



**awake**



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

AGING WITH ACTIVE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

# EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND EXPECTATIONS OF PEOPLE OVER 50

1970

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Findings within the EU Lifelong Learning Programme Grundtvig Learning Partnership project “Aging With Active Knowledge and Experience (AWAKE)”

*Ētāvava*  
*pilsēta izaugsmei!*

# FINAL REPORT

- Summarized several theoretical aspects of adults (*including people aged 50+*) education, motivation to learn and educational needs, teaching methods, barriers for people aged 50+ learning activities as well as volunteers and volunteering
- Analysed the survey data on current situation, needs and expectations, learning and teaching forms and methods, possibilities and barriers and volunteering of people aged 50+

# CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SAMPLE (N=234)

Quality	Category	Presents (%) of respondents
<b>Country</b>	Poland	13
	Romania	14
	Italy	17
	Lithuania	26
	Latvia	18
	Spain	13
<b>Gender</b>	Female	58
	Male	42
<b>Age</b>	51-60	29
	61-70	47
	71-80	15
	81+	8
<b>Education</b>	higher	36
	post high school	18
	high school	16
	professional	18
	basic	12
<b>Place of residence</b>	Rural	15
	small town	18
	medium	33
	city	34
<b>Employment</b>	self-employed	8
	employee	22
	pensioner	64
	unemployed	5
	other	1

# CURRENT SITUATION/ WILLINGNESS TO LEARN



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**Dr.oec., Evija Kopeika**  
**University of Latvia**

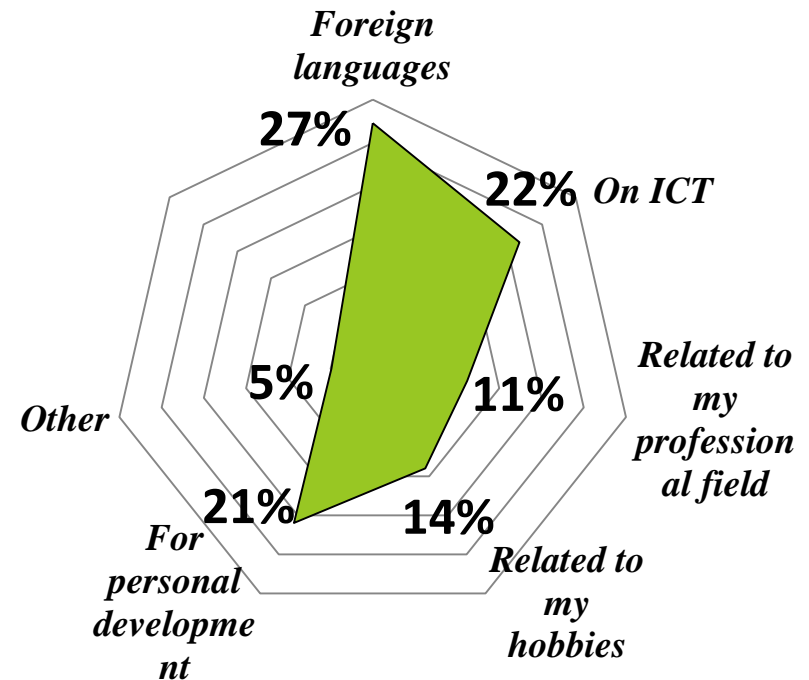
# PROJECT RESPONDENTS' PARTICIPATION IN TRAINING

Part of the respondents are already take part in various distance learning courses or participating in various interest groups, disregard of their previous professions and acquired skills, which would point to their willingness to perfect themselves and live a full life.

**49% are already participating in several courses and seminars.**

**Of them:**

- ✓ **27% attend foreign language courses;**
- ✓ **22% attend ICT ;**
- ✓ **21% focus on personal development.**



# THE MOST DEMANDED AREAS OF THE COURSE ATTENDEES INCLUDED:

## ITALY

related to hobbies (29%)  
foreign languages (26%);

## POLAND

For personal development (43%)  
foreign languages (29%);

## LITHUANIA

foreign languages (34%)  
ICT (30%);

## LATVIA

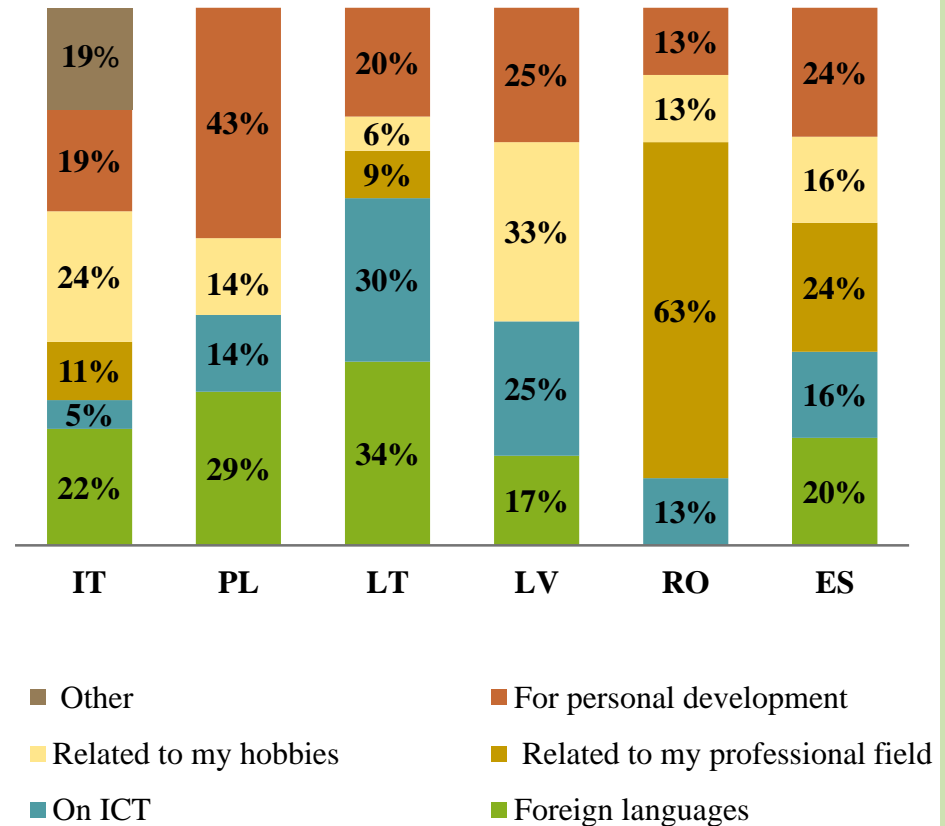
Related to hobbies (33%)  
equally - on ICT (25%) and for personal development (25%);

## ROMANIA

Related to professional field 63%,  
equally - on ICT, Related to my hobbies and for personal development (13%).

