

The modernisation of European higher education through paying attention to the social dimension – developments and challenges in 4 selected countries

Attaining and Sustaining Mass Higher Education – Theme 6: How can higher education deal with the challenges it faces?

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1. General context in EU
2. Data sources for analysis
3. EUROSTUDENT indicators
4. Country case studies – NO, NL, ES, IE
5. 10 challenges suggested by these cases

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

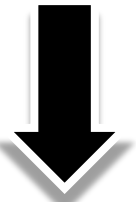
General challenges

- Demography
- Constraints on public spending
- Social dimension

Specific challenges

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

**Peer
learning
between
countries &
institutions**

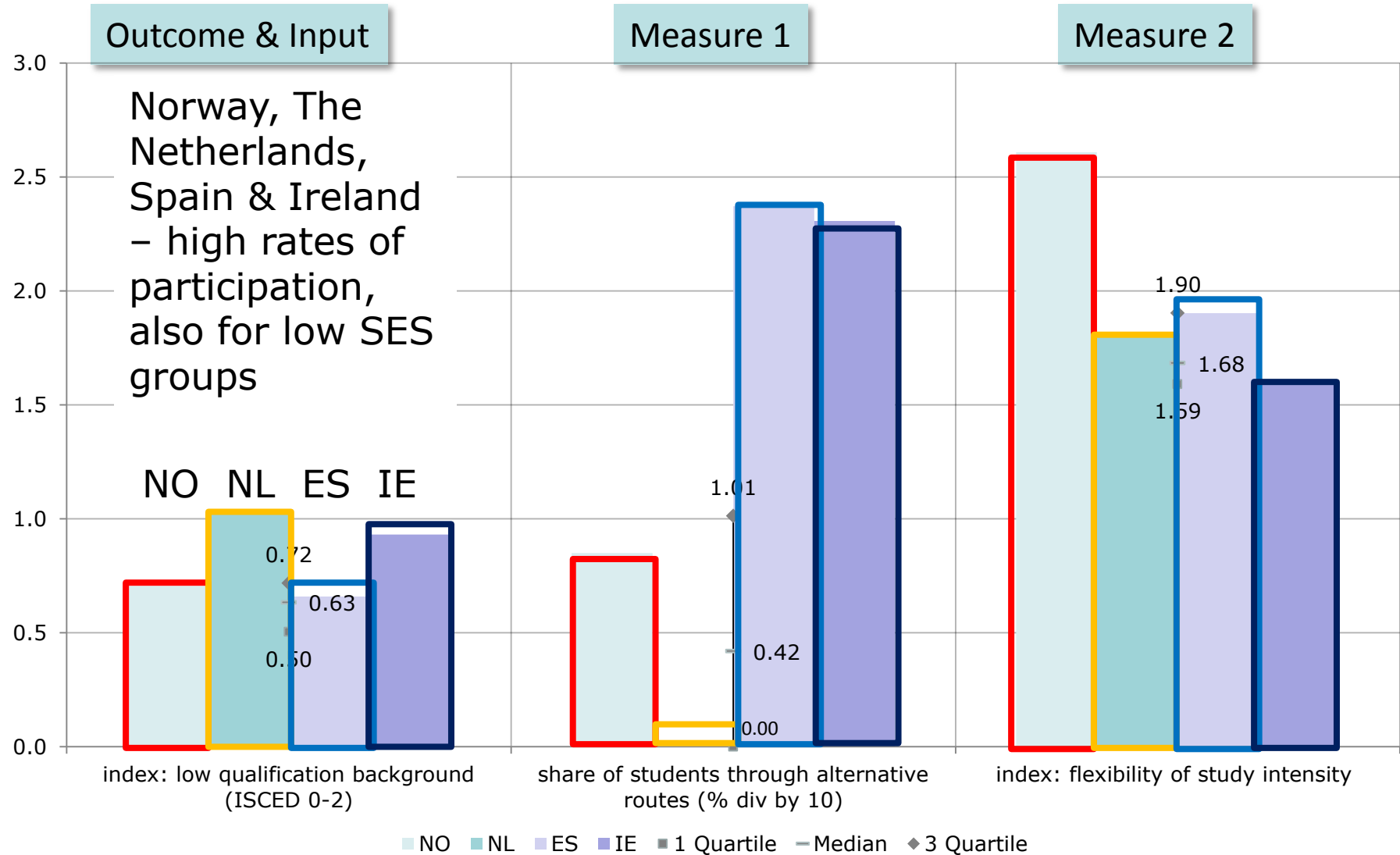


Source	Administrative data	Survey data	Qualitative information
Type of information	Institutional / programme data (“administrative footprint”)	Individual data	Context information on structures, procedures and policy measures (especially: case studies)

Challenges and compromises

- Need comparative conceptual categories to enable the comparison (e.g. ISCED for levels of education)
- Need comparative data sets
- Trade-off in terms of analysis between depth and breadth

Survey data results on: Inclusiveness, routes into HE and flexibility of programmes



10 challenges for higher education provision based on policy discussions and measures in the 4 countries

Access	Study conditions	Successful completion
Challenges		
1. Facilitate participation in HE	5. Flexible provision for variable study intensity	10. Facilitate the transition of graduates to the labour market
2. Facilitate participation in the best courses at the best colleges / universities	6. Assure the commitment of new types of students to their programmes	
3. Facilitate participation in supplementary experiences, esp. mobility programmes	7. Provide teaching and learning according to new pedagogical concepts	
4. Support prospective students in making the 'right' choices	8. Provide incentives for colleges / universities to retain students and increase completion rates	
	9. Provide counselling and advice during study period	