

Capturing the social dimension in European higher education. The contribution of EUROSTUDENT

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Leader of International Coordination

EUROSTUDENT

EUROSTUDENT III member countries

EUROSTUDENT III 2005-08

23 countries

National students of HE

c. 120k students

Final international conference

Ljubljana, April 2008

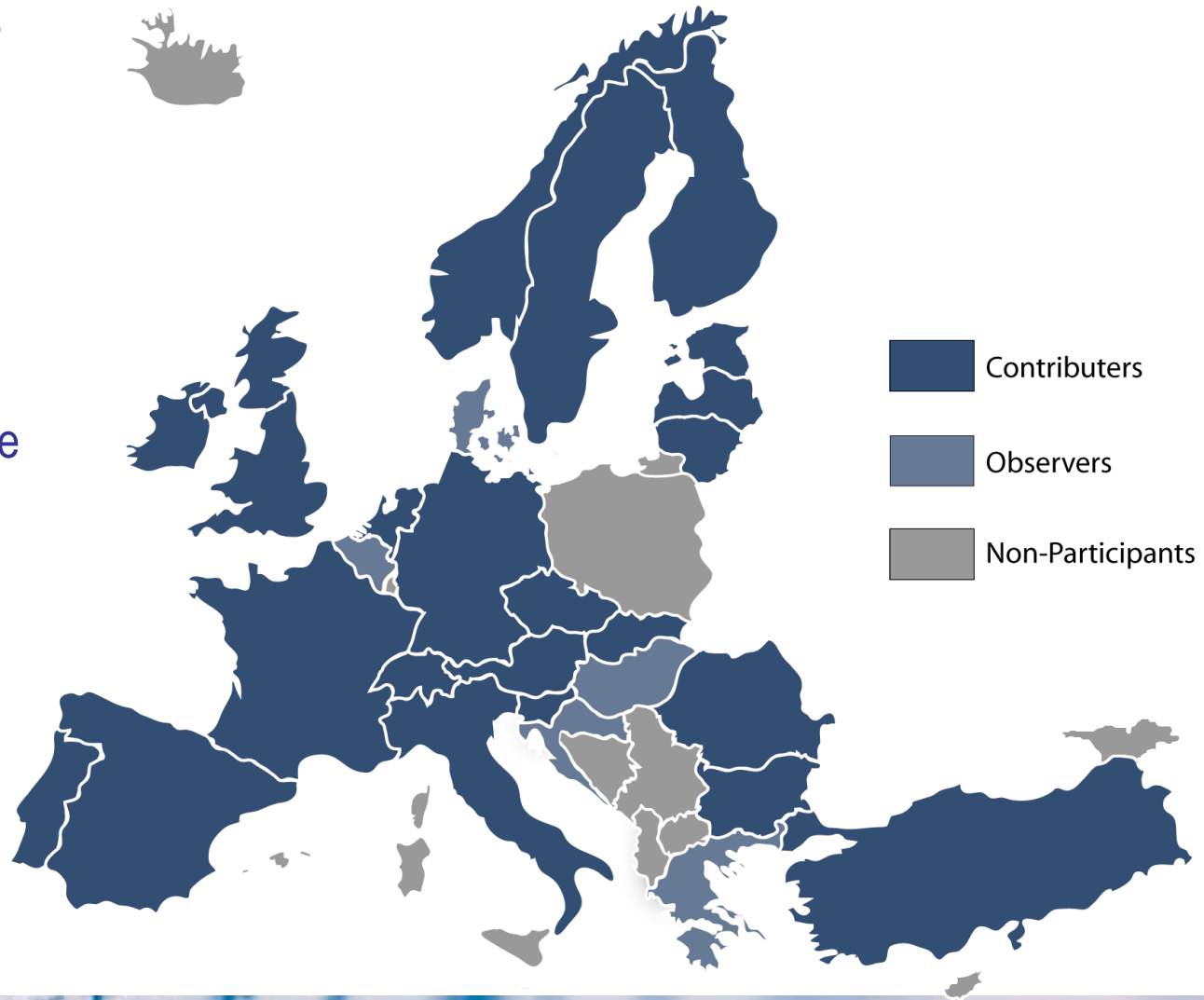
National conferences

e.g. Berlin, September 2008

Rome, November 2008

Final report published

see www.eurostudent.eu



The share of a national population undertaking higher education has risen between 1998 and 2005 by 27% (European average) and the increases by country are significantly higher (Lithuania and Romania have doubled participation rates in this period)

After a period of extensive HE expansion in Europe a new policy emphasis is turning to equity and **who** is getting into and completing higher education

e.g. on an international level:

Bologna Process

Lisbon Agenda

OECD Thematic Review on Tertiary Education

This term has been defined within the Bologna Process:

"(...) the societal goal that the student body entering, participating in and completing higher education should reflect the diversity of our populations."

