The main goal of this comparative study is to identify the labour market and education policies, initiatives, resources and national and European institutions that are directed towards groups over the age of 45+. The findings of the study will be used as the main reference information for the development of the other products of the project, including:

- Development of the training tutorials for job placement programs aimed at people over the age of 45+, where the findings of the study (especially related to the learning needs, provision of training and employment services in the countries, employment and VET policy measures targeted to the population aged 45+) will serve as a useful source of information.
- Development of the Mature 2.0 45+ center, which will also contain the main findings of the comparative study information area from each country, such as the training offers, national job offers and EURES, reports and alerts on relevant work aspects of the group, useful links and contacts relevant to the group.
- The findings of study will also be used for the preparation of different articles and working papers.

Several main methods of research were applied – desktop study of the existing literature, analysis of the official statistical information, content analysis of the policy documents and qualitative social research through the interviews of responsible actors and policy makers in the project’s partner countries.

Employment and integration in the lifelong learning of the 45+ age group in the project’s partner countries present strategically important objectives of socio-economic development of the countries.

The socioeconomic and institutional conditions and challenges of labour market integration and sustainability of employment of the 45+ age group are quite different in the partner countries: dealing with the issues of workforce shortage caused by emigration in Lithuania,
satisfaction of the changing high skills needs and shortages in Germany, coping with post-
crisis employment challenges in Spain or removing the remaining few barriers for the disad-
vantaged groups to the access to employment and training in Sweden.

However, despite these differences, certain similarities can be noticed in the approaches used in the policies and measures of education, training and employment of the 45+ age group, such as the individualisation of the education and employment offers, usage of the ICT technologies, closer cooperation between the state, social and business partners in the development of the adult education and employment services.