

EUROSTUDENT

A comparative source of
data on the social
dimension of European
HE



Number of students (EU-27) grown by 20% 2000-2006 – fuelled by demographics, but particularly by demand

Equity and the social dimension may become the litmus test for ***sustainability*** in higher education in view of the concurrent middle and long term trends towards ***higher skilled jobs***, an ***aging population*** and ***declining numbers*** of young people.

Sustainable HE and societies through knowing your clients

- (...) Faced with the challenge of an ageing population Europe can only succeed in this endeavour if it maximises the talents and capacities of all its citizens and fully engages in lifelong learning as well as in widening participation in higher education.

from: Leuven/Louvain-la-Neuve-Communique (Bologna Process, 2009)

- (...) 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

Participating Countries in EUROSTUDENT III

EUROSTUDENT III 2005-08

23 countries

National students of HE

c. 120k students

Final international conference

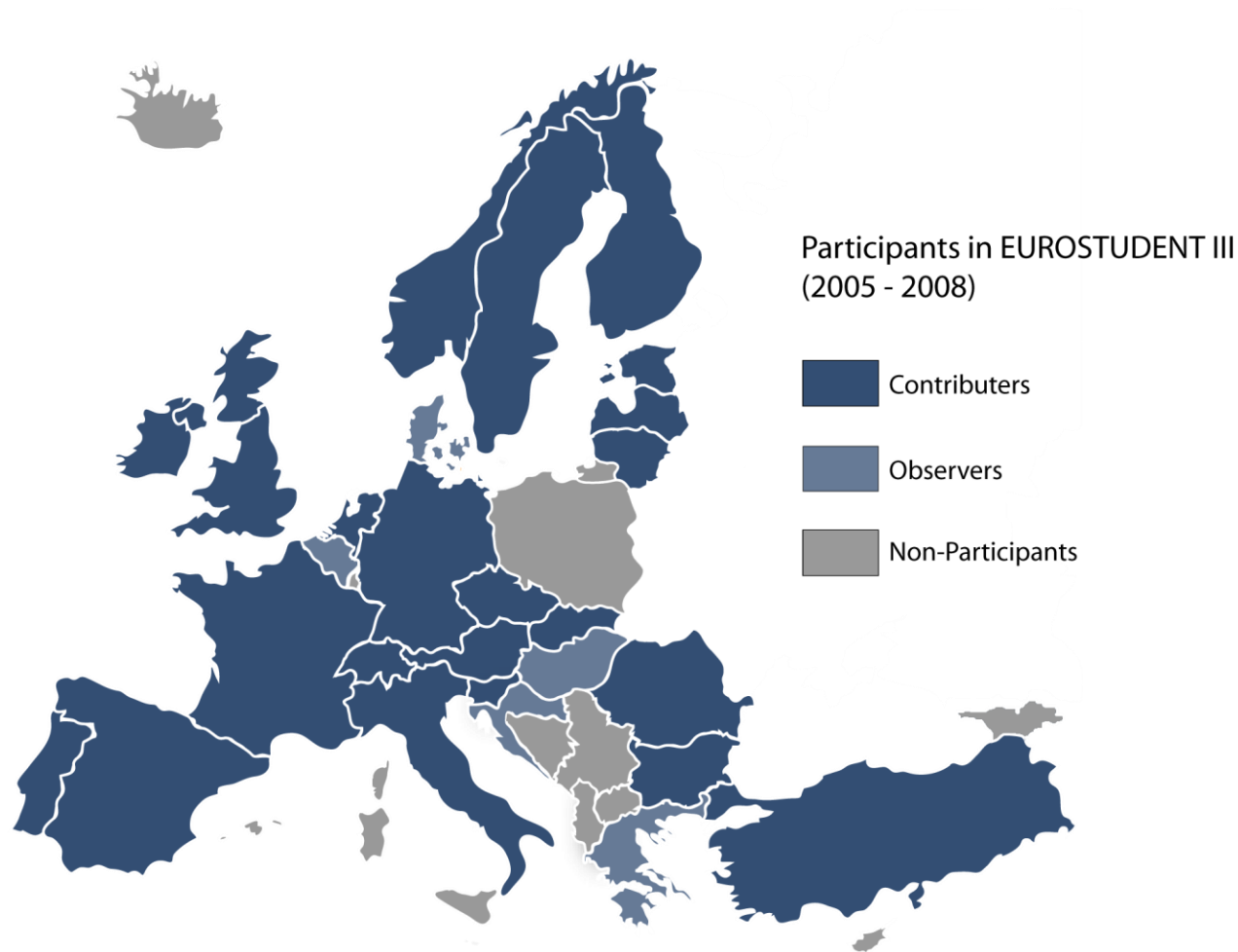
Ljubljana, April 2008

National conferences

e.g. Berlin, Rome

Final report published

