



QUALITATIVE RESEARCH OF SENIORS‘ PARTICIPATION IN TRAINING

Modern Didactics Center, Lithuania

INTRODUCTION

The goal of survey was to interview older adult learners, to know their motivation, the favourite forms of learning, and areas of interest.

Objectives:

- to identify the sex of the adults involved in the courses;
- to clarify education level of older persons;
- to clarify what are ways of getting information about learning possibilities;
- to identify the most favourable activities of the respondents;
- to find out how elder people like to learn;
- to clarify the latest learning experiences (courses, seminars);
- to identify areas of interest for future studies;
- to identify the main learning barriers.

Information about the questionnaire data processing and lists:

The questionnaire was prepared in accordance with the project “Nordic+ Senior Golden Examples“ 2008–2010, supported by Nord Plus programme.

Questionnaire consists of 15 questions: 10 closed–type and 5 – biographical.

Description of the research: 16 charts.

The data processing completed by using SPSS program.

The study sample characteristics:

The questionnaire was distributed in Trakai, Lazdijai, Pakruojis, Rietavas, Jurbarkas regions in Lithuania. 48 questionnaires sent to respondents, 45 came back. This number of respondents we will retain as 100 percent.

Sex and age of the respondents

Respondents participated in the study by sex as follows: 66,7% female and 33,3% men (Figure 1).

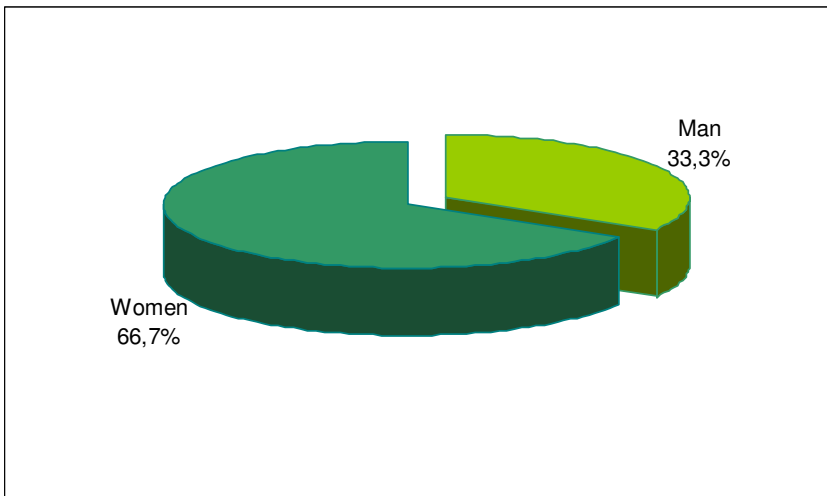


Figure 1. Respondents' sex

Respondents participated in the survey by age as follows: mainly persons who are 55–59 years – 33,3%, who are 65–69 years old, were far less – 31,1%, who are 60–64 years – 24,4%. At least the people over 70 years – 11,1% (Figure 2).

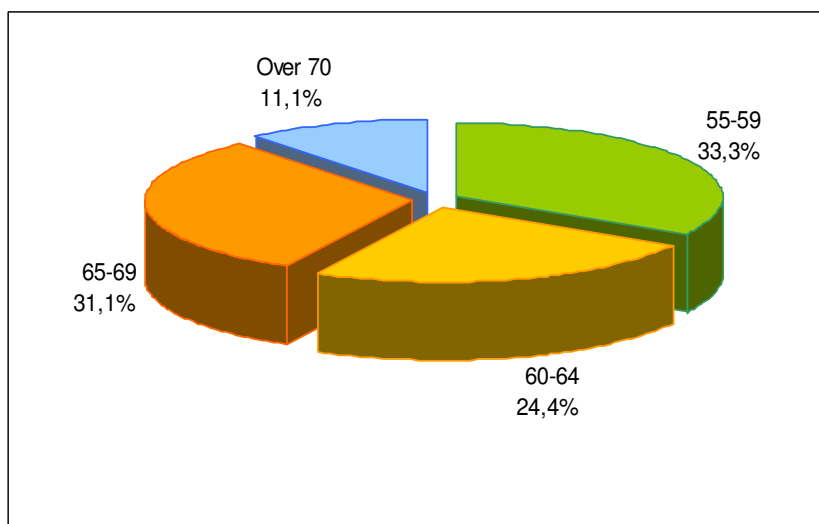


Figure 2. Respondents' age

Education of respondents

Following the survey revealed that the majority of the respondents (42,2%) have gained a university degree/non–university education. The biggest part was at age 60–64 years (63,6%). Primary education is obtained only by 8,9% of the respondents, over 70 years. Many of the respondents have secondary education (37,8%).They are persons over 70 years (**Figure 3**).

