

FOSTERING OF COMPETITIVENESS BY LIFELONG LEARNING: A ROMANIAN PERSPECTIVE

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This paper emphasizes the importance of lifelong learning in dealing with competitiveness, unemployment and vulnerable employment and analyzes the European training and education portrait in comparison with the Romanian one. The main findings reveal that Romania ranks last in the EU27 in terms of labor productivity, participation rate in lifelong learning (LLL) and expenditure on education. The investment in human resource in Romania is undersized in comparison with other European countries and the Lisbon target. This is primarily revealed by the investment in education and training, where Romania comes last among other EU countries in terms of public expenditure. Secondly, adult working population with high educational level in Romania accounts for only 9.9%, the lowest figure in the EU27. Furthermore, Romania with its 1.4% of adult population involved in any learning activities has the lowest rate in the EU27, very far from the mean European value. Thus, several actions are suggested as Romania has a long way towards a learning society and a functional LLL system. Therefore a LLL strategy is recommended designed to cope with poverty, unemployment and to improve the quality of life.

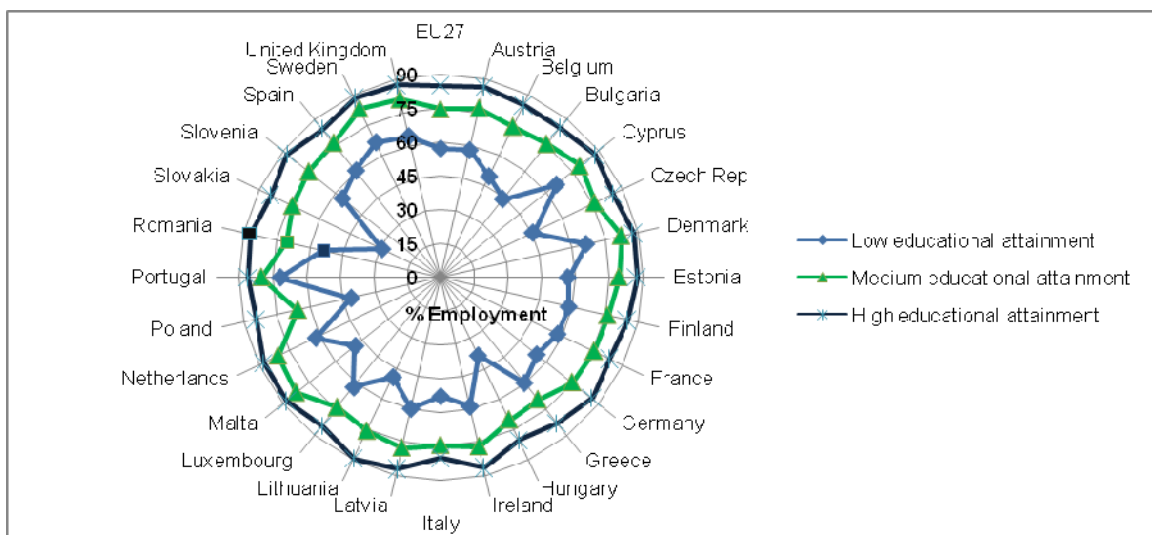


Figure 1. Educational level and employment in EU27, 2007.

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