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**Abstract**

The present paper explores the profiles and motives of adults in Flemish continuing higher education based on a dataset gathered in the Sixth Framework project LLL2010 'Towards a lifelong learning society in Europe: the contribution of the education system?'. Educational offers in continuing higher education are highly imbalanced with offers only present in social sciences and humanities. Adult learners in these types of courses often have already obtained a degree in the past and mainly study because of an intrinsic interest in the course subject, although obtaining a degree and getting a job is an important motive for lower educated adults without a job too. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)