Extract from: BFUG Working Group Social Dimension and Data on Mobility of Staff and Students, 2007.

Knowing your “clients”

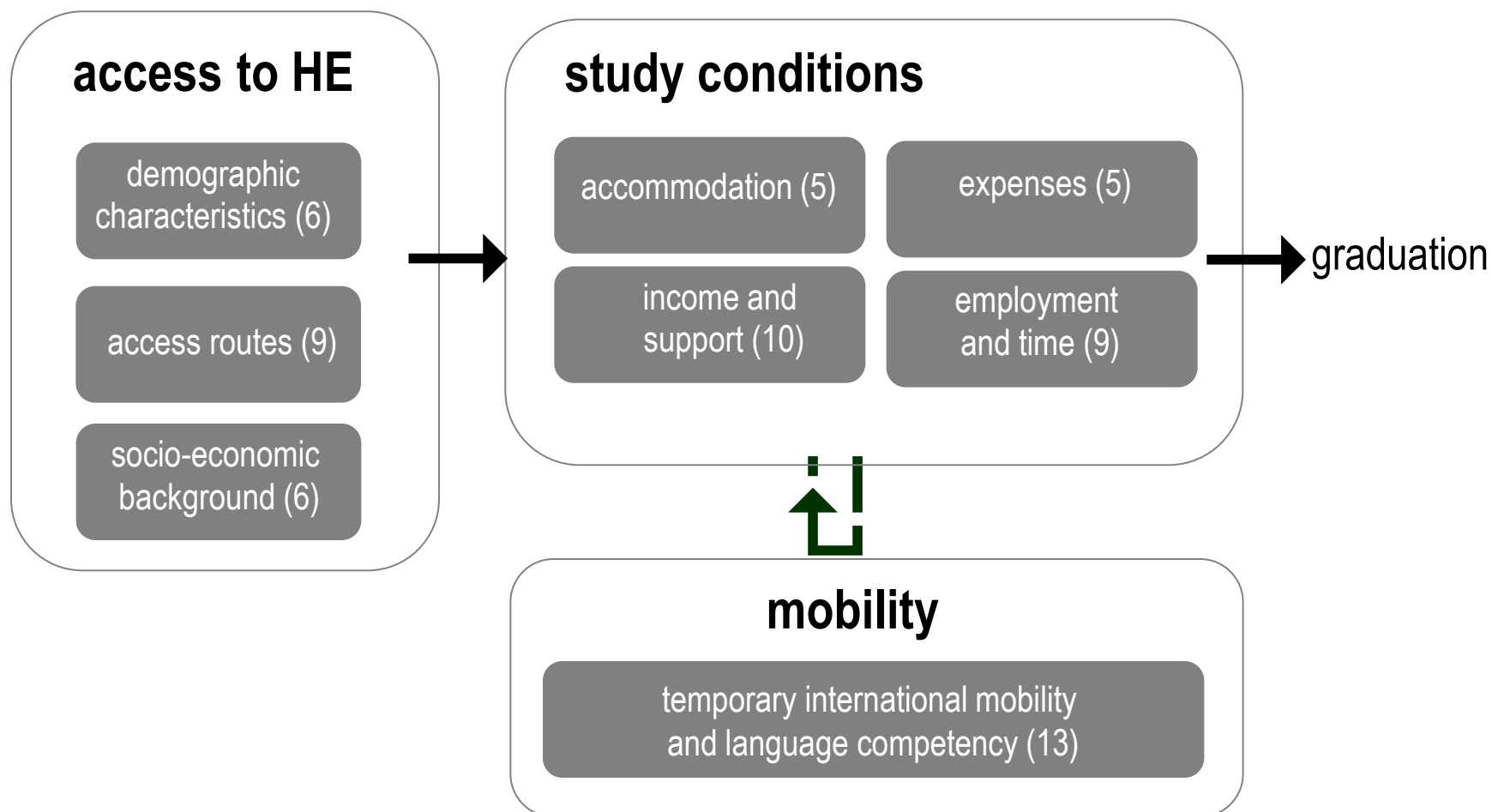
- *(...) Policy makers and institutions of higher education need to provide an appropriate study framework for students, which recognises students' divergent living conditions during their studies.*

from: Chapter “Policy considerations”, Social and Economic Conditions of Student Life in Europe (EUROSTUDENT 2005-2008), 2008

