

BRIEF STATUS UPDATE

Kick-off workshop, 16-17 February 2009, The Hague

Core set of questions for EUROSTUDENT IV complete

18 countries have confirmed their participation in EUROSTUDENT IV

Work commences on multilingual data delivery module

CURRENT PROJECT ACTIVITIES FOR EUROSTUDENT IV

Kick-off meeting EUROSTUDENT IV, 16-17 February, The Hague, Netherlands



The Kick-off workshop was attended by over 70 people from 28 countries. With the opening of the conference several political stakeholders presented statements on the relevance of the social dimension in the European Higher Education Area, including Ms Ans H.M. Gottenbus (MinOCW), Ms Petra Jung (BMBF), Mr Jean-Phillipe Restoueix (COE), Mr Richard Deiss (EC) and Ms Inge Gielis (ESU).

The workshop presented examples of how the EUROSTUDENT results have been used by national contributors and European actors in France, Germany, Switzerland and the Bologna Process. Furthermore, it informed participants about the next round of the project.

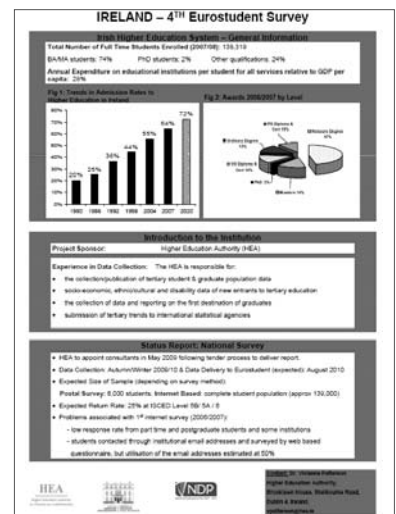
Many of the delegates at the conference had brought a poster describing the organisation of their national survey (see Irish poster, left).

During the second day the members of the new consortium for EUROSTUDENT IV presented their organisations and the tasks, which they will coordinate throughout this fourth round of the project. Within this context the new questionnaire for EUROSTUDENT VI and the plans for the Data Delivery Module were presented.



Members of the EUROSTUDENT consortium

(l. to r.) Deyan Pilev (ЦКОКО), Vibeke Opheim (NIFU STEP), Lennart Nooij (MinOCW), Christoph Gwosc (HIS), Dominic Orr (HIS), John Brennan (CHERI), Olga Tšerjomuškina (EÜL), Nicole Rohde (HIS), Martin Unger (IHS), Andrea Riedel (HIS)



All conference documents, the PowerPoint presentations and Posters are available on our website

www.eurostudent.eu/events/denhaag

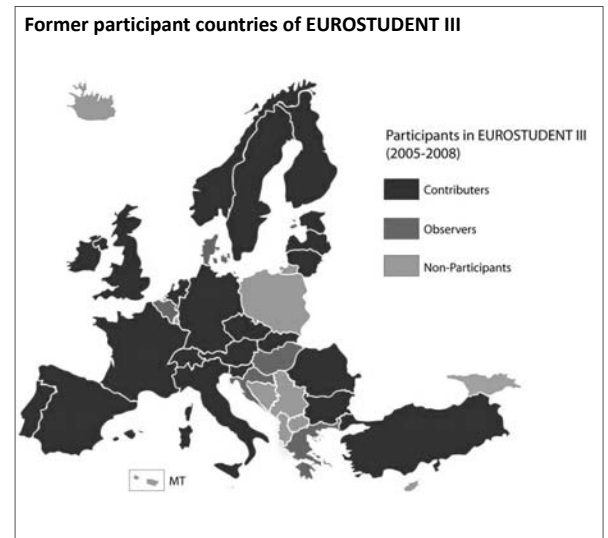
You are welcome to provide us with further documents or links which you prepared to disseminate and exploit the EIII data in your country. We shall try to include them on our website.

Participation in EUROSTUDENT IV

We have now evaluated the survey on plans for participation in the fourth round of EUROSTUDENT. 18 countries have indicated that they will definitively take part in EIV, 5 countries have not yet decided and 6 countries have not yet responded to our survey.

We would like to remind you to send us a formal letter, which confirms your participation in the fourth round of EUROSTUDENT as requested in the guidelines for participation (see www.eurostudent.eu/events/denhaag/ProjectGuidelines_EIV.pdf).