	Primary	Secondary	University education/non university education	Other
Sex				
Man	20,0%	46,7%	13,3%	20,0%
Women	3,3%	33,3%	56,7%	6,7%
Age				
55–59	0,0%	26,7%	40,0%	33,3%
60–64	18,2%	18,2%	63,6%	0,0%
65–69	7,1%	57,1%	35,7%	0,0%
Over 70	20,0%	60,0%	20,0%	0,0%

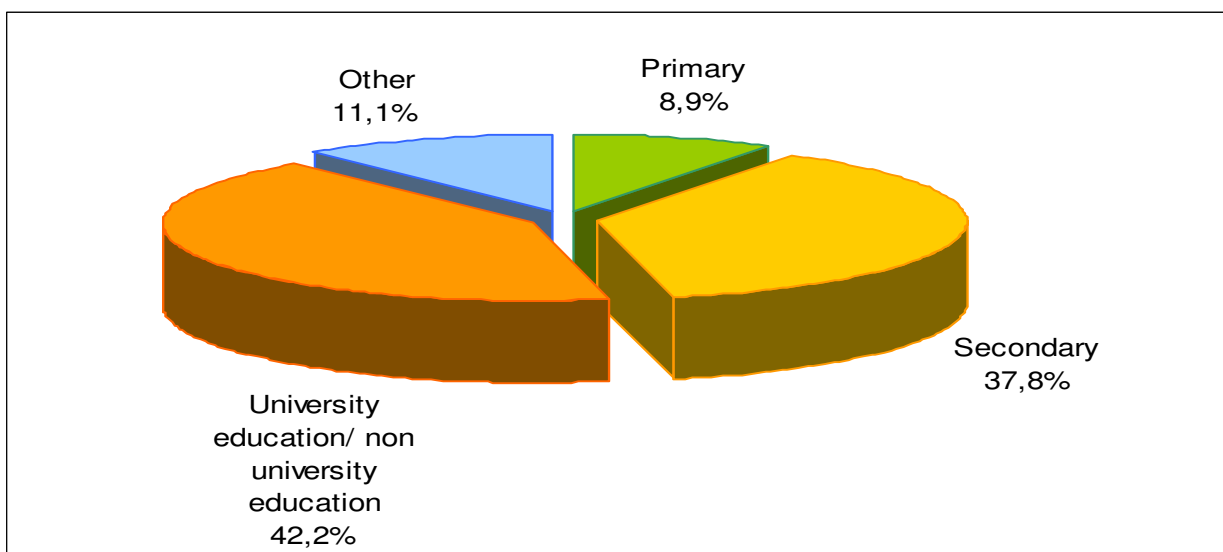


Figure 3. Education of respondents

Employment status

Majority of the respondents are retired – 48,9% (from 50% of women and 46,7% of men). Unemployed only 2,2% (6,7% of men). Workforce is 42,2% (of which: 46,7% female and 33,3% of men) (**Figure 4**).

Sex	Working	Pensioner	Unemployed	Other
Man	33,3%	46,7%	6,7%	13,3%
Women	46,7%	50,0%	0,0%	3,3%
Age				
55–59	93,3%	0,0%	0,0%	6,7%
60–64	45,5%	36,4%	9,1%	9,1%
65–69	0,0%	100,0%	0,0%	0,0%
Over 70	0,0%	80,0%	0,0%	20,0%
Education				
Primary	0,0%	75,0%	25,0%	0,0%
Secondary	17,6%	64,7%	0,0%	17,6%
University education/ non university education	57,9%	42,1%	0,0%	0,0%
Other	100,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%

