

## Call for contributions - EUROSTUDENT final conference

### Background

EUROSTUDENT has been collecting comparable data on the social and economic conditions of European higher education for over two decades. The data provide in-depth insights into students' socio-economic background, their study conditions and experiences, as well as their living conditions. In this way, they are a valuable source of information to assess the state of the social dimension in the participating countries of the European Higher Education Area.

The EUROSTUDENT consortium publishes several comparative reports and Intelligence Briefs. Collected data are additionally made available in an openly accessible, searchable database. Further national and comparative analyses are conducted and published by EUROSTUDENT research teams and external researchers.

### Final conference

The final conference of the seventh round of the EUROSTUDENT project will take place May 18-19, 2021 on a virtual platform. The conference is the main project event and serves to showcase and discuss the results and insights achieved through EUROSTUDENT by bringing together the involved stakeholders, researchers, and project teams, as well as interested project-external participants.

- The conference will mark the launch of the first version of the EUROSTUDENT VII final report – a one-of-a kind comparative publication on the social and economic conditions of student life in Europe. A finalised version including the discussions during the event will be published a few months afterwards.
- Contributions by national EUROSTUDENT teams, stakeholders, as well as external researchers, complement the comparative perspective by providing in-depth insights based on research and policy into specific topics, additional analyses, and/or national interpretation and perspectives.
- Two newly published thematic reviews will highlight specific topics of interest. The first one will focus on “Flexible paths into and within higher education” (second one to be determined).
- The event marks the publication of the first EUROSTUDENT Scientific Use File, which makes the data collected in the project's seventh round available for further analyses by interested researchers and stakeholders worldwide.

In this way, the event serves to further understanding of the social and economic conditions of student life in Europe, and to inspire discussions about practices in using EUROSTUDENT data and results to inform and improve higher education policy at the national and European level.

## Call for contributions

We invite submissions from researchers, ministry representatives, and other stakeholders interested in sharing their analyses and experiences related both directly to EUROSTUDENT, as well as more broadly related to study conditions and students' lives in the European Higher Education Area.

Expected contributions can broadly be classified into research-based and policy-based contributions, although the line is not strict, and the assessment is left up to the contributors.

## Topics

EUROSTUDENT covers a wide range of topics related to students, providing insights into both study and living conditions of students. Of particular interest is how these interrelate, and how students' studies and lives are shaped by their academic and personal background, the higher education system, or the wider social, economic, and political context.

Main EUROSTUDENT topics:

- Characteristics of student populations
- Students' socio-economic and/or educational background
- Access paths and qualifications (incl. recognition of prior learning, transitions within studies)
- Types and modes of study (incl. HE types, short-cycle programmes, full-time/part time students, interruptions of study)
- Time budget of students
- Employment and paid work
- Students' resources, incl. public support
- Students' expenses
- Housing situation of students
- International student mobility

The following current global and European developments may serve as particularly timely backgrounds for the contributions.

- ***Covid-19 and higher education***  
In light of the worldwide pandemic, contributions investigating the impact of Covid-19 on higher education systems and students are considered to be timely and relevant. What is known about studying during and after the corona pandemic (based on EUROSTUDENT data as well as surveys dedicated to this topic)? How has higher education policy reacted and adapted to the challenges posed by the pandemic?
- ***Social dimension strategies***  
With the development of the [principles and guidelines to strengthen the social dimension of higher education](#) in the EHEA, submitted for adoption to the ministers responsible for higher education by the Bologna Follow-Up Group at the ministerial conference in November, the social dimension has gained new prominence within the Bologna Process. Accordingly, contributions analysing EUROSTUDENT data through this lens, as well as inputs highlighting national strategies and policies may be of special interest.

The topic of the planned EUROSTUDENT thematic reviews may also serve as a focal point for contributions: focussing on "Flexible study paths into and within higher education", contributions exploring related aspects or policy measures can serve to provide a well-rounded view of the topic.

## Research-based contributions

Research-based contributions from a wide range of disciplines, such as sociology, political science, administrative science, education science, economics, or psychology, are welcome.

Within the wide range of EUROSTUDENT topics, different thematic contributions are welcome:

- contributions focussing on one of these topics and exploring it – or an aspect of it - in-depth either from a research or a policy perspective;
- as well as contributions focusing on a particular group of students and analysing their situation with regard to one or several of the topics.

