

BRIEF STATUS UPDATE

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1. Current EUROSTUDENT V project activities

Kick-off meeting EUROSTUDENT V

The fifth round of EUROSTUDENT has officially been started. 60 participants from 25 countries attended the EUROSTUDENT V Kick-off conference in Berlin, Germany, 24 - 25 May 2012. An informal meeting at the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research introduced the new members of the project beforehand.

At the official part of the conference, exploitation of EUROSTUDENT IV data has been presented based on three country examples (Estonia, France and Germany). The challenges for EUROSTUDENT V were addressed and a speed-dating session made sure that all members of the project could express their suggestions and plans for the implementation of main characteristics of the project: policy priorities, target groups, implementation of national surveys, dissemination of findings and the expectations towards the EUROSTUDENT V Consortium. Getting to know each other a little bit better was a pleasant side effect.

A focal point of the workshop was the organization of the current project round. The main objectives and the work packages were discussed and the target groups were narrowed down. Also the Consortium and the newly elected Steering Board were introduced and first meetings of these bodies took place after the official conference closure.



Steering board

The newly elected Steering Board. From left to right: Marlies Leegwater, Tomislav Vodička, Carole Waldvogel, Martin Unger, Kathleen Ordnung, Dominic Orr, Laurence Boegli, Maria-Kristin Gylfadottir, Sarah Gerhard Ortega, Jesper Risom (missing: Florian Kaiser).

Visit the EUROSTUDENT Wiki pages for more information on the Steering Board and the project in general: http://eurostudent.his.de/wiki/index.php/Main_Page



EUROSTUDENT V – Workshop on Core Questionnaire

The second EUROSTUDENT V workshop already took place. A working group of 16 members of the EUROSTUDENT network from eleven countries and representatives of the European Commission gathered in Hainburg, Austria, on 25 - 27 June 2012. The main objective of the workshop was to develop the core questionnaire for the current round of the project. Starting point for discussions were the results of the speed-dating and the subsequent debates at the Kick-off conference in Berlin (see above), amendments from the participating countries which responded to our earlier call for proposals as well as the experiences made throughout the previous rounds of EUROSTUDENT. It was planned to keep changes to the existing questionnaire to a minimum; however, some modifications were deemed necessary in order to further improve the quality of the survey. A first draft of the revised questionnaire, which is going to be distributed to all participating countries for feedback, is envisaged for the end of September. The final questionnaire in conjunction with a corresponding manual for the execution of the EUROSTUDENT survey in national settings should be available by mid-October. Both will be accessible via the projects' wiki-pages.

(picture source <http://www.burgen-austria.com>)



2. Activities related to the EUROSTUDENT V network

Bologna Follow-Up Group (BFUG) meeting in Cyprus

The Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union has the responsibility for organising and implementing the next Bologna Follow-up Group (BFUG) meeting. It will take place in Nicosia, Cyprus, on 28 – 29 August 2012. The main purpose of the meeting is to analyse and discuss the Work Plan of the BFUG for the period 2012 – 2015. During the meeting, it is also expected that feedback will be given from the approximately 100 participants on the outcomes of the Bucharest Ministerial Conference and the Statement of the Third Bologna Policy Forum (26 - 27 April 2012). EUROSTUDENT will be attending the meeting, represented by Dominic Orr.

NIS-EUROSTUDENT V meeting in Armenia

Members of the EUROSTUDENT Consortium will meet representatives of several NIS-countries (Newly Independent States) in Yerevan, Armenia, on 5 - 8 September 2012. The main aim of the upcoming meeting is to explore possibilities of how to incorporate those countries in the current round of the project which have expressed their interest in participation. The expected number of participants is around 15 country representatives of between four to seven NIS-countries such as Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine. Armenia as host of the meeting has already joined EUROSTUDENT V.

International Conference in Russia

The Third International Conference of the Russian Association of Higher Education Researchers will be held in Moscow, Russia, 19 – 20 October 2012. The special theme of the conference is “The Birth and Revival of Universities”. Following the endeavors of the meeting in Yerevan, EUROSTUDENT V representatives will take the chance to do a plenary presentation of the EUROSTUDENT project and a few related thematic sessions at this high level meeting. This will be a good opportunity to elicit the possibilities of extending the project to the NIS-countries, in particular to Russia.

3. New reports

Steeplechase brochure

The national EUROSTUDENT Teams from Austria, Switzerland, Poland, The Netherlands and Germany jointly worked on a project called Steeplechase. By analysing the EUROSTUDENT IV data set on student mobility more in-depth, the project focused on carving out similarities and differences regarding temporary enrolment periods abroad between countries and different student groups within these countries. The focus was on obstacles that deter students from realising or planning to realise a temporary enrolment period abroad. The Steeplechase brochure containing first results, the manual with the conventions used as well as the cross-country descriptive data set is already available on the EUROSTUDENT website at

<http://www.eurostudent.eu/about/associated/steeplechase>. The project report will follow soon.



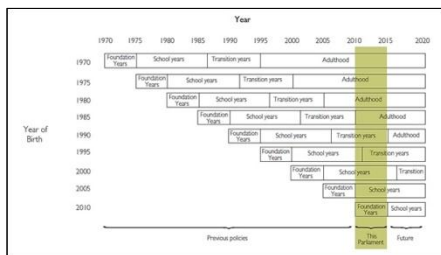
Bologna Process Implementation Report

The report provides information on the progress (and remaining construction sites) of the Bologna Process. It was prepared for this year's EHEA Ministerial Conference in Bucharest. It has been drawn up under the guidance of the BFUG with contributions from Eurostat, Eurydice and EUROSTUDENT. As one of the official data suppliers EUROSTUDENT delivered data for the topics access to higher education, students' expenses and resources, types and modes of study, time budget and students' international mobility. The report is available on the EUROSTUDENT website at http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice/documents/thematic_reports/138EN.pdf



4. International and comparative statistics

Opening Doors, Breaking Barriers: A Strategy for Social Mobility



In April 2011 the British Government has unveiled its Social Mobility Strategy called “Opening Doors, Breaking Barriers”. The new strategy aims to ensure everyone has a fair opportunity to fulfil their potential, regardless of the circumstances of their birth. It focuses on inter-generational social mobility trying to ensure that everyone has a fair chance of getting a better job than their parents. The ambitious aim is “to tackle unfairness at every stage of life with specific measures to improve social mobility from the Foundation Years to school and adulthood”. The report gives interesting insights in the processes of passing through the British educational system and the chances for alteration. Click on the picture to get to the full report.

Responsibility for this newsletter is held by: HIS GmbH, Hannover (eurostudent@his.de). You have received this newsletter because we have you registered as interested in the EUROSTUDENT project. Should this not be the case, please contact us and we will take you off our list. Project website: www.eurostudent.eu. From this website, project participants will also find access to the project wikispaces.