- *European universities will respond positively to the increasingly diverse demand from a broad spectrum of students (...)*

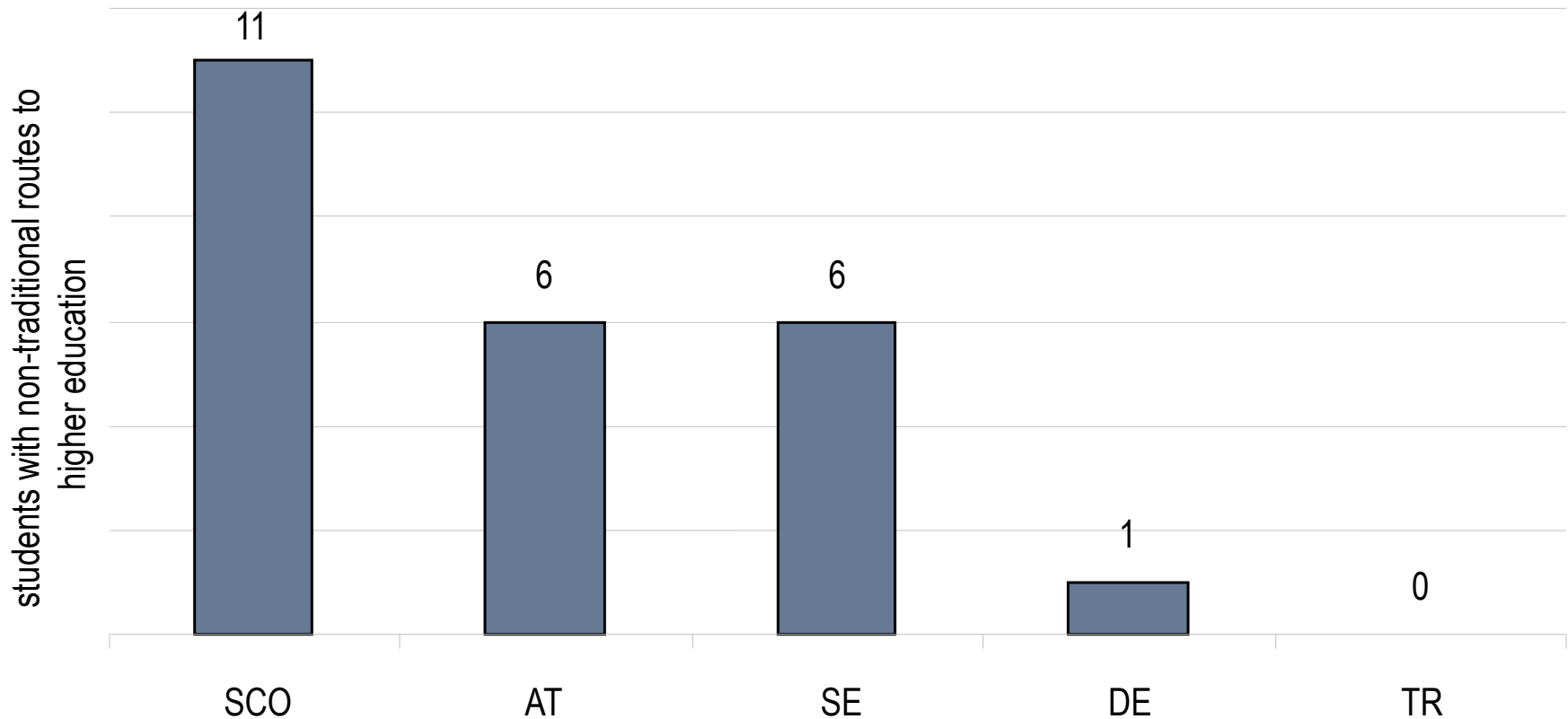
from: European Universities' Charter on Lifelong Learning, 2008

