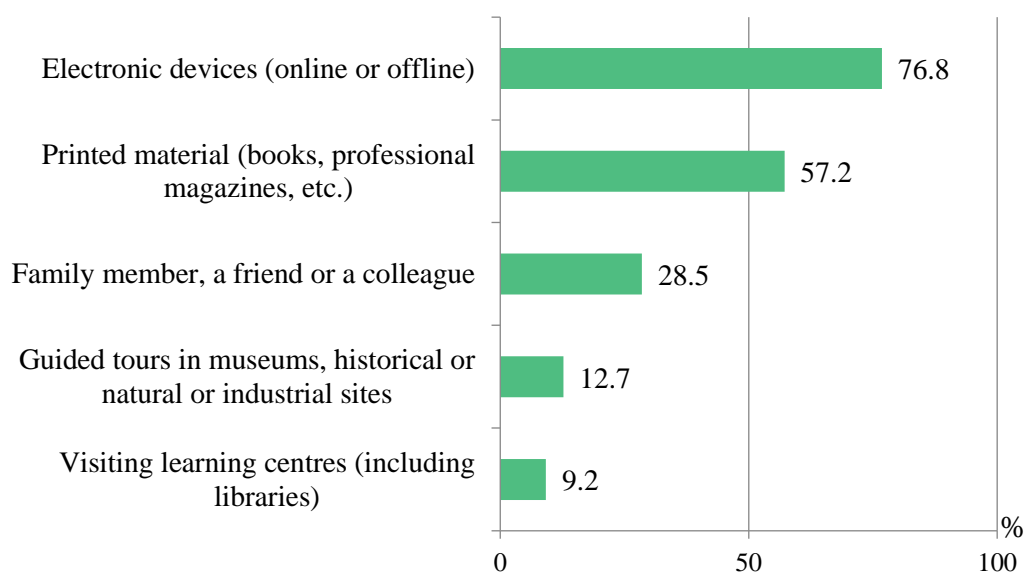
² A special form of non-formal education or training. It is characterized by planned period of training, instructions or practical experience, at the immediate place of work with the presence of a tutor.

³ Purposeful (intentional) learning activity aimed to enhance personal knowledge and skills, without the presence of tutor and without a structured curriculum and timetable.

There were significant differences in participation by level of education - 75.8% of the persons with tertiary education, had participated in informal learning, while this share was 35.7% among the persons with secondary education and 9.5% of those with basic or lower education.

The share of participation rate was the highest for persons aged 25 - 34 years - 61.6%, compared to 44.4% for aged 35 - 54 and 28.4% for those aged 55 - 64. The main informal-learning methods used were via using electronic devices (online or offline) used by 76.8% of those who participated in this form of education, followed by the educational information published in the printed materials (57.2%).

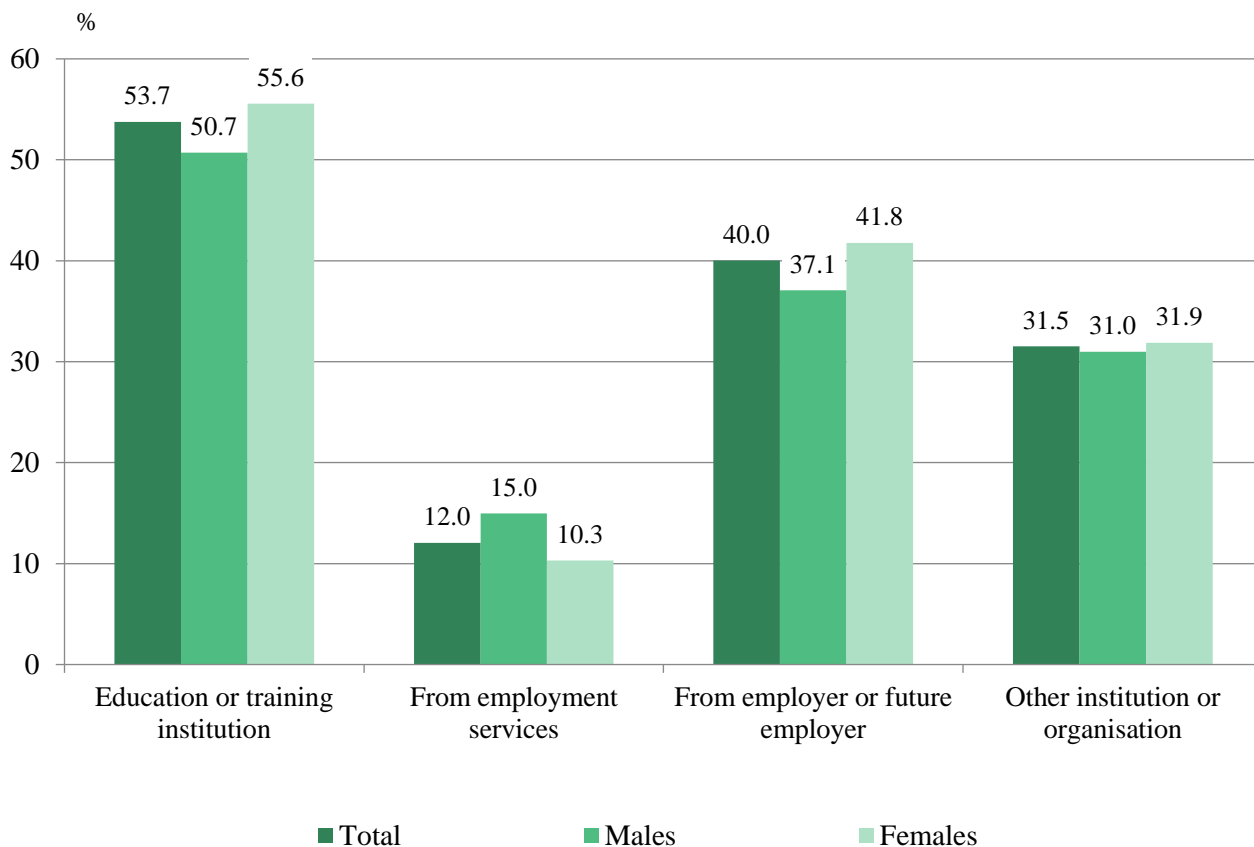
Figure 3. Participants in informal learning aged 25 - 64 by type of learning