This letter should be from the national ministry (or its representative) responsible for commissioning the national survey. We haven't set a deadline but we expect you to send us the confirmation letter as soon as you decided.



Collection methods for national survey

In order to unify data collection methods, we would like to encourage countries to execute their national surveys online. However, this is not compulsory and is also subject to the adequacy of national conditions, e.g. student access to the internet and the possibility to draw representative samples. 15 countries have already indicated that they will conduct an online survey. We have three initiatives to support countries in their work: an intensive seminar (summer 2009) and support in hosting online surveys. Furthermore, on the Dutch initiative, countries may get involved in a joint tender for data collection.

EUROSTUDENT IV Core set of questions and manual

For the first time the work on the core questions involved numerous members of the EUROSTUDENT Network, researchers and representatives from the ministries. The questionnaire from EUROSTUDENT III was put into wiki so that the members of the network had the possibility to place comments to each question. In December in Vienna four working groups representing 10 different countries came together to discuss the questions as well as the comments and to make further suggestions for new questions and response categories. It was especially tricky to find the right expressions which would ensure that questions and contents would be understood in the same way in every country.

The modification and adaptation of the questions for the fourth EUROSTUDENT survey belongs to Workpackage 2. It is led by Deyan Pilev from ЦКОКО (Bulgaria) and is supported by Martin Unger from IHS (Austria) and Andrea Riedel from HIS (Germany).

On Friday, 27.02.2009, the final version of the questionnaire was distributed to the network. You may find it on our web-site under EUROSTUDENT conventions and on our conference website. Here you find also the presentation on the new set of core questions, which was given at the Kick-off workshop in The Hague.

Work is now focussed on producing a Manual to further support a successful translation in the different European languages and to explain the purpose of the questions. Furthermore it will contain further remarks on the delivery of data later on.



Data delivery and reporting

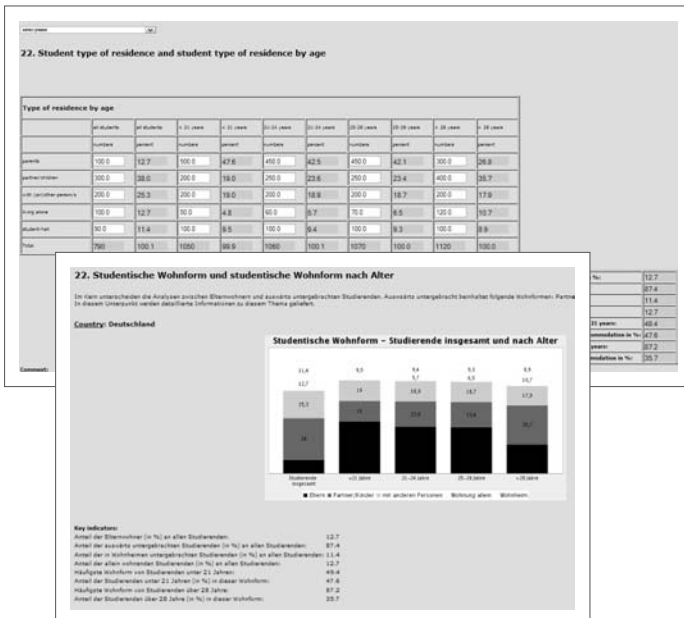
As introduced at the Kick-off Workshop, the data delivery and reporting module will be improved in several aspects. One important innovation will be to collect the aggregate data for key indicators as absolute numbers in addition to percentage values. Thus we will get an idea of the underlying population the percentage values refer to and the overall transparency of the data will improve. In order to advance the user's convenience the absolute values will be automatically re-calculated as percentage values.

The subtopics for EUROSTUDENT III are also being reviewed and will be amended to include new issues where ever this may be meaningful. For example, in the future the subtopic accommodation will focus also on type of student residence by social background and type of student residence and daily time for travelling from home to higher education institution. In this way we are able to shed light on important aspects which were disregarded in the past.

Another essential innovation will be the multilingualism of the data reporting module.

Titles for subtopics and indicators, explanations of main issues and national comments will be introduced not only in English but also in the respective national language of every country participating in the fourth round of the EUROSTUDENT project. This allows for multi-language national reports which may increase the number of EUROSTUDENT data users.

Left you will find an example of these innovations using the topic accommodation and the languages English and German.