Social dimension... part of a students' learning biography



Non-traditional routes to higher education – narrow definition

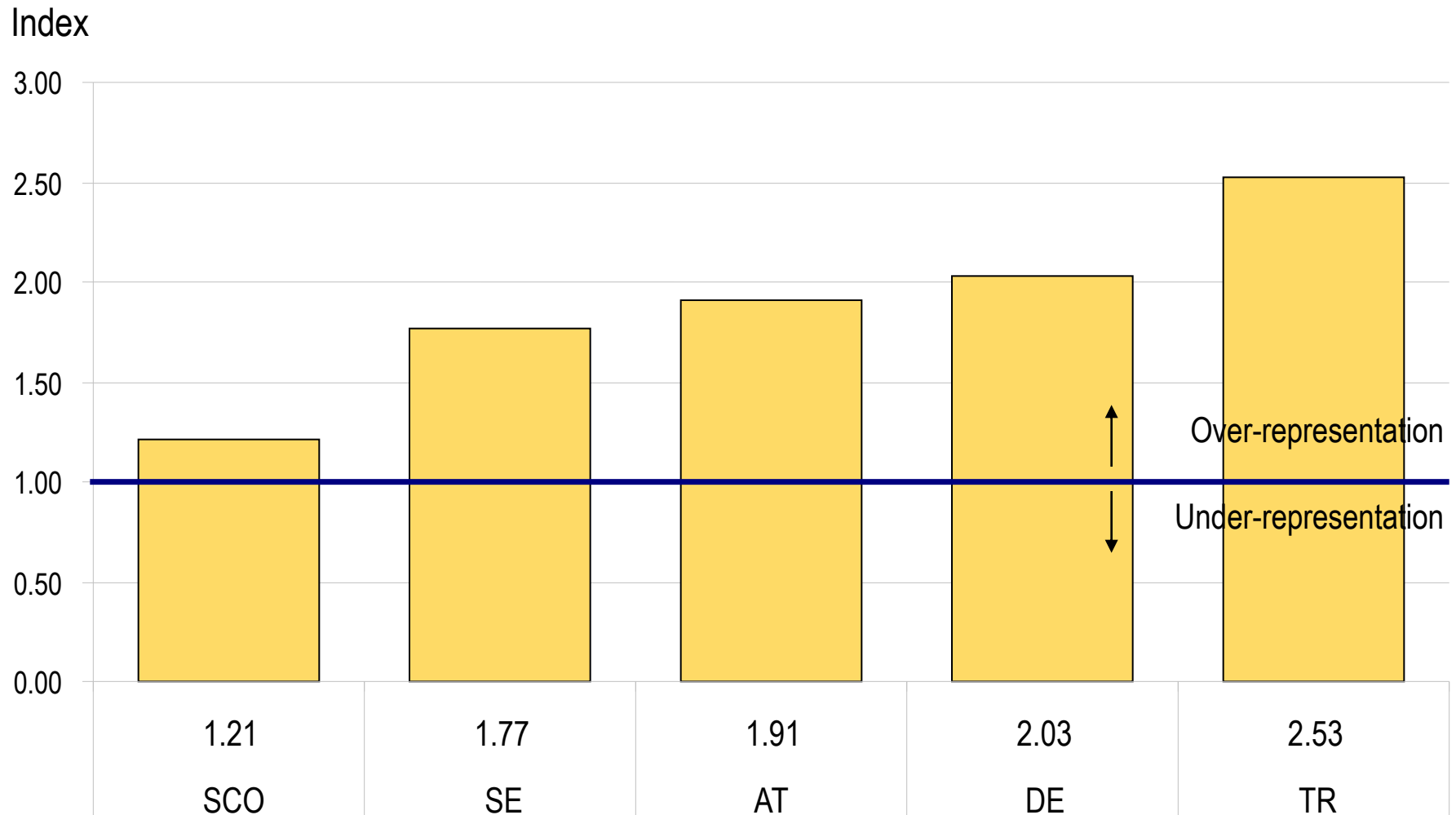
Share of all students with non-traditional routes to higher education (in %)