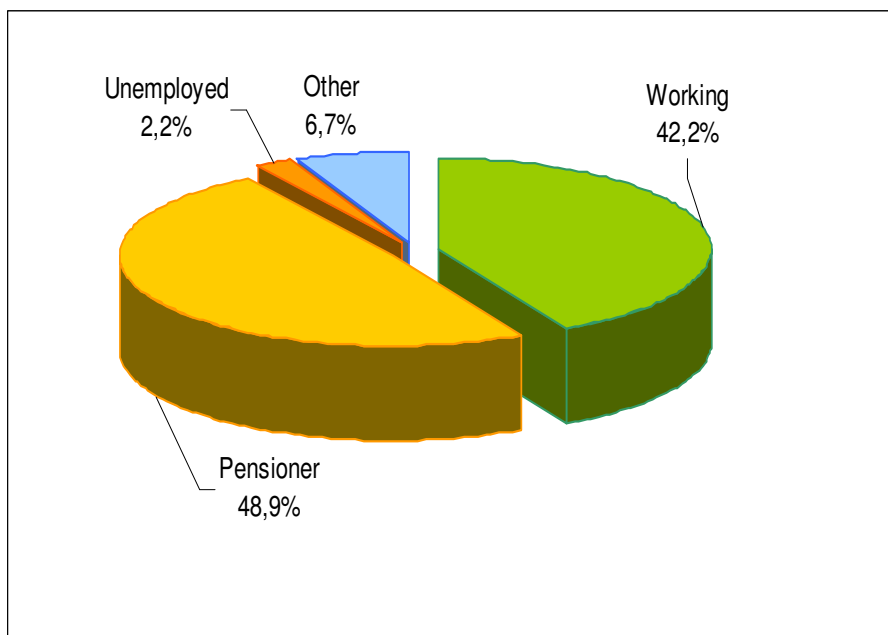


Figure 4. The activities of the respondents

Location of the respondents

The research revealed that the majority of the respondents currently live in the small town / village (68,9%). Majority of them are men (80%), unemployed persons (100%) at the age of 55–59 and over 70 years. Only 31,1% live in the cities. This mainly correspond to women (36,7%), pensioners (50%) and belonging to persons who are at the age of 65–69 years (50%) (Figure 5).

Sex	City	Town/village
Man	20,0%	80,0%
Women	36,7%	63,3%
Age		
55–59	20,0%	80,0%
60–64	27,3%	72,7%
65–69	50,0%	50,0%
Over 70	20,0%	80,0%
Education		
Primary	0,0%	100,0%
Secondary	35,3%	64,7%
University education/non university education	42,1%	57,9%
Other	0,0%	100,0%
Trade		
Working	15,8%	84,2%
Pensioner	50,0%	50,0%
Unemployed	0,0%	100,0%
Other	0,0%	100,0%

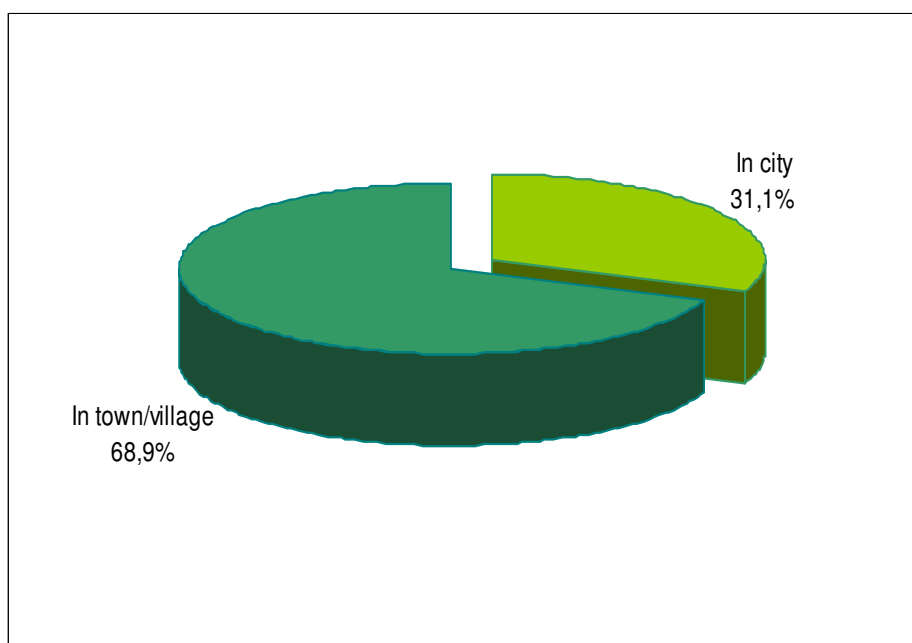


Figure 5. Location of the respondents

Favourite activities

Survey showed that most respondents like to read (53,3%), go to the theatre and to travel (44,4%), enjoy discussing (42,2%). The small part of the respondents chose the movies (11%). Women like to read (60%), and men to discuss (53,3%) (**Figure 6**).

	Theatre	Movies	Concerts	Travel	Activities in nature	Courses	Reading	Discussing	Listen to others
Sex									
Man	20,0%	13,3%	13,3%	40,0%	46,7%	20,0%	40,0%	53,3%	46,7%
Women	56,7%	10,0%	50,0%	46,7%	36,7%	23,3%	60,0%	36,7%	33,3%

