

## Bologna Ministerial Conference

# 30% of 25-34 year-olds in the EU27 are graduates from higher education

## Higher proportion of women than men among graduates

In the **EU27**, the proportion of the population having completed higher education, i.e. tertiary level education<sup>1</sup> of at least two years, has increased steadily through the generations. In 2007, 30% of those aged 25-34 had graduated from tertiary education, compared with 25% of those aged 35-44 and 19% of those aged 45-64.

The proportion of tertiary education graduates was in 2007 higher in the youngest age group (25-34 years) than in the oldest (45-64 years) in all Member States, except **Germany**. The highest shares of tertiary education graduates in the youngest age group were found in **Cyprus** (47%), **Ireland** (44%), **France** (42%), **Belgium** (41%) and **Denmark** and **Sweden** (40% each), and the lowest in the **Czech Republic** (16%), **Romania** (17%), **Slovakia** (18%), **Italy** and **Austria** (both 19%).

The proportion of tertiary education graduates in the **EU27** has increased more for women than for men through the generations. In the oldest age group, a higher proportion of men than women had completed tertiary education (21% for men and 18% for women); in the middle age group proportions were nearly equal (24% for men and 25% for women); and in the youngest age group a higher proportion of women than men had completed tertiary education (26% for men and 34% for women).

In connection with the Bologna Ministerial Conference<sup>2</sup> in Leuven/Louvain-la-Neuve in Belgium on 28-29 April, **Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities** issues a report "The Bologna Process in Higher Education in Europe – Key indicators on the social dimension and mobility"<sup>3</sup>. This News Release presents a selection of indicators on higher education, taken from this report.

### A strong influence of the educational background of the parents

The educational background of parents has a clear influence on the level of education of their children. In the **EU25** in 2005, 17% of those aged 25-64 whose parents had at most completed lower-secondary education had completed tertiary education. This proportion rose to 32% for those whose parents had completed upper-secondary education and reached 63% for those whose parents had themselves completed tertiary education.

In the youngest generation, the impact of the educational level of the parents remains significant even if the impact was reduced for those whose parents had low education. In the age group 25-34, 23% of those whose parents had low education had completed tertiary education, 30% of those whose parents had medium education and 61% of those whose parents had high education.

### Highest share of foreign students in the United Kingdom, Austria, France and Belgium

Mobility of students is one of the goals of the Bologna Process. In 2006, 7.5% of students enrolled in tertiary education in the **EU27** were foreign students, compared with 5.3% in 2000. The proportion of foreign students rose between 2000 and 2006 in all Member States except **Latvia**, **Romania** and **Slovakia**. The proportion of foreign students in 2006 was higher than 10% in the **United Kingdom** (18.3%), **Austria** (15.6%), **France** (14.6%), **Belgium** (14.3%), **Germany** and **Sweden** (both 12.8%), and less than 1% in **Poland** (0.5%), **Lithuania** (0.8%) and **Slovakia** (0.9%).

In 2006, 2.6% of students originating from one of the **EU27** Member States were enrolled in tertiary education in a European country<sup>4</sup> other than their country of origin, compared with 2.1% in 2000. The highest rates in 2006 were

observed in **Cyprus** (78.7%), **Malta** (10.6%), **Slovakia** (9.5%) and **Bulgaria** (8.9%). The lowest rates were registered in the **United Kingdom** (0.5%), **Spain** (1.2%), **Italy** and **Hungary** (both 1.3%) and **Poland** (1.4%).