## SPAIN

equally for personal development and related to professional field (24%)  
foreign languages (20%)

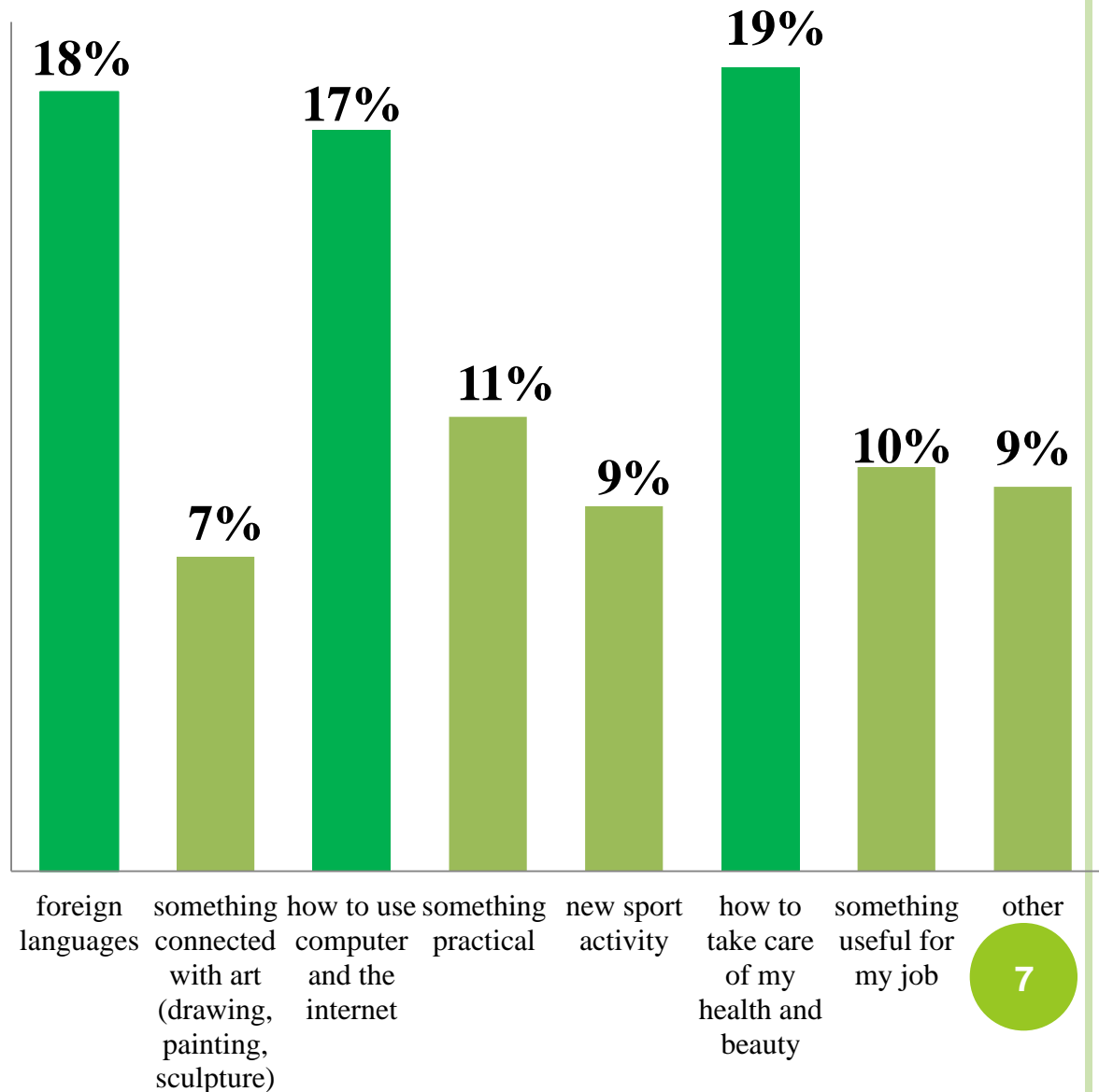


# RESPONDENTS' WILLINGNESS TO LEARN DIFFERENT AREAS

**72% of the respondents would like to learn something new.**

**Respondents are most interested about the training:**

- ✓ **how to take care of my health and beauty ;**
- ✓ **foreign languages;**
- ✓ **use computer and the internet.**



# IN THE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES OF THE RESPONDENTS DESIRE TO LEARN DIFFERENT AREAS

More willing participate in lifelong learning:

## ROMANIA

how to take care of my health and beauty (21%);

how to use ICT (13%);

## ITALY

equally - foreign languages, how to use ICT

new sport activity (15%);

## LATVIA

how to take care of my health and beauty(21%)

foreign languages (16%);

## LITHUANIA

foreign languages (23%)

how to use ICT (21%);

## POLAND

foreign languages (26%)

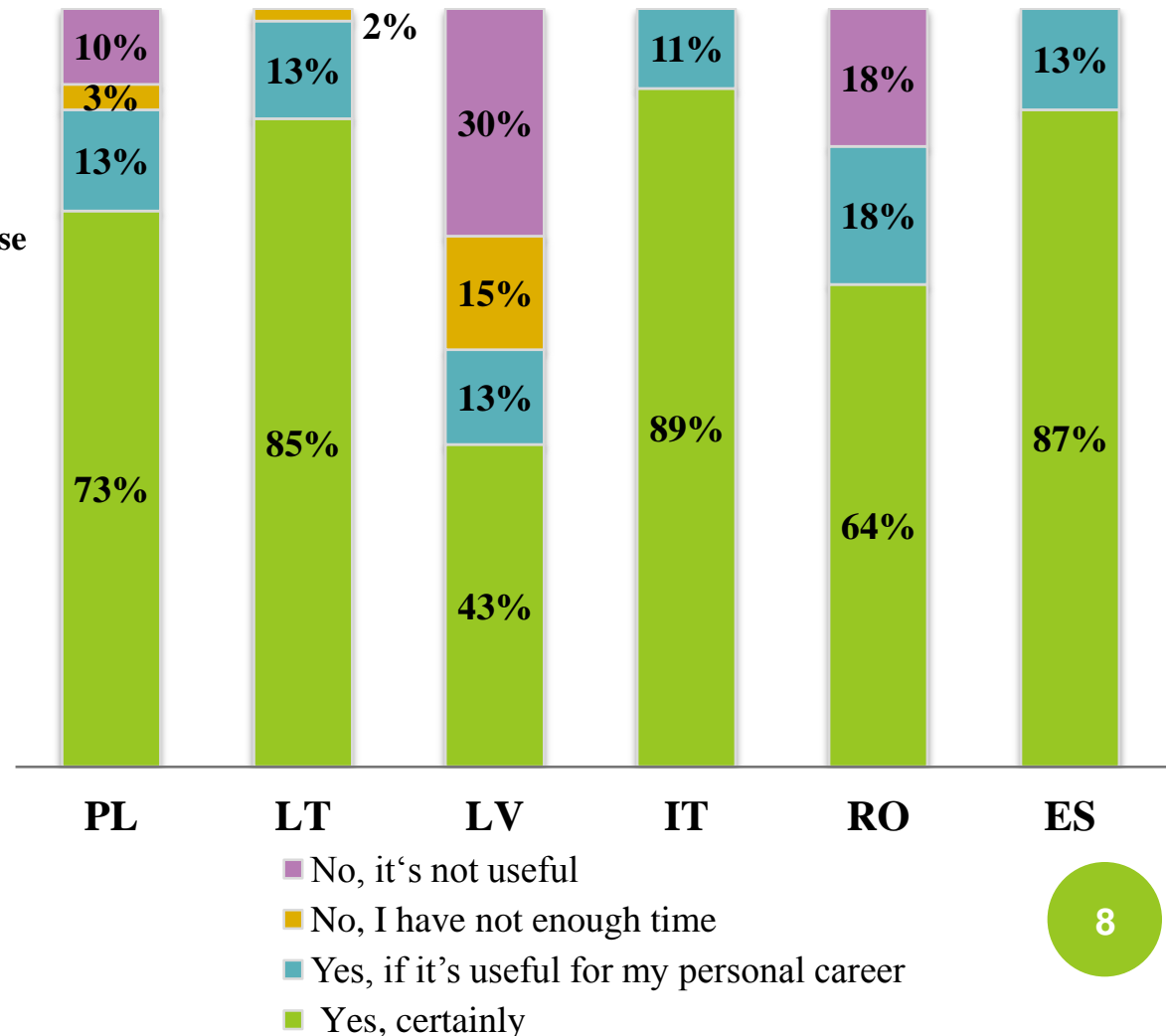
how to use ICT (23%);