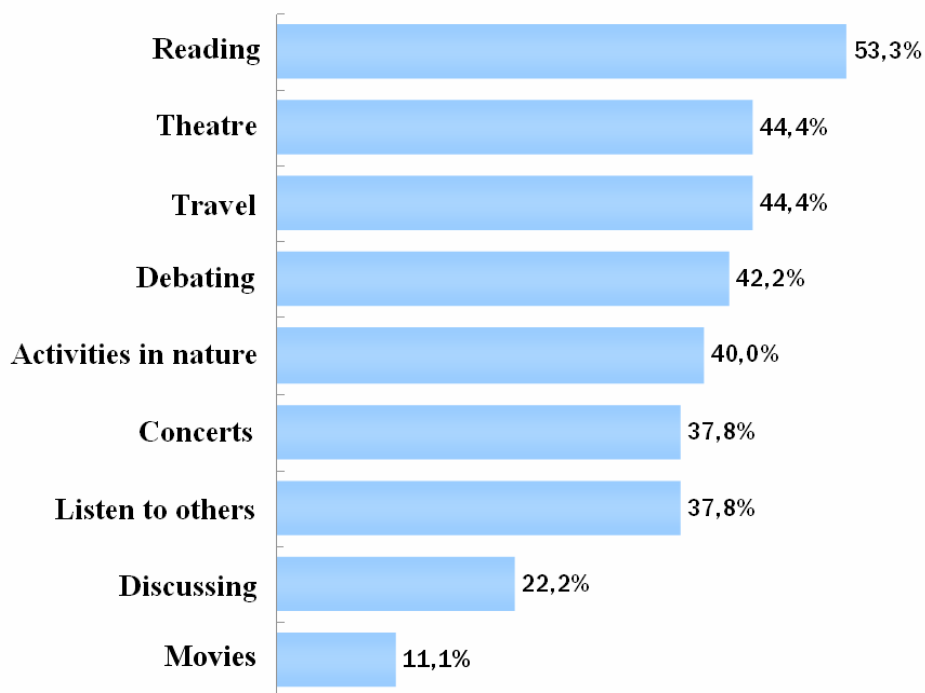


Figure 6. Favourite activities

Respondents learning methods: alone

The research revealed that the respondents love to learn by reading (57,8%). Majority are people living in the cities (71,4%). The small part of the respondents (4,4%) enjoys distance learning. They live in small towns / rural area (6,5%) (**Figure 7**).

Location	Distance learning	Reading	Television, radio, CD, Internet
In city	0,0%	71,4%	21,4%
In town/village	6,5%	51,6%	35,5%

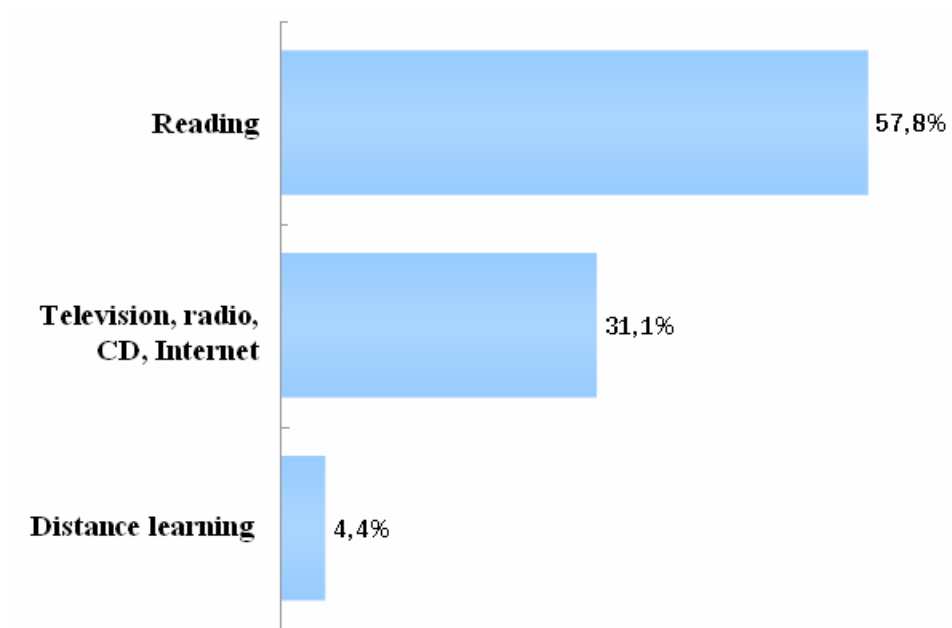


Figure 7. Respondents learning methods: alone

Respondents learning methods: in the group

The study showed that learning with other people is the most widespread way (48.9%)/Persons living in the cities (64.3%); towns / villages (41.9%). 35.6% of respondents happy to learn with a group or friends. Usually this is the urban population (42.9%) (**Figure 8**).

Location	Courses / training	In the presence of various organizations (senior union, etc.)	At work	In-formal clubs (self education)	In various clubs	With a group of friends
In city	64,3	57,1	0,0	14,3	35,7	42,9
In town/village	41,9	22,6	25,8	9,7	3,2	32,3

