

Effective higher education must adapt to students' needs beyond academic content



An analysis based on EUROSTUDENT data on students' strategies of financing their studies

Dr. Dominic Orr
Hochschul-Informations-System GmbH

Outline of presentation

1. The social dimension and the total student experience
2. Data source EUROSTUDENT
3. Students' strategies for funding their studies
4. Consequences of a diverse student experience

Social dimension:

- It is not only important to provide fair access to higher education, but also to get students through higher education successfully
= effective higher education

This double-edged challenge is made even more acute by two concurrent developments in European higher education:

- Efforts to widen access to higher education, which inevitably increase the heterogeneity of the student population.
- The introduction of tuition fees, which lead to an increase in the average financial cost of participation in higher education.

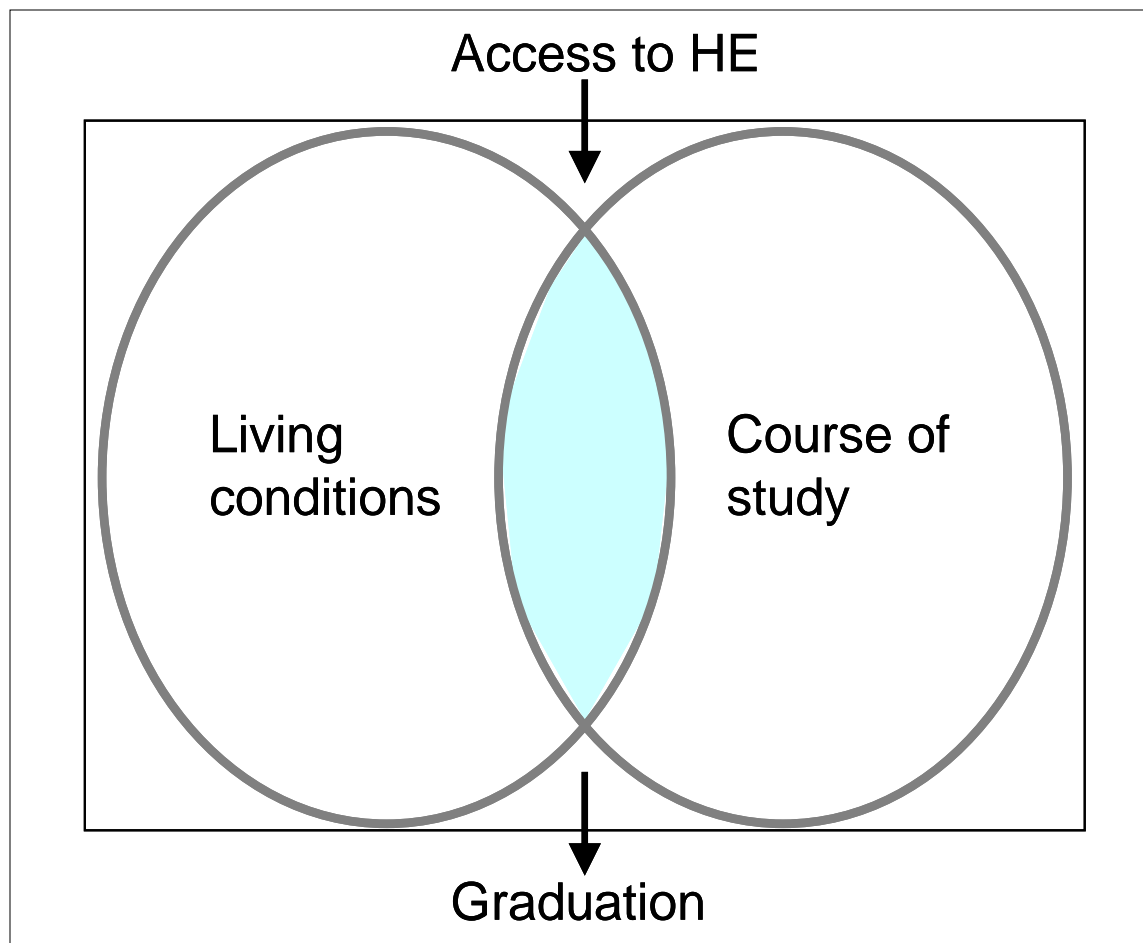
Total student experience has taken on a new verve:

- widening access can only result in an effective policy, if these new (non-traditional) students are supported through to graduation, and
- the expectations of improvements in study conditions goes hand-in-hand with the implementation of tuition fees

University experience:

"it no longer occurs by accident and it is going to take a considerably more strategic approach to create this environment (...)" (McInnis 2002)

What does “total student experience” mean?