## SPAIN

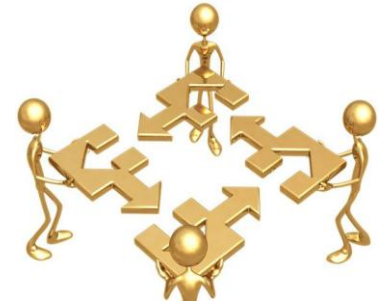
foreign languages (27%)

and how to use ICT (27%)

*Would you like to learn something new?*







# WHY LEARN? MOTIVATION

Mg.paed., Mg.Math, Sarmite Cernajeva  
Riga Technical University

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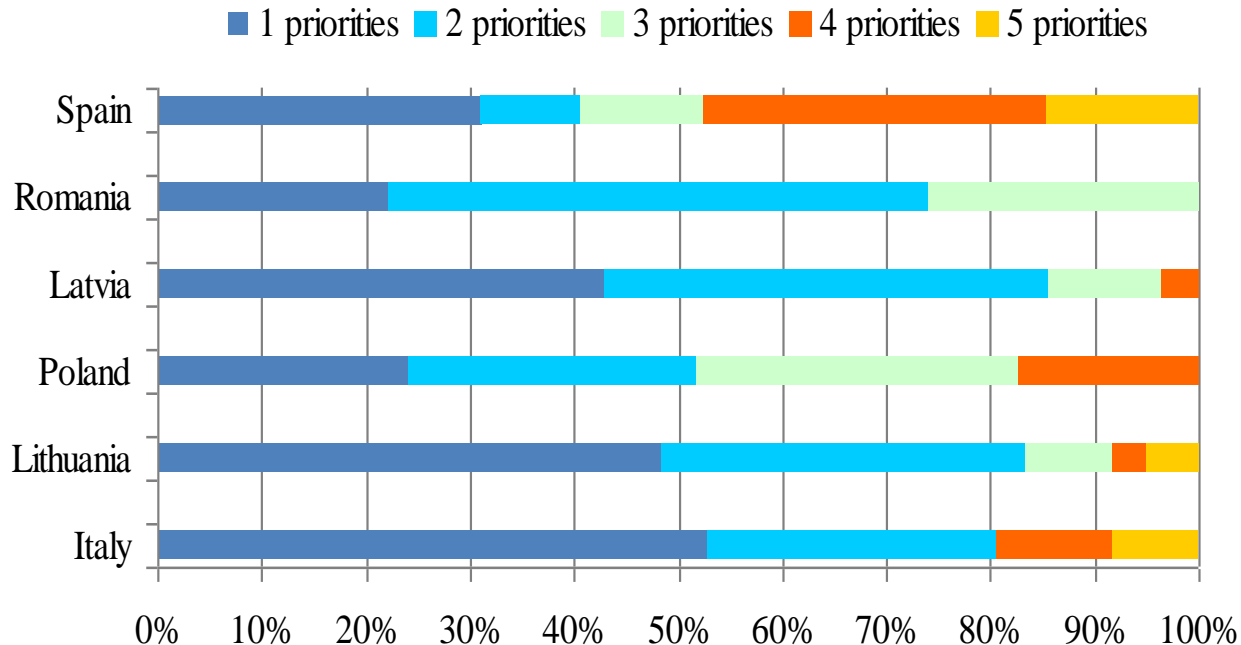
## MOTIVATIONAL PROCESS BY COULUP (2008)

- The motivation problem has been in place for centuries and it hasn't lost its meaning today. No human action is possible without motivation. Motivation replaces boredom with enthusiasm (Student J, 1998). It's motivation that makes us move, guides our actions and maintains our behavior through time.
- In pedagogy, to achieve good class results, motivation is very important. A motivated person can use his/her intentional memory along with his/her unintentional memory much more successfully.

# MOTIVATIONAL PROCESS BY COULUP (2008)

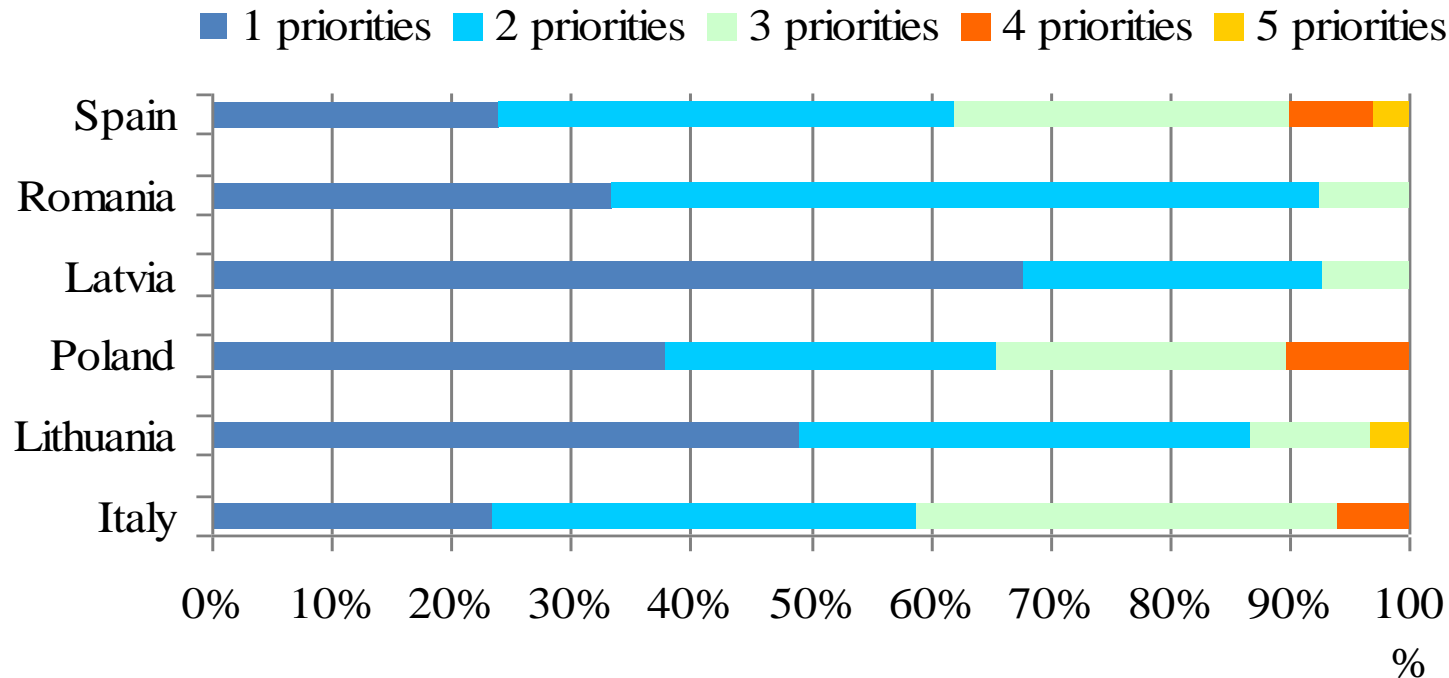


# I LIKE TO LEARN



- Of course, nothing is unequivocal and each person remains an individual, unique personality. Respondents in all age groups from SPAIN (ES), Italy(IT), Latvia(LV), Lithuania(LT), Romania(RO) and Poland(PL) like to learn, but in the age group 61 -70, learning is a good means to meet new people.

