ASL – Adult Self-Learning: Supporting Learning Autonomy in a Technology-Mediated Environment

Field research

IO1: An operative model for teaching-learning low-qualified adults in an online environment

Author: THREE THIRDS SOCIETY NPO

Project information

Project acronym:	ASL
Project title:	Adult Self-Learning: Supporting Learning Autonomy in a Technology-Mediated Environment
Agreement number:	2019-1-TR01-KA204-076875
Sub-programme or KA:	KA2- Cooperation For Innovation And The Exchange Of Good Practices
Project website:	http://aslerasmus.eu/
Authoring partner:	Three Thirds Society
Report version:	1.0
Date of preparation:	14.05.2020

Document history

Date	Version	Author(s)	Description
14.05.2020	1	Erika Nika	Gathering of answers
15.05.2020	2	Erika Nika	Finalization

Disclaimer:

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Executive Summary

In the framework of Intellectual Output 1: *An operative model for teaching-learning low-qualified adults in an online environment* partners must submit a questionnaire to 10 key persons, e.g. educators, adult education managers, policy-makers, etc. with the view to compare the variety of online learning approaches for low-qualified and low-skilled adult learners in order to realize an operative model that will be applied for the project training activities.

Table of Contents

1. Introduction

Having in our minds the objectives of this Intellectual Output, we are going to present and analyze the findings of the answers we received from 11 key persons who filled-in the questionnaire through Google form. The questionnaire has been sent to 30 people from the fields of education and from a University that provides a Master Degree in Adult Education in Greece.

2. Demographic characteristics

The first question was about the age of the people. Dividing the answers in five age groups, we can see that most answers comes from people from 25-45 as the percentage of these age groups was very close. People older than 45 also were represented but there was no answer from people belonging in the age group 65+.

- 25-35 χρονών
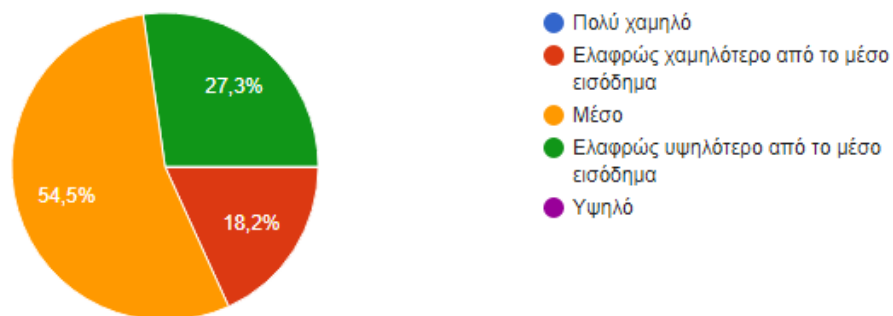- 36-45 χρονών
- 46-55 χρονών
- 56-65 χρονών
- 65+
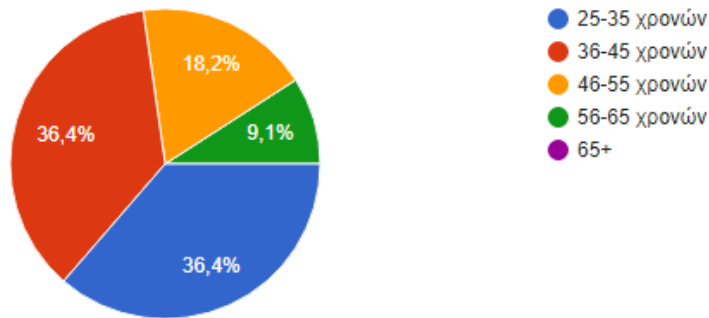
The second question was for the gender of the participants, where it can be seen that the majority was men with 63,6% while women were 36,4%. This result cannot be connected for sure with a reason of this difference so probably we can assume that has to do with the analogy of men and women that the questionnaire has been sent.