Source: EUROSTUDENT III, Subtopic 19

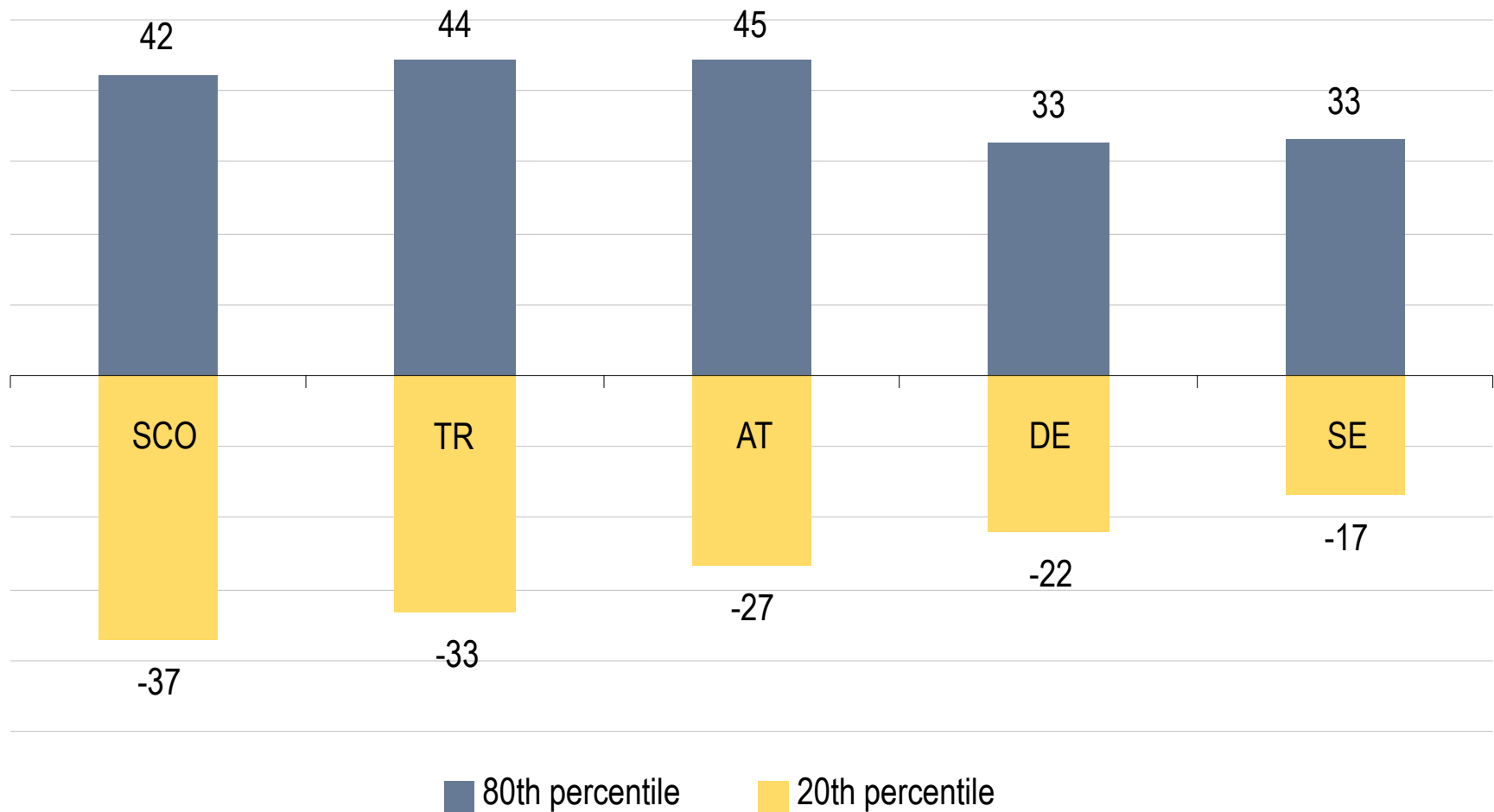
Narrow definition: Access to higher education through the validation of prior learning and work experience – with or without a higher education entrance examination.

Higher education participation by social background – Ratio of highest education attainment of students' fathers compared to general population (men 40-60 yrs., %)