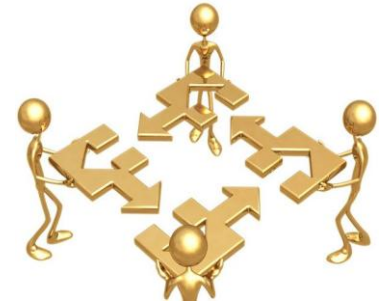
# LEARNING IS A GOOD MEANS TO MEET NEW PEOPLE



- Respondents over 50 years fully agree or agree that studies is a good means to meet new people. Especially, respondents from Poland tend to agree with this statement.

# MAIN RESULTS

- The respondents from cities and small cities like studies the most.
- Family status does not influence whether the respondent likes studies or not.
- To respondents, who live in old people homes or by themselves, studies is a good means to meet and get to know new people.
- Among respondents from all countries, the ones who like to express their opinions come mostly from Poland and Latvia.
- Respondents over 50 do not learn to achieve in their profession anymore.



# FORMS AND METHODS OF ADULT EDUCATION

**Author: Dr.paed., Natalija Vronska  
Latvia University of Agriculture**

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In the 21st century, people have to cope with continuous change. Our world, changing rapidly, is the reason why a large proportion of society has to adjust to a new work environment full with challenges, that require new skills and attitude. In many European countries education is developing so that people could learn through-out their lives.



# WHICH METHOD OF LEARNING DO YOU PREFER?

	Romania	Italy	Latvia	Lithuania	Poland	Spain
a – books/literature	27	32	8	37	16	15
b – internet	5	7	11	24	5	12
c – video and audio recordings	19	6	4	21	5	3
d – other	5	7	13	9	0	1

In data selections from all countries the prevalence of answer 'a' was evident, except for Latvia, therefore it is clear that the respondents mostly answered that their preferred learning method would be books.

It means that people still have deficiencies of IKT skills and competence.

# PREFER LEARNING IN A GROUP OR WITH THE TEACHER?

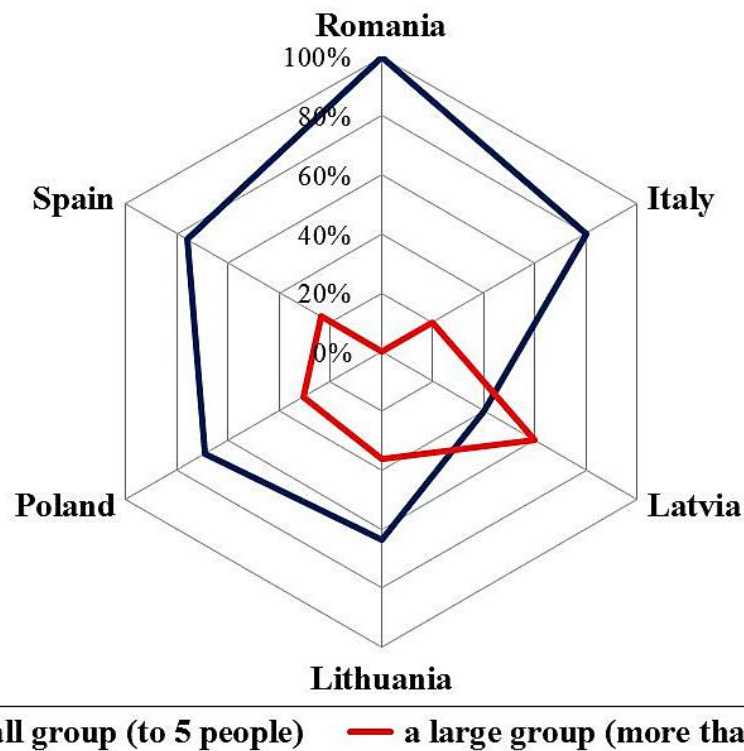
	Romania	Italy	Latvia	Lithuania	Poland	Spain
a – prefer learning with a direct contact with the teacher	15	21	8	19	5	5
b – prefer learning in a group	12	13	18	39	13	16
c – prefer learning on my own	0	5	3	4	10	6

Respondents from Romania would prefer learning with direct assistance from the teacher and also learning in groups. Respondents from Poland prefer learning in groups but also learning on their own.

Respondents from Italy, statistically the most significant prevalence was for answer '*prefer learning with the teacher*'.

But respondents from Latvia, Lithuania and Spain prefer learning in groups.

# IN WHICH GROUP YOU PREFER LEARNING?



Respondents from Romania (100%), Italy (80%), Lithuania (64%), Poland (69%) and Spain (76%) prefer learning in small groups, with no more than 5 members. But respondents from Latvia (60%) prefer studying in groups of more than 5 people.

# WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE WAY OF SPENDING YOUR FREE TIME?

	Romania	Italy	Latvia	Lithuania	Poland	Spain
a – read a paper/book	41	35	15	44	22	24
b – watch TV, listen to radio	47	21	26	40	16	19
c – surf the web	8	15	5	32	8	11
d – go to cinema, theatre, museum	23	27	16	33	15	17
e – sports activities	34	27	9	24	13	12
f – spend time with friends/family	24	31	27	40	16	17
g – other	56	5	7	2	9	0

Respondents from Poland spend their time by equally dividing between reading papers/ books, watching TV/ listening to radio, visiting cinemas/ theatres/ museums, sports activities, meeting friends/ family. Respondents from Italy, Lithuania and Spain spend their free time by reading books and papers, respondents in Latvia spend their free time with friends and family. Respondents' from Romania answers are 'mending own car', or 'cooking', or 'crosswords', or 'excursions and walks outdoors', or 'working in my garden'.

