

Music Performing Arts Festivals Visual Arts Audiovisual - Film, TV & Radio Research / Surveys All Europe Countries COVID 19 News

People with lower income and education participate less in cultural activities

Recent Eurostat data show a decline in participation in cultural activities and highlight factors of exclusion. Greater challenges for disabled people.

Participation in cultural activities in European Union countries decreased in 2022 compared to 2015, according to Culture Statistics recently published by Eurostat.

he qualitative evidence from the survey shows that participation in cultural activities is significantly influenced by people's income and, to some extent, by whether they live in large urban centres, small towns or rural areas. People with higher levels of education are more likely to participate in cultural activities. People with disabilities face more challenges.

The article, part of the online publication Cultur Statistics, presents key findings on people's participation in cultural activities, which include: going to the cinema, attending live performances (plays, concerts, operas, ballet and dance performances, etc.) and visiting cultural sites (historical monuments, museums, art galleries or archaeological sites).

Cultural participation

In 2022, in most EU countries, over half of residents aged 16 or older participated in cultural activities in the previous year. Compared with 2015, reported cultural participation declined across all EU countries except Spain, where cultural participation remained stable at 58.5%. The most noticeable decreases were observed in France, Slovakia, Latvia, and Sweden. In 2022, the highest levels of cultural participation were primarily recorded in western and Nordic member states and the lowest in Romania and Bulgaria.

People participating in cultural activities at least once in the previous 12 months, by type of activity 2015 and 2022
(% of population aged 16 and over)

	Cultural activities (cinema, live performances, cultural sites)		Cinema		Live performances (theatre, concerts, ballet)		Cultural sites (historical monuments, museums, art galleries or archaeological sites)	
	2015	2022	2015	2022	2015	2022	2015	2022
Belgium	68.1	59.0	50.3	32.6	45.1	38.0	43.0	38.8
Bulgaria	28.6	19.7	21.7	13.0	19.4	10.7	14.6	11.2
Czechia	70.2	58.0	47.8	39.5	48.0	33.2	52.1	42.0
Denmark	85.4	77.3	66.5	52.4	59.3	45.7	61.4	54.1
Germany (*)	73.5	:	46.6	:	48.6	:	49.8	:
Estonia	69.8	60.7	48.2	41.4	56.2	39.8	44.2	39.5
Ireland (*)	69.3	60.9	49.3	42.1	45.4	33.0	39.8	36.3
Greece	46.9	36.6	32.8	26.4	33.8	28.1	16.9	17.9
Spain	58.5	58.5	45.9	36.8	32.7	32.6	34.2	39.2
France	77.9	54.4	58.0	40.5	54.8	22.2	53.7	32.4
Croatia	36.6	32.4	24.9	20.7	26.3	22.3	19.2	18.9
Italy	46.9	36.8	37.5	27.5	25.3	19.1	26.1	18.0
Cyprus	52.6	35.9	30.5	18.5	43.2	26.9	20.5	14.7
Latvia	63.3	40.1	31.8	14.4	52.4	23.1	44.2	31.3
Lithuania	62.0	47.6	34.9	28.3	56.7	35.1	31.2	29.7
Luxembourg	79.3	77.7	55.5	49.2	57.9	48.5	55.6	63.3
Hungary	50.0	39.4	30.8	25.7	31.0	21.8	34.8	22.0
Malta	50.5	37.9	34.2	24.3	29.1	22.4	26.0	17.6
Netherlands	83.8	69.0	59.0	44.5	60.5	37.7	61.4	43.8
Austria	73.6	55.3	47.6	32.4	52.8	30.8	44.1	32.0
Poland (*)	53.7	50.9	41.1	38.1	25.9	18.7	37.8	31.6
Portugal	62.8	51.2	31.8	26.4	48.0	30.8	37.5	36.2
Romania	27.4	22.2	19.3	14.5	21.4	10.4	18.3	13.6
Slovenia	70.1	56.6	36.7	22.0	56.8	32.7	43.8	41.4
Slovakia	59.4	35.9	35.1	22.8	40.3	14.4	33.7	22.9
Finland	83.8	65.7	55.2	35.7	66.7	33.4	61.4	45.5
Sweden	85.2	62.8	61.1	35.4	57.3	30.4	67.2	41.8
Norway	85.9	70.3	62.3	45.8	62.5	41.8	54.9	36.7
Switzerland	86.5	74.0	62.1	43.0	68.1	46.6	62.1	53.7
Montenegro	31.8	24.4	25.4	17.5	24.1	13.1	18.3	8.3
Serbia	29.8	31.0	20.1	22.7	21.1	20.5	12.6	12.8
Türkiye	:	19.4	:	14.3	:	6.2	:	7.9

(*) 2022: data not available due to high item non-response rate.
(*) 2015: low reliability.

