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Welcome to the January issue of the EUROSTUDENT V newsletter! It has been a busy autumn for the national teams and the project coordinators. The EUROSTUDENT V project transitioned into its third phase, which involves data preparation, delivery and control. To provide additional support to the teams in data preparation and cleaning, a workshop was organised in Vienna, Austria, followed by a preparatory seminar in Belgrade, Serbia. The project coordinators also met with the members of the Consortium to reflect on the project activities and to agree on the next steps. This edition covers updates on key project activities, presentations, new publications and reports. The final section of the newsletter compares international data on the "burden of housing costs on students" in Europe.

1. Current EUROSTUDENT V project activities

Schedule

In November 2013, the EUROSTUDENT project moved into its third phase, which involves data delivery and control. Time slots for data delivery were set up via doodle for each country. Despite the delayed start, data delivery for most national teams concluded by the end of 2013. Feedback loops on the data are expected to be finished by March 2014. The project will then progress into its fourth phase, the data analysis and control. For countries with a field phase in spring 2014, data will be delivered by October 2014.

To see in which phase the national teams are, visit the following wikipage (please update your own schedule as necessary): [time schedule](#).

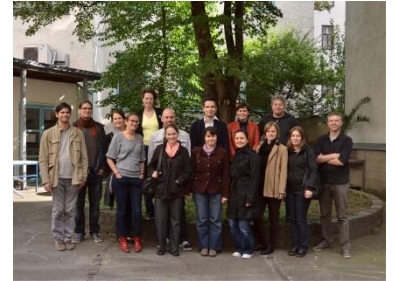
Country field phases and meta data (updated: 02.01.14)

Country	Have you selected the research agency?	What is the exact time of the fieldphase? Please insert at least the month and year!	What is your method of survey? (online/paper/face-to-face/phone/etc)	Are you using a sample or targeting all of the student population?	Is there a central/national student register or other database available for you to use for sampling? Does it include contact	What is your expected number of respondents? (Not the size of your sample but the number of responses	Will foreign students be a special target group in your	Will PhD students be a special target group in your	Will short cycle students be a special target group in your	How will you contact the students to invite them to participate in the survey?

[Excerpt from the wikipage]

Intensive workshop on data delivery, 25th – 27th September, 2013: Vienna, Austria

A three-day workshop on the use of *SPSS calculations for EUROSTUDENT data delivery* was held at the Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS) in Vienna, Austria. The aim of the workshop was to provide national teams with additional support in preparing data for the fifth round of EUROSTUDENT. The training was provided by staff from IHS (Austria) and ResearchNed (The Netherlands). The workshop was open only to countries that had, at the time, completed their field phase and were ready for data processing. For more information on the workshop, please visit the [wikipage](#).



[Intensive seminar participants Vienna September 2013]

Final Preparatory Seminar, 28th – 29th November, 2013: Belgrade, Serbia

The Consortium organised the third and final preparatory seminar in Belgrade, Serbia in November 2013. The focus of the seminar was to identify and address key issues concerning the execution of surveys in the fifth round of EUROSTUDENT. During this seminar, participants had the opportunity to discuss and share their experiences of implementing national surveys with each other, as well as directly with the members of the Consortium. In order to improve data quality, emphasis was also placed on data cleaning, weighting, quality checks, missing values and delivery. The final preparatory seminar was attended by the representatives from Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Croatia, Estonia, Germany, Kazakhstan, The Netherlands, Poland, Serbia, and Ukraine. For more information please visit the wikipage: [Seminars](#)



[Final preparatory seminar participants Belgrade November 2013]

Meeting of the Consortium, 29th – 30th November, 2013: Belgrade, Serbia

The eleventh EUROSTUDENT V Consortium meeting was held in Serbia from November 29th to November 30th 2013. During the two-day meeting, the Consortium discussed the current project activities including delivery schedules and control structures for efficient data delivery.

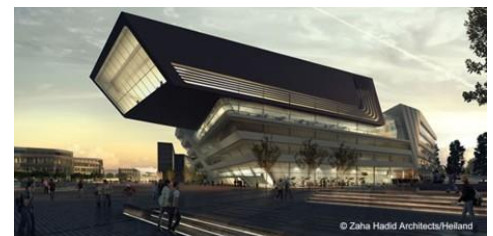
An update on the progress of the EUROSTUDENT- Newly Independent States (ES – NIS) was also provided to the Consortium. The Initiative Group for the implementation of EUROSTUDENT survey in NIS countries held its third working meeting on 18 October 2013, in Kharkiv, Ukraine. During the working meeting, the regional initiative group has reviewed the localized sets of EUROSTUDENT survey tools (questionnaire, sampling requirements etc.) for Armenia, Ukraine, and Belarus, and decided establishing the Regional Coordination Committee (RCC-ES-NIS) that shall be steering the preparatory and implementation activities in NIS region. The field work in these countries is scheduled for March-April 2014. The initiative is getting ready for their two-day (13th February – 14th February) official start-up conference to be held in Minsk (Belarus). RCC-ES-NIS continues its consultations with other countries in the region regarding their eventual participation in the on-going fifth wave of the study. For more information please visit:

www.eurostudent-nis.net

Apart from current project activities, the Consortium also prepared for the upcoming events and tasks, which included mainly the 2013 Annual Report, and preparing for the comparative analysis. The Consortium finalized the dates and venue for the final EUROSTUDENT V conference.