# **POSSIBILITIES AND BARRIERS FOR ADULT LEARNING ACTIVITIES**

**Author: Dr.oec., Ilze Balode  
Ventspils University College**

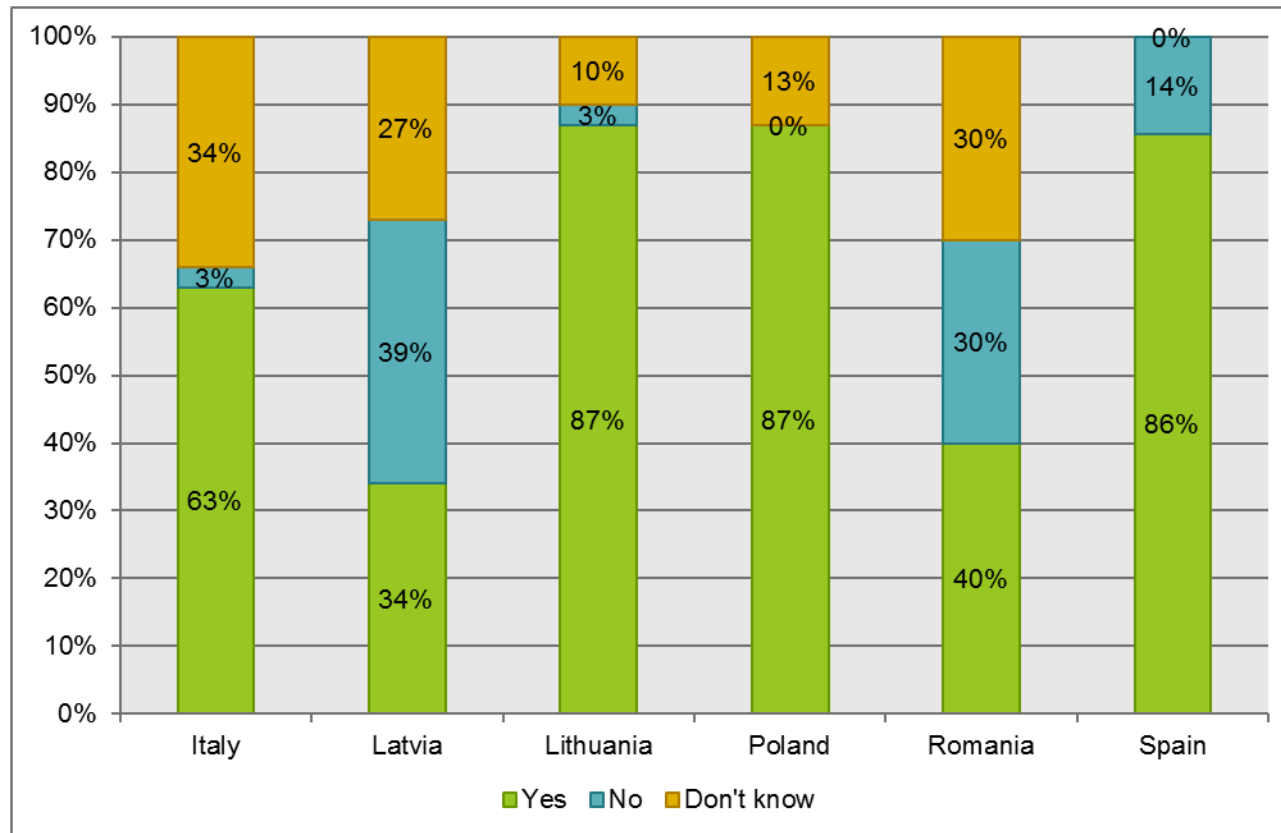


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# DOES THE PLACE YOU LIVE IN (CITY) PROVIDE ANY SCHOOLS FOR ADULTS

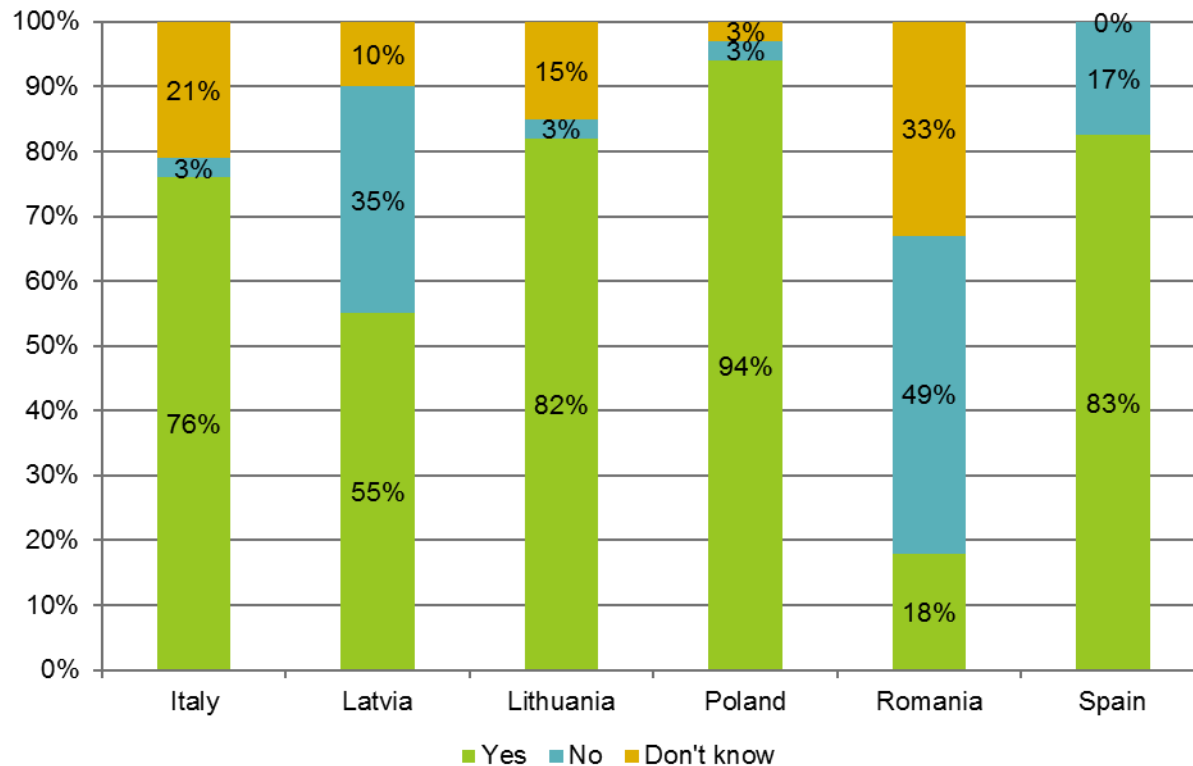
(POST-HIGH SCHOOLS, POSTGRADUADE SCHOOLS)?



- The answers obtained from respondents show that for people over 50, adult education is most available in Lithuania (87%), Poland (87%) and Spain (86%).
- None of the respondents from Poland has given the answer „no”. From those that have no information about adult education in Poland, 25% live in the rural areas and 75% - in the cities.