Source: EUROSTUDENT III, Subtopic 19

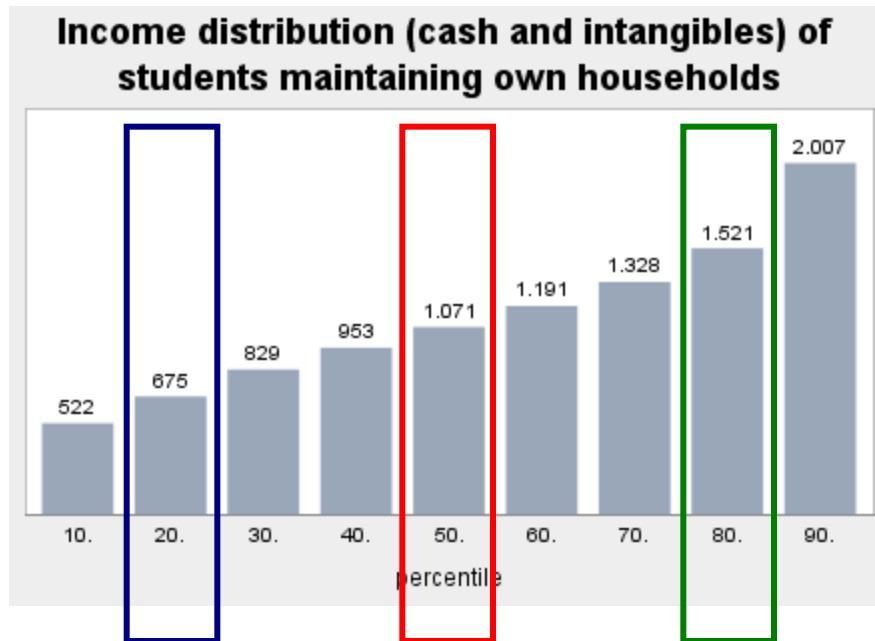
Range of total income – Percentage deviation from the average income level of all students (median) – Difference in % (students maintaining own household)



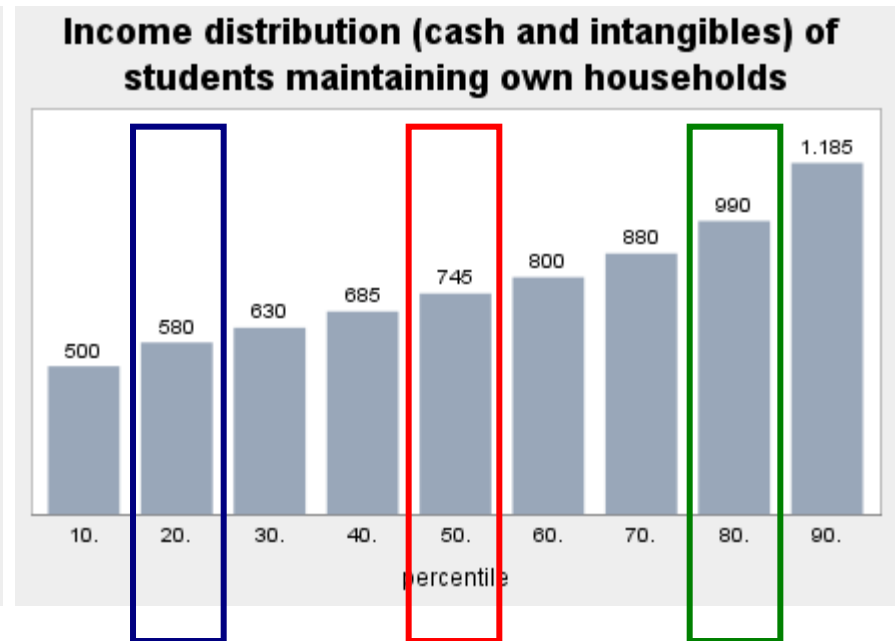
Source: EUROSTUDENT III, Subtopic 27. Financial amounts have been rounded to the nearest 10 Euros.

Range of total income II – Monthly income in Euros – Students from Scotland vs. Germany