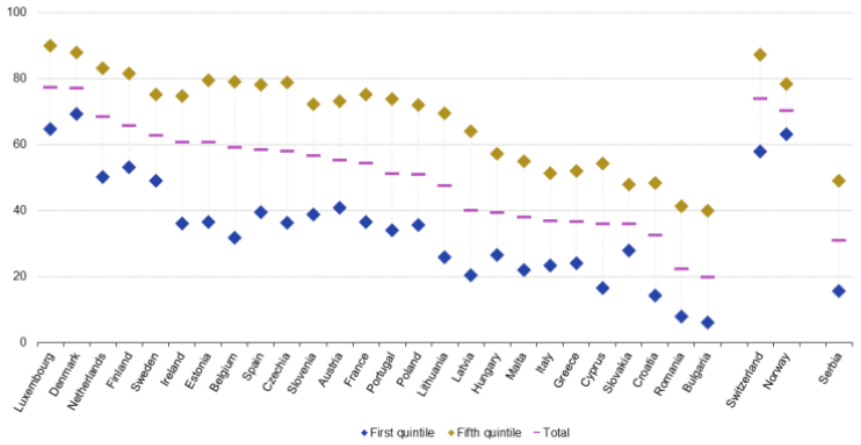
Source: Eurostat (online data code: ilc_scp03)

Participation by income

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The findings on the income of those participating in cultural activities seem to be related to the gap in participation in cultural activities between the Nordic and Western countries and the Balkan countries.

People participating in any type of cultural activity in the last 12 months by income quintile, 2022
(% of population in the lowest and highest income quintile)



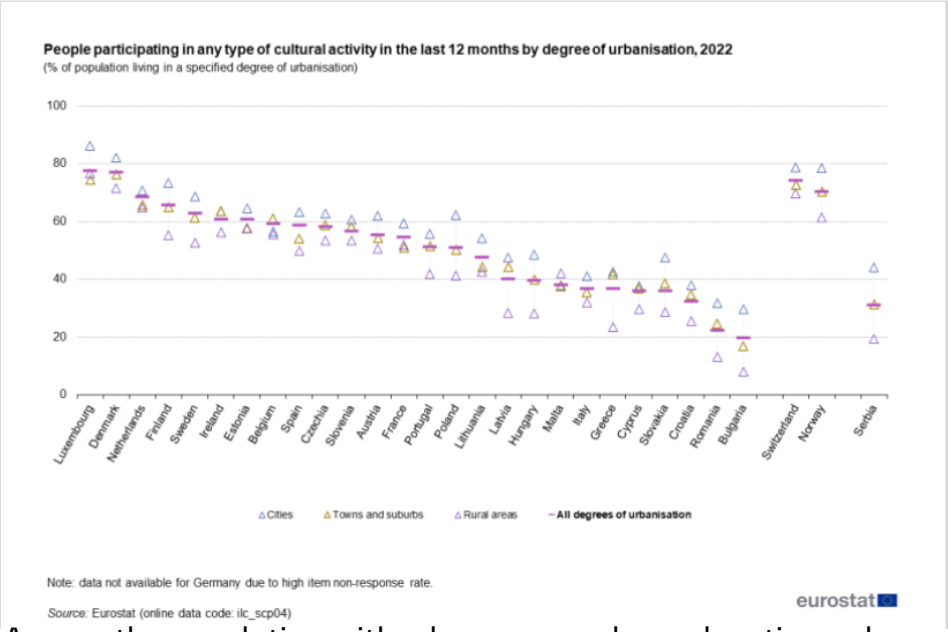
Note: data not available for Germany due to high item non-response rate.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: ilc_scp04)