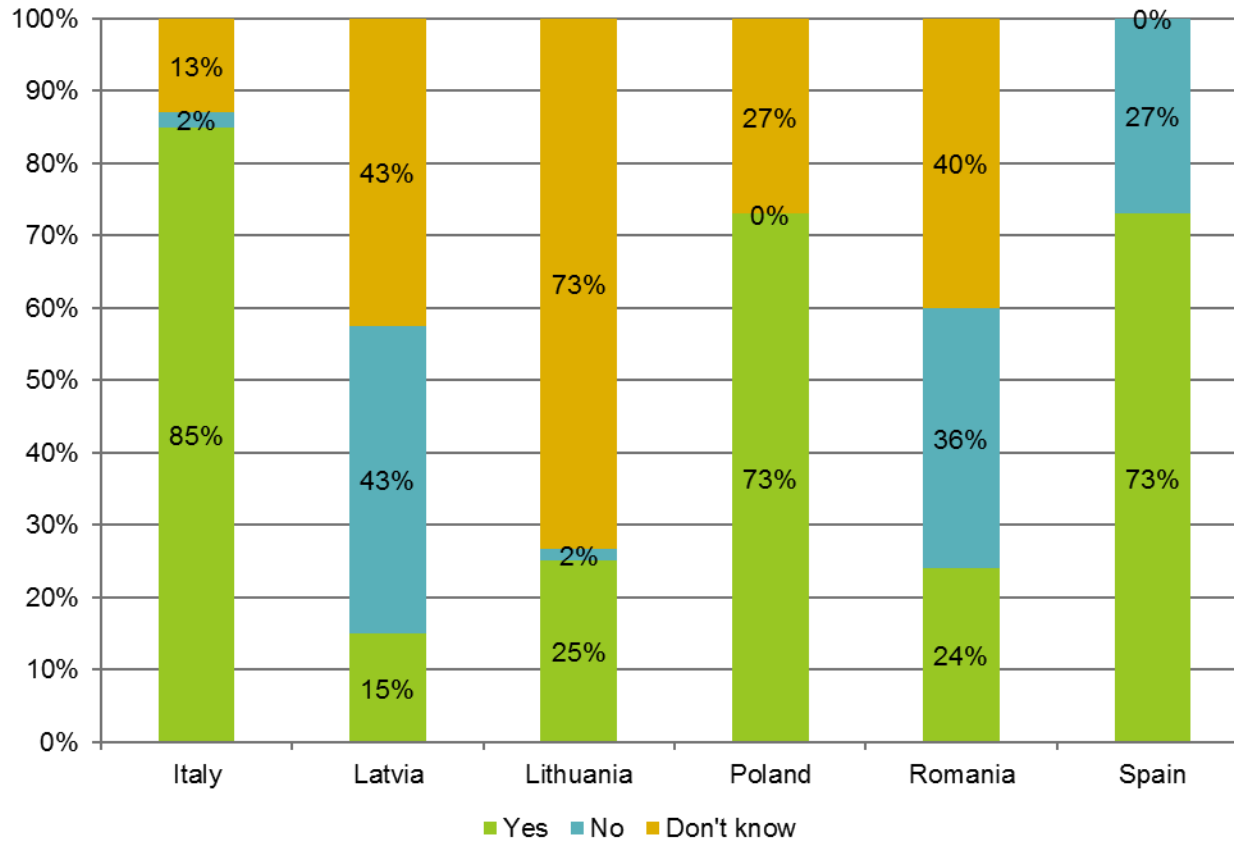
# DOES THE PLACE YOU LIVE IN (CITY) PROVIDE ANY EDUCATIONAL OFFER FOR 50+ PEOPLE

(THIRD AGE UNIVESITIES, NGOS, ETC.)?“



- The situation is more or less equal as in the case with availability of adult schools.
- For people who are over 50, educational opportunities where they live in NGOs, third age universities and elsewhere, are most available in Poland (94%), Spain (83%) and Lithuania (82%).
- The lowest availability is in Romania (49%) and Latvia (35%).
- From those, who answered that there is no availability, in Romania, 63% live in rural areas and 27% live in the city. In Latvia, 29% live in rural areas and 61% live in the city.

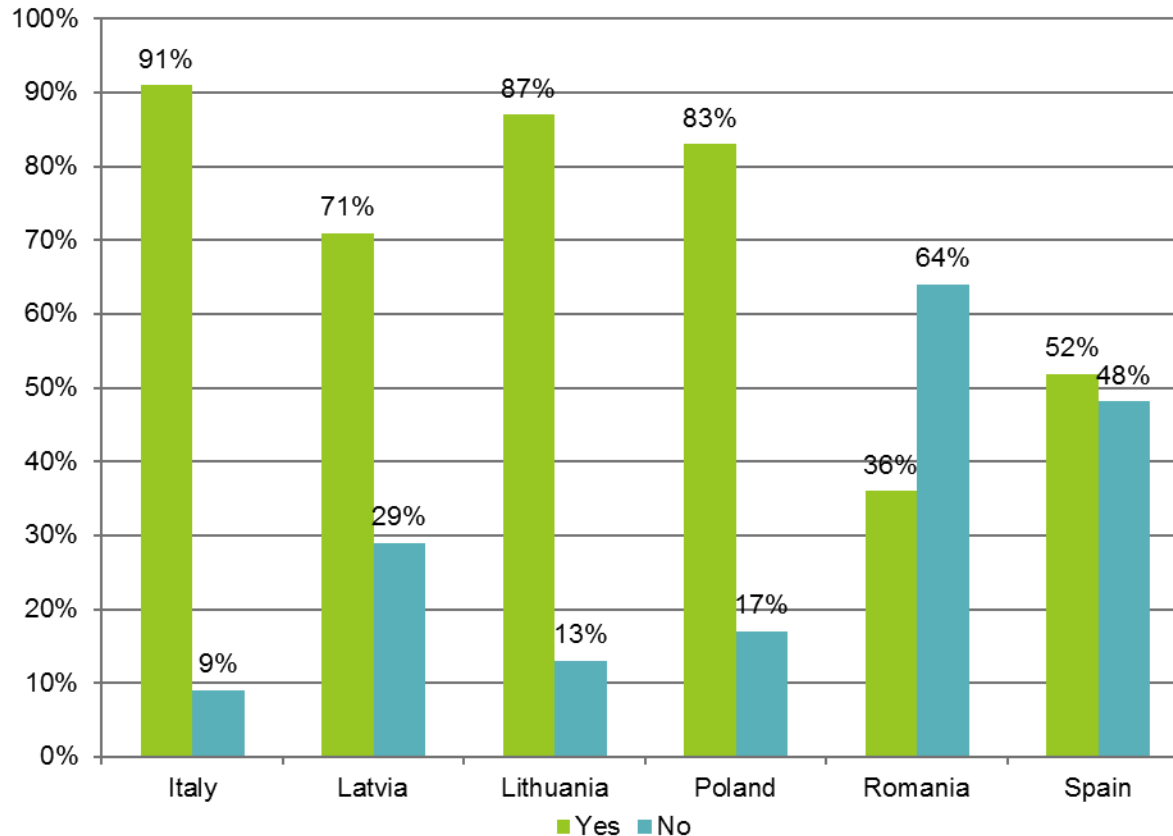
# DOES THE PLACE YOU LIVE IN (CITY) PROVIDE ANY VOLUNTARY OFFER FOR 50+ PEOPLE



- Voluntary offers for people over 50 are most available in Italy (85%) as well as Poland (73%) and Spain (73%).
- The least offers are available in Latvia (15%), a little better in Romania (24%) and Lithuania (25%).
- The least information about voluntary offers is available in Lithuania where 73% of respondents have no information, and from those 7% live in the rural areas and 93% live in the city.