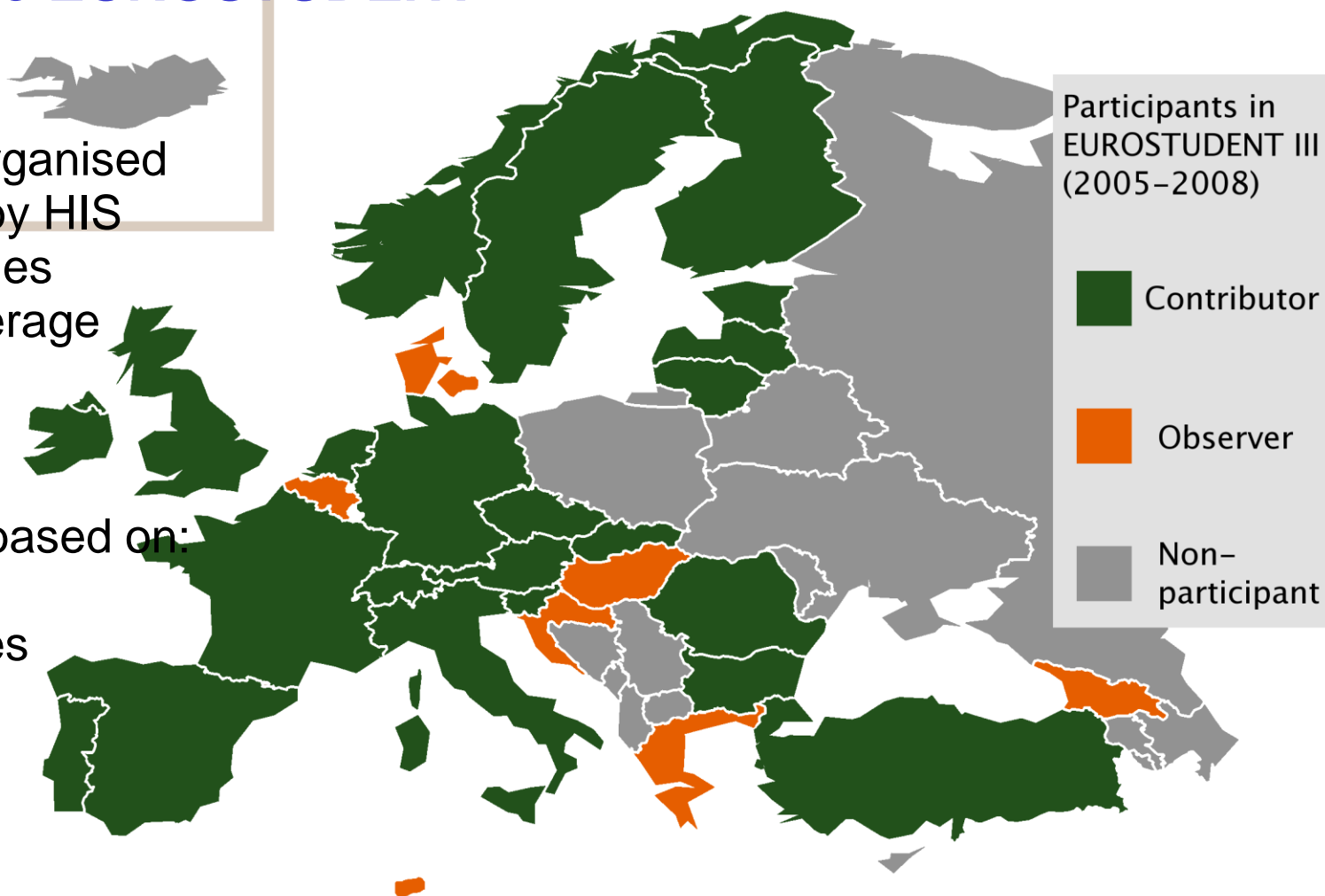
Data source EUROSTUDENT

Decentrally organised
Coordinated by HIS

- 23 countries
- wide coverage

Participation based on:

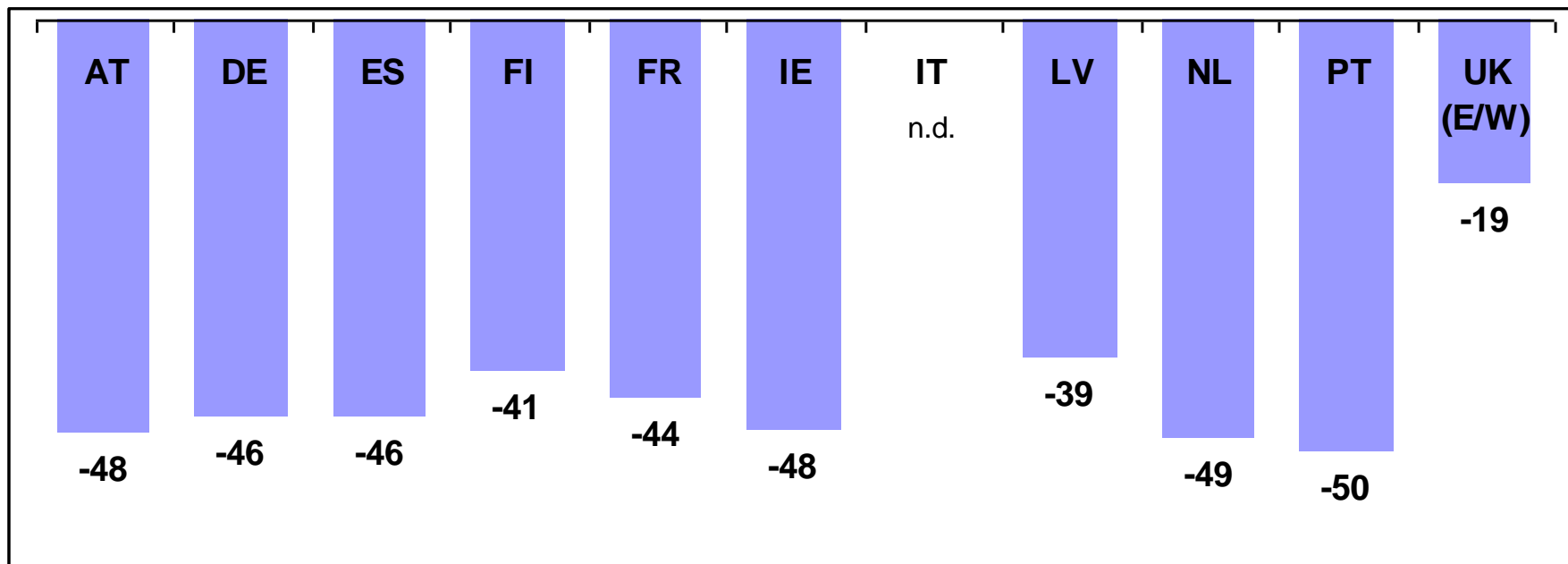
- interest
- capabilities
- politics



Students' strategies for funding their studies ...by type of accommodation

- Type of accommodation is an indicator for social and financial dependencies

Difference (%) between the total income of students living with parents / relatives compared to students living in own lodgings, EUROSTUDENT 2005