www.eurostudent.eu



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Long-term objectives

The overall long-term objectives of EUROSTUDENT are:

- To deliver comparable **key indicators** and basic information in order to describe and map out the socio-economic living conditions of students in Europe
- To provide a structured and standardised **monitoring** system with which the effects of structural measures and changes can be identified for specific student groups over time
- To describe the current situation and with the aid of international comparison to **identify obstacles** to an inclusive and effective European Higher Education Area (EHEA)

All of the long-term objectives can only be achieved if the following three short- to mid-term goals are met:

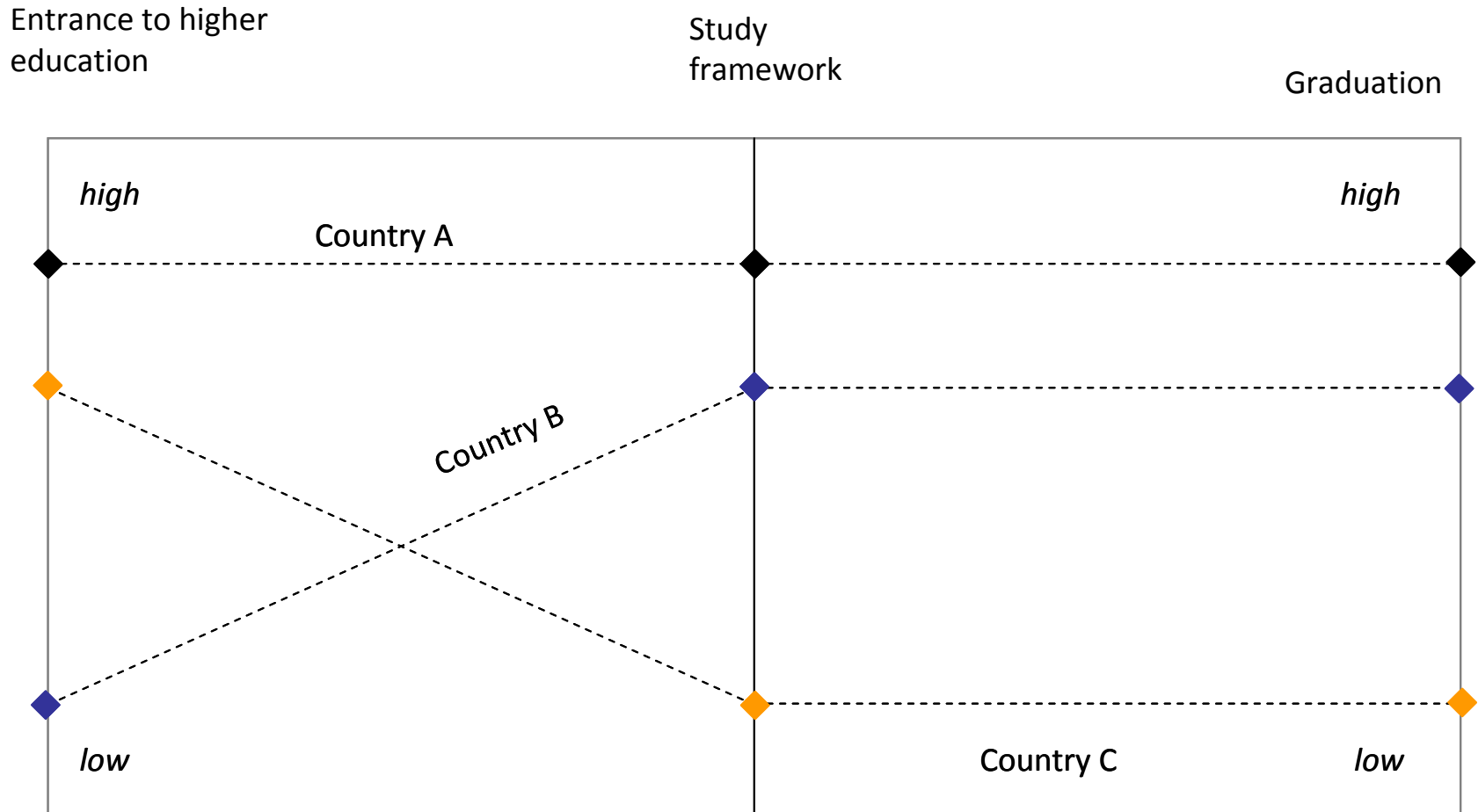
1. a large number of (European) countries participate actively within the project
2. the quality, reliability and relevance of the data is assured for comparison of the social dimension between diverse higher education systems
3. there is a recognition of the relevance and utility of the collated and analysed data at national and international policy level

