

Working group « Data on the mobility of staff and students as well as on the social and economic situation of students in participating countries »

DRAFT

Terms of reference

1. Mission statement :
 - a. to present comparable data on the mobility of staff and students
 - b. as well as on the social and economic situation of students in participating countries
 - c. for future stocktaking
 - d. taking into account the social dimension.

The social dimension is defined by the following parameters:

- a. equitable access
- b. appropriate conditions for students (completion of studies without obstacles related to their social and economic background)
- c. measures to help students from socially disadvantaged groups including guidance and counselling

Ad a. The Bergen communiqué targets two groups of people, i.e. staff and students. Questions pertaining to the mobility of the former are related to working conditions (terms of employment) pension schemes, access to labour markets and are given specific treatment according to whether mobility is short term, medium term or definitive access to long term employment.

The mobility of students is determined by the financial support systems of the sending country and is thus related to the issue of portable grants as well as by the conditions (housing among others) of the receiving country. This point relates to the internationalisation of higher education.

Ad b. The collection of data on the social and economic situation of students implies the fundamental responsibility that rests with the home country to make sure that there is equitable access to higher education. Point 1b relates closely to the social dimension as put forward in the communiqué. Data will mainly be collected within the following domains: access and participation rates, social make-up of student body, student income/living expenses as well as the provision of guidance services.

Ad c. The BFUG working group is to identify the extent to which data are already collected and to identify any gaps as a basis for future stocktaking. This also means that the BFUG working group should prioritise the data that are collected or would require to be collected and should endorse a restricted number of key indicators.

It also arises from the above that the working group has two broad missions: the collection and exploration of data on the one hand and the definition of stocktaking within the field of the social dimension. This implies a proposal for political priorities

Organisation of the work

The work will be organised along two broad projects:

- a. The collection and exploration of data with three strands: mobility of staff, mobility of students, economic situation of students
- b. The further definition of the term social dimension and priorities within it

The organisational principle therefore is to have the working group established by the BFUG to act as a steering committee for the two projects conducted by two teams. The collection and exploration of data will be expert based since it will require the presence of statisticians. The collection of data will be conducted in two sub-projects: mobility for students and staff and social and economic situation of students.

The first meeting of the working group which is to establish the projects is to take place at the beginning of December 05.

The proposal for priorities in the social dimension should be worked out by two seminars (January 06), one at the beginning of the process and one towards the end (February 07). This means that the launching seminar can help fine-tune the data and the February one can contribute to the definition of the indicators for future stocktaking. In other words the seminars need liaising with the collection and exploration of data.

The work should be supported by Eurostudent as well as by OECD and Eurostat.

Resources

Considering the tight schedule and considering the need to cover all the 45 participating countries, it may be necessary to foresee two full time experts for the duration of the project (November 05 – June 07). The seminars should be organised and financed by the hosting countries. Socrates funding should be sought.

Membership (provisional)

Chairmanship to be either Luxembourg or Sweden

Austria
Bosnia Herzegovina
France
Ireland
Luxembourg
Sweden
Ukraine
UK
EUA
EI – Pan European Structure
ESIB

Eurostudent