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EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AT THE TERTIARY LEVEL: PATTERNS AND SOCIOECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

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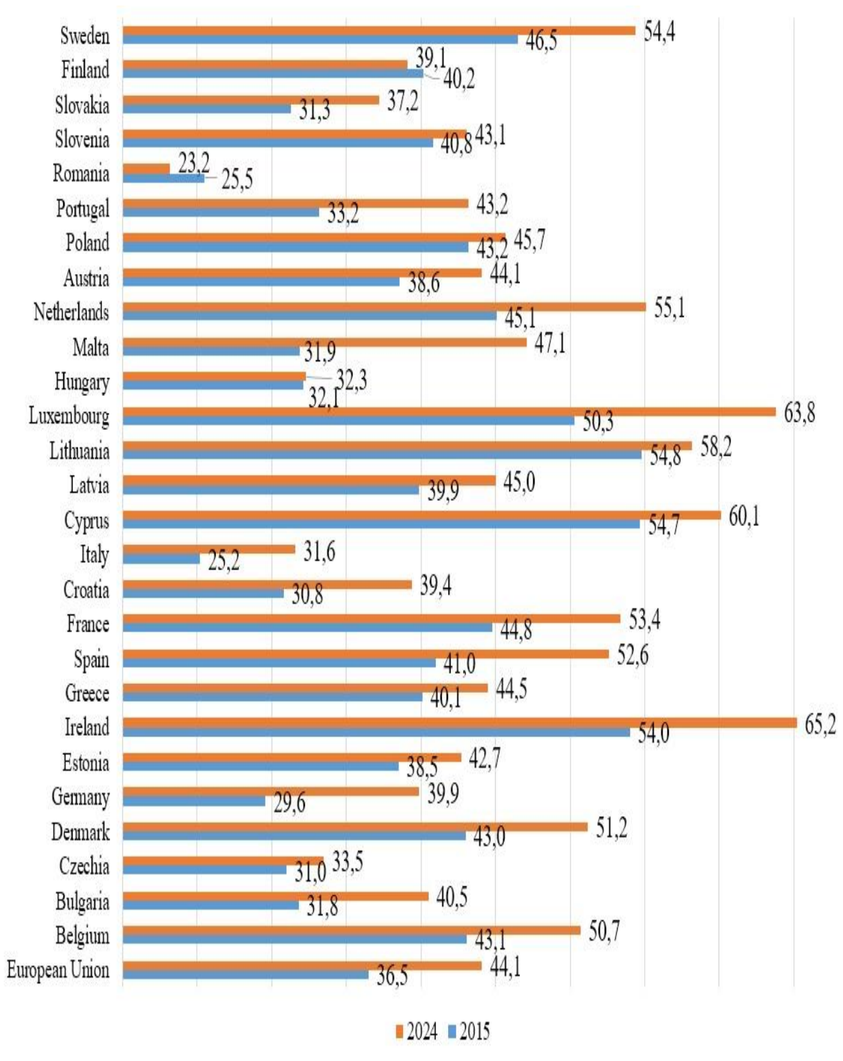
INTRODUCTION

We can consider that an improved standard of living, as part of the socio-economic dimension, can be considered an element of sustainable development. It can be considered that if a person can generate the resources to lead a decent life, then we can also say that the degree of poverty can decrease. Thus, at the European Union level, it is desired that by 2030, at least 78% of people in the 20-64 age group have a job. Also, participation in education and vocational training programs contributes to a culture of sustainability.
Investments in education, as well as the quality of education, can facilitate the transition to the labor market of recent graduates.
It is all the more important that young graduates identify and can access decent, well-paid jobs. Graduates of training programs with a high level of education can contribute to increasing productivity and reducing the number of people affected by in-work poverty.
Employment is considered to increase with the flexibility of learning processes. Most of the updates of skills and knowledge are due to changes in technological processes. Completing tertiary education increases the chance of finding a job. Thus, the tertiary level of education contributes to higher employment rates compared to a lower level of education.

RESULTS

For the period 2015-2024, for the member states of the European Union, the article presents an analysis of the evolution of the share of people aged between 25 and 34 years, with education level 5-8. The comparative situation of the share of these people, by gender, is presented. For the period 2015-2024, the analysis is continued for employment rates of recent graduates for young people aged between 20 and 34 years, with education level 5-8, by gender. In order to keep a job or access another job, it is necessary for skills to be updated or completed. This can be achieved through participation in education and training programs. Thus, the article presents an analysis of the evolution of participation in vocational education and training programs. Also, for people aged between 25 and 64, the comparative situation of participation in this type of vocational training is analyzed.

Comparative situation of the share of people aged 25 to 34 with education level 5-8, for 2015 and 2024 (%)



ABSTRACT:

The High skills enable people to identify and occupy decent and well-paid jobs. We can say that a characteristic of quality education can consist of the existence of a large number of people with high skills. It is believed that employment opportunities increase the higher the level of skills people have. The analysis is made for the European Union Member States, for the period 2015-2024. It starts from the evolution of the share of people aged between 25 and 34, who have tertiary education, and the comparative situation of employment rates of recent graduates for these people is presented. The main challenge is given by high competitiveness. Technological changes are one of the factors leading to changes in jobs. The labor market requires new skills, knowledge and competences. For this reason, in order to acquire them, it is necessary for people to participate in education and vocational training programs in order to improve their skills or retrain. Thus, for people aged between 25 and 64, participation in vocational education and training programs is analyzed.