Current challenges (2008-2011)

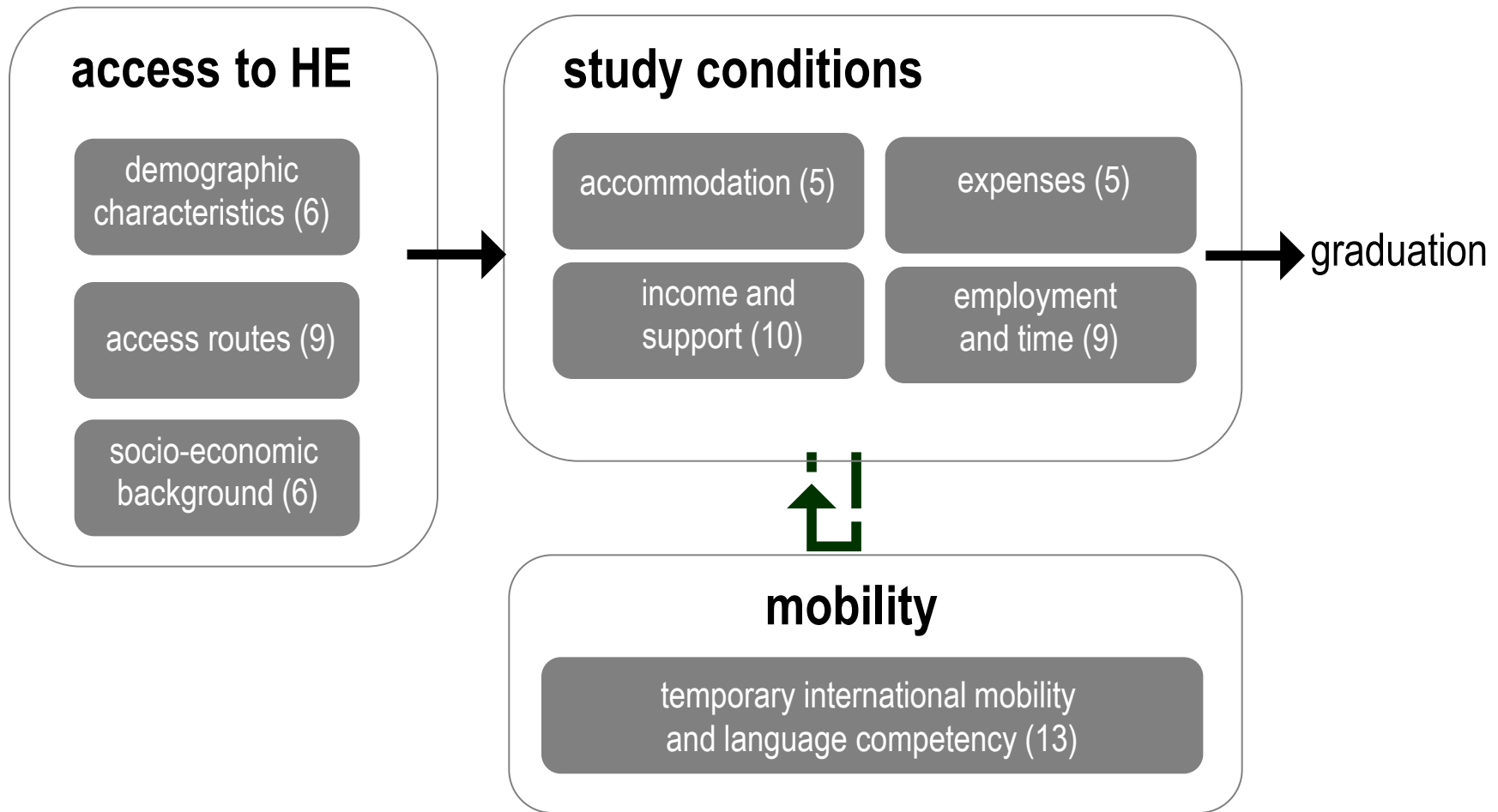
- Further increase the **number of countries** providing comparable data to around 30
- Both make efforts to **recruit** more European countries (e.g. Croatia, Denmark, Hungary, Poland) and **form partnerships** with other bodies in an effort to conjoin some data with data from countries outside of Europe (e.g. North and Latin America, Australia)
- Improve the **conformity** of data collation, calculation and analysis between country partners
- Increasingly use **multi-lingual output** forms to increase the recognition of relevance at national levels
- Add a longitudinal aspect to the comparisons between countries to some indicators
- Work more intensively **with policy-makers** on a national and international levels (OECD, European Commission, Bologna Process)