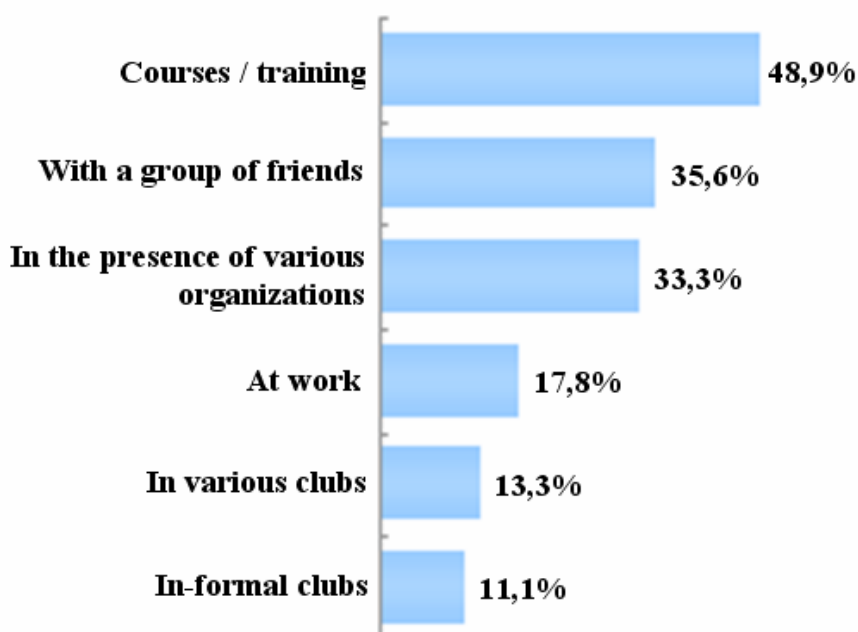


Figure 8. Respondents learning methods: in the group

Learning/study time

Following the survey revealed that the most frequent time of studies – day time (40%), weekends and evening studies (31,1%), during the holidays – 6,7% (mainly working people – 10,5%) (Figure 9).

Trade	During the holidays	At weekends	In the evening	During the day
Working	10,5%	21,1%	52,6%	26,3%
Pensioner	4,5%	36,4%	18,2%	50,0%
Unemployed	0,0%	100,0%	0,0%	0,0%
Other	0,0%	33,3%	0,0%	66,7%

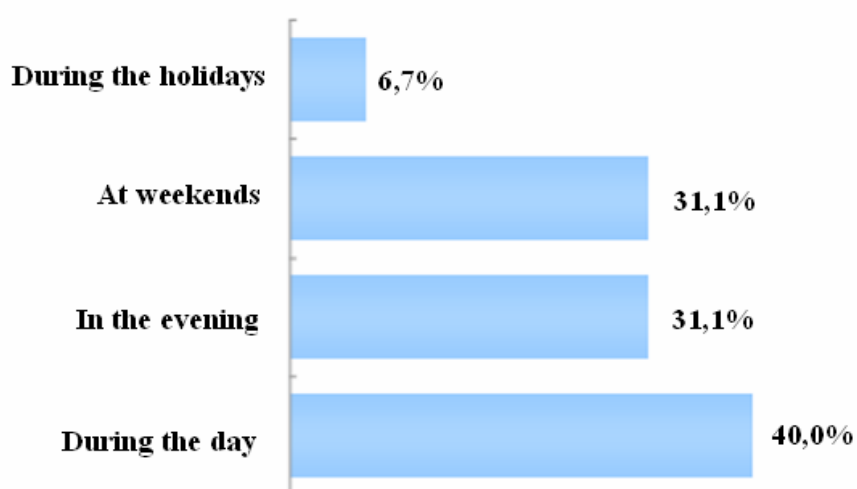


Figure 9. The most convenient time to learn

Learning environment

Following the survey revealed that the majority of the respondents learn at home (71,1%). This is group of unemployed (100%), and a large part of the employed (73,7%) (**Figure 10**).

Occupation status	At workplace	At home	At school	Elsewhere
Working	31,6%	73,7%	21,1%	0,0%
Pensioner	9,1%	68,2%	18,2%	9,1%
Unemployed	0,0%	100,0%	0,0%	0,0%
Other	0,0%	66,7%	0,0%	33,3%

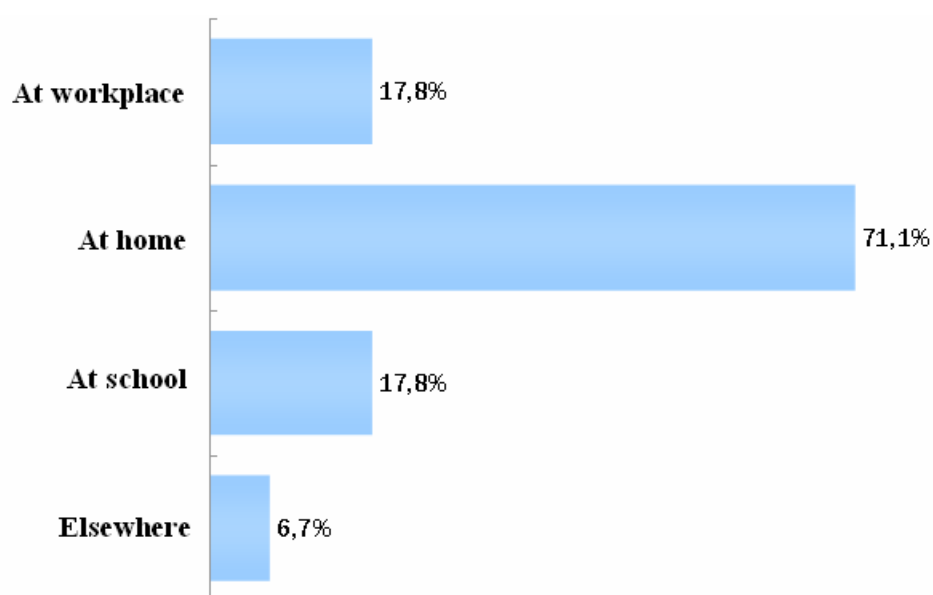


Figure 10. Learning environment

Subjects of interest

The study revealed that, in the future, the majority of respondents would like to learn about health, society and sport (46,7%). 35,6% of the respondents choose arts and crafts / doing by hands. (Figure 11)