In the context of the conference, contributions taking on one of the following perspectives are particularly encouraged:

- contributions taking on a comparative perspective in their analyses, thus shedding light on how the students' situations are shaped by national context;
- contributions adopting a cross-sectional approach, exploring the interdependencies between different student characteristics;
- contributions based on multivariate analyses; ideally taking into account context-level variables;
- contributions based on a sound theoretical framework which is related to the analyses and findings;
- contributions based on qualitative studies which show a way of complementing the quantitative EUROSTUDENT data.

## Policy-oriented contributions

Along with contributions based on in-depth analyses of EUROSTUDENT data, participants are invited to submit contributions sharing their reflections and experiences on the role of EUROSTUDENT at the national and international level.

Different kinds of contributions are welcome:

- contributions describing the role (national) EUROSTUDENT data plays in national structures/strategies/plans;
- concrete examples of measures developed/implemented inspired by of (national) EUROSTUDENT data;
- contributions sharing good practices and/or lessons learnt with regard to (national) EUROSTUDENT organisation, execution, or dissemination, e.g. examples of dissemination strategies, reporting structures, governance structures, student involvement;
- contributions related to the broader policy context surrounding EUROSTUDENT (Bologna Process, social dimension,...).

## Formats

Participants are asked to indicate the desired format for their contributions. Planned formats differ mainly in length, with the shorter “impulse input” format designed specifically to facilitate the sharing of individual thoughts and ideas that may not be suited for a full presentation.

Thematic Sessions and roundtable discussions initiated by participants create opportunities to set a thematic focus during the conference by bringing together several contributions focused on one topic, or proposing a topic for discussion. The organisation committee is furthermore open to further ideas and suggestions.

- Different types of oral presentations are invited.
  - Oral presentations (length of around 15-20 minutes, exact length will be communicated when session planning is completed). These resemble the kind of presentation typically found at conferences and are ideally suited to presenting a comprehensive overview e.g. of a (research) question and corresponding findings, large national frameworks, etc. The organisational committee aims to bundle related oral presentations into one session under a common heading based on the contributions received in order to encourage and facilitate discussion of the presented material.
  - **Impulse inputs** are shorter contributions which aim to briefly present an idea, a good practice example, or a question. Participants may feel that the most interesting or pressing matter is not “big enough” for a full presentation. Often, however, the little things in particular can inspire the most discussions, or be the most helpful to others. “Impulse inputs” therefore provide the chance to share ideas, good practice examples, and/or questions with other participants. The input should last around five minutes, with ten minutes for questions and discussions and can take any format the presenter finds fitting (e.g. with or without slides, Q &A, quiz, etc. – we will try our best to make it technically possible). The organisational committee aims to bundle related impulse inputs into one session under a common heading based on the contributions received.
- **Session ideas.** Please propose any of the following (or something else!)
  - Thematic session
    - Instead of waiting for the organising committee to group contributions together, submissions can propose a thematic session of around 90 minutes (typically 3-4 presentations) focusing on the same topic. For this type of thematic session, please send a short overall abstract for the entire session, indicating the session chair/moderator, as well as individual abstracts for each contribution.
  - Round table discussion
    - Do you have a good idea for a EUROSTUDENT-related discussion you would like to hear conference participants talk about? Make it happen and propose to moderate a round table discussion!
  - We are also open to any other ideas you might have. Slots typically last around 90 minutes – if you have a good idea of which you would like to take charge that has not been mentioned, please submit a short proposal!

## Deadlines

- January 31st, 2021: Submission deadline for contributions. Participants will be notified in February of the status of their contribution.
- Registration for the final conference will open in January 2021.

## Submission instructions

Please send your proposals for contributions using the templates on the [website](#) to [eurostudent@dzhw.eu](mailto:eurostudent@dzhw.eu) by January 31st, 2021. You will be notified of acceptance in February 2021.

## More information

More information, a full call for contributions, and a continuously updated programme are available at the website: [https://www.eurostudent.eu/final\\_conference\\_2021](https://www.eurostudent.eu/final_conference_2021)

## Contact

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## Consortium members



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