

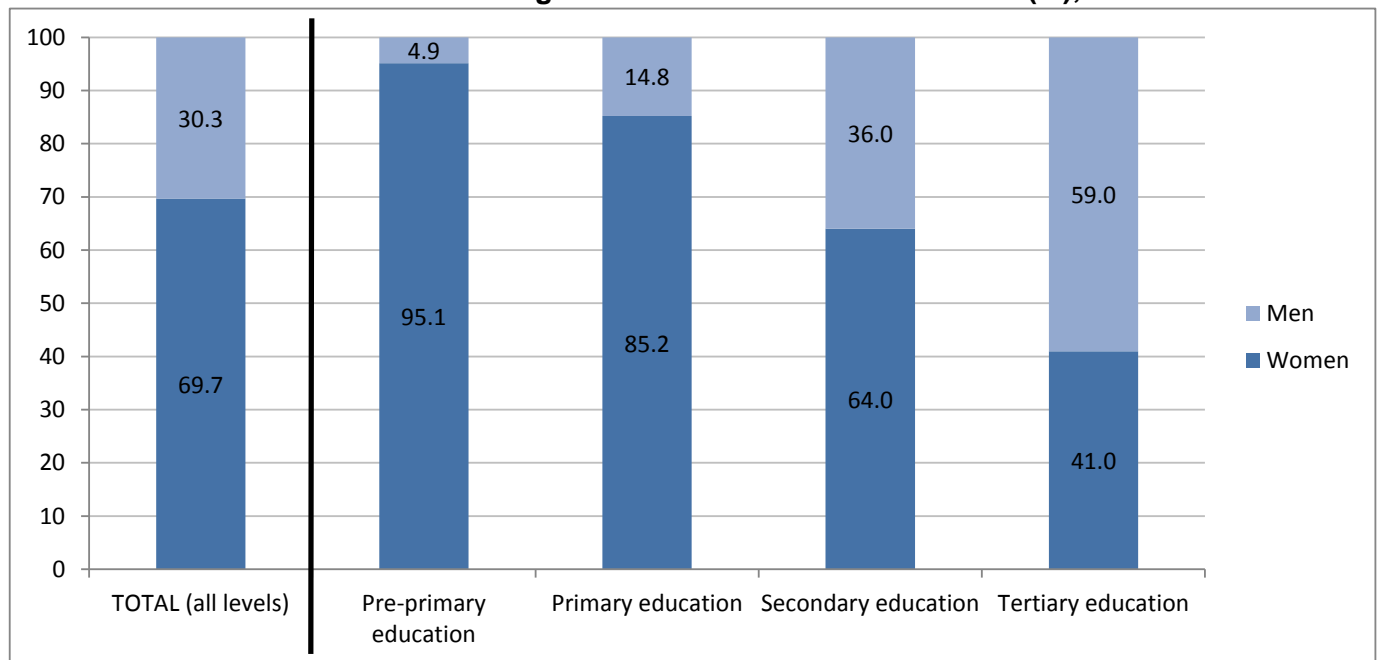
World Teachers' Day

Women teachers over-represented at early stages of education in the EU

More than 1 in 3 teaching staff in the EU aged 50 or older in 2013

In 2013, 8.3 million persons worked as teaching staff (from pre-primary to tertiary level) in the **European Union** (EU), of which 5.8 million (70%) were women. Women were largely predominant in the early stages of education, representing 95% of all teachers at pre-primary education level and 85% at primary level. In contrast, the majority of teaching staff at tertiary education level were men (59%).

Distribution of teaching staff at different education levels (%), 2013



Of the whole teaching staff working in the **EU**, 820 000 persons (nearly 10% of the total) were under 30 years old and 2.9 million (around 36%) were aged 50 or older. The share of teachers aged 50 or older was highest in secondary schools (39.2%) and at tertiary education level (36.1%).

On the occasion of the World Teachers' Day, celebrated each year on 5 October, **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, publishes data on the gender and age structure of the teaching staff in the EU.

Highest shares of women teachers in the Baltic states, lowest in Greece and Spain

In all EU Member States, the teaching staff was in 2013 predominantly female, with shares ranging from more than 80% in **Estonia** (88.2%), **Latvia** (83.2%) and **Lithuania** (81.2%) to less than 65% in **Greece** (62.9%) and **Spain** (63.9%). At **EU** level, 7 persons out of 10 working as teaching staff were women.

