

Update from EUROSTUDENT

Invitation to join EUROSTUDENT 8

The topic of the social dimension has gained importance in the Bologna Process once again through the Ministers' adoption of the Principles and Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Dimension in the EHEA at their Rome meeting. The EUROSTUDENT project has been collating data on the social and economic conditions of student life and student mobility in Europe for over two decades.

EUROSTUDENT therefore aims to support EHEA countries in collecting reliable data on the social dimension of higher education and to provide a broad comparative overview of the social and economic conditions of student life in the EHEA, and invites again all BFUG member countries to participate in the next round of the project.

By directly surveying students and collecting data on a wide range of topics, EUROSTUDENT is able to provide indicators on most aspects of students' lives. Key areas of focus are students' background, their study conditions and experiences, as well as students' living conditions. These topics are analysed against the background of European and national level system characteristics.

EUROSTUDENT strives to be the go-to source of expert information on higher education students in the EHEA. This means:

- EUROSTUDENT strives to cover as many countries of the European Higher Education Area as possible in order to provide an accurate, policy-relevant cross-country comparison of data on the social dimension of European Higher Education. Close cooperation with participant countries ensures the comparability and interpretability of the data for the different national contexts. EUROSTUDENT supports countries in their efforts to use the insights from the international comparison to review and improve the social dimension of higher education in their country.
- The EUROSTUDENT consortium and wider network of experts continue to monitor, discuss, and, if necessary, adapt the project's method and overall outlook in order to ensure the relevance of the project output for research and policy.
- The EUROSTUDENT project creates a network of researchers and stakeholders and reaches out to ensure that results of the project are not only reflected in publications made by the project consortium, but also analysed and disseminated by other data users at the national and European level. Project data and results are openly shared and made widely available.
- EUROSTUDENT data and analyses are high-quality and reliable and provide a valid, comparable evidence base. The methods employed are informed by the state of the art.

It is expected that again a minimum of 25 EHEA countries will join forces to collect data on the social dimension of higher education in Europe. National ministries can join the project by contributing financially to the project (depending on size of the student population and GDP), and committing to organise and fund a national data collection based on a survey of higher education students. Co-funding through the Erasmus+ programme is expected to be available again for eligible countries.

All EHEA members are invited to join the next round of EUROSTUDENT by signing a letter of intent to join the upcoming, eighth project round (summer 2021 - summer 2024, data collection in spring 2022). For more information, please contact the project coordinator by May 31, 2021:

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EUROSTUDENT VII final conference

BFUG members are invited to take part in the final conference of the EUROSTUDENT VII project, which will take place virtually on May 18-19, 2021.

Highlights of the event include:

- The launch of first EUROSTUDENT VII findings, reports, and data,
- A keynote input by Dr. Manja Klemencic (Lecturer on Sociology and in General Education Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University): "What does the Covid-19 pandemic mean for the social dimension in higher education?",
- National perspectives on studying during the Covid pandemic, study experience and drop-out, mobility and internships, student services and housing, student employment, as well as student demographics and socio-economic characteristics,
- A thematic cluster focusing on „The social dimension of higher education: policy approaches and data discussions“, featuring presentations and workshops on the implementation of the Principles and Guidelines for the Social Dimension and the role of EUOSTUDENT.

More information can be found on the conference website:

https://www.eurostudent.eu/final_conference_2021