	Men	Women
Languages	6,7%	40,0%
Aesthetic subjects, and crafts/handmade works	13,3%	46,7%
Humanity sciences, philosophy and ethics	13,3%	23,3%
Social sciences	13,3%	33,3%
Management and organization	6,7%	13,3%
Business and computer technology	33,3%	3,3%
Health, society and sport	53,3%	43,3%
Transport and Communications	33,3%	0%
Scientific, industrial and technical subjects	26,7%	6,7%
Natural recourses management, ecology, environmental protection and recreation	13,3%	13,3%
Goods and services	6,7%	6,7%
Other (spiritual things)	2,2%	2,2%

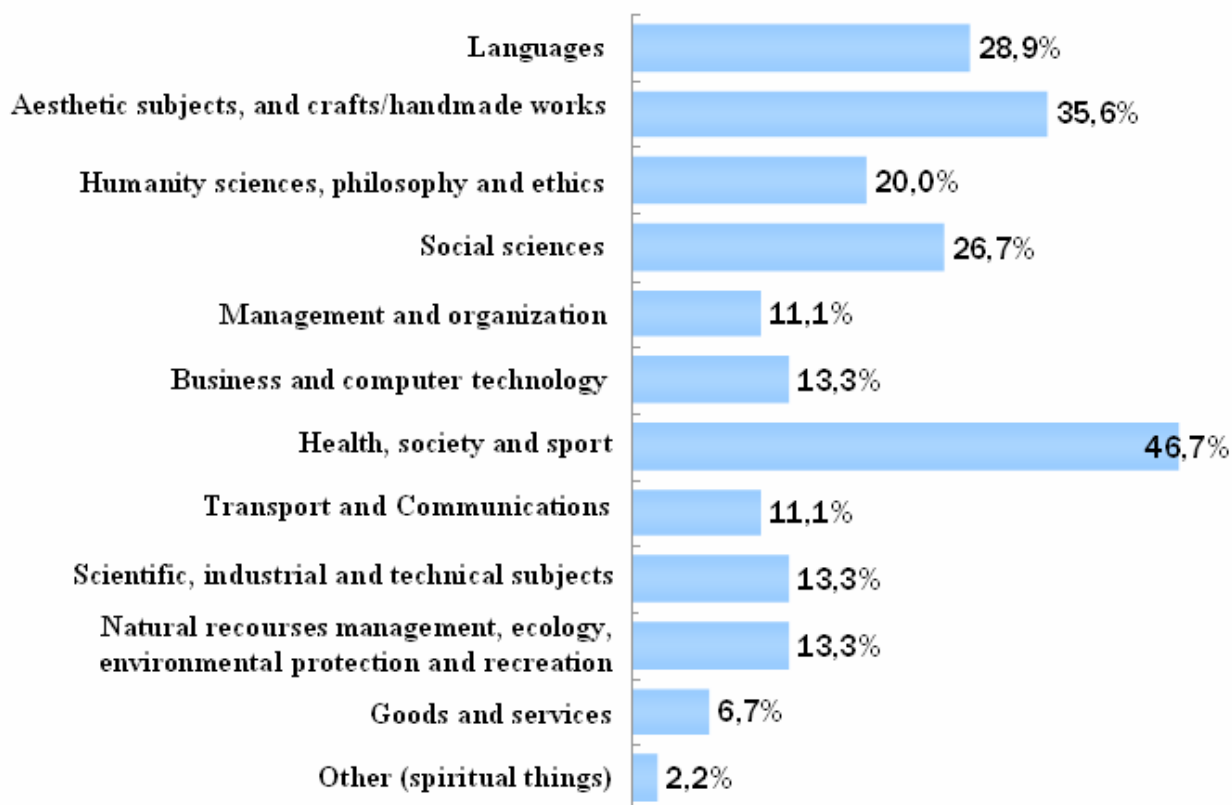


Figure 11. The subjects that respondents would like to study in the future

Information about learning

The study revealed that most often information is obtained from friends and newspaper adverts (40%), information about trainings got from radio / television announcements and posters (11%). Rural people receive information from the newspaper adverts (39%), and in the city people receive information from friends (61%) (**Figure 12**).