- Αρσενικό
- Θηλυκό
- Προτιμώ να μην πω
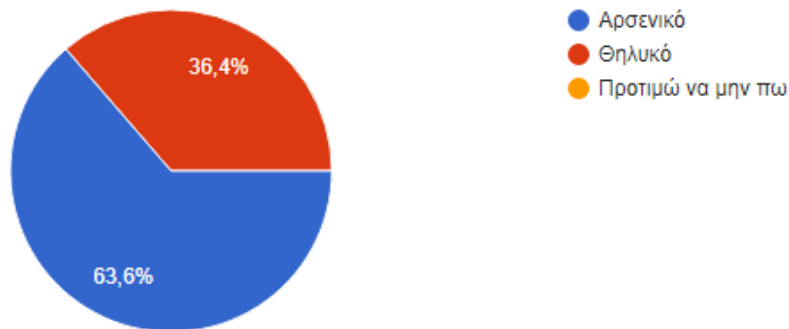
As for the country of residence all participants live in Greece so we had here a 100% of the same answer.

In the next question people were asked to cite their annual income and the result was that 54,5% has average income and then follows people with slightly higher income than average with 27,3%. The results are not surprising taking into consideration the economic situation of Greece and the fact that the majority belonged in young age groups.

- Πολύ χαμηλό
- Ελαφρώς χαμηλότερο από το μέσο εισόδημα
- Μέσο
- Ελαφρώς υψηλότερο από το μέσο εισόδημα
- Υψηλό

4

Regarding the education level, the answers with the highest percentages were secondary education and Bachelor's Degree, with vocational schools and Master degree following. The results here can be justified by the fact that the majority of adults above 35 years old (especially those that come from middle-class) haven't gone to University but they started working after high school, a fact that changed very much for people below 35 years old.
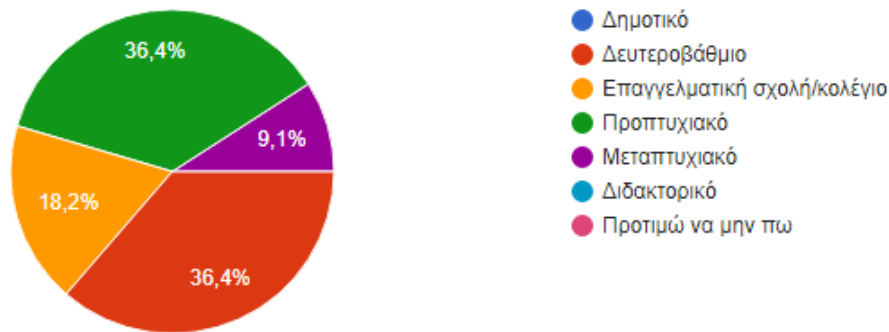
3. Level of digital awareness

This question was about the access on computer and smartphones. The results indicate the fact that the majority of people have access both to computers/laptops and smartphones. Moreover, 27,3% have access only on smartphones while 9,1% only on computers/laptops.
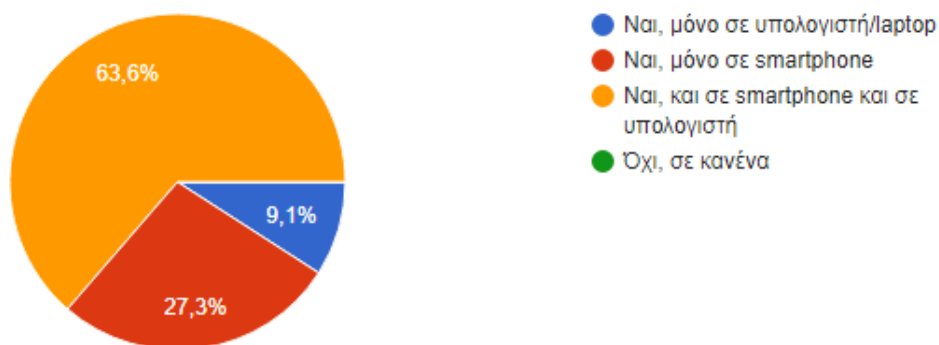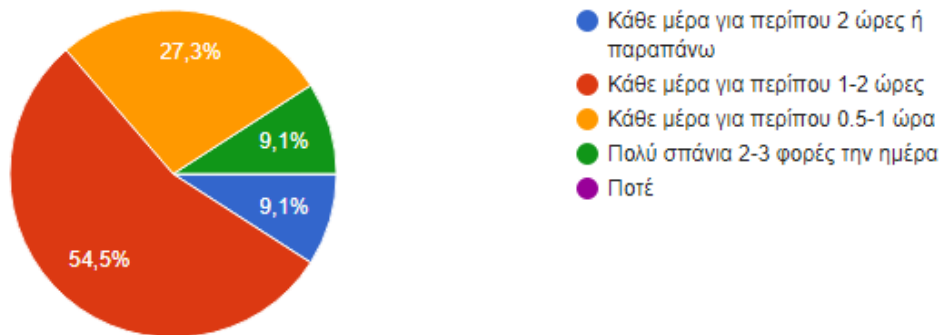

