

Hidden barriers to higher education in the EU: **Beyond the average student with EUROSTUDENT data and national practices**

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1. General context in EU
2. EUROSTUDENT indicators
3. Country case studies
4. 10 challenges

More graduates of tertiary education

EU-27 average share of holders of tertiary education certificate in age group 30-34 years	2000: 22.4%
	2010: 33.6%
... according to the EU's strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training (ET 2020)	2020: 40.0%

Reasons

- Knowledge society
- New skills for new jobs

General challenges

- Demography
- Constraints on public spending
- Social dimension

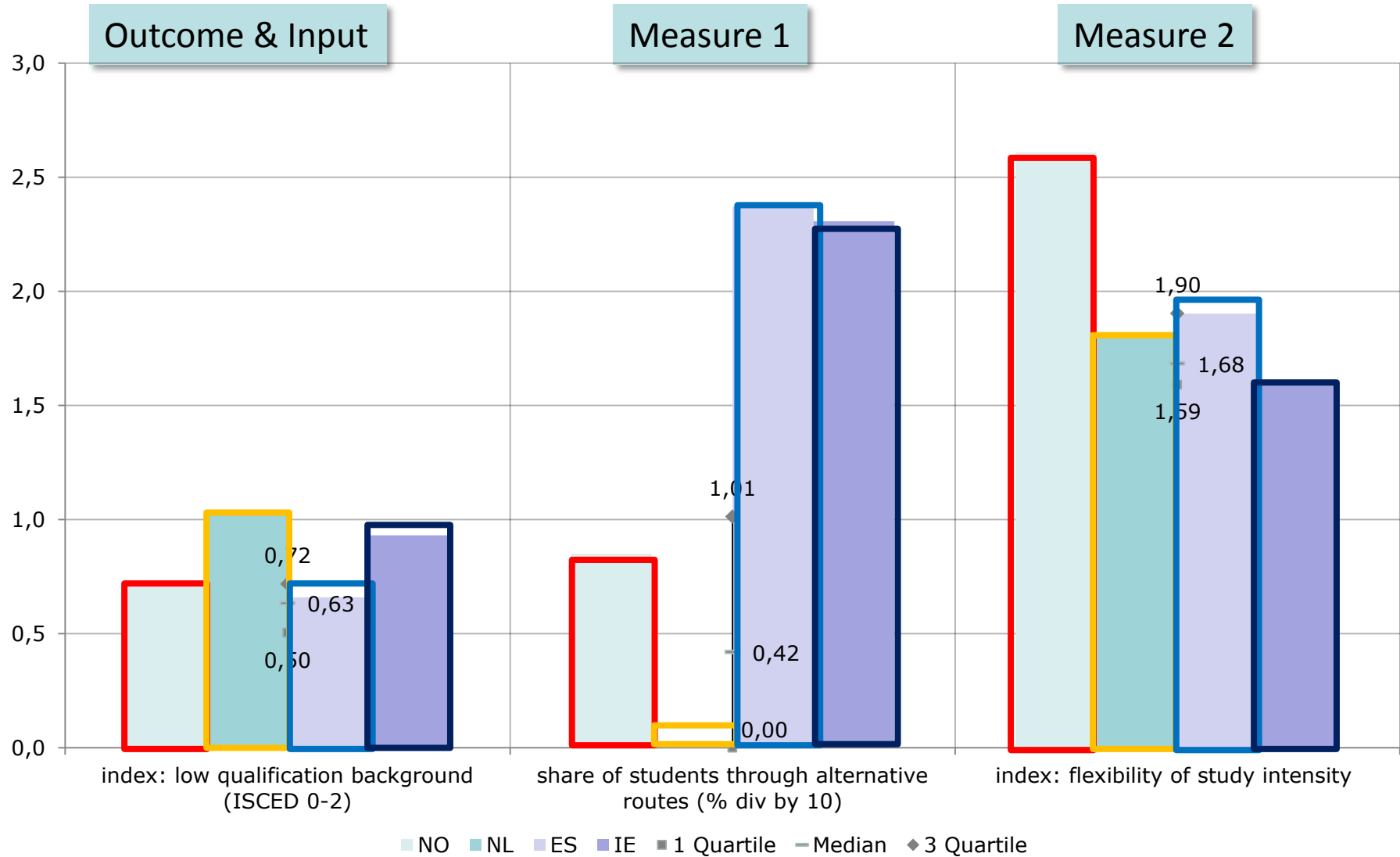
Specific challenges

- More inclusive higher education
- Alternative routes into HE
- Flexibility of study programmes

Note: Explanation of key indicators calculated from EUROSTUDENT data set

Topic	Notes on operationalisation	Indicator	Notes on interpretation
Participation in higher education by social background	Highest educational attainment of students' parents as proxy. Here: fathers with low educational attainment (ISCED 0-2)	Index: share of students whose fathers have low educational attainment (ISCED 0-2) compared to share in national population	Index value of 1 = perfect balance; below 1 = underrepresentation
Alternative routes into higher education	Special analysis combining country entry qualifications of students with standard classification. Alternative = further education or APR	Share of students in higher education system who entered through alternative routes (% div by 10)	100% would be shown in chart as the value 10.0
Flexibility of study programmes	Hours spent on study-related activities per week (attending lectures and self-studies) in comparison between students who see their studies as a central weekly activities against those who see it as subordinate to other activities	Index: hours per week of students who see studies as central divided by hours for students who do not	Index value of 2 = students who see their studies as central spent twice as many hours in study-related activities as those who do not

Results: Inclusiveness, routes into HE and flexibility of programmes in Europe



10 challenges for higher education provision

Access	Study conditions	Successful completion
Challenges		
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Facilitate participation in HE2. Facilitate participation in the best courses at the best colleges / universities3. Facilitate participation in supplementary experiences, esp. mobility programmes4. Support prospective students in making the 'right' choices	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Flexible provision for variable study intensity2. Assure the commitment of new types of students to their programmes3. Provide teaching and learning according to new pedagogical concepts4. Provide incentives for colleges / universities to retain students and increase completion rates5. Provide counselling and advice during study period	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Facilitate the transition of graduates to the labour market