Location	Adverts in the newspaper	Adverts on TV, Radio	Adverts at work	Friends	Internet	Poster
In city	42,9%	28,6%	7,1%	61,5%	21,4%	0,0%
In town/village	38,7%	3,2%	16,1%	32,3%	22,6%	16,1%

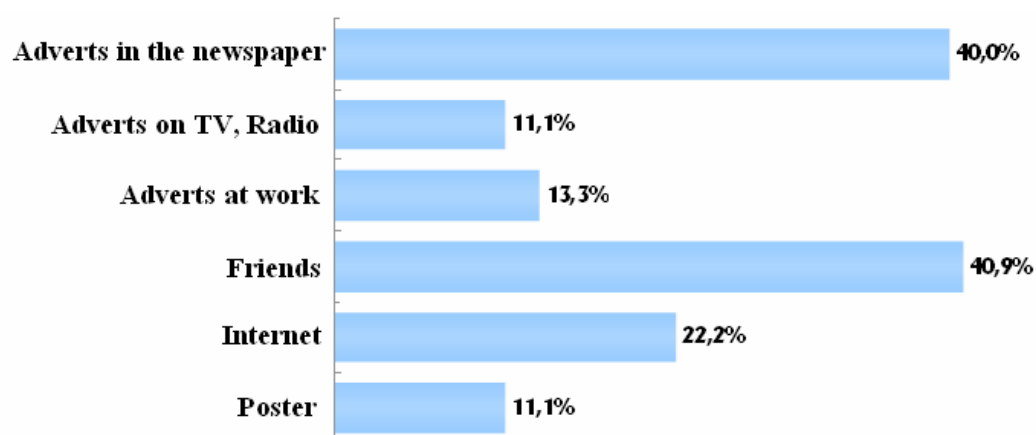


Figure 12. Provision of information sources of training

Last learning experiences

Following the survey revealed that the majority of respondents attended courses earlier than 12 months last time (55.6%). Most of the respondents are 55–59 years old (87%). 22,2% of the respondents studied 1–3 years ago and more than 3 years. Majority of the respondents are persons over 70 years (respectively 40% and 60%) (**Figure 13**).

Age	Earlier than 12 months	1–3 years ago	More than 3 years ago
55–59	86,7%	13,3%	0,0%
60–64	54,5%	27,3%	18,2%
65–69	42,9%	21,4%	35,7%
Over 70	0,0%	40,0%	60,0%

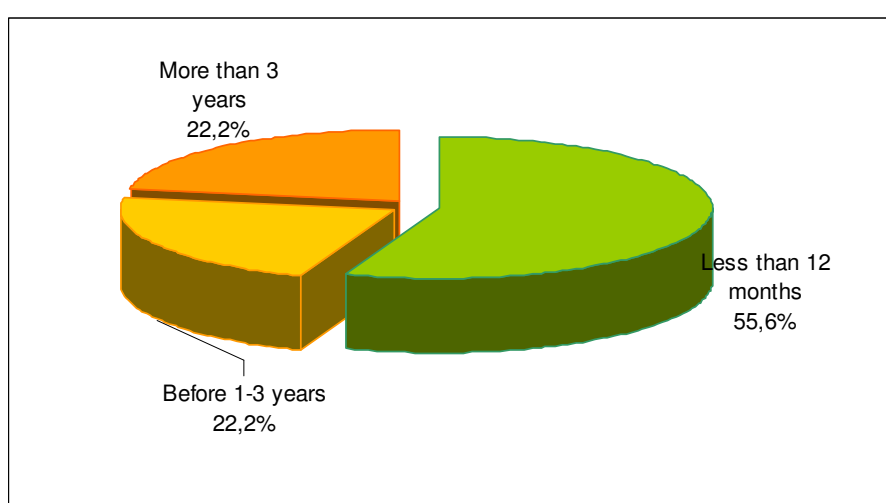


Figure 13. The time when the respondents attended a course / training

Future intentions

The research revealed that the majority of the respondents intend to learn something in the future (71%). 29% of respondents do not intend to study in the future. This group is of unemployed persons (100%) and a small percentage of pensioners (32%). 84% of the employed and 68% of pensioners are going continue studying (**Figure 14**).