As for the frequency of using computers and smartphones, 54,5% of people use them very often while 27,3% on daily basis. Only 18,2% use these devises 2-3 times per week.

Legend:
- Κάθε μέρα
- Πολύ συχνά (4-6 μέρες την εβδομάδα)
- Σπάνια (2-3 μέρες την εβδομάδα)
- Μία φορά την εβδομάδα
- Ποτέ
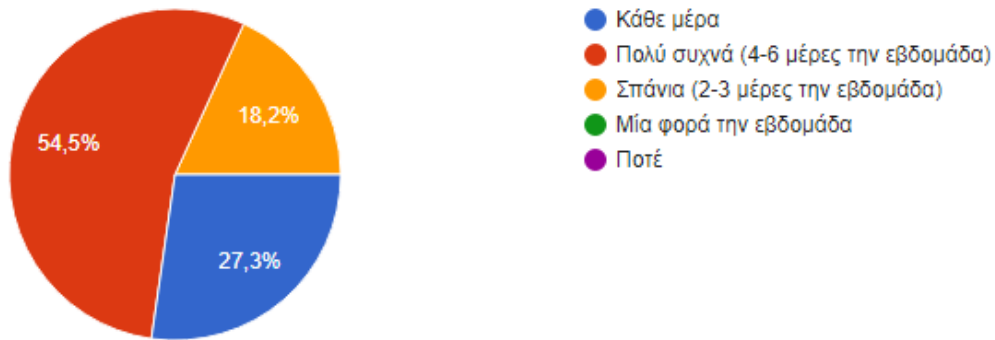
Regarding the time spent on computers and smartphones the majority answered that they use them for approximately 1-2 hours per day and as a second answer was for half to 1 hour per day. The rest answers were divided among rare usage and over 2 hours duration.

Legend:
- Κάθε μέρα για περίπου 2 ώρες ή παραπάνω
- Κάθε μέρα για περίπου 1-2 ώρες
- Κάθε μέρα για περίπου 0.5-1 ώρα
- Πολύ σπάνια 2-3 φορές την ημέρα
- Ποτέ

The overriding majority of participants (90,9%) answered that they are using Internet as a way of finding information.

Legend:
- Ναι
- Όχι
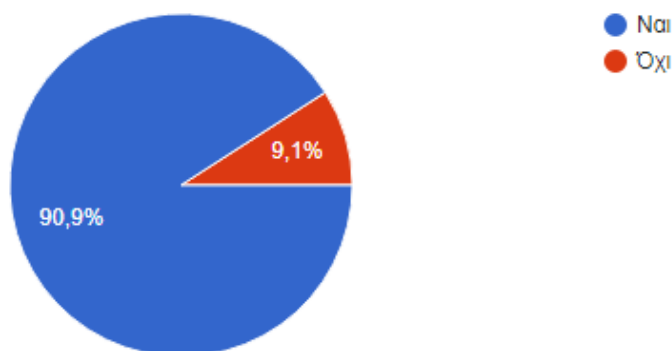
As regards the level of digital literacy, 54,5% classified themselves as basic users which means they are able to search for information, use the devices for basic features and exchange e-mails or files. Simultaneously the percentage of