Students' strategies for funding their studies

...income mix

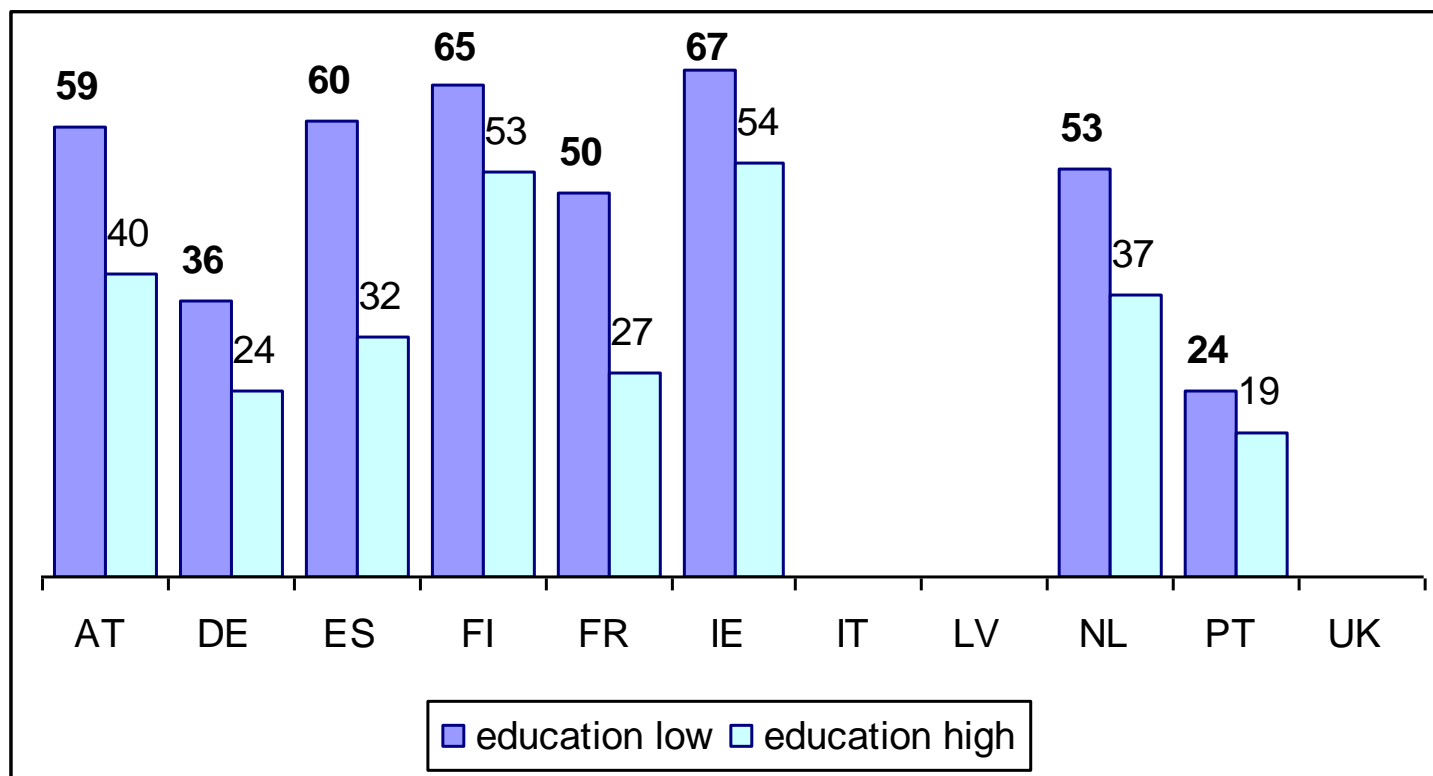
Income mix for student with own household, EUROSTUDENT 2005

Despite differences, dominant sources:

- job
- parents

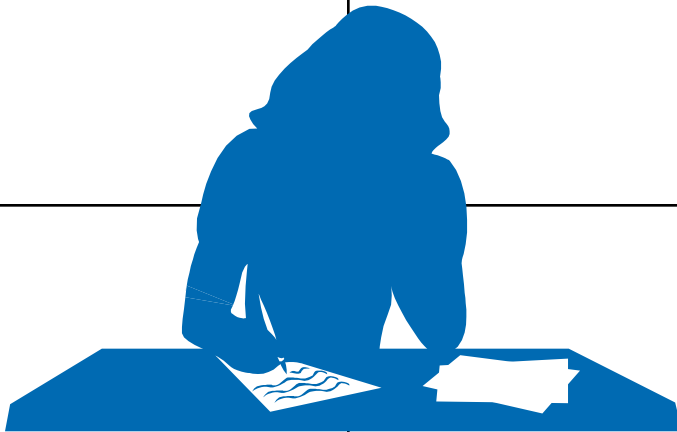
	State	Job	Family / relatives
AT	11	51	39
DE	14	29	56
ES	8	46	45
FI	33	56	12
FR	29	33	38
IE	11	59	29
IT	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
LV	4	49	47
NL	28	44	28
PT	8	21	71
UK	55	18	27
Av.	20	41	39

Students' strategies for funding their studies ...importance of job income by parents' education



Contribution of job income (%) to total income by level of parents' education, EUROSTUDENT 2005

Consequences of a diverse student experience

	Living with parents / relatives	Living in own lodgings
High socio- economic background		
Low socio- economic background		

- Each of these student types experience higher education in a different way due to differences in their study environment.

Consequences of a diverse student experience, cont.

The challenges for state higher education policy and institutions of higher education is:

- to decide where initiatives should be taken to make differences less pronounced, and
- where to accept the differences and design study programmes around them.

The challenges for higher education research is:

- to understand the profile of students within each of these cells better
- to understand effects on the university experience and implications for university education