Trade	Yes	No
Working	84,2%	15,8%
Pensioner	68,2%	31,8%
Unemployed	0,0%	100,0%

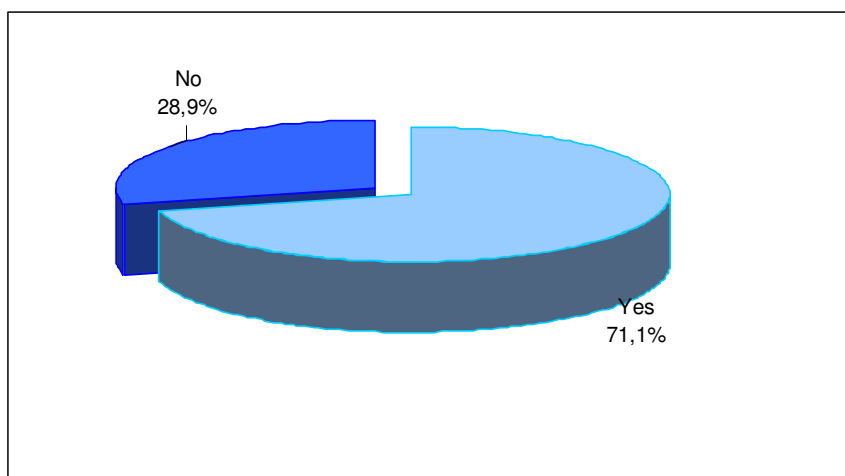


Figure 14. Characteristics of the follow-up courses / training

Subjects that respondents would like to learn

The survey revealed that the respondents are eager to learn about the management and organization (61,5%), health, society and sports 53,8%, languages and social sciences in 38,5%. Business and computer technology are going to study only 7,7% of the respondents (Figure 15).

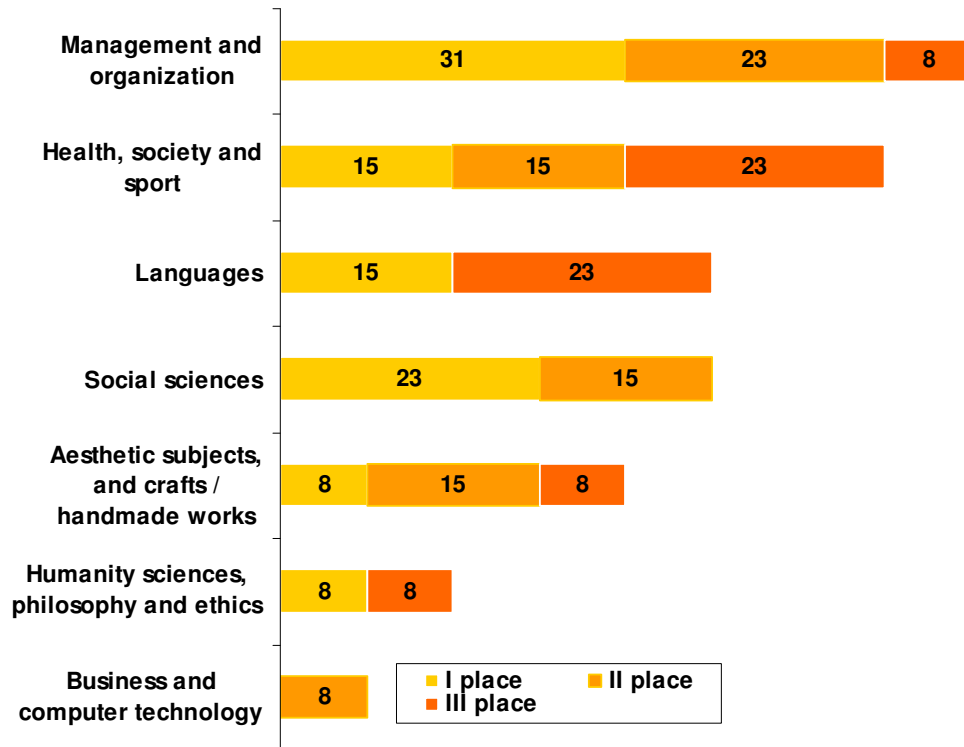


Figure 15. Subjects that respondents would like to learn

Motivation to attend courses

The survey revealed that the biggest motivation to attend courses / training is understanding that the courses are useful to the respondents (31%), that it is interesting (19%), that it is cheap (13%). Family support is not of great importance (only 3% of the respondents) (**Figure 16**).



Figure 16. Motivation to attend courses

CONCLUSIONS

The survey showed, that:

- Women are more involved in learning at elder age than men (67 %).
- The biggest number of respondents was at age of 55–59 (33,3%).
- The majority of the respondents (42,2%) have gained a university degree / non–university education.
- The majority of the respondents are retired – 48,9% (from 50% of women and 46,7% of men).
- The majority of the respondents currently live in the towns / villages (68,9%).
- Majority of women like to read (60%) and men to discuss (53,3%)
- Distance learning is less attractive (4,4%), and the reading most attractive (57,8%).
- Learning with other people (in the group during courses) is widespread (48,9%).
- Respondents usually learn in daytime (40%).
- Majority of respondents learn at home (71,1%).
- Majority of respondents would like to learn about health, society and sport (46,7%) in the future
- 2,2% of the respondents indicated spiritual things.
- Information about learning opportunities is received from friends and newspaper adverts (40%).
- Majority of respondents attended courses less than 12 months (55,6%) the last time.
- Majority of the respondents intend to learn something for the future (71%).
- Motivation to attend courses/training gives understanding that the courses are useful to the respondents (31%).

Study has revealed that people who live in various Lithuanian regions are interested in adult education and are ready to continue learning.