independent users is also high as 36,4% feel that they can use different search engines and online services. So the two extreme answers were absent in our case.
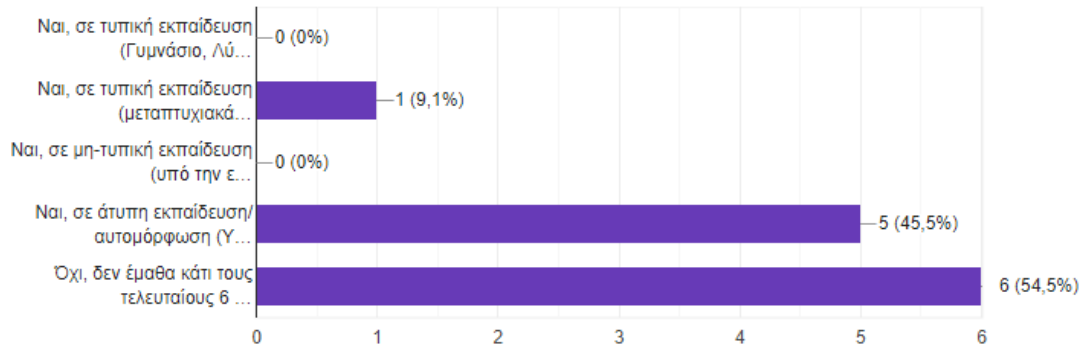

4. Participation in educational processes

In the last 2 years, 45,5% have participated in activities of non-formal education or informal/self-learning. One person answered that he/she was involved in formal education while three persons reported that they weren't involved in any form of education. It should be pointed out that in this question it was possible to give more than one answer so this is the reason we have in total 14 answers from 11 people.
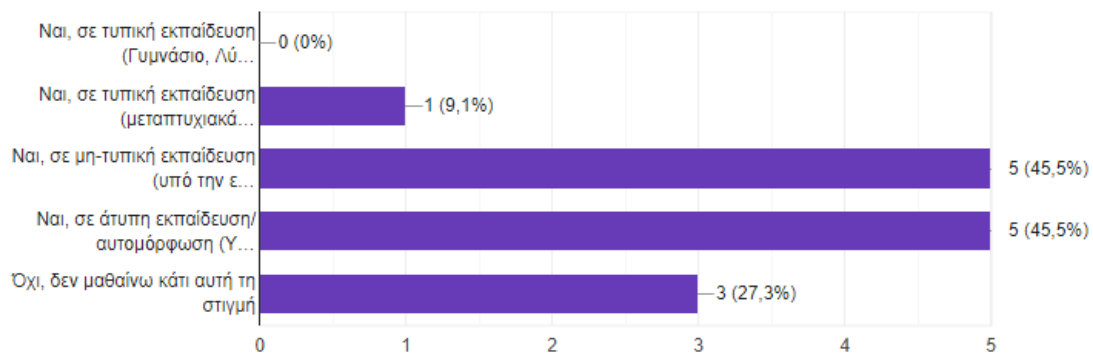
As for the last 6 months, there was no answer for non-formal education but five persons declared that they participated in informal/self-learning educational activities. On the other hand, 54,5% haven't been involved in any educational process.

Ναι, σε τυπική εκπαίδευση (Γυμνάσιο, Λύ...	0 (0%)
Ναι, σε τυπική εκπαίδευση (μεταπτυχιακά...	1 (9,1%)
Ναι, σε μη-τυπική εκπαίδευση (υπό την ε...	0 (0%)
Ναι, σε άτυπη εκπαίδευση/ αυτομόρφωση (Υ...	5 (45,5%)
Όχι, δεν έμαθα κάτι τους τελευταίους 6 ...	6 (54,5%)