Access to information on education and training possibilities

Over the past 12 months, 218.3 thousand (6.5%) aged 25 - 64 had searched information on education and training possibilities. Women were more active than men - 8.0% and 5.1%, respectively. From those who searched for information, 183.4 thousand (84.0%) persons have found opportunities for inclusion in education or training. According to the source of the information obtained - the highest share were from educational institutions (53.7%) and employers or future employers (40.0%).

Figure 4. Sources of information concerning the possibilities for training the persons who received information by sex

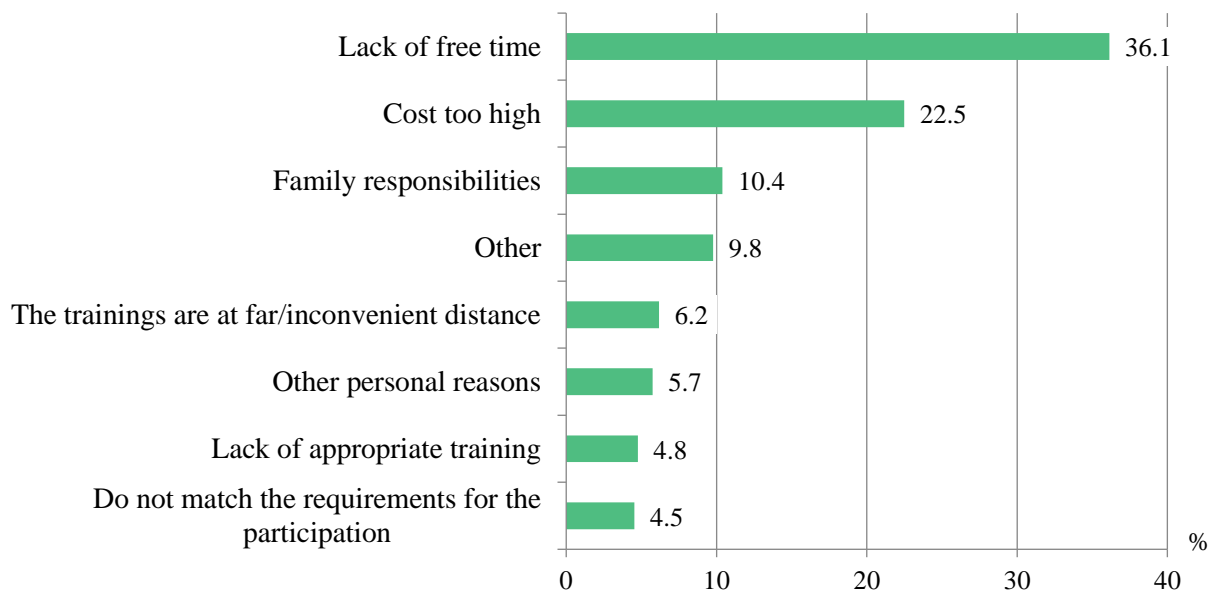


Obstacles for participation in formal/non-formal education and training.