Female teachers were largely over-represented in the early education stages. Of all **EU** pre-primary level teachers, 95.1% were women. Across Member States, this share stood at below 95% only in **France** (83.0%) the **Netherlands** (86.6%) and the **United Kingdom** (90.0%). In ten Member States, the share of female teachers at pre-primary level exceeded 99%: **Bulgaria**, the **Czech Republic**, **Estonia**, **Cyprus**, **Latvia**, **Lithuania**, **Hungary**, **Malta**, **Romania** and **Slovakia**.

A similar situation can be observed for primary education, although less distinctly. The largest shares of female teachers at this level were registered in **Lithuania** and **Slovenia** (both 97.1%), followed by the **Czech Republic** (96.8%), **Italy** (95.9%) and **Hungary** (95.6%). In contrast, **Greece** (69.9%), **Spain** (75.9%), **Luxembourg** (76.0%) and **Sweden** (77.0%) had the lowest shares. At **EU** level, 85.2% of primary school teachers were women in 2013.

Men only predominant among tertiary level teaching staff

The situation is more balanced in secondary education, where the share of female teachers stands at 64.0% on average in the **EU**. Only in tertiary education were men predominant: overall in the **EU**, women accounted for 41% of the teaching staff. At this level, women were under-represented in every EU Member State, except **Latvia** (56.3%), **Lithuania** (55.5%) and **Finland** (50.7%).

Share of female teaching staff by education level (%), 2013

	Total (all education levels)	Pre-primary education	Primary education	Secondary education	Tertiary education
EU	69.7	95.1	85.2	64.0	41.0
Belgium	69.6	96.7	81.6	61.7	46.9
Bulgaria	77.8	99.8	94.3	79.2	47.8
Czech Republic	74.7	99.5	96.8	65.9	38.0
Denmark	:	:	:	70.9	:
Germany	65.3	97.0	85.7	60.8	37.7
Estonia	88.2	99.5	91.9	76.7	:
Ireland	:	:	86.3	:	44.0
Greece	62.9	98.8	69.9	58.4	33.1
Spain	63.9	95.2	75.9	55.0	40.7
France	65.9	83.0	83.0	59.5	37.2
Croatia	72.5	98.9	93.1	75.2	47.7
Italy	78.3	98.0	95.9	71.6	36.9
Cyprus	68.1	99.1	83.1	64.9	38.8
Latvia	83.2	99.5	93.3	82.1	56.3
Lithuania	81.2	99.4	97.1	80.9	55.5
Luxembourg	67.9	96.7	76.0	53.6	:
Hungary	75.7	99.7	95.6	69.2	38.8
Malta	65.4	99.3	83.3	63.1	32.4
Netherlands	65.8	86.6	85.6	50.8	43.2
Austria	65.4	98.7	91.1	63.9	42.1
Poland	73.7	98.2	85.3	69.2	44.1
Portugal	70.0	99.0	79.2	69.5	44.0
Romania	75.1	99.7	88.1	69.2	48.5
Slovenia	75.1	97.7	97.1	73.0	39.7
Slovakia	76.0	99.7	89.5	74.2	44.7
Finland	71.5	97.2	79.3	64.9	50.7
Sweden	74.0	95.9	77.0	62.9	43.8
United Kingdom	68.8	90.0	87.0	62.1	44.1
Iceland	86.4	93.8	81.7	81.6	:
Liechtenstein	63.5	98.8	78.2	54.9	30.6
Norway	69.0	93.3	74.8	62.0	45.1
Switzerland	66.2	97.5	82.4	48.8	:
FYR of Macedonia	65.2	99.3	81.3	57.3	47.6
Turkey	53.0	94.2	57.8	48.3	41.6

: Data not available

The source dataset can be found [here](#).

More than 60% of all teaching staff in Italy had reached the age of 50 in 2013

In 2013, the largest proportion of teaching staff aged 50 or above was registered in **Italy** (61.9%), followed at a distance by **Bulgaria** (47.7%), **Estonia** (43.1%), **Lithuania** (42.1%), **Sweden** (41.7%), **Latvia** (41.2%) and **Greece** (40.1%).

