

PE030: YEAR WHEN HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION WAS ATTAINED

Topic and detailed topic: Educational attainment and background / Educational attainment details, including education interrupted or abandoned

Variable type: Standardised variable / every 3 years

Unit: All current household members aged 16 and over or selected respondent (where applies)

Reference period: Current

Mode of collection: Personal interview (proxy as an exception for persons temporarily away or in incapacity) or registers

In use (period): Yes, nucleus until 2020, 2023

Series' differences: Yes, 2023 flags

VALUES AND FORMAT

YYYY Four digits

FLAGS

- 1 Collected via survey/interview
- 2 Collected from administrative data
- 3 Imputed
- 4 Not possible to establish a source
- 1 Missing
- 2 Not applicable (PE041 = 000)
- 3 Not selected respondent
- 7 Not applicable (not collected according to the implementation of the “multiannual rolling planning” and year > 2020)

DESCRIPTION

The ‘year when the highest level of education was successfully completed’ refers to the educational attainment as reported in variable ‘educational attainment level’ (PE041), and its implementation guidelines apply accordingly. If the respondent does not know the exact date (e.g. when there is a proxy respondent), an estimation should be provided.

Auxiliary questions on the age of the respondent when completing the highest level of education or how many years ago the highest level of education was completed should be asked to allow an estimation if the respondent does not remember the year.

One possible way to estimate ‘year when the highest level of education was attained’ is based on the year of birth and the age at completion of the highest level of education or, if unknown, the usual duration (without interruption) for a particular level of educational attainment.

Where two vocational qualifications are obtained from programmes at the same ISCED level, the most recent qualification should be used for completing the variable ‘year of the successful completion of the highest educational level’ and for giving the field of this education programme.

Successful completion of programmes at ISCED levels 2 or 3, which gives access to programmes at a higher ISCED level (which for ISCED level 3 is ISCED levels 5, 6 or 7), is considered as level completion.

The flag ‘-2 not applicable’ covers individuals with no formal education or an educational attainment level below ISCED 1.

The variable refers to the year when the highest level of education was successfully completed and is expressed in four digits.