According to the results from the survey, 11.8% of the population aged 25 - 64 declared the need or wish for a particular training, but had failed to participate in the last 12 months.

The main obstacles for participation in education and training were: lack of free time (36.1%), too high costs for the educational program (22.5%) and family responsibilities (10.4%).

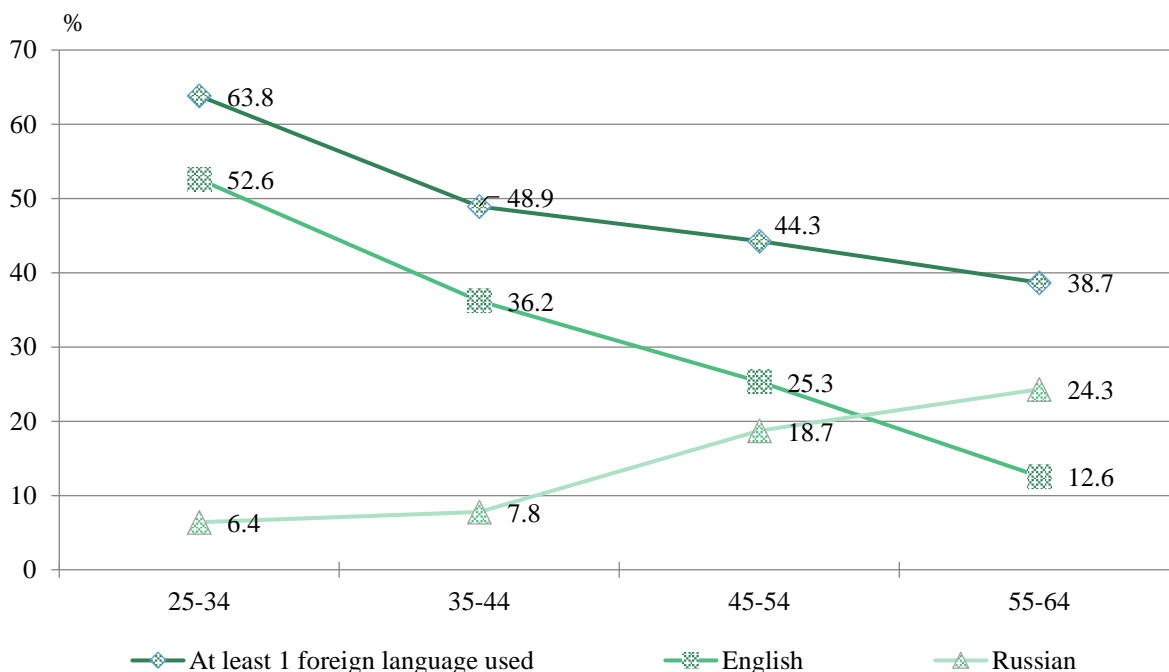
Figure 5. Obstacles for the population aged 25 - 64 years for participating in training



Language skills

The survey results showed that 47.9% of the population in active labour age (25 - 64) use at least one foreign language. The largest share of used foreign languages was: English - 30.4%, followed by Russian (14.8%), German (4.8%) and French (1.9%).