By education level, the largest shares of teaching staff aged 50 or older were to be found in the secondary or tertiary education level in all Member States, except **Greece**, **Malta**, **Romania** and **Sweden**. More than half of the teaching staff had reached the age of 50 in all education levels in **Italy**, in both pre-primary and tertiary education in **Bulgaria**, and in tertiary education in **Slovenia**.

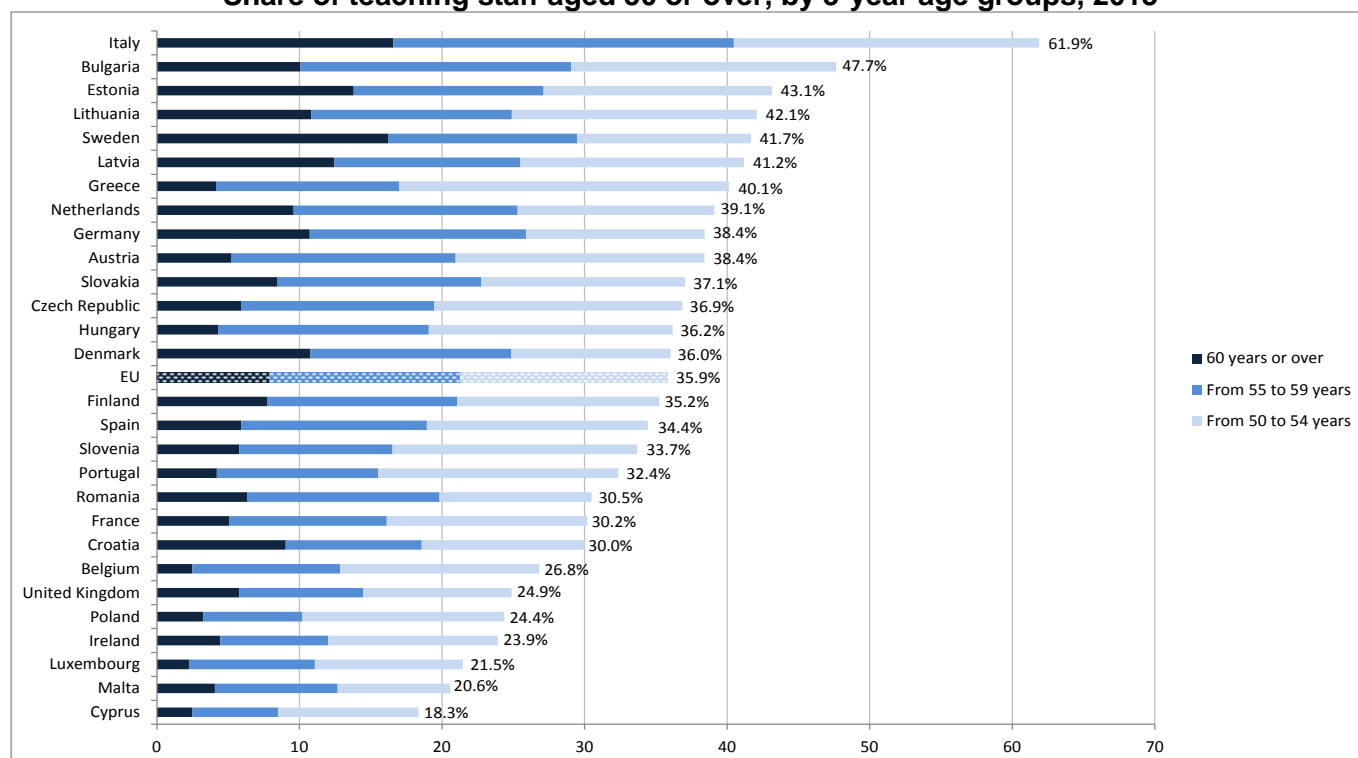
Share of teaching staff aged 50 or over, by education level, 2013 (in %)