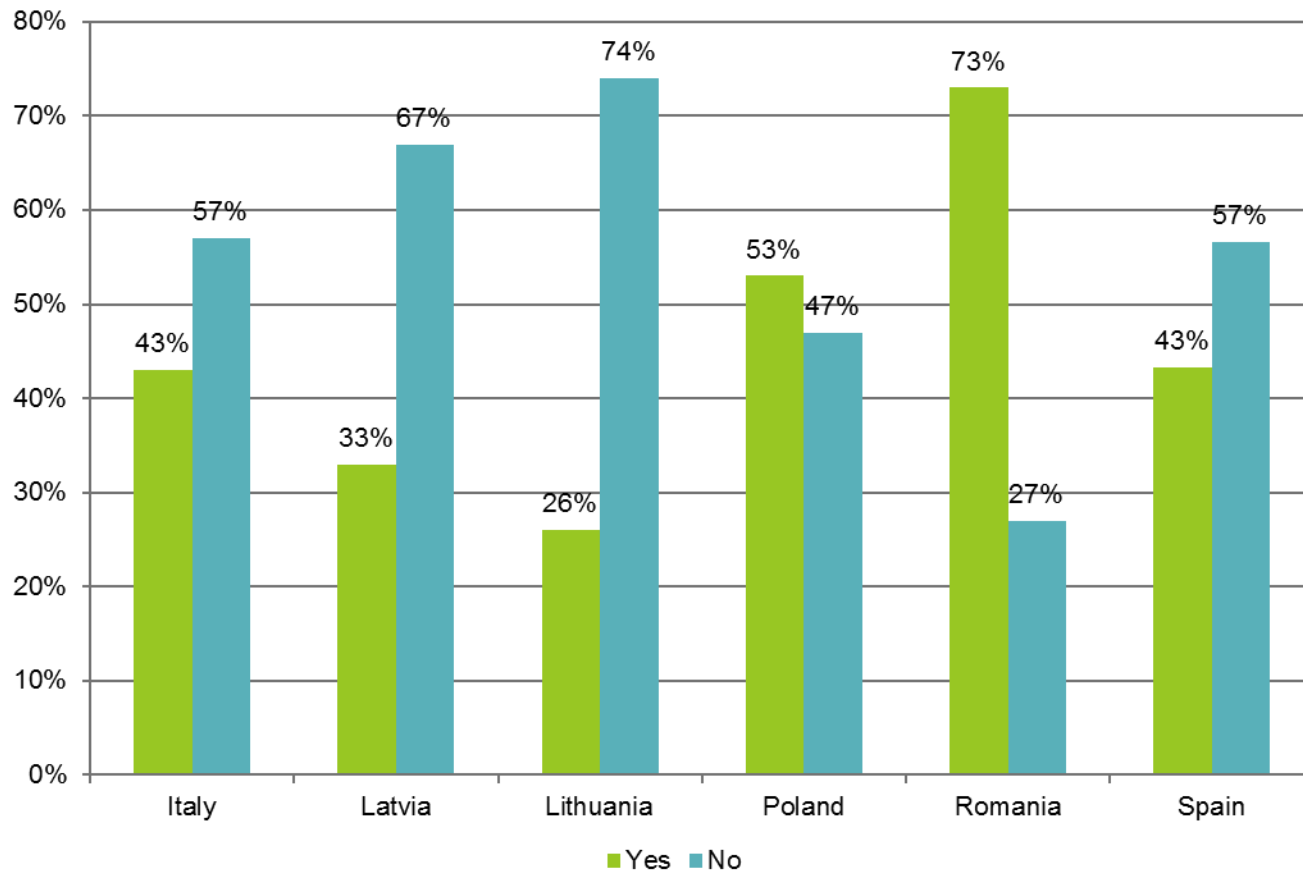


# IS THE EXISTING EDUCATIONAL OFFER FOR 50+ PEOPLE SUFFICIENT?



- Satisfied with the offer of education for people over 50 are 91% from Italy, 87% from Lithuania, 83% from Poland, 71% from Latvia and only 36% from Romania.
- From those respondents in Romania, who believe that the offer is not sufficient, 86% live in the rural areas and 14% live in the city.
- 29% of respondents in Latvia believe that the offer is insufficient, from who 36% live in the rural areas and 64% live in the city.

# DO YOU SEE ANY BARRIERS IN YOUR PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION IN YOUR PLACE OF LIVING?



- By opinions from respondents it is evident that the highest barriers for participating in educational activities are in Romania (73%) and Poland (53%), with the lowest being in Lithuania (26%) and Latvia (33%).

# **VOLUNTEERING IN EDUCATION OF 50+ PEOPLE**

Author: Mg.Math, PhD, Anna Vintere  
Latvia University of Agriculture



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# WHAT IS VOLUNTEERING?

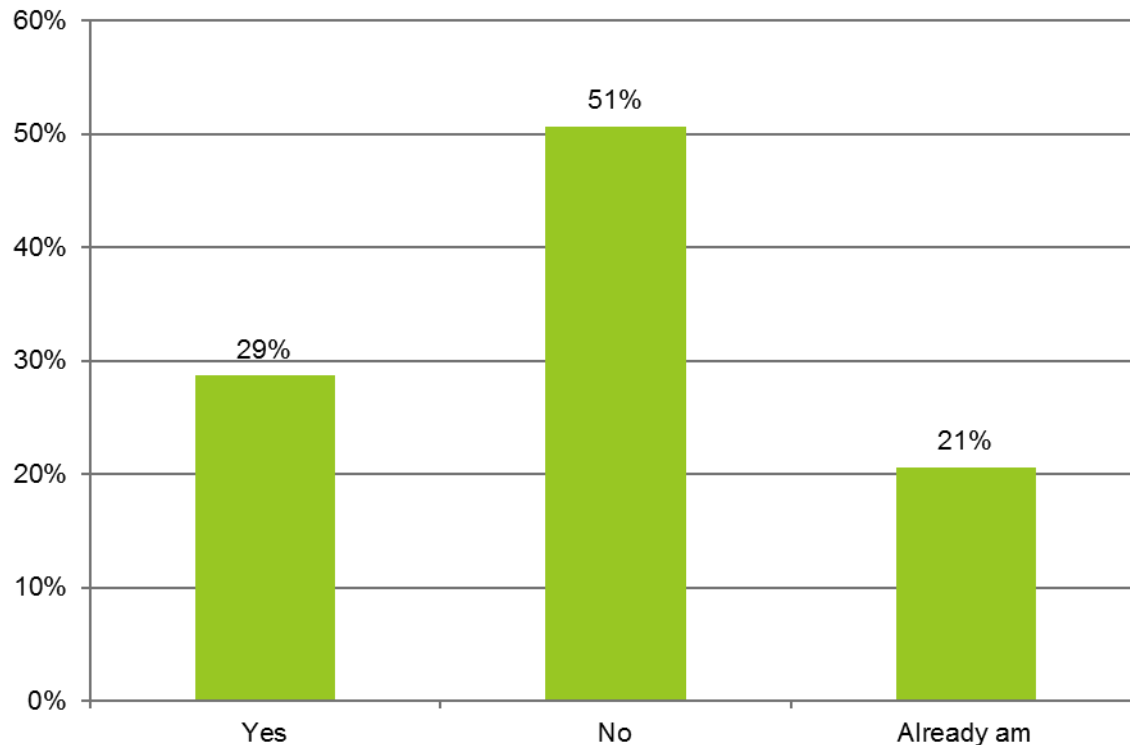
*% OF RESPONDENTS*

	PO	IT	RO	LT	LV	ES
Helping others	7.3	<b>88.5</b>	3.3	<b>47.5</b>	14.6	<b>46.7</b>
Work without salaru and other benefits	<b>23.3</b>	11.4	9	23	7.3	3.3
Free time spending	3.3	14.2	0	1.6	7.3	0
Self-expression	0	0	0	6.5	0	3.3
Charity	16.7	0	0	1.6	0	6.7
Giving a value to volunteers own life	0	2.9	0	0	0	3.3
Improving the skills	3.3	11.4	0	0	0	10.0
Self-sacrifice	3.3	0	0	1.6	0	6.7
Don't know	10	0	<b>13.3</b>	4.9	<b>24.3</b>	0

- The main value of the volunteering is to help others in addition without any benefits.
- Most respondents claimed that the beneficiaries of the volunteering are elderly, disabled people, children (with great distress, with difficulties) and adolescents and other marginal social groups.
- Relatively large number of Polish seniors (16.7%) believe that charity is the same what volunteering. Similarly think some seniors also in Lithuania.
- Some Polish and Lithuanian seniors think that volunteering is something like self-sacrifice.