Key words

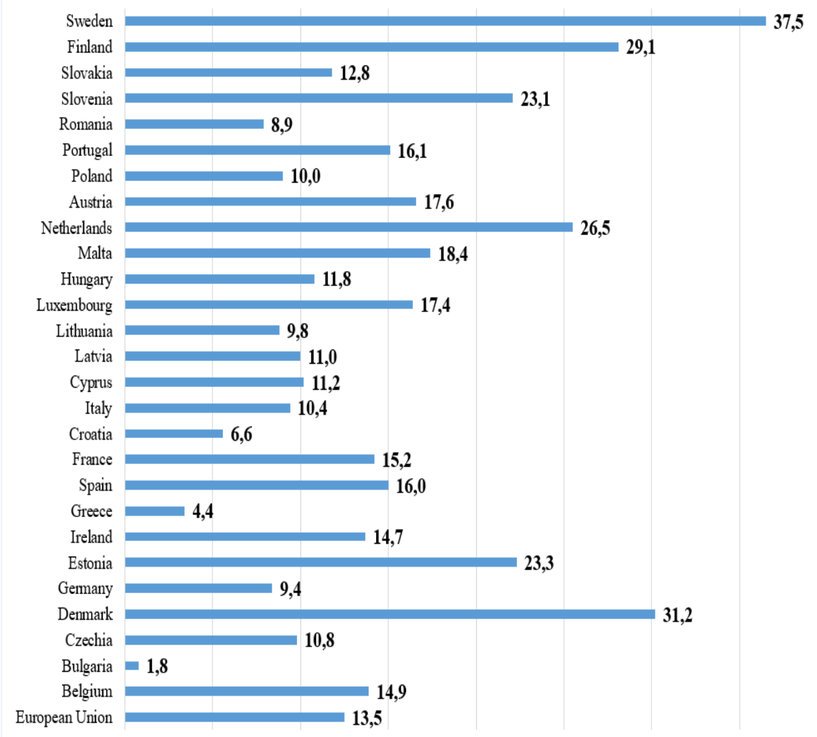
graduates, employment rates, tertiary education, education and training programs, European Union

DISCUSSION

Comparative situation of employment rates of recent graduates for people aged between 20 and 34 with education level 5-8, by gender, for 2015 and 2024

Countries	Employment rates of recent graduates			
	Males		Females	
	2015	2024	2015	2024
European Union	88.0	90.9	79.8	85.9
Belgium	89.3	91.5	87.5	89.5
Bulgaria	90.6	93.8	81.5	90.4
Czechia	94.2	96.5	65.9	64.5
Denmark	89.6	92.3	80.5	88.0
Germany	95.8	94.5	87.2	87.0
Estonia	95.6	94.2	74.8	85.5
Ireland	90.2	92.6	86.1	87.4
Greece	67.3	82.0	61.0	76.8
Spain	80.1	86.1	74.6	85.2
France	86.4	88.1	80.8	84.5
Croatia	81.4	87.5	79.2	88.2
Italy	72.4	84.7	64.0	80.5
Cyprus	83.2	90.2	74.3	84.4
Latvia	94.5	93.4	79.3	81.9
Lithuania	93.3	94.1	86.9	90.1
Luxembourg	95.2	93.1	85.6	87.1
Hungary	95.2	93.7	74.0	92.4
Malta	98.0	96.2	93.5	91.0
Netherlands	92.8	95.4	90.6	91.8
Austria	93.4	91.5	88.1	87.2
Poland	92.7	95.6	83.9	88.7
Portugal	81.6	90.6	81.4	88.8
Romania	90.8	94.6	84.1	88.9
Slovenia	89.5	97.5	80.2	87.6
Slovakia	92.2	94.2	68.3	85.4
Finland	89.7	91.0	75.6	89.1
Sweden	93.7	94.3	89.9	89.3

For males, it is observed that in 2024 most states have values over 90%. Below this value were: Greece (82.0%), Italy (84.7%), Spain (86.1%), Croatia (87.5%), France (88.1%). The highest values are recorded in: Slovenia (97.5%), Czechia (96.5%), Malta (96.2%), Poland (95.6%), Netherlands (95.4%). However, compared to 2015, in 2024, significant increases of over 10% were: Greece (+14.7%) and Italy (+12.3%).
For females, in 2024 most states have values above 85%. Below this value were: Czechia (64.5%), Greece (76.8%), Italy (80.5%), Latvia (81.9%), Cyprus (84.4%), France (84.5%). The highest values are recorded in: Hungary (92.4%), Netherlands (91.8%), Malta (91.0%), Bulgaria (90.4%), Lithuania (90.1%).



At the European Union level, in 2024, participation in vocational education and training programs was 13.5%. For a number of 12 states, they had values over 15%.

CONCLUSIONS

From the analysis carried out, it is found that, in 2024, the share of people aged between 25 and 34 years, who have an education level of 5-8, is 44.1%, and the trend is increasing. For a number of 10 Member States of the European Union, the values of this indicator exceed 50%. For males, the number of states that meet this condition is 5. For females, in 18 states the share of people aged between 25 and 34 years, who have an education level of 5-8, is higher than 50%. However, for four states, for people in this category, less than three out of ten have an education level of 5-8.
Regarding employment rates of recent graduates, it is observed that only in 3 states the values are lower than 85%, for the rest the values are higher.
From the data presented, male persons aged between 20 and 34 years, with an education level of 5-8, have a higher chance of finding a job than female persons of the same age category and the same education level.