Figure 6. Population aged 25 - 64 by age groups and used foreign languages

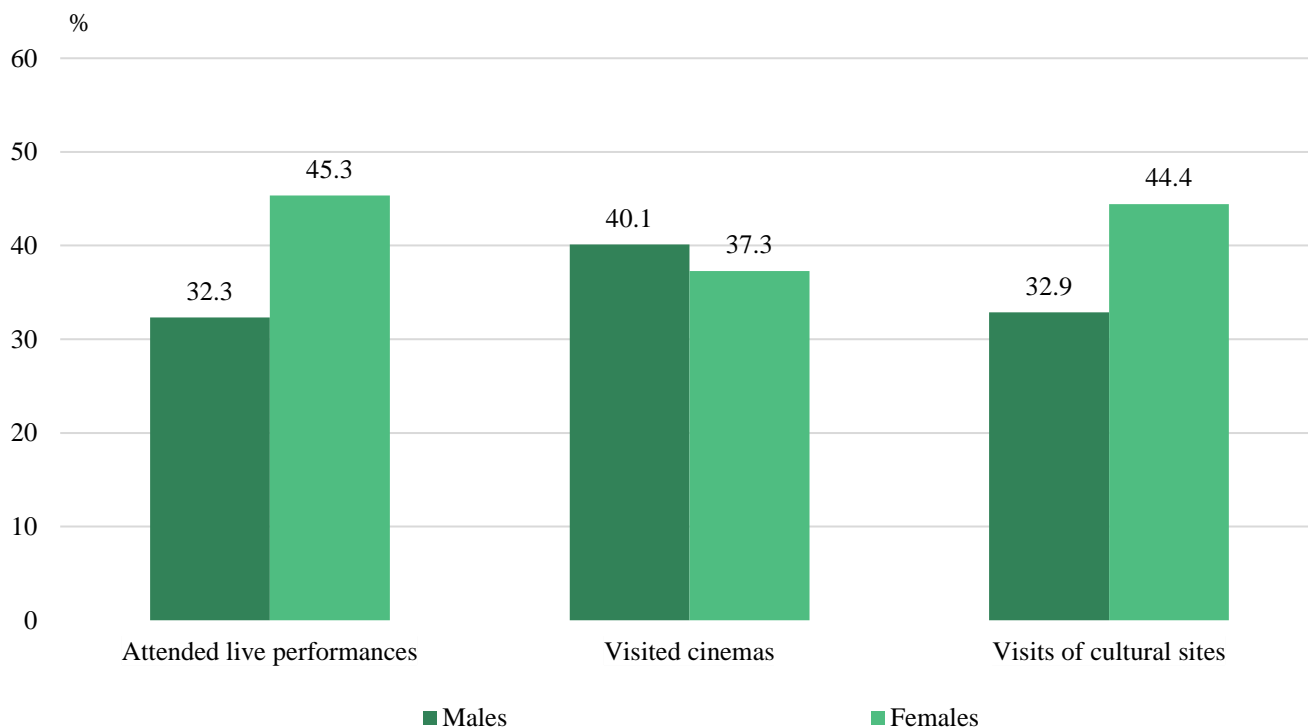


There were significant differences in the share of users of at least one foreign language depending on their age. Among the youngest population (25 - 34) two thirds use at least one foreign language (63.8%), whereas this relative share for persons aged 35 - 44 is 48.9%, for persons aged 45 - 54 is 44.3% and for the oldest (55 - 64) was 38.7%.

Participation in cultural events of the population aged 25 - 64

Survey data showed that 40.3% of the population aged 25 - 64 years did not participated in any cultural event (live, cinema or cultural landmark visit) in the last 12 months. Attended at least once live performances (play, concert, opera, ballet) were 38.8%, attended cinema halls - 38.7%, and visited cultural landmarks (museums, art galleries, archaeological excavations) - 38.6%.

Figure 7. Share of people who have visited at least once cultural events in the past 12 months



Over the past 12 months, 48.2% had read at least one book in their free time and this share decreased by 4.9 percentage points compared to 2016. Men who read at least one book during their free time were 38.0% and women - 58.5%.

Slightly more than a third of the population (36.5%) read newspapers every day (including electronic issues). Men were more active in this respect than women - 38.4% and 34.5%, respectively. Of those with basic or lower education, 9.0% read newspapers daily, and 37.8% and 47.9% among those with upper-secondary and tertiary education.



Methodological notes

Adult Education Survey is conducted every 5 years in all EU member states through a common methodology and a harmonized questionnaire in accordance with Commission Regulation (EU) № 2019/1700 of 10 October 2019. In Bulgaria, the observation was conducted during the period 12 December 2022 - 28 February 2023. According to the methodology, participation in the various forms of Lifelong Learning is measured in the last 12 months before the survey date. The representative sample for the country included 5 238 ordinary households.

The study of adult education and training is conducted for the fourth time in Bulgaria. For the preparation of research, the National Statistical Institute use financial assistance from the European Commission by grant agreement № 101051892-2021-BG-AES in order to build statistical infrastructure and capacity for the current and subsequent waves.

All requirements regarding the application of the accepted definitions and classifications and the representativeness and accuracy of the results are fulfilled.

Thematic areas included in the questionnaire are divided into the following main modules:

- Social-demographic characteristics of individuals;
- Access to information on education and training possibilities;
- Participation in formal education and training;
- Participation in non-formal training;
- Obstacles for participation in formal or non-formal education and training;
- Informal learning;
- Language skills;
- Participation in cultural events.

The representative for the country sample included 5 238 private households and the survey was conducted on the principle of the voluntary participation of individuals through a 'direct interview' (another person from the household was not allowed to answer instead of the individual that had to be interviewed).