The final conference will take place from 25th – 27th February, 2015 in Vienna, Austria

To find out more about the meeting please visit the wikipage:
[Consortium meeting in Serbia](#)



[Business University Vienna, Final conference venue 2015]

2. Activities related to the EUROSTUDENT V network

Presentation on Widening Access in European Comparison

In October 2013, Dominc Orr from DZHW was invited to present at the Think Tank "Widening access to higher education in Scotland, U.K., and internationally". His talk, entitled *Widening Access in European Comparison* presented key findings on time delay in transition between school graduation and higher education enrolment in Europe. He raised important questions on the social dimensions of higher education access and its implications for higher education policy.

The full length presentation can be viewed [at Presentation Dominic Orr](#)

Presentation on Comparison of Financial Assistance For Students Across Europe

In October 2013, Christoph Gwość was invited to present on different models of student funding across Europe at the University of Bern, Switzerland. His talk presented findings from the fourth round of the EUROSTUDENT project.

The full length presentation can be viewed at [Presentation Christoph Gwość](#)

BFUG Working Group meeting

The BFUG Working Group "Reporting on the Implementation of the Bologna Process" met on 15th November 2013 in Riga, Latvia. At the meeting, the draft of the BFUG questionnaire was discussed. The sub-groups talked about some of the key areas to be included in the questionnaire, e.g. degrees and qualifications, quality assurance, social dimension, fees and support, employability, lifelong learning as well as internationalisation and mobility. At the meeting, EUROSTUDENT was represented by Christoph Gwość. The EUROSTUDENT will contribute to the construction of the questionnaire, as well as provide data on the social dimensions of higher education and mobility.



3. Publications and reports

Article on first-generation students

Using EUROSTUDENT IV and other data, the article "First-generation students: what we ask, what we know and what it means: an international review of the state of research" represents an international literature review on the topic of first-generation students (FGS), i.e. students whose parents have not obtained a higher education qualification. The article shows that the focal points in FGS research concern their pre-college characteristics, mobility factors, decisions about institution, degree and subjects, FGS' experiences at university and academic outcomes. Summarising the state of research on these topics, two problems are pointed out: (1) the international incommensurability of data on FGS due to differences in how FGS are defined and researched; (2) the depiction of FGS' problems as individual rather than structural problems.

Spiegler, T., & Bednarek, A. (2013). First-generation students: what we ask, what we know and what it means: an international review of the state of research. *International Studies in Sociology of Education*. This publication is available under the following [Link](#).



What Deters Students from Studying Abroad? Evidence from Four European Countries and Its Implications for Higher Education Policy

This article, which was written as a spin-off to the Eurostudent IV project, examines factors which deter students in Austria, Germany, Switzerland and the Netherlands from studying abroad. It conceptualises the path to gaining study abroad experience as a process involving two thresholds: the decision threshold and the realisation threshold. Theoretical predictions drawn from rational choice, migration and reproduction theories are integrated into this framework. Five implications for higher education policy are derived: First, the fact that there are various obstacles to studying abroad means that some students may face multiple disadvantages and might therefore need additional support. Second, mobility schemes might have to reflect better that obstacles at the decision threshold differ from obstacles at the realisation threshold. Third, the self-perpetuating nature of mobility makes the moments of political intervention crucial. Fourth, the similarity of obstacles between countries suggests certain supranational initiatives. Finally, the achievability of the European mobility targets could be discussed, as increasing mobility and creating equitable access to it might be conflicting goals.

Netz, N. (2013). What Deters Students from Studying Abroad? Evidence from Four European Countries and Its Implications for Higher Education Policy. *Higher Education Policy*. Advance online publication. This publication is available under the following [Link](#).



Publication of the results of the MOWIN-project

After a duration of two years, the international project "Mapping mobility windows in European higher education. Examples from selected countries" (MOWIN) was successfully completed. It ran from October 2011 until September 2013. Founded by the EU, it was implemented by the Brussels-based Academic Cooperation Association (ACA) in partnership with the Deutsches Zentrum für Hochschul- und Wissenschaftsforschung (DZHW, formerly HIS-HF) in Germany and the Centre for International Mobility (CIMO) in Finland. First, the project aimed to provide a definition of the term "mobility windows". It defines mobility windows as "a period of time reserved for international student mobility that is embedded into the curriculum of a study programme" (p.35). Second, the project aimed to develop a typology of "mobility windows". Third, it explored practices and challenges faced by selected institutions in five European countries (Finland, Germany, Italy, Romania, The Netherlands).



The results of the MOWIN project are now available in the form of a [book](#): Ferencz, I.; Hauschildt, K.; Garam, I. (eds.) (2013). Mobility Windows. From Concept to Practice. Bonn: Lemmens.