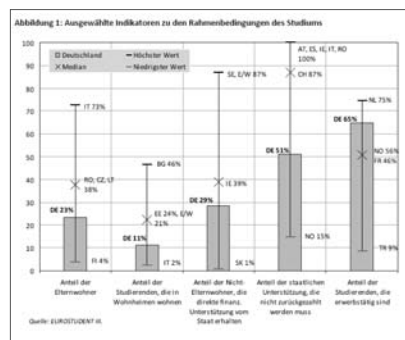


ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE EUROSTUDENT NETWORK

BFUG Report on the Social Dimension

HIS has worked on behalf of EUROSTUDENT on the BFUG report: "The Bologna Process in Higher Education in Europe - Key indicators on the social dimension and mobility" in conjunction with Eurostat as both data provider and editor. This report will be presented both at the next BFUG meeting in Prague (26-27 March) and the Ministerial Conference in Leuven and Louvain-la-Neuve (28-29 April).

The report focuses on three aspects of equity - equity of access, equity of treatment and equity of outcomes. These three aspects are echoed in the four thematic chapters: widening access, study framework, mobility and effective outcomes and employability. The data comes from different sources such as Eurostat, UOE, EUROSTUDENT, EU-SILC and EU-LFS. The report will be published on 28 April and downloadable from either the Eurostat or EUROSTUDENT website on this date.



Two new German publications

In January, HIS published a full German language version of EUROSTUDENT III final report and a short article emphasises some of the results from a German perspective in the HIS-Magazin. The full final report of EUROSTUDENT III "Synopsis of Indicators" was translated into German language by HIS. The translation was prepared to enhance a broader reception of the EUROSTUDENT III results in Germany.

Anyone interested in the German language report can contact HIS (eurostudent@his.de).

The article in the HIS-Magazin can be downloaded from: www.his.de/pdf/pub_mag/

Presentations, conferences, meetings including members of EUROSTUDENT

- 05/06-March-09 Mannheim, Germany, European User Conference for EU-LFS and EU-SILC
- 16/19-Feb-09 The Hague, E:IV Kick-off Workshop
- 28/29-Jan-09 Berlin, BFUG Working Group Data collection social dimension
- 10/11-Dec-08 Vienna, E:IV Intensive Seminar on Core conventions
- 23/25-Nov-08 Constance, Workshop Quality and Equity in Higher Education International Experiences and Comparisons
- 12-Nov-08 Rome, Italian EUROSTUDENT Conference
- 18-Nov-08 Berlin, BFUG Meeting
- 10/11-Nov-08 Budapest, Official Bologna Process Seminar. Equality in a knowledge-based society - How to widen opportunities? Best practices in national action plans
- 04/05-Nov-08 Nancy, Increasing inter-European higher education mobility
- 30-Oct-08 Hanover, First meeting of the partners of EUROSTUDENT IV consortium
- 24/26-Oct-08 Warsaw, Conference of the Polish Student Parliament
- 23/25-Oct-08 Rotterdam, European University Association Conference. Inclusive and responsive universities - Ensuring Europe's competitiveness



Italian EUROSTUDENT Conference, Rome, 12 November 2008 (l. to r.) Giovanni Finocchietti and

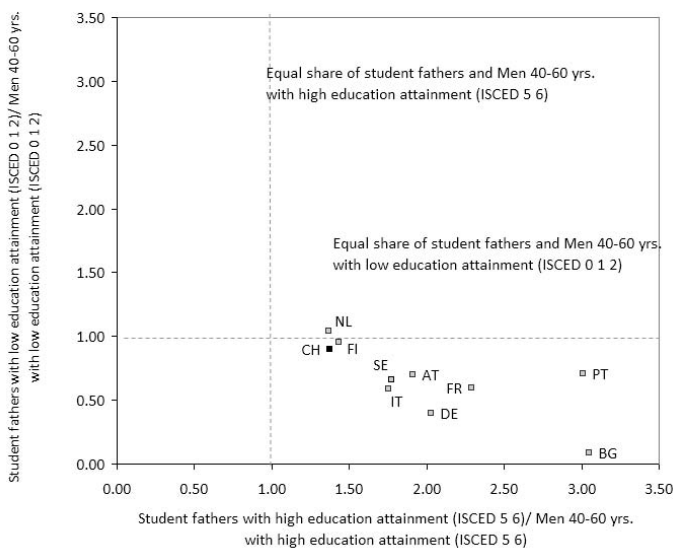
FEATURED INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS

At regular intervals we will present selected international statistics here, which are of particular relevance to comparative studies on student life. We also invite readers to comment on the data.