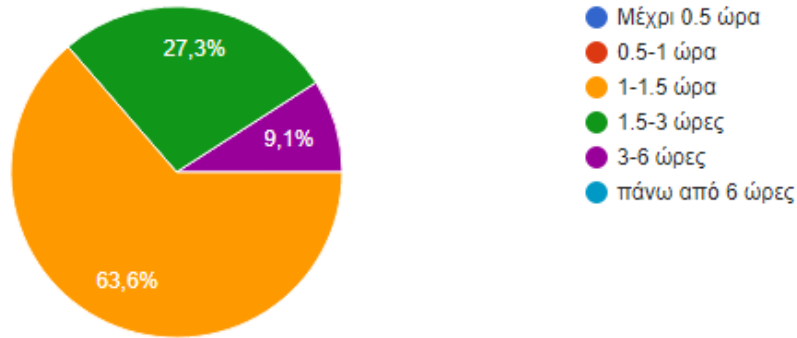## 5. Interest in engaging in training activities and preferred training methods and tools

In the question that people were asked to write the kind of new knowledge they would like to learn, the answers were:

- Programming
- Manual art like carpentry
- Something that will enhance the career
- Learning of online tools
- Social-media
- Certificate of qualification with the view to improve the CV
- A foreign language
- Something entertaining and interesting
- Computers
- Marketing

As for what motivation do they need in order to acquire new knowledge, there were several answers like acquisition of diploma, good facilities, being in an understandable level, tailor-made to someone's needs, free and with importance. Moreover, it was noted that is significant to have a friend or acquaintance together and that time is very valuable so a short but essential training is more preferable. E-learning is also a way that could work as motivation, according to the answers we received.

From the answers we got, time is a significant factor for adults. Therefore, in the question of how many hours per week would participants be available for learning activities, the answer with the highest percentage (63,6%) was from 1 to 1,5 hours while the rest answers were for more than 1,5 hours.

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Legend:
- Μέχρι 0.5 ώρα
- 0.5-1 ώρα
- 1-1.5 ώρα
- 1.5-3 ώρες
- 3-6 ώρες
- πάνω από 6 ώρες

There was more variety in answers regarding the preferable time spending on self-learning, with 45,5% being available for 30-45 minutes every day. However, there were no answers for the extreme options we gave them.

Legend:
- 15-20 λεπτά
- 20-30 λεπτά
- 30-45 λεπτά
- 45-60 λεπτά
- 60-90 λεπτά
- Πάνω από 90 λεπτά
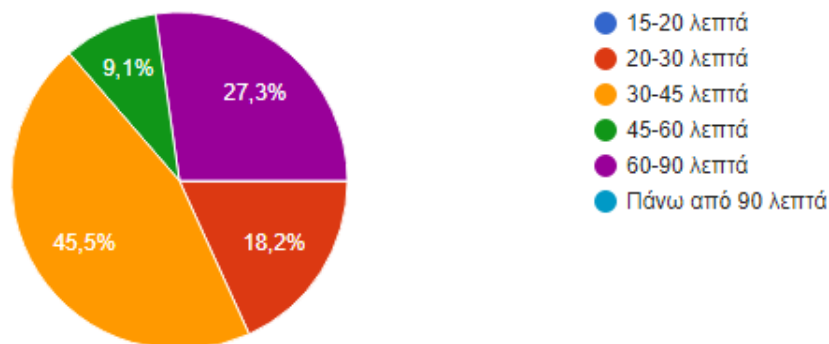
The next question was about the barriers that keep participants away from educational activities. The options with the most answers were the insufficient information about course content, lack of time and absence of interest in educational material.

Lastly, the most preferable ways of learning, based on the answers, were the provision of video materials, printed handouts as well as educational course with certain numbers of lectures and practical workshops with experts.

6. Conclusion

Taking into account the answers we gathered thought the questionnaire, it is evident the need for learning activities and that each adult have the desire to learn something new but there are obstacles that make them not taking this step. Especially, people over 35 years old were able to identify the lack of digital knowledge which is almost necessary nowadays, in order to be competitive and productive in their jobs.

Moreover, it should be pointed out that the forms of non-formal education and self-learning can be optimized for adult education, as it can be pointed out that people want to try something which will be not only educative and important for their professional life but also to be interesting and easy to understand so as not to consider these learning activities as obligations but as something beneficial.