



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR
THE EDUCATION OF ADULTS

Investigating outreach and access in adult learning in light of the covid-19 crisis

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PhD in Educational Sciences KULeuven

Worked at Leeds, Edinburgh and now Glasgow

Work in cooperation with leading international organisations

- OECD
- UNESCO
- European Commission

Focus of work on 'participation' and the use of international survey data (Eurostat Adult Education Survey, Labour Force Survey, European Quality of Life Survey, OECD's Survey of Adult Skills PIAAC, ...)

<http://www.ellenboeren.co.uk>



Autumn 2020 Economic Forecast: Rebound interrupted as resurgence of pandemic deepens uncertainty

- *unemployment*
- *deficits*
- *public debts to rise*
- *inflation subdued*



- BUT ALSO ...
- ✓ loneliness
 - ✓ reduced opportunities to meet people
 - ✓ many activities not running

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

[HTTPS://EC.EUROPA.EU/COMMISSION/PRESSCORNER/DETAIL/EN/IP_20_2021](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2021)

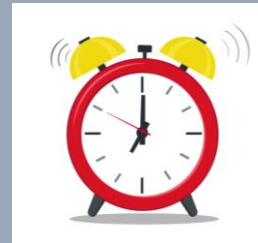
Research evidence on determinants of participation:

- highly qualified adults
- younger adults
- those in highly skilled employment

European Data: e.g. Adult Education Survey / Labour Force Survey

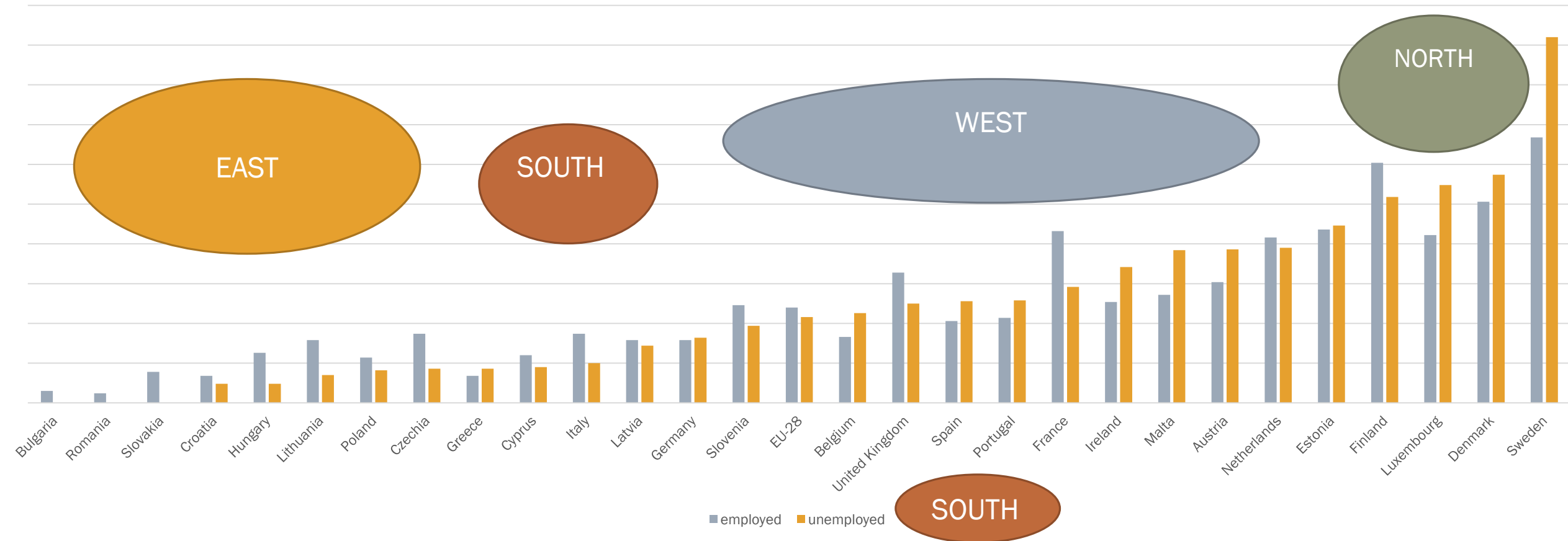
- most participation in adult education is work-related
- barriers preventing participation:

- * lack of time
- * lack of funding
- * lack of interest



WHAT ARE THE KEY ISSUES IN RELATION TO ADULT EDUCATION?