The graphics below were sourced from the report carried out by the Swiss EUROSTUDENT contributors Valentina de Luigi and Laurence Boegli: "The social dimension of higher education. Switzerland in a European comparison." (See: www.bfs.admin.ch). In the report international comparative data was merged with national data. Each indicator is presented in the light of ten selected European countries followed by data for Switzerland. Two scatter plots are presented here showing the social selectivity of higher education from the international comparative perspective of EUROSTUDENT and from a more in-depth national perspective.

The first graphic (left) shows the data from EUROSTUDENT III as index values, which compare the educational attainment of students' fathers with the educational attainment of national (male) populations of comparative age. The x-axis focuses on highly educated persons. If the index value is greater than one, then the share of highly educated fathers in the student population is higher than would be expected by looking at the whole male population, i.e. it is a sign for social bias to the benefit of students whose fathers already participated in higher education. The y-axis focuses on low-educated persons. If the index is below one, then the share of low-educated student fathers is lower than would be expected by looking at the whole male population, i.e. it is a sign for social bias to the detriment of students whose fathers have not themselves participated in higher education.

Europe: Ratio of highest educational attainment of student's fathers compared to the general population (men 40-60 yrs.)

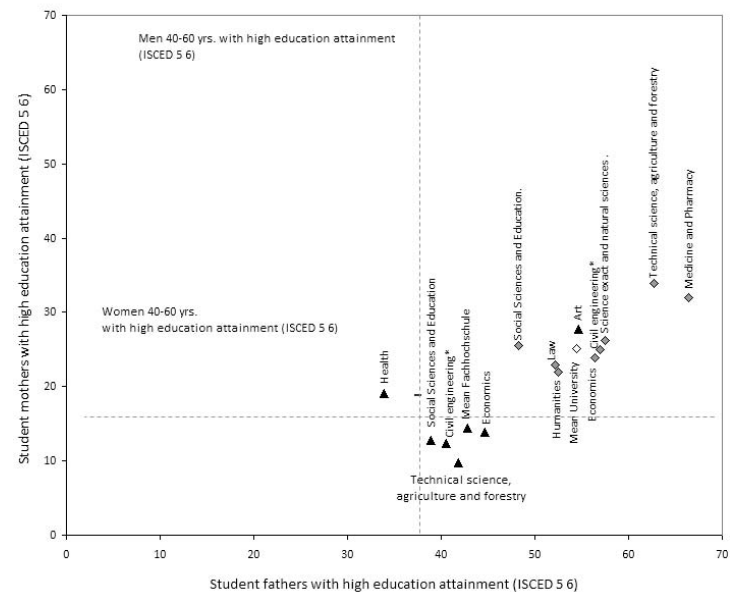


Source : EUROSTUDENT III. No data: E/W. Note: Age cohort for the reference population 40-60 yrs.; IT: 45-64 yrs.; NL: 45-65 yrs.

The comparative view (left) highlights the higher education systems of Finland, Switzerland and The Netherlands as those with the lowest social bias on both perspectives. The national data (right) provide a closer view at the Swiss situation. The graphic focuses on students whose fathers (x-axis) and mothers (y-axis) have attained a higher education certificate themselves. The charts show that around half all student fathers and a quarter of all mothers have attained higher education. The comparison by type of higher education institution shows inter alia that the share of fathers with higher education is much lower in the "Fachhochschulen" (universities of applied sciences) than in the universities and that the subjects health, social sciences and engineering in a Fachhochschule are less socially biased than the social sciences and medicine in a university.



Switzerland: Student fathers and mothers with high education attainment (ISCED 5-6) by subject area and higher education institution (students in %)



Source : Social and economic conditions of student life 2005 and Swiss Labour Force Survey 2005; *25<N<50 cases. Note: Due to a small number of cases no results might be published for the subject area Health at Universities and Humanities at Fachhochschulen.

It is planned that this newsletter will be published four times a year. If you would like to receive a copy, please contact us on: euromstudent@his.de

Project website for further information: www.euromstudent.eu