Social dimension in HE: Differences in “moments” of participative equity

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



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



The numbers in brackets refer to the number of subtopics by topic area in EUROSTUDENT III, i.e. 10 subtopics concerned with students' income and support. See the National Profiles on www.eurostudent.eu.

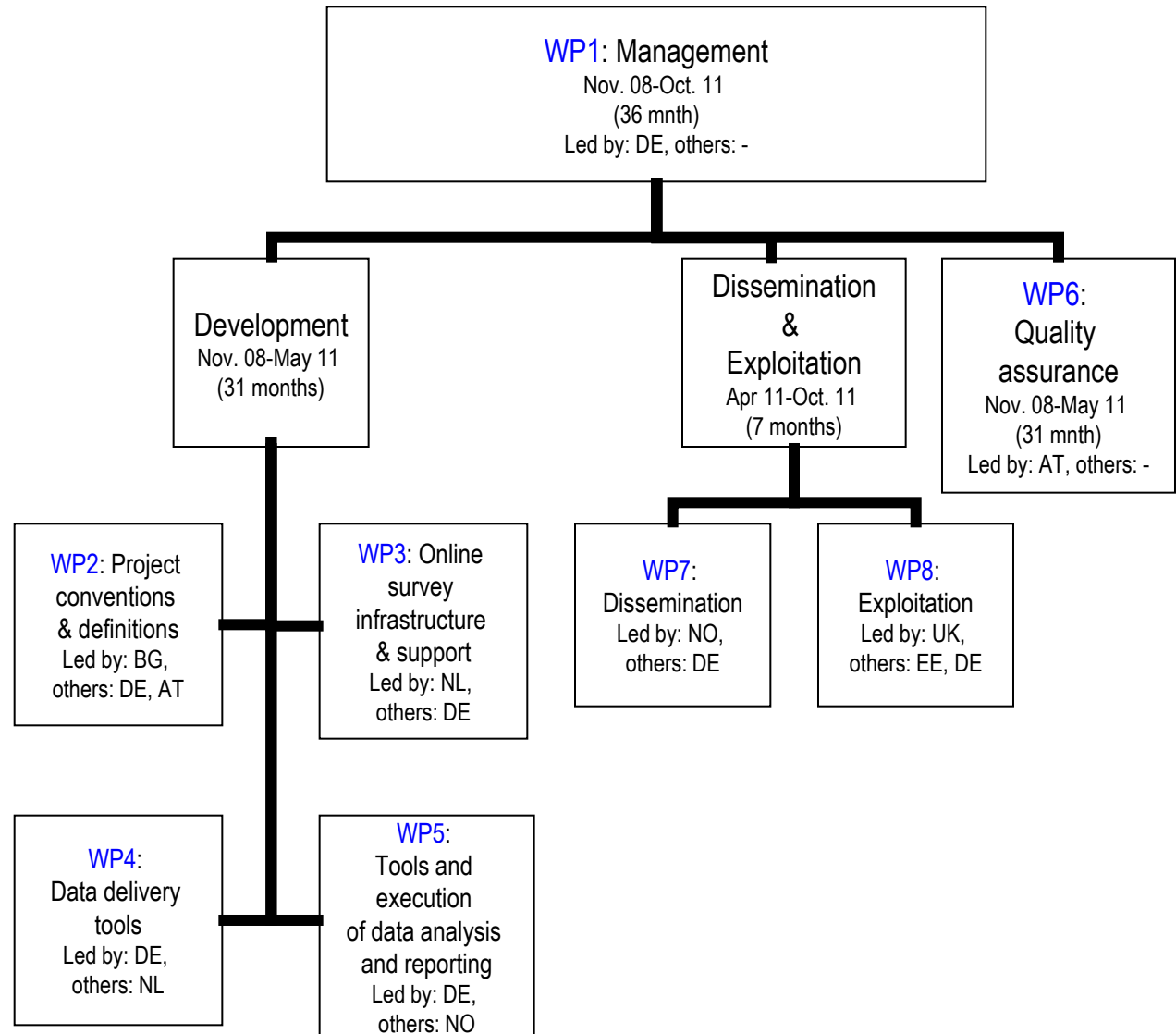
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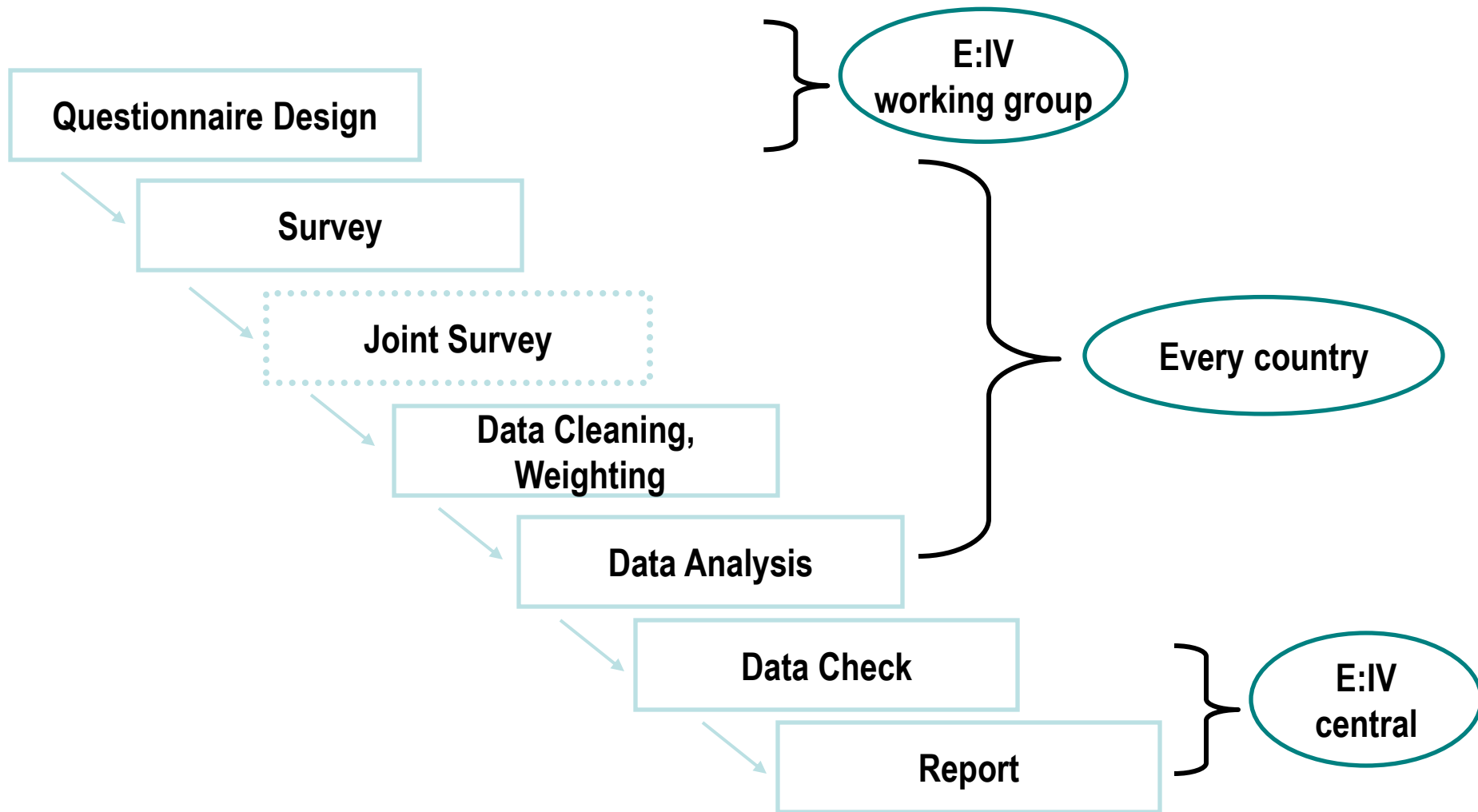
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Organisation of EUROSTUDENT IV: Shared responsibilities

