

PE010: Current education activity

Domain/Area	Education/Current education and highest ISCED level attained
Transmission type	Regular
Reference period	Current
Unit	All current household members aged 16 and over
Mode of collection	Personal interview, proxy or register
Values	1 In education 2 Not in education
Flags	1 Filled -1 Missing

Description

The question is whether the person is currently participating in a formal educational programme. An educational programme, as defined under ISCED-2011, is “A coherent set or sequence of educational activities designed and organized to achieve pre-determined learning objectives or accomplish a specific set of educational tasks over a sustained period.” (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2012, p. 8).

The person’s participation in this programme may be on a full-time attendance basis, a part-time attendance basis or by correspondence course.

This variable only covers the formal education system (including schools, colleges and universities) that corresponds to the programmes covered by the questionnaires used in the UOE data collection (administrative data collection, common for UNESCO, OECD and Eurostat).

Formal education is defined in ISCED 2011 as “education that is institutionalised, intentional and planned through public organizations and recognised private bodies, and – in their totality – constitute the formal education system of a country. Formal education programmes are thus recognised as such by the relevant national education or equivalent authorities, e.g. any other institution in cooperation with the national or sub-national education authorities. Formal education consists mostly of initial education. Vocational education, special needs education and some parts of adult education are often recognised as being part of the formal education system.

If the interviewee is enrolled as a student or an apprentice in a programme within the formal education system the answer will be 1.

This includes modules (short programmes/courses) which may be part of a longer regular education programme that are taken and completed, providing graduates with the corresponding academic credit, independent of whether the person continues to complete the full programme or not. The level of short programmes/courses will be the same as the programme of which they form part.

For apprentices who are in a period of 'on-the-job training' or alternate 'on-the-job' and 'in-school learning' within the framework of an alternate (e.g. dual) programme, the answer is code 1, since the person is enrolled in a qualifying programme.

Persons who have begun a program of study, who are not taking part at present because of a semester or summer break, but who are intending to return to education after a semester or summer break, should be coded as 'in education'.

If the respondent does not know yet about his/her situation after holidays (exams to be passed

in the second session, no results of exams, no reply received yet from the educational institution concerning the new studies, etc.) this person should be coded as 'in education' and in PE020 should be allocated code representing the level of education attended before these holidays.

The following adult programmes cannot be classified using ISCED-2011:

vocational education organised by a firm without leading to an official qualification recognised as equivalent to the qualification of the formal education system;

any non-formal education that does not lead to an qualification recognised as equivalent to the qualification of the formal education system;

individual cultural activities for leisure.