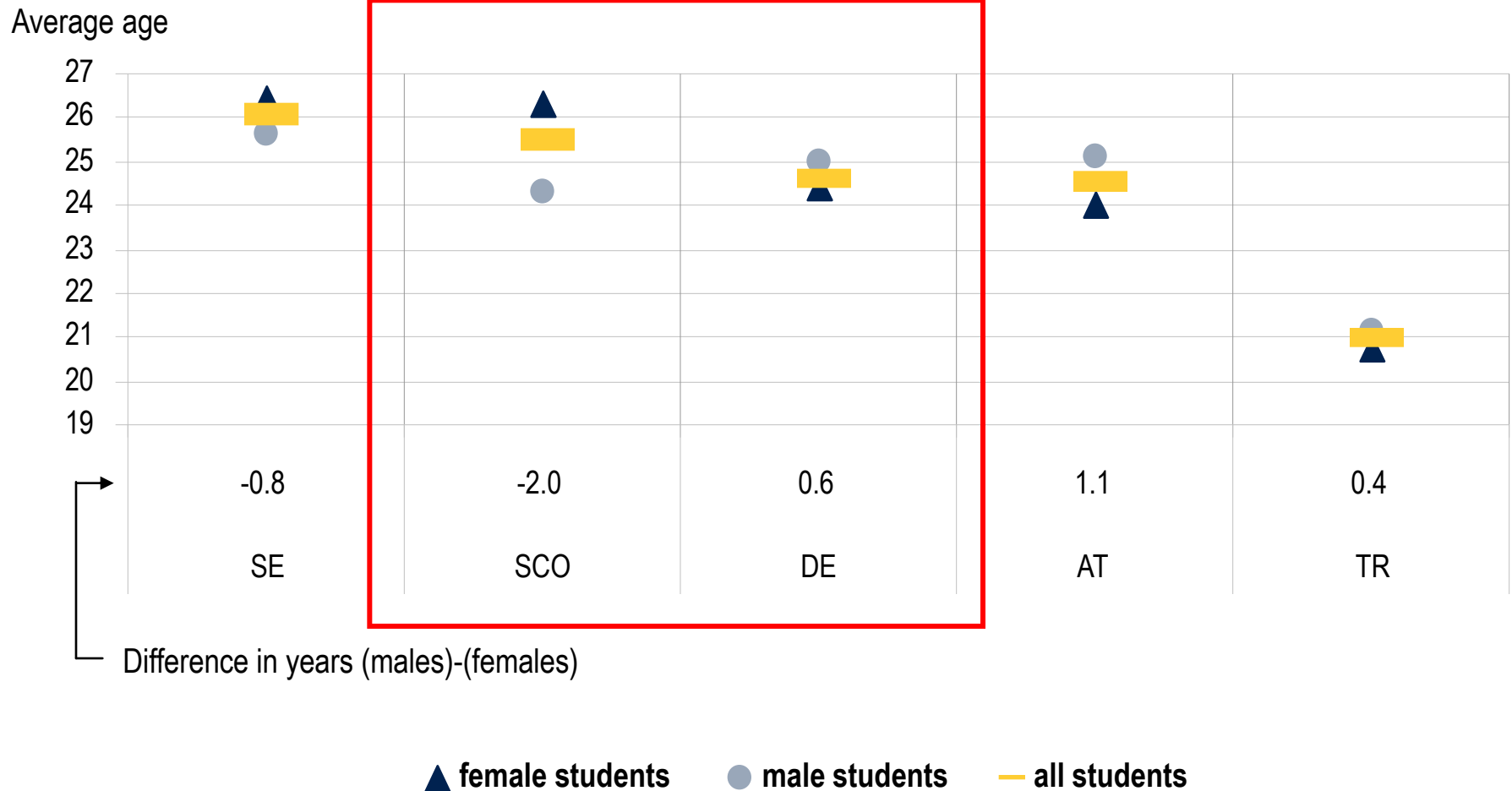
Scottish students



German students

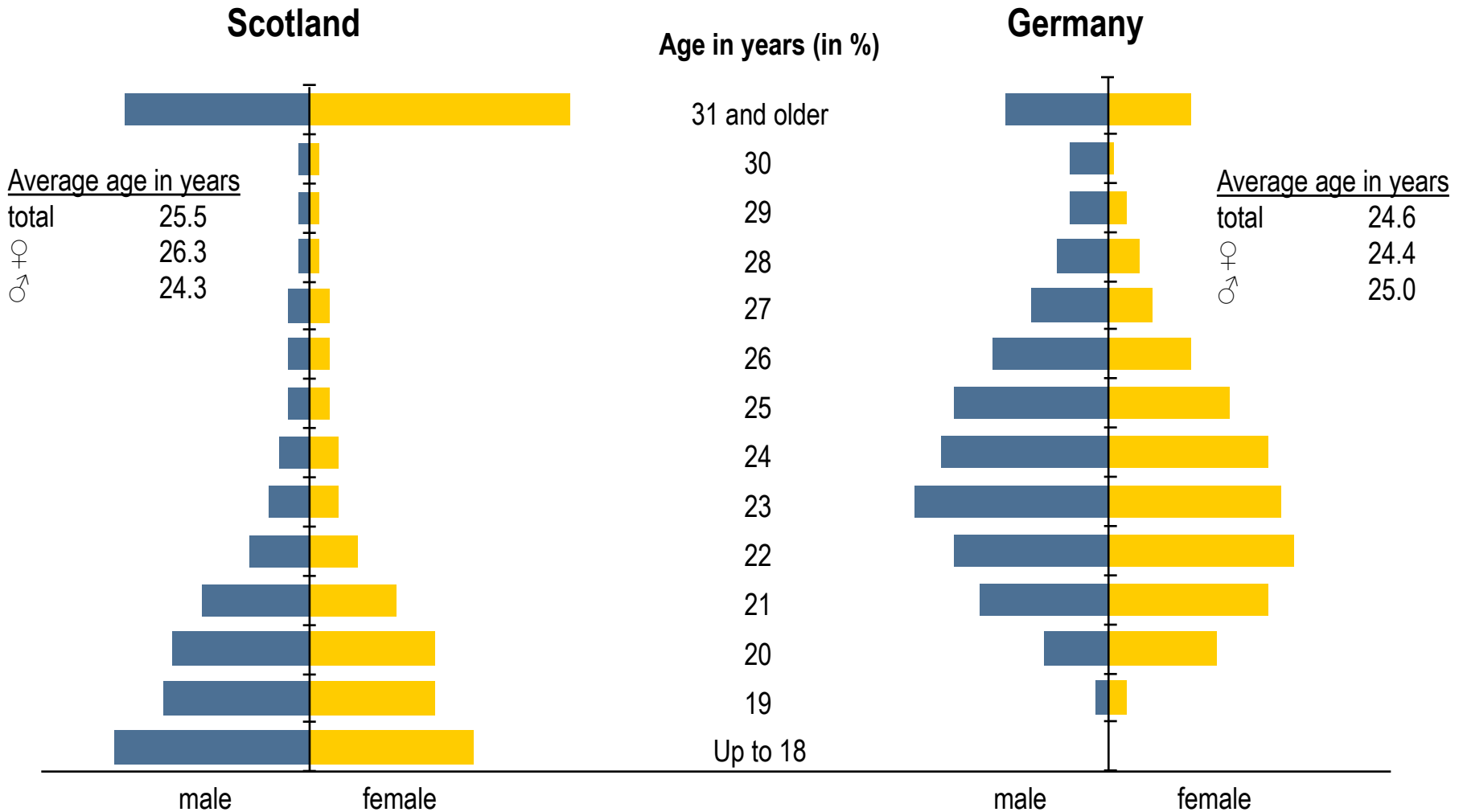


Average age of students – All students (in years)



Source: EUROSTUDENT III, Subtopic 1 + 3

Age Profile: Comparison Scotland - Germany



Source: EUROSTUDENT III, Subtopic 1

Conclusion: A heterogeneous and changing audience

Future challenges, especially due to widening participation:

- higher disparity between income levels of students (partly due to social situation, partly due to personal decisions)
- increasing mixture of age groups
- finding an appropriate balance between studies and “daily life”
- **assuring individual study-capability, making courses study-able, assuring study quality**

Publications

EUROSTUDENT III (2005-2008)



The central EUROSTUDENT report is the Synopsis of Indicators, which provides a discussion and interpretation of the data from a comparative perspective.

The Synopsis of Indicators is published under the title "Social and Economic Conditions of Student Life in Europe" by W. Bertlesmann Verlag. It is available from all good book sellers or directly via the order form here.

A summary of this report is available to download here

- English
- German

A national report is also available for each country involved in the EUROSTUDENT project entitled National Profile. See Data Reporting Module

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Accompanying national studies

- Isserstedt, Wolfgang, Middendorff, Elke, u. a., Die wirtschaftliche und soziale Lage der Studierenden in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland 2006. 18. Sozialerhebung des Deutschen Studentenwerks durchgeführt durch HIS Hochschul-Informationssystem
- Unger, Martin und Wroblewski, Angela, Studierenden-Sozialerhebung 2006. Bericht zur sozialen Lage der Studierenden. Studie im Auftrag des Bundesministeriums für Wissenschaft und Forschung (BMWF)
- The social dimension in higher education - Switzerland in European Comparison (available in German and French)

Use of EUROSTUDENT data by third-parties (selection)

- Education at a Glance 2008 (OECD)