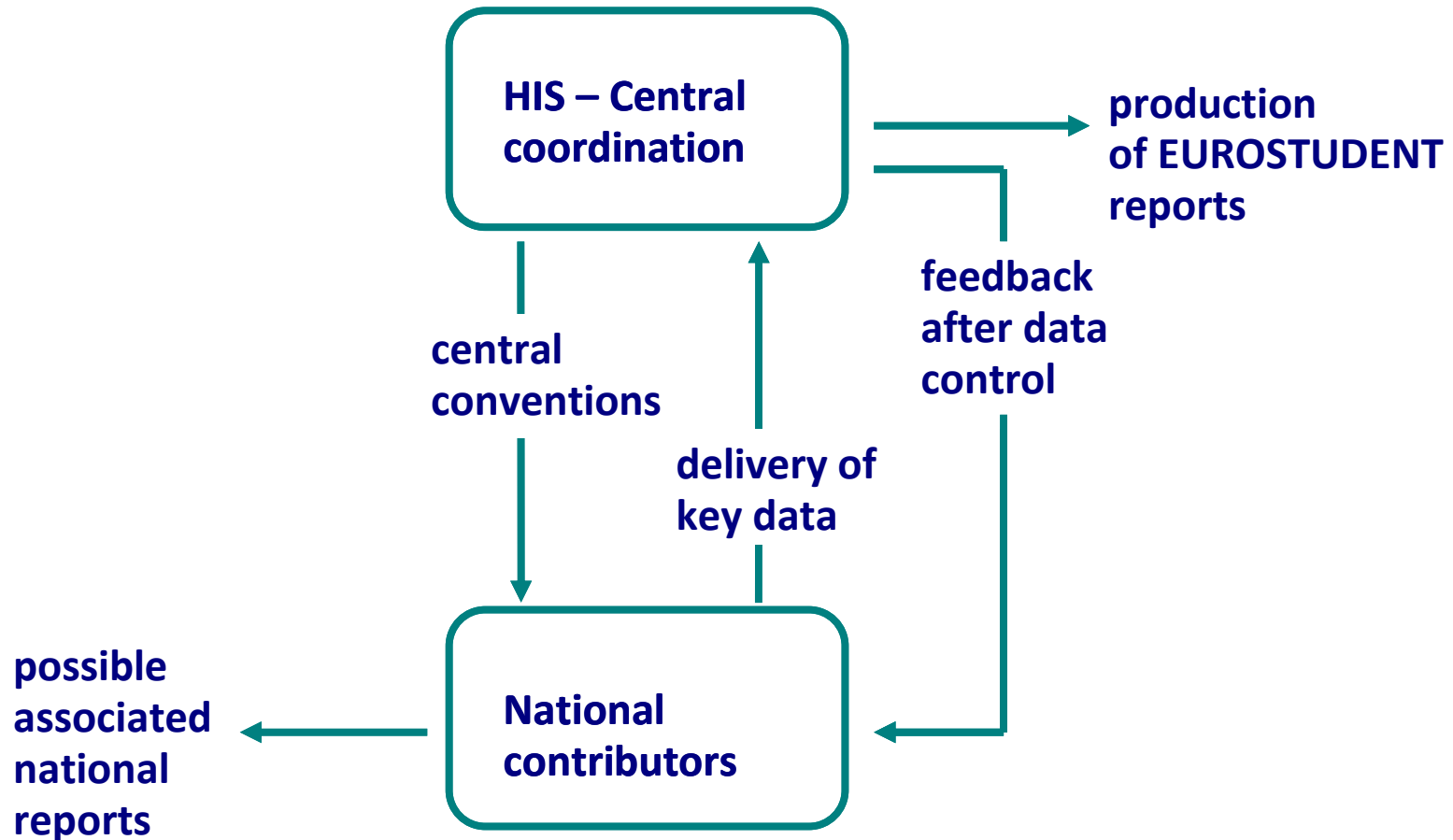
- Organised on the basis of shared responsibility
- Central team is made up of seven member organisations; each of these partners is assigned specific tasks
- Work programme has been divided up into 8 work packages