BOEREN, E. (2016). LIFELONG LEARNING PARTICIPATION IN A CHANGING POLICY CONTEXT: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY THEORY. BASKINGSTOKE: PALGRAVE-MACMILLAN.



Participation employed versus unemployed

Cross-country variation – role of welfare regimes

BARRIERS PREVENTING ACCESS

lack of time

- More time when not in work?
- Combination with family duties
- Work from home challenges

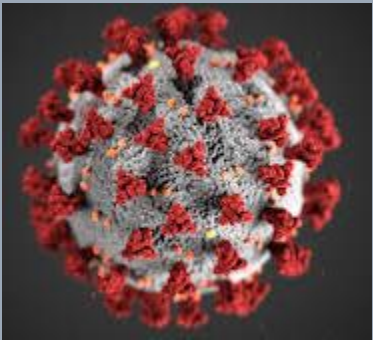
lack of funding

- Who needs to pick up the bill?
- Loss of income at the individual level
- Restrictive learning climate employer
- Lack of subsidies for non-profit

lack of interest

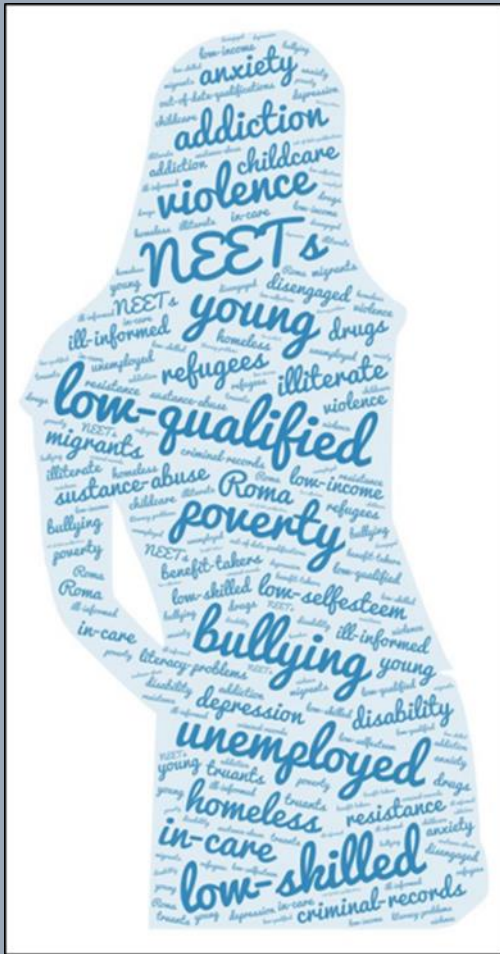
- What are the benefits?
- Benefits might be too uncertain?

Situational
Dispositional
Institutional



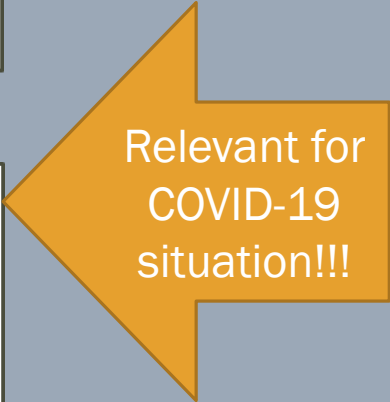
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POSITIVE FEELINGS
 Overall learner satisfaction
 Increase in confidence
 Preferred personalised approaches
 Outreach and cooperation

FOCUS POINTS
 Parking and creaming
 Supply side focus
 Lack of provision in rural areas
 Training for non-attractive jobs
 Better support for staff needed
 More long-term follow-up needed



INSIGHTS FROM ENLIVEN: LESSONS FOR OUTREACH



<https://h2020enliven.org/>

- How will countries respond to the current situation?
- What plans are being put on the table to encourage participation?
- How to convince individuals of the benefits – what's in for them?



LOOKING FORWARD