

Inside this issue:

Dear EUROSTUDENT VI participants,

a lot of things have already happened since the start of the EUROSTUDENT VI project at the beginning of the year!

Read the newsletter to find out more about the preparations and current state of planning regarding the national EUROSTUDENT field phases. Project-internal meetings of the Consortium and the new Steering Board have also taken place in the past months. You can read about the current activities of the Consortium regarding data delivery and analysis as well as quality assurance below.

Two major EUROSTUDENT events are already being planned: the EUROSTUDENT Users' conference (Feb 1-2, 2017), addressing mainly researchers and the EUROSTUDENT policy-makers conference (April 2017/tbc). Save the date!

In the section on related activities you can find information on EUROSTUDENT's BFUG involvement and learn about the EUROGRADUATE project.

Finally, have a look at the last section of the newsletter to be pointed towards some recent national and international analyses of data collected in previous rounds of EUROSTUDENT.

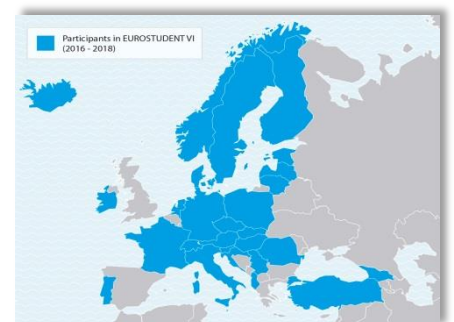
EUROSTUDENT VI Project activities

EUROSTUDENT VI project starts with 28 participants

The beginning of the year has marked the start of the sixth round of the project, in which 28 countries will be participating (see map).

EUROSTUDENT VI participants:

Albania, Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Republic of Serbia, Sweden, Slovenia, Slovak Republic, Switzerland, The Netherlands, and Turkey.

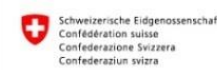


[EUROSTUDENT VI participating countries]

The EUROSTUDENT VI Consortium is made up of the following organisations:

DZHW (DE), IHS (AT), ResearchNed (NL), PRAXIS (EE), MOSTA (LT), NCFHE (MT), and FSO (CH).

An overview of EUROSTUDENT VI can be found in the updated project brochure. The brochure is available for free download from [the project website](#). You are also welcome to use the brochure for your own dissemination purposes - please [contact EUROSTUDENT](#) if you would like to obtain print copies.



The EUROSTUDENT Wiki

As in previous rounds, a continuously updated, access-restricted wiki website provides a repository for relevant information for national ministry and national research teams. For example, the EUROSTUDENT questionnaire and handbooks as well as minutes of meetings can be found on the pages.

[EUROSTUDENT Wiki](#)

Should you have forgotten your login details and/or password or require additional accounts for your team, please [contact the EUROSTUDENT coordination team](#).

Preparatory Seminars 2016, Malta

Three preparatory seminars for national researchers, organised by the consortium partner NCFHE in Malta, took place from January to March. Representatives from all participating countries have now taken part in a preparatory seminar.

The aim of the preparatory seminars was to discuss and share information and experience about all important aspects of executing national surveys in the EUROSTUDENT VI project.

Presentations by country representatives gave participants as well as consortium members a chance to learn about different higher education systems and the different research teams' plans and solutions for executing the EUROSTUDENT survey in their national context.

The EUROSTUDENT data team - consortium colleagues from IHS (AT) and ResearchNed (NL) - then provided background information and guidance on the EUROSTUDENT VI questionnaire and the accompanying handbook.

Individual consultation sessions to discuss and solve particular (tricky) issues were offered by the data team, and many national researchers took the chance to work on solutions together. Joint meals and a bit of sightseeing provided additional chances for national research teams to exchange on best practices and their experience of investigating the social dimension in different countries. The EUROSTUDENT team has since been working closely with the national researchers, many of which are busily preparing the field phase or have already started. The consortium members involved in the seminar report the collaboration and exchange with the national research teams to have been very positive and constructive.

For more information visit the [EUROSTUDENT VI wiki page](#). There you will find [the seminar agenda](#) and the [country presentations](#).



[Family photo, Malta, January 2016]



[Family photo, Malta, February 2016]



[Family photo, Malta, March 2016]

EUROSTUDENT VI Field phase

Students all over Europe will be or have been invited to provide information on their study situation and living conditions as EUROSTUDENT participant countries are starting their field phase.

By end of April, 12 countries (Switzerland, Norway, France, Czech Republic, Croatia, Sweden, Malta, Lithuania, Finland, Slovenia, Iceland, Ireland) had already started their survey. A further 12 countries are expected to follow until June 2016.

EUROSTUDENT wishes all countries the best of success for their field phase!