More information and data from the Adult Education Survey can be found on the website of the National Statistical Institute, section 'Education and Lifelong Learning' (<http://www.nsi.bg/en/node/3374/>), as well in the Infostat - Information System (https://infostat.nsi.bg/infostat/pages/module.jsf?x_2=42).

Annex

Table 1

Participants in lifelong learning by sex, age, educational attainment and residence

	Persons who have participated in formal education in the last 12 months		Persons who have participated in non-formal education in the last 12 months		Persons who have participated in informal education in the last 12 months	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total	81004	2.4	637911	18.9	1481568	43.8
By sex						
Male	31663	1.9	302106	17.8	692547	40.8
Female	49341	2.9	335805	19.9	789021	46.9
By age						
25 - 34	51361	7.8	136166	20.6	408231	61.6
35 - 44	16430	1.8	171164	19.3	466315	52.5
45 - 54	10168	1.0	210453	21.1	369608	37.1
55 - 64	3046	0.4	120128	14.4	237413	28.4
By educational attainment						
Basic education or below	5919	1.2	23742	4.7	48477	9.5
Upper secondary education	28099	1.5	299045	16.1	663694	35.7
Tertiary education	46986	4.6	315124	31.1	769397	75.8
By residence						
Urban	71854	2.9	538147	21.4	1225755	48.8
Rural	9150	1.0	99764	11.4	255813	29.3

Table 2

Persons who have looked for and have received free of charge information about learning possibilities by sex, age, educational attainment and residence

	Persons who have looked for information in last 12 months		Persons who have received information in last 12 months	
	Number	%	Number	%
Total	218268	6.5	183364	5.4
By sex				
Male	85042	5.1	68650	4
Female	133227	8.0	114715	6.8
By age				
25 - 34	76210	11.6	66625	10.1
35 - 44	67262	7.7	57781	6.5
45 - 54	49653	5.1	45411	4.6
55 - 64	25144	3.0	13548	1.6
By educational attainment				
Basic education or below	10366	2.0	8945	1.8
Upper secondary education	60451	3.3	60876	3.3
Tertiary education	147452	14.6	113544	11.2
By residence				
Urban	191498	7.7	164034	6.5
Rural	26770	3.1	19331	2.2

Table 3

Use of foreign languages by sex, age, educational attainment, residence and main languages

	At least one foreign language used		By main languages used:					
			English		Russian		German	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total	1616893	47.9	1023833	30.4	500221	14.8	161955	4.8
By sex								
Male	762495	45.0	498197	29.4	197418	11.6	75318	4.4
Female	854398	50.9	525636	31.3	302803	18	86637	5.2
By age								
25 - 34	421977	63.8	347737	52.6	42333	6.4	50353	7.6
35 - 44	431519	48.9	319114	36.2	68493	7.8	45208	5.1
45 - 54	440231	44.3	251852	25.3	186255	18.7	44580	4.5
55 - 64	323165	38.7	105130	12.6	203141	24.3	21813	2.6
By educational attainment								
Basic education or below	143470	28.4	11976	2.4	9677	1.9	1468	0.3
Upper secondary education	701132	37.8	376808	20.3	236795	12.8	53746	2.9
Tertiary education	772291	76.1	635048	62.6	253748	25.0	106740	10.5
By labour status								
Employed	1235935	52.7	871618	37.1	393245	16.8	130168	5.5
Unemployed	197392	36.6	82164	15.2	43901	8.1	23697	4.4
Inactive	183566	37.8	70051	14.4	63074	13	8091	1.7
By residence								
Urban	1279302	51.0	875211	34.9	421755	16.8	141916	5.7
Rural	337590	38.9	148622	17.1	78466	9.1	20039	2.3

Table 4

Persons who have visited cultural events in the last 12 months by type of the event, sex, age, educational attainment and residence

	Live performances		Cinemas		Cultural sites	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total	1312292	38.8	1309190	38.7	1306356	38.6
By sex						
Male	549027	32.3	681588	40.1	558309	32.9
Female	763265	45.3	627602	37.3	748048	44.4
By age						
25 - 34	293378	44.3	376695	56.9	279273	42.2
35 - 44	331057	37.3	404854	45.6	363102	40.9
45 - 54	407700	41.0	351957	35.4	374048	37.6
55 - 64	280158	33.5	175685	21.0	289934	34.7
By educational attainment						
Basic education or below	30756	6.0	34534	6.8	19708	3.9
Upper secondary education	583056	31.4	652655	35.1	616958	33.2
Tertiary education	698481	68.8	622001	61.3	669691	66.0
By residence						
Urban	1164845	46.4	1132017	45.1	1130688	45.0
Rural	147447	16.9	177173	20.3	175668	20.2