Transition to and in higher education in European comparison [in German]

This book chapter addresses questions on equity in higher education with regard to social background and gender of students in international comparison. Utilising data of EUROSTUDENT IV, the article shows that most European countries do not ameliorate the social composition of their student body. With the exception of Ireland and Austria, the ratio of students with high education background to students from low education background drops at the transition from Bachelor to Master programmes.

Regarding gender issues at this transition point, the article shows that in most of the countries participating in EUROSTUDENT IV, the participation of women increases, i.e. the share of women is higher in MA studies than in BA programmes. Besides this indicator of a better gender equality in consecutive studies, the analyses of the plans for and realisation of a postgraduate study still shows a "leaky pipeline": the article clearly shows that the realisation of postgraduate higher education appears to still be much more likely for men than for women.

Hartl, J., Thaler, B. & Unger, M. (forthcoming). Übergänge ins und im Hochschulsystem im europäischen Vergleich (in German). In: Banscherus, U., Bülow-Schramm, M., Himpele, K., Staack, S. & Winter, Sarah (Ed.): Übergänge im Spannungsfeld von Expansion und Exklusion. Eine Analyse der Schnittstellen im deutschen Hochschulsystem, Bielefeld: W. Bertelsmann.

Contact: hartl@ihs.ac.at

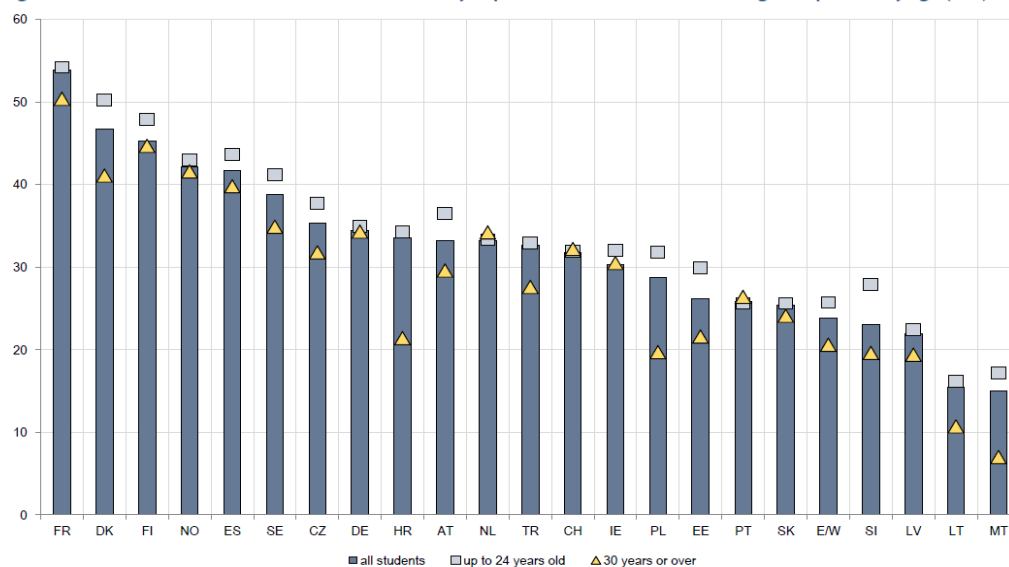
4. International and comparative statistics

Release of the latest Intelligence Brief: To what extent are students burdened by the costs of housing?

In many countries, students who do not live with their parents usually spend the biggest share of their budget on housing. Using the results from the fourth round of EUROSTUDENT, this latest Intelligence Brief compares internationally the share of accommodation cost in total monthly expenditure for students not living with their parents (Figure 1).

On cross-country average, all students who are not living with their parents spend about one third of their expenses on housing. The relative burden of financing accommodation differs markedly between the countries and in some cases between the age groups within countries. In France, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Spain, students living away from their parents spend more than 40 % of total expenditure on housing, with French students dedicating even more than half of their expenses to this purpose. In Lithuania and Malta accommodation is relatively cheap; there, students spend on an average about 15%. The cost of housing is clearly related to students' age. In almost all countries, the share of total expenses for accommodation is higher for younger students up to the age of 24 years. The only exceptions being: The Netherlands, Switzerland and Portugal, where students aged 30 years or older spend marginally higher shares. Sharp differences between the age groups are found in Croatia (younger students: +13 percentage points), Poland (+12 percentage points) and Malta (+10 percentage points). Although older students often have different/higher needs for the size and maybe the quality of living space as compared to their younger fellow students (the former group is more likely to be married and to have children), they usually also tend to have considerably higher incomes which allow them to spend a smaller share of their (higher) budgets on housing.

Figure 1: Share of accommodation cost in total monthly expenditure for students not living with parents by age (in %)



Source: EUROSTUDENT IV Database, Subtopic E.2. No data: IT, RO.

The intelligence brief also provides information on the average accommodation cost per month for diverse forms of housing.

For further information see: [IB housing](#)

EUROSTUDENT Flyer

Have you seen our new and updated project flyer? A simple information sheet which shows briefly the aims and organisation of the project. Available on our [website](#).

Responsibility for this newsletter is held by DZHW GmbH, Hannover (euostudent@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.euostudent.eu. On this website, project participants will also find access to the project wikipages.