# WILLINGNESS TO BE A VOLUNTEER

(% OF THE RESPONDENTS)



- Results show that volunteering is not popular between partners' countries seniors.
- More than half of respondents (51%) claim that they do not like to be a volunteer while only 21% already are a volunteers.

# WILLINGNESS TO BE A VOLUNTEER BY COUNTRY

	Yes	No	I am	Total
Poland	37	53	10	100
Italy	27	8	65	100
Romania	33	58	9	100
Lithuania	24	65	11	100
Latvia	17	78	5	100
Spain	44	26	30	100

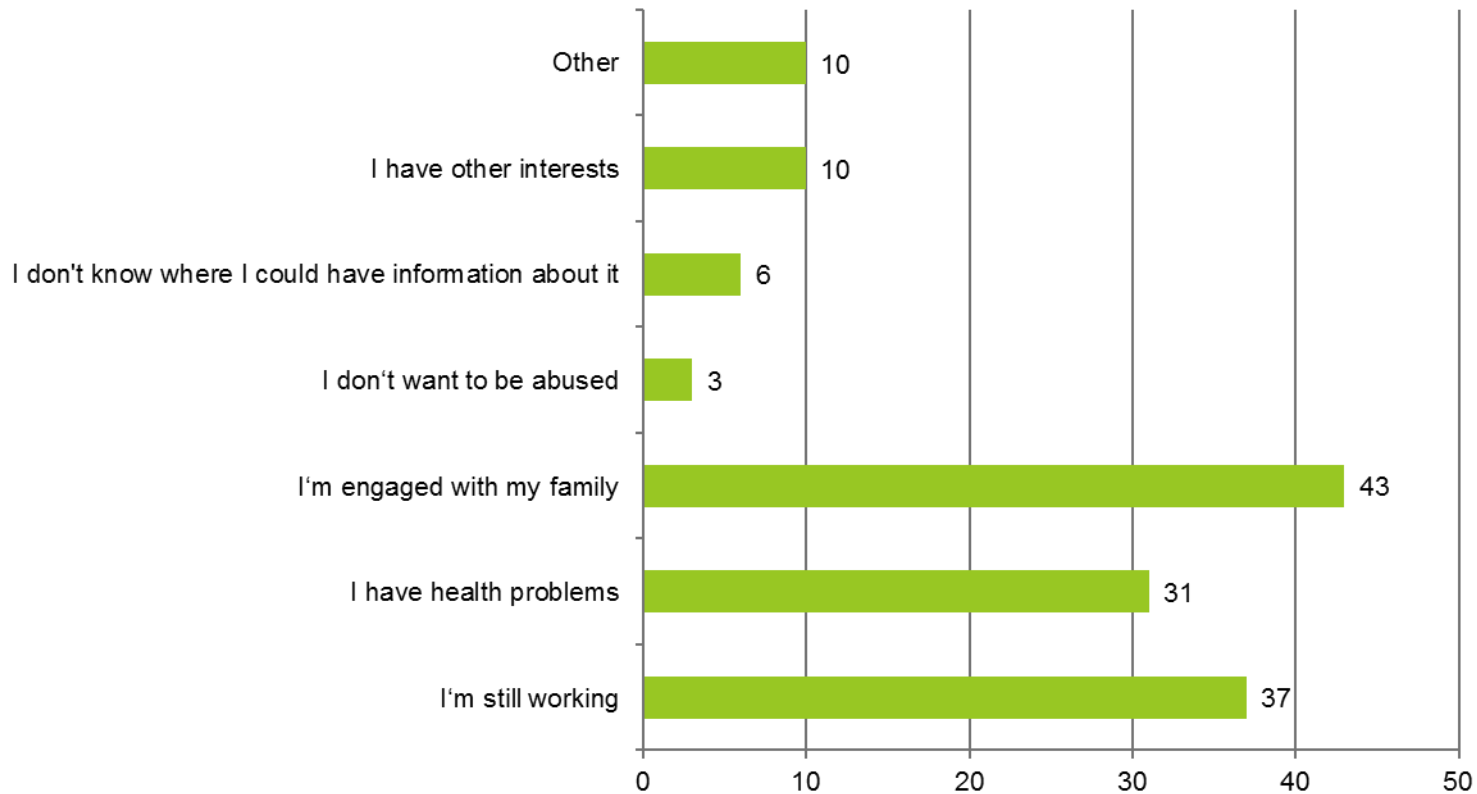
- Most interested in being volunteers are seniors in Italy, where 65% are already engaged in voluntary activities.
- However, in the so-called former socialist countries (Poland, Romania, Lithuania, Latvia) volunteering is not popular, and respondents' attitudes are equally negative.
- Over one - third of respondents would like to become volunteers in Romania and Poland, while in Latvia - only one sixth.
- In Latvia only 5% of asked seniors are involved in volunteering activities.

# WHY ARE YOU A VOLUNTEER/ WHY WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE?

	I want to be with other people and make new friends	I want to help other people	I want to feel needed	I want to learn something new	Volunteering makes me feel good	It helps me in my professional life	It's a good way of learning something about myself	Other
<b>Total</b>	14	33	18	11	12	4	7	2
<b>Poland</b>	14	48	19	5	0	0	14	0
<b>Italy</b>	7	29	28	10	13	0	8	5
<b>Romania</b>	15	28	8	21	13	15	0	0
<b>Lithuania</b>	16	30	14	12	16	3	7	2
<b>Latvia</b>	35	17	18	12	6	6	6	0
<b>Spain</b>	9	57	4	0	17	4	9	4

- In Spain, Poland, Lithuania and Romania the most motivator to be a volunteer is to help others.
- In Italy is equally important to help other and feel needed, while for Latvian elderly most importantly is being with other people and make new friends.

# WHY PEOPLE AGED 50+ ARE NOT INVOLVED IN VOLUNTEERING



- Statements "I'm still working", "I have health problems" and "I'm engaged with my family" are more frequently replied.
- The most frequently mentioned reason why women and people aged 61-70 are not involved in volunteering is being engaged with my family (19% and 23%).
- As insignificant reasons turned out that people aged 50+ don't want to be abused as well as they don't know where to get information about volunteering.
- As barrier to be a volunteer is having other interests.



# CONCLUSIONS

- After the age of 50 (especially, after 65), the need for lifelong education is expressed mainly on a voluntary basis.
- People aged 50+ want to actively participate in the learning process, they learn, when there is a need to know.
- Seniors have a need to connect the knowledge to the real world, to connect the newly acquired knowledge with the things they already know.
- It is only a case study which highlights only the main recent trends of the educational needs, however, it does not foresee any situation at all.
- The study can become a knowledge background for the development of educational products for people aged 50+ or improvement teaching methods as well as for creation e-learning systems for seniors.