	Total (all education levels)	Pre-primary education	Primary education	Secondary education	Tertiary education
EU	35.9	29.4	33.0	39.2	36.1
Belgium	26.8	14.6	21.6	30.5	37.5
Bulgaria	47.7	51.1	38.9	45.9	53.4
Czech Republic	36.9	37.0	31.1	39.0	:
Denmark	:	:	:	36.0	:
Germany	38.4	27.5	44.7	48.3	24.1
Estonia	43.1	39.3	38.0	49.6	:
Ireland	:	:	22.4	:	:
Greece	40.1	11.9	48.5	37.3	46.9
Spain	34.4	29.7	32.7	34.1	40.7
France	30.2	23.3	24.5	32.5	40.3
Croatia	30.0	27.5	:	29.5	33.0
Italy	61.9	56.8	56.6	68.7	52.7
Cyprus	18.3	8.3	3.2	26.9	25.3
Latvia	41.2	28.2	36.0	45.8	49.8
Lithuania	42.1	40.8	38.8	44.5	38.6
Luxembourg	21.5	14.2	19.4	25.1	:
Hungary	36.2	38.1	34.0	35.3	40.6
Malta	20.6	39.7	14.5	15.6	33.8
Netherlands	39.1	34.8	36.5	46.0	33.4
Austria	38.4	21.6	36.8	45.5	36.0
Poland	24.4	20.3	23.1	26.2	:
Portugal	32.4	30.6	34.1	30.5	34.9
Romania	30.5	35.3	31.5	28.8	30.8
Slovenia	33.7	22.4	27.2	33.3	50.8
Slovakia	37.1	37.3	26.8	37.9	45.3
Finland	35.2	27.0	29.9	37.6	45.9
Sweden	41.7	47.6	39.3	41.8	43.8
United Kingdom	24.9	19.0	16.0	26.1	40.2
Iceland	30.3	21.6	35.8	35.8	:
Liechtenstein	31.5	28.9	34.9	33.9	18.0
Norway	33.1	14.4	33.2	40.0	39.1
Switzerland	35.9	29.3	35.0	37.9	:
FYR of Macedonia	30.7	:	29.8	29.9	35.3
Turkey	11.0	2.6	11.8	7.7	19.0

: Data not available

The source datasets can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Share of teaching staff aged 50 or over, by 5-year age groups, 2013



Methods and definitions

The respective shares of teaching staff by age groups have been calculated excluding the group “unknown age” from the total.

Pre-primary education (International Standard Classification of Education level 0.2) usually starts from the age of 3 and prepares children for entry into primary education.

Primary education (International Standard Classification of Education level 1) begins between five and seven years of age, is generally the start of compulsory education and covers six years of full-time schooling.

Secondary education (International Standard Classification of Education levels 2-4) consists of lower secondary education, upper secondary education, and post-secondary non-tertiary education. Lower secondary education continues the basic programmes of primary level, although teaching is typically more subject-focused. Usually, the end of this level coincides with the end of compulsory education. Upper secondary education programmes begin between ages 14 and 16 and are typically designed to prepare for tertiary education or provide skills relevant to employment, or both. Post-secondary non-tertiary education follows secondary education and prepares for labour market entry or for tertiary education.

Tertiary education (International Standard Classification of Education levels 5-8) builds on secondary education and aims at a high level of complexity and specialisation. Tertiary education includes what is commonly understood as academic education, as well as advanced vocational or professional education.

Country notes for secondary education:

Data for Denmark, Iceland, FYR of Macedonia and Turkey only refer to lower secondary education.

Data for the Czech Republic exclude post-secondary non-tertiary education.

Data for Croatia include primary education.

Data for Norway also include ISCED level 5 (short-cycle tertiary education).

“Total” excluding tertiary education for Luxembourg, Poland, Iceland and Switzerland.

More information

Eurydice report “Teachers' and School Heads' Salaries and Allowances in Europe – 2014/15”.

The World Teachers' Day website.

Metadata of administrative data on education.

Issued by: **Eurostat Press Office**

Vincent BOURGEAIS

Baiba GRANDOVSKA

Tel: +352-4301-33 444

eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu

ec.europa.eu/eurostat

Production of data:

Sorin-Florin GHEORGHIU

Tel: +352-4301-35 073

sorin-florin.gheorghiu@ec.europa.eu

@EU Eurostat



Media requests: Eurostat media support / Tel: +352-4301-33 408 / eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu