

### BRIEF STATUS UPDATE

- **EUROSTUDENT V: 17 Letters of Intent and 2 Expressions of Interest**  
NB: This Newsletter has been sent to all those involved in preparing EUROSTUDENT V
- **Released: new reports from Estonia, France and Germany**
- **New: Steeplechase investigates non-mobile students**

### CURRENT PROJECT ACTIVITIES FOR EUROSTUDENT IV

#### Three new reports

At almost the same time, three of the researcher teams involved in EUROSTUDENT IV have published new reports using the project data. This further shows the increasing reception of the EUROSTUDENT results on national level. The Estonian team of researchers at Praxis have just released their new report entitled "EESTI ÜLIÕPILASTE ELUOLU 2010". This report looks at the national results of the EUROSTUDENT survey from a national and an international perspective and evaluates their importance for future policy-development in Estonia. The French team at OVE have published a short report on the comparative data from EUROSTUDENT in their November newsletter. This publication supports the aims of EUROSTUDENT in providing better knowledge on European student populations in the context of multiple reforms of the system and includes a comment on the central results from Dominic Orr. The German team have gone one step further than their counterparts in juxtaposing national results with international comparative results in their study entitled "Soziale und wirtschaftliche Bedingungen des Studiums. Deutschland im europäischen Vergleich". In this way, they aim to put national results in a comparative context and therefore provide insights on Germany's current position in comparison with other countries, but also provide some pointers for the future of German higher education.

All three reports are available on the website at: <http://www.eurostudent.eu/results/reports>

#### EUROSTUDENT Database searchable via google

The EUROSTUDENT database with the newest results from the fourth round of EUROSTUDENT is now searchable via google and other search machines. We therefore expect this part of our reporting strategy to be used frequently by internet users looking for statistical information on the social dimension of European higher education.

Last week (12-18 December) we had 63 unique users from Germany, France, Finland, the Netherlands, USA, Great Britain, Portugal, Sweden, Austria, Spain, Hungary, Italy and Ukraine (in order of frequency). They generally entered the database via search terms like "parents' occupational status", "student assessment of importance", "funding" and "gini coefficient". Try it out for yourself!



# EUROSTUDENT V (April 2012 – May 2015)

Following the support and efforts of many people within the EUROSTUDENT Network and the Bologna Process, and particularly by the Bologna Secretariat, it is now very likely that EUROSTUDENT V will take place. Through the new requirement for contracts between the EUROSTUDENT coordinators and the participating countries, which also pay participation fees, the project has become a unique intergovernmental initiative within the framework of the Bologna Process.



On the day of the deadline for Letters of Intent, we had received the following responses:

- 17 Letters of Intent (or similar) from these countries: Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey
- 2 Serious Expressions of Interest: Denmark, Latvia
- 2 requests for more time: Hungary, Spain
- 1 rejection: England/Wales

Our own minimum goal for the number of participating countries is 20, so we can conclude already that we are very close to fulfilling this goal. This goal was also used by a number of countries in their Letters of Intent as condition of their participation.

At the same time, the European Commission has confirmed its intention of providing a country level subsidy for the participation fees to all countries within the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP). There are 36 countries which can benefit from this support. That is: EU-27, Albania, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland and Turkey.

We would now like to encourage further countries to join in this exciting fifth round of the EUROSTUDENT project. For this reason, we would like to set a further **deadline of 15 January 2012**. Any country providing a Letter of Intent by this time will be considered for EUROSTUDENT V.

For those countries which are not included in the list of 36 countries above, we would like to encourage you to also contact us with **Expressions of Interest** for EUROSTUDENT V. These countries include: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Montenegro, Russia, Ukraine, but also: Belarus and Israel. We are planning to develop a special cooperative project to prepare the participation in EUROSTUDENT for these countries. The deadline for an Expression of Interest is **15 January 2012**. The Expression of Interest should take the form of a formal letter to Dominic Orr, Leader of International Coordination Team, HIS-Institute for Research on Higher Education, Gosseriede 9, 30159 Hannover, Germany.

## Next steps

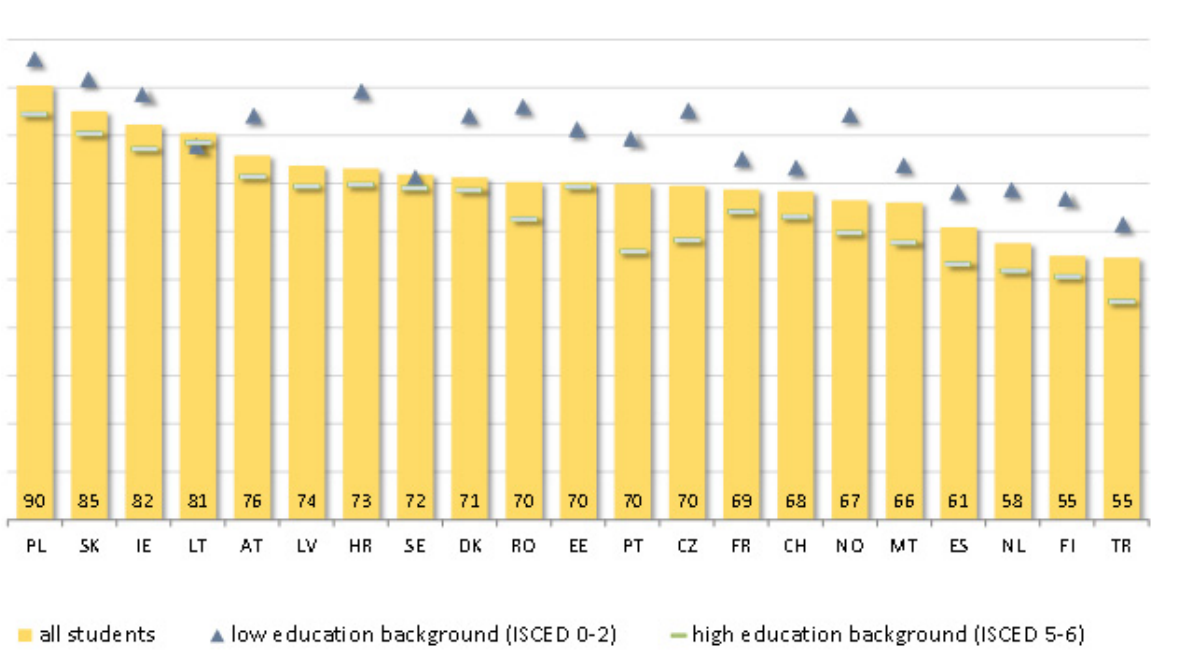
At the end of January 2012, the EUROSTUDENT Steering Board along with the planned EUROSTUDENT V project consortium will make a final decision on whether to proceed with EUROSTUDENT V. If the continuation of the project is confirmed, a contract will be sent out to each country for signature in February 2012.



## Short-term mobility during studies and plans for going abroad

In the majority of EUROSTUDENT countries, the most likely type of student mobility is enrolment abroad (followed by internships and language courses). The rate of this ‘foreign enrolment’ varies from below 5% in Turkey, the Slovak Republic, Poland and Croatia to over 10% in Finland, Norway, the Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden. Foreign enrolment rates are comparatively low in Eastern and South-Eastern countries. Furthermore, in the majority of countries, foreign enrolment rates vary by social background, with students from high social backgrounds having higher rates than students from low social backgrounds. Even in those countries where access to higher education seems to be generally equitable (Finland, Switzerland, Ireland and the Netherlands) we find that this is the case. It may be that in these countries, students from high social backgrounds are trying to give themselves the edge over their peers by choosing to study abroad for a period during their higher education.<sup>1</sup>

Figure 1: Students who have not been enrolled abroad and who do not plan to enrol abroad by social background in %



Since the students surveyed in EUROSTUDENT may still go abroad during the course of their studies, we also look at their plans to go abroad. In most countries, a large majority of students have neither studied abroad, nor do they have any plans to do so. As can be seen from Figure 1, in Poland, the Slovak Republic, Ireland and Lithuania, this is the case for over 80% of all students. We can also see that in all countries (except Lithuania and Sweden), it is students from low social backgrounds who are more likely not to have any plans to study abroad.

In order to better understand this situation, a small project has been started by members of the EUROSTUDENT Network called ‘Steeplechase’. Among other things, it will further analyse the group of students who have not been abroad and do not plan to by socio-demographic characteristics and by their perception of barriers to mobility. The countries involved in this study are: Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and Switzerland. First results can be expected in April 2012.

<sup>1</sup> Please see Intelligence Brief: Short-Term Mobility And Mobility Obstacles for more information: [http://www.eurostudent.eu/download\\_files/IB\\_Short\\_term\\_mobility\\_091211.pdf](http://www.eurostudent.eu/download_files/IB_Short_term_mobility_091211.pdf)