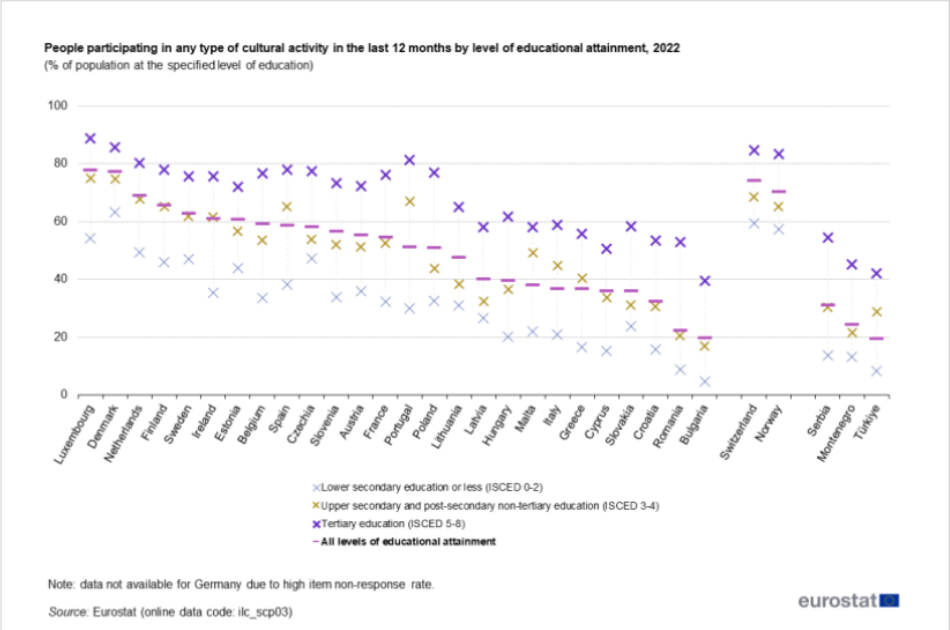
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Urbanisation and education

Breaking down the population by the degree of urbanisation of area of residence showed a slightly higher percentage of cultural participation in 2022 among people living in cities, compared with residents of towns and suburbs and rural areas.

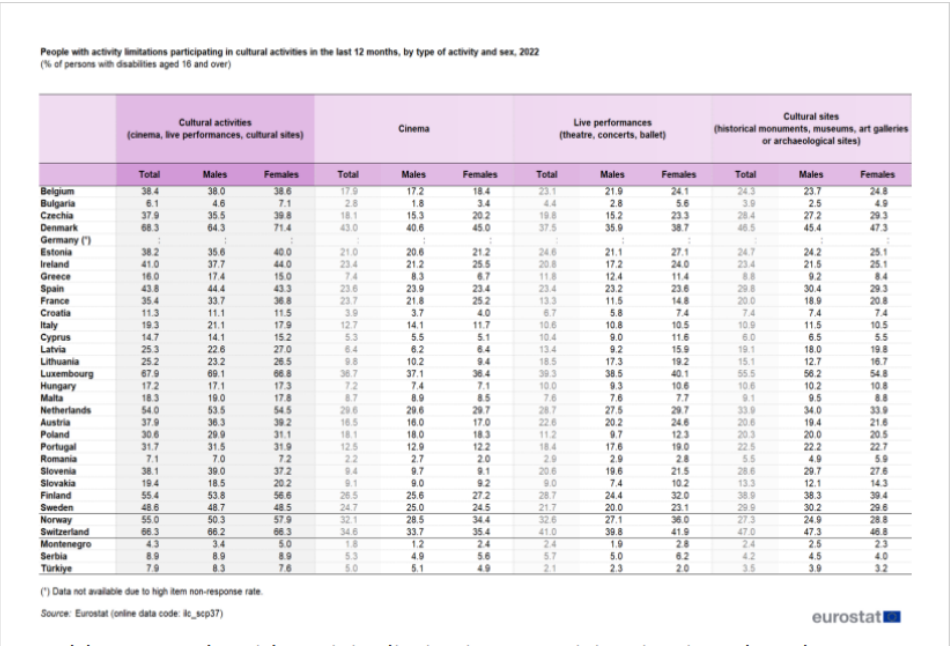


Among the population with a lower secondary education or less, there were only two countries in which more than half of individuals participated in cultural activities in 2022: Denmark (63.2%) and Luxembourg (54.3%). In Romania and Bulgaria, countries that were at the other end of the range, this rate was below 10%. In 19 out of 26 countries, cultural participation among individuals with a tertiary education was twice as high as among those with the lowest level of education.



Cultural participation of people with disabilities

Cultural participation is more difficult for people with disabilities. The results showed a lower rate of cultural participation among people with disabilities compared with the overall population aged 16 and over across all EU countries. In general, in countries with higher overall cultural participation rates, the participation rate among people with disabilities was also higher.



