

The Profile of the Adult Learner and the Factors That Promote Participation in Civil Academy in Greece

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Abstract. Nowadays, lifelong education is considered a key to employability, economic growth, personal development, social stability, even democracy. Though many countries worldwide support this trend, in Greece lifelong learning is still not widely appealing. However, a Civil Society Organization, Civil Academy, providing General Adult Education courses is increasing its popularity throughout Greece. In order to explore this raising participation trend a quantitative research was carried out in one of the Civil Academies investigating the profiles of the learners and the factors that motivate their participation in lifelong learning; the ways in which these profiles and motives fit into renowned theories of participation in Adult Education was also explored. As a result, it appears that the profile of the Civil Academy participant resembles the general profile of the adult learner in Greece in most of its constituents. The findings of the survey are conclusive that participants are mostly motivated by inner higher-level needs, socialization factors and their great appreciation of the value of further education.