EUROSTUDENT IV: Research process



Organisation of EUROSTUDENT III: Cooperation between coordinators and country participants



Overall time and work schedule

Phase Time Period *	Survey preparation	Data collection
	Nov. 08 – Aug. 09	Sept. 09 – Apr. 10 (earliest start Apr. 09)
Activities of national participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitution of a national coordination team: policy, research experts • Tender/Bids: recruitment of research execution team • Adoption of E:IV core questions; agreement on additional national questions; translation of E:IV questions into national language • Design of national survey and implementation • Plan for sampling framework (size, how to reach addresses etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-testing of national survey • (Use of central online survey structure) • Selection of final student sample • Recruitment from sample using online survey or other survey medium • Further recruitment, if resulting sample not yet representative (cf. sampling plan) • Creation of raw data file
Activities of EUROSTUDENT Consortium to aid national participants and to assure data dissemination and exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitution of international consortium for coordination of E:IV • Intensive seminar project conventions & definitions • Development of core set of questions based on review of EIII • Kick-off workshop for E:IV participants and interested parties • Development of Data Delivery Module 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operationalisation of online survey on central survey server in English and possibility to use this portal in other languages • Provision of intensive seminar on use of online surveys for E:IV • Provision of ad-hoc individual support for online surveys • Workshop on data conventions and quality • Development of E:IV subtopics (based on a review of EIII) and a key set of indicators

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Overall time and work schedule

Phase Time Period *	Data delivery and cleaning	Data analysis and reporting
	Apr. 10 – Sept. 10	Oct. 10 – Sept. 11
Activities of national participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality control and statistical adjustment of sample: data cleaning; control of validity of answers; weighting to improve representativity etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis and national interpretation of data Delivery of data to E:IV central coordinators via Data Delivery Module including metadata and survey error statistics Review of feedback from E:IV central coordinators, comments and adjustments Associated independent national reports
Activities of EUROSTUDENT Consortium to aid national participants and to assure data dissemination and exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of intensive seminar on data interpretation and context information for E:IV Workshop on data interpretation and context information Central data control and review Feedback on data delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of E:IV reports: National Profiles for each country, Comparative study – Synopsis of Indicators, Data sheets Final international conference Coordination of further exploitation initiatives

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EUROSTUDENT Dataset

National Profiles

- *All national reports*
- *In-depth data*
- *National commentaries*
- *Compare data by country on-line*
- *Compare data by country in Excel data sheets*

Data appendix: Key indicators

- *All key indicators*
- *All subtopics*
- *All countries*
- *Excel data sheets*

Synopsis of indicators

- *Comparative report*
- *All countries*
- *Interpretive analyses*

Dissemination of results: Main reports

Final comparative report

*Highlighting issues and data in comparative perspective;
full English and German version*



Special report by Statistics Switzerland

*Comparing international results with national data;
available in German and French*

La dimension sociale
dans les hautes écoles
La Suisse en comparaison européenne



Special report in cooperation with Eurostat for Bologna Process

*Combining both administrative data and
EUROSTUDENT survey data*



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★★★★