For any question about the implementation of the national surveys, please contact the EUROSTUDENT staff at [IHS](#).

Meeting of the Consortium, 25th - 26th February 2016 in Malta

Back-to-back with a preparatory seminar, the EUROSTUDENT VI Consortium came together for its first in-person meeting in this project round.

Besides administrative matters and an update and exchange on the state of preparations for the national field phases, the members presented and discussed their plans for activities in the different work packages. Please see below for more detailed information on current and upcoming activities.

The minutes of the meeting are available at the [project's Wiki pages](#).



[Family photo Consortium, Malta, February 2016]

Steering Board Meeting, Berlin, 18th March 2016 in Berlin, Germany

The Steering Board of the sixth round also met for the first time on March 18th in Berlin, kindly hosted by the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research. The Steering Board has three different roles in the EUROSTUDENT project: It is the controlling body regarding the financial contributors to the project. In this role the Steering Board will assess the controlling documents produced by the Consortium. The Steering Board is also the body of mediation in case of disputes between the fee-paying countries and the Consortium. Finally, by bringing together important stakeholders and the elected representatives of the fee-paying countries, the Steering Board is a valuable source of strategic advice for the Consortium and serves as an advisory body on the mid- to long-term future of the project. The EUROSTUDENT Steering Board members in the sixth round are

- European Commission (Mette Moerk Andersen)
- European Students' Union (Lea Meister)
- Bologna Follow Up Group (Linda Pustina)
- German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF, Frank Petrikowski)
- Ministry of Education, Culture and Science of the Netherlands (MinOCW, Hans Hermsen)
- Country representatives for the fee-paying countries
 - Carole Waldvogel (L'Observatoire national de la vie étudiante, FR)
 - Åsa Rurling (Ministry of Education and Research, SE),
 - Ksenja Hauptmann (Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, SI)

The Consortium was represented by the project coordinator Kristina Hauschildt, as well as Matthias Liedtke (both DZHW) and Sarah Gerhard Ortega (Swiss Federal Statistical Office).



[Steering Board at work, Berlin, March 2016]

At the meeting, the Steering Board laid the ground for its own and the work of the Consortium by agreeing on a number of administrative standards.

The Steering Board approved two additional project proposals to be carried out within the EUROSTUDENT context. Until the end of the year, the consortium partner ResearchNed will investigate the possibilities and challenges involved with producing a EUROSTUDENT micro data set. The EUROSTUDENT data team will look into ways to further facilitate data delivery and integrate the online database directly with the data delivery module.

The full minutes of the Steering Board meeting are made available on the Wiki pages as well as sent around to the ministries of participating countries by the country representatives. Please feel free to contact them or the EUROSTUDENT project coordinator with any questions or comments.

Update on Work packages

Work package 4: Data analysis and reporting

To prepare for data cleaning and data collecting, the EUROSTUDENT team is already considering which analyses should be carried out with the collected EUROSTUDENT data. Researchers from the Consortium partners DZHW, IHS, ResearchNed and Mosta met in Nijmegen from April 14-15th to discuss ongoing work on the EUROSTUDENT "Handbook of Indicators", detailing which calculations and indicators are needed for the EUROSTUDENT reports. The indicator handbook will feed into work on data cleaning, data delivery, and the database. As in previous rounds, so-called "focus groups" will be employed to highlight and analyse the diversity of the student populations in the EUROSTUDENT countries. An [overview of the focus groups](#) is provided in the EUROSTUDENT VI questionnaire handbook (p. 11/12). Several new focus groups introduced in EUROSTUDENT VI will allow a more in-depth look at issues related, for example, to employment and access.

For questions related to data analysis and reporting, please contact [EUROSTUDENT](#).

Work package 3: Data cleaning, calculation and delivery for comparative analysis

The data delivery procedure will undergo major changes compared with the last round in order to make the process easier for the national research teams. Instead of the lengthy typing that was unfortunately required in the previous round, the new data delivery module will be based on automatic data uploading. It is planned that a model syntax will be provided for as many calculations as possible needed during data delivery.

The work on data cleaning and delivery is currently ongoing, carried out by the partners IHS and ResearchNed, and should be able to present first concrete ideas on the processes and infrastructure by the end of June. Mandatory seminars for data delivery will be offered to the national researchers to support the data delivery process.

For questions related to data cleaning, calculation and delivery please contact the [EUROSTUDENT data team](#) directly.

WP 6 “Quality assurance”

The Swiss Federal Statistical office is responsible for the quality assurance in EUROSTUDENT VI. At the basis of this is the quality plan for the project, describing the quality goals for each project phase of EUROSTUDENT VI.