People with activity limitations participating in cultural activities in the last 12 months, by type of activity and sex, 2022
(% of persons with disabilities aged 16 and over)

	Cultural activities (cinema, live performances, cultural sites)			Cinema			Live performances (theatre, concerts, ballet)			Cultural sites (historical monuments, museums, art galleries or archaeological sites)		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Belgium	38.4	38.0	38.6	17.9	17.2	18.4	23.1	21.9	24.1	24.3	23.7	24.8
Bulgaria	6.1	4.6	7.1	2.8	1.8	3.4	4.4	2.8	5.6	3.9	2.5	4.9
Czechia	37.9	35.5	39.8	18.1	15.3	20.2	19.8	15.2	23.3	28.4	27.2	29.3
Denmark	68.3	64.3	71.4	43.0	40.6	45.0	37.5	35.9	38.7	46.5	45.4	47.3
Germany (*)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Estonia	38.2	35.6	40.0	21.0	20.8	21.2	24.6	21.1	27.1	24.7	24.2	25.1
Ireland	41.0	37.7	44.0	23.4	21.2	25.5	20.8	17.2	24.0	23.4	21.5	25.1
Greece	16.0	17.4	15.0	7.4	8.3	6.7	11.8	12.4	11.4	8.8	9.2	8.4
Spain	43.8	44.4	43.3	23.6	23.9	23.4	23.4	23.2	23.6	29.8	30.4	29.3
France	35.4	33.7	36.8	23.7	21.8	25.2	13.3	11.5	14.8	20.0	18.9	20.8
Croatia	11.3	11.1	11.5	3.9	3.7	4.0	6.7	5.8	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4
Italy	19.3	21.1	17.9	12.7	14.1	11.7	10.6	10.8	10.5	10.9	11.5	10.5
Cyprus	14.7	14.1	15.2	5.3	5.5	5.1	10.4	9.0	11.6	6.0	6.5	5.5
Latvia	25.3	22.6	27.0	6.4	6.2	6.4	13.4	9.2	15.9	19.1	18.0	19.8
Lithuania	25.2	23.2	26.5	9.8	10.2	9.4	18.5	17.3	19.2	15.1	12.7	16.7
Luxembourg	67.9	69.1	66.8	36.7	37.1	36.4	39.3	38.5	40.1	55.5	56.2	54.8
Hungary	17.2	17.1	17.3	7.2	7.4	7.1	10.0	9.3	10.6	10.6	10.2	10.8
Malta	18.3	19.0	17.8	8.7	8.9	8.5	7.6	7.6	7.7	9.1	9.5	8.8
Netherlands	54.0	53.5	54.5	29.6	29.6	29.7	28.7	27.5	29.7	33.9	34.0	33.9
Austria	37.9	36.3	39.2	16.5	16.0	17.0	22.6	20.2	24.6	20.6	19.4	21.6
Poland	30.6	29.9	31.1	18.1	18.0	18.3	11.2	9.7	12.3	20.3	20.0	20.5
Portugal	31.7	31.5	31.9	12.5	12.9	12.2	18.4	17.6	19.0	22.5	22.2	22.7
Romania	7.1	7.0	7.2	2.2	2.7	2.0	2.9	2.9	2.8	5.5	4.9	5.9
Slovenia	38.1	39.0	37.2	9.4	9.7	9.1	20.6	19.6	21.5	28.6	29.7	27.6
Slovakia	19.4	18.5	20.2	9.1	9.0	9.2	9.0	7.4	10.2	13.3	12.1	14.3
Finland	55.4	53.8	56.6	26.5	25.6	27.2	28.7	24.4	32.0	38.9	38.3	39.4
Sweden	48.6	48.7	48.5	24.7	25.0	24.5	21.7	20.0	23.1	29.9	30.2	29.6
Norway	55.0	50.3	57.9	32.1	28.5	34.4	32.6	27.1	36.0	27.3	24.9	28.8
Switzerland	66.3	66.2	66.3	34.6	33.7	35.4	41.0	39.8	41.9	47.0	47.3	46.8
Montenegro	4.3	3.4	5.0	1.8	1.2	2.4	2.4	1.9	2.8	2.4	2.5	2.3
Serbia	8.9	8.9	8.9	5.3	4.9	5.6	5.7	5.0	6.2	4.2	4.5	4.0
Türkiye	7.9	8.3	7.6	5.0	5.1	4.9	2.1	2.3	2.0	3.5	3.9	3.2

(*) Data not available due to high item non-response rate.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: ilc_scp37)

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Photo: Damián Buonamico
Photo source