EUROSTUDENT aims to collect comparable data on students’ living conditions across Europe. The challenge for quality assurance lies in its organisation as a network. The Consortium has no direct control and not always comprehensive information about the national surveys that are carried out in the framework of EUROSTUDENT or the resulting microdata. Therefore the responsibility of the work package “quality assurance” cannot be the evaluation of national data quality. The quality assurance plan focusses instead on the work of the consortium.

The quality plan focusses on the following dimensions of quality and bases the assessment of quality on these dimensions throughout the project:

- Relevance
- Accuracy
- Comparability
- Punctuality
- Communication

The quality plan is available on the [EUROSTUDENT Wiki site](#). For any comments or questions on quality assurance in EUROSTUDENT VI, please contact EUROSTUDENT or [Sarah Gerhard Ortega](#).

Save the date!

User's conference, February 1 -2 2017, Vilnius, Lithuania

Please note: The originally planned date for the Users' conference has changed!

The aim of the User's conference is to provide inspiration on how to analyse and use the results of the EUROSTUDENT surveys, especially for in-depth analyses. The target group of the conference are mainly the researchers conducting the EUROSTUDENT survey at the national level. The event provides a chance to discuss and get inspirational insights about how EUROSTUDENT results could be used in various research projects and forms. Sharing experiences will provide ideas of how EUROSTUDENT results could be used to represent and analyse the socio-economic situation of various student groups in the European Higher Education Area.

The conference will offer:

- Up-to-date knowledge about the social dimension in other countries
- Inspiration for in-depth analyses based on EUROSTUDENT data
- a basis for cooperation of different research teams
- ideas for comparative research
- ideas for dissemination
- problem-solving/advice by the EUROSTUDENT Consortium

Further information on the conference will be made available in the coming months.

For questions, please contact eurostudent@dzhw.eu or [Eglė Ozolinčiūtė](#) at Mosta.



[Presidential Palace in Vilnius, Lithuania, 2011 [by Joergsam](#)]

Policy-maker's conference, Malta, spring 2017

A conference for the policy-makers involved in EUROSTUDENT, i.e. the staff involved and responsible for EUROSTUDENT at the national ministries of the participating countries, is planned for the spring of 2017 in Malta. Main points at the conference will be getting a sneak preview into E:VI data as well as discussing and choosing a topic for the EUROSTUDENT Thematic Review. The Thematic Review will be published in addition to the report and will take an in-depth look at a single topic.

Further information on the conference will be made available in the coming months.

For questions, please contact eurostudent@dzhw.eu or [Christine Scholz](#) at NCFHE.

Bologna Follow-Up Group

Once again, EUROSTUDENT will be one of the organisations delivering data for the Bologna Process Implementation Report. In this function, the project leader Kristina Hauschildt took part in the first meeting of the Working Group 1 "Reporting" in Oslo (Feb 19th). Here, participants discussed the structure of the report and possible indicators to use for the different topics covered in the report.

The BFUG is also represented in the EUROSTUDENT Steering Board. At its meeting in Amsterdam (March 7-8th), the members officially confirmed Linda Pustina from Albania as the BFUG member representing the group in the EUROSTUDENT Steering Board.



Activities related to the EUROSTUDENT VI Network

Final Seminar of the EUROGRADUATE Feasibility Study

The EUROGRADUATE - Final Seminar took place at the Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany, on March 15th 2016.

Researchers, political decision-makers, HE professionals, and stakeholders came together for a day of presentations and interactive workshops on research about graduates and the prospects for a EUROGRADUATE study.

The new EUROGRADUATE report "Testing the Feasibility of a European Graduate Study - Final Report of the EUROGRADUATE feasibility study" has been released at the beginning of March 2016.

It can be downloaded [here](#).

Mühleck, K., Grabher, A., Hauschildt, K., Litofcenko, J., Mishra, S., Ryska, R., Unger, M., & Zelenka, M. (2016). Testing the feasibility of a European graduate study. Final report of the EUROGRADUATE feasibility study. Hanover: German Centre for Higher Education Research and Science Studies (DZHW).

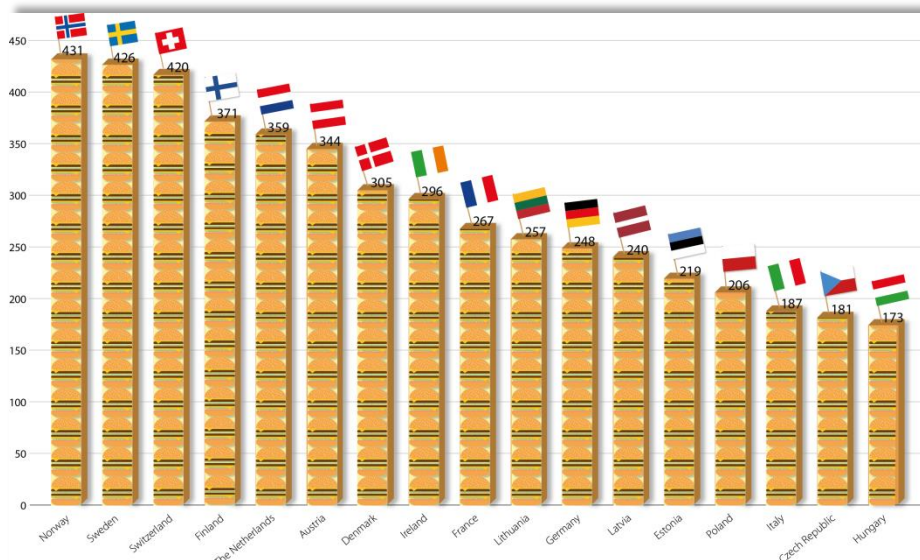
eurograduate.eu
feasibility



Publications and reports

Intelligence Brief: Income and Purchasing Power of Students in Europe

Number of potentially buyable Big Macs based on students' income – only students not living with parents



Source: EUROSTUDENT V, G.1; The Economist data set Big Mac file 2000-July 2015. **Missing EUROSTUDENT data:** RO, RU, UA.

Large differences in students' average monthly incomes are found in the EUROSTUDENT countries. A new EUROSTUDENT Intelligence Brief takes a closer look at EUROSTUDENT V data and applies a variant of the "[Big Mac Index](#)" to control for different levels of purchasing power.

Clear differences in students' monthly income can still be seen in the EUROSTUDENT countries even when using the Big Mac as an indicator for real purchasing power. The extent of these differences is, however, strongly reduced in comparison to an analysis of Euro values. In spite of the simplicity of the indicator, the analyses show that employing a variant of the Big Mac Index can provide important information that further enhances the international comparison of students' income.

On average across countries, students could potentially afford 290 Big Mac burgers per month (assuming they spend their entire income this way). To see how many burgers students in your country could buy and learn more about the income and Purchasing Power of Students in Europe, click [here](#).

Intelligence Brief: The importance of student accommodation in European Higher Education

This Intelligence Brief also draws on EUROSTUDENT V data to take an in-depth look at student accommodation. Student accommodation, which is in this context viewed as a type of housing especially designated for participants in higher education, is often used as an instrument of social policy.

While the share of students living in such quarters varies across countries, some common patterns can be identified: in more than 90 % of the EUROSTUDENT countries with available data, especially large shares of students living in student accommodation can be found among students depending on public support. In the large majority of countries, student accommodation is the least expensive form of housing outside the parents' home.

Based on the results, Sven Engel (European Council for Student Affairs) argues that student accommodation needs public support, stating that affordable student accommodation is an essential part of the social infrastructure of higher education.

Read the entire Intelligence Brief [here](#).

National EUROSTUDENT reports

Several new publications using data collected in the context of EUROSTUDENT from a national perspective are also linked on the website.

Several short reports on [students' economic situation](#), [student mobility](#), [students with impairments](#), and [student housing](#) were published in Sweden (all in Swedish). A [report focusing on Finnish students' mobility](#) is also available (in Finnish).

An [analysis of the relationship between studying and working and students related aspirations and needs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia](#) was published in the wider context of a book focusing on higher education financing and the social dimension in the Western Balkan countries.

The [Final report of the Italian EUROSTUDENT survey](#) as well as [an English summary](#) can also be found on the EUROSTUDENT website.

The Hungarian national results as well as specific analyses dealing, for example, with part-time students and the structural and socio-economic background factors of international students can be accessed [here](#) (in English).

Other national publications

In a German journal, Christoph Gwosć looks at proportional representation of students from different educational backgrounds at higher education institutions based on data collected in the fourth round of EUROSTUDENT. Based on a simple model, an optimum for proportional social representation is defined. It is achieved when the shares of students whose fathers and mothers have acquired a certain level of education is equal, respectively, to the share of men and women in the population with the same level of education. The paper also presents indices quantifying the distance from the optimum of social representation for up to 22 European countries, both separated by sex as well as overall.

Gwosc, C. (2015). Chancengerechtigkeit in der europäischen Hochschulbildung – ein Interpretations- und Messversuch. *List Forum für Wirtschafts- und Finanzpolitik*, 41, 53-74. doi: [10.1007/s41025-015-0003-5](https://doi.org/10.1007/s41025-015-0003-5)

Responsibility for this newsletter is held by DZHW GmbH, Hannover (eurostudent@dzhw.eu). 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 remove your address from our mailing list. Project website: www.eurostudent.eu. On this website, project participants will also find access to the project wikispaces.

EUROSTUDENT VI Consortium:



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