### Percentage of population with tertiary education\* in 2007 (%)

	Age 25-34			Age 35-44			Age 45-64		
	All	Female	Male	All	Female	Male	All	Female	Male
<b>EU27</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>33.5</b>	<b>26.4</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>25.4</b>	<b>24.2</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>21.1</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	41.3	47.0	35.8	35.5	38.8	32.3	25.6	24.4	26.8
<b>Bulgaria</b>	24.9	32.0	18.2	23.0	27.3	18.7	20.9	24.5	16.9
<b>Czech Republic</b>	15.5	17.0	14.0	14.3	12.8	15.7	12.4	10.0	14.9
<b>Denmark</b>	40.1	44.0	36.2	34.1	36.8	31.6	27.3	28.7	26.0
<b>Germany</b>	22.6	23.4	21.8	25.7	22.1	29.1	24.2	18.8	29.7
<b>Estonia</b>	34.6	43.0	26.3	33.7	42.8	23.9	32.4	36.5	27.3
<b>Ireland</b>	43.9	50.4	37.5	34.3	36.6	32.1	21.8	21.7	21.9
<b>Greece</b>	27.1	30.1	24.2	25.3	25.8	24.9	16.9	13.4	20.6
<b>Spain</b>	38.9	44.0	34.2	32.2	33.9	30.6	19.7	16.8	22.7
<b>France</b>	41.5	46.1	36.8	28.7	30.5	26.8	18.3	17.9	18.7
<b>Italy</b>	18.9	22.9	14.8	14.0	15.4	12.7	10.4	9.9	11.0
<b>Cyprus</b>	47.0	52.3	41.7	35.2	34.5	36.0	22.9	21.1	24.8
<b>Latvia</b>	26.3	32.7	20.0	22.9	28.3	17.3	20.3	23.5	16.5
<b>Lithuania</b>	38.9	45.3	32.6	28.1	33.6	22.4	23.9	26.4	21.0
<b>Luxembourg</b>	35.7	39.8	31.7	27.3	25.2	29.5	20.7	16.9	24.6
<b>Hungary</b>	22.0	26.2	17.9	17.8	20.4	15.2	15.9	15.6	16.2
<b>Malta</b>	22.5	25.0	20.1	11.5	9.0	13.9	7.9	6.6	9.2
<b>Netherlands</b>	36.7	39.3	34.1	30.8	29.6	32.1	28.1	23.4	32.8
<b>Austria</b>	18.9	19.2	18.6	19.1	16.1	22.1	15.9	11.8	20.2
<b>Poland</b>	30.0	35.9	24.2	17.7	21.2	14.1	12.6	13.2	11.9
<b>Portugal</b>	21.4	27.8	15.1	13.6	16.5	10.6	9.0	9.3	8.7
<b>Romania</b>	16.6	17.7	15.6	10.1	10.3	9.9	10.1	8.5	11.8
<b>Slovenia</b>	30.1	40.3	20.4	22.6	25.5	19.9	17.8	18.3	17.2
<b>Slovakia</b>	17.5	19.9	15.1	13.1	13.4	12.8	13.2	12.2	14.2
<b>Finland</b>	39.3	47.9	31.1	42.7	50.9	34.8	32.1	34.8	29.4
<b>Sweden</b>	39.9	45.8	34.3	31.0	36.4	25.8	27.4	31.1	23.7
<b>United Kingdom</b>	37.9	39.4	36.3	32.7	32.8	32.7	28.4	28.2	28.5
<b>Croatia</b>	18.3	23.4	13.6	15.7	16.5	14.9	15.7	14.0	17.4
<b>Turkey</b>	12.9	11.1	14.8	8.8	6.4	11.0	7.0	4.1	9.9
<b>Iceland</b>	32.5	36.8	28.5	36.4	41.5	31.8	25.5	25.8	25.1
<b>Norway</b>	41.7	49.1	34.5	36.8	40.6	33.2	29.2	29.7	28.8
<b>Switzerland</b>	35.0	31.0	38.9	33.8	24.9	43.1	28.0	18.3	37.6

: Data not available

\* Tertiary education graduates (ISCED 5A, 5B or 6)

Source: European Union Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS)

**Percentage of individuals with completed tertiary education, (2005)  
by educational background of their parents**

	Low*		Medium*		High*	
	Age 25-64	Age 25-34	Age 25-64	Age 25-34	Age 25-64	Age 25-34
<b>EU25</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>31.7</b>	<b>30.3</b>	<b>62.5</b>	<b>60.9</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	21.4	26.2	50.2	51.2	78.2	82.3
<b>Bulgaria</b>	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>Czech Republic</b>	4.4	2.5	11.4	10.1	50.9	48.6u
<b>Denmark</b>	19.0	20.3u	26.8	28.9	53.6	53.4u
<b>Germany</b>	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>Estonia</b>	18.8	4.6	30.6	23.7	54.0	48.0u
<b>Ireland</b>	20.6	37.0	54.9	60.0u	76.7	77.0u
<b>Greece</b>	15.3	18.1	42.7	39.3u	63.8	63.0u
<b>Spain</b>	21.1	31.6	49.6	54.3	71.2	73.0
<b>France**</b>	19.8	32.1	47.1	54.0u	70.8	78.9
<b>Italy</b>	7.7	9.1	32.6	28.8	60.7	60.2
<b>Cyprus</b>	18.7	25.6	52.0	51.6	79.4	79.2u
<b>Latvia</b>	9.5	8.5	23.0	19.0	52.6	44.3u
<b>Lithuania</b>	15.3	15.3	29.9	29.0	62.2	65.0u
<b>Luxembourg</b>	11.1	14.3	31.2	39.0	78.0	81.2
<b>Hungary</b>	6.1	2.9	18.7	16.9	57.6	55.0
<b>Malta</b>	6.7	10.0	27.9u	36.1u	43.9u	:
<b>Netherlands</b>	22.9	30.2	41.4	41.8u	68.0	67.8
<b>Austria</b>	12.7	13.0	25.3	26.2	54.4u	53.0u
<b>Poland</b>	6.2	8.5	22.1	25.1	66.6	73.6
<b>Portugal</b>	10.2	15.4	53.7u	:	61.4u	60.2u
<b>Romania</b>	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>Slovenia</b>	4.4	6.5	19.3	23.4	42.4u	33.1u
<b>Slovakia</b>	7.5	4.2	18.3	16.0	51.2	45.4u
<b>Finland</b>	25.6	25.6	39.7	38.2	57.9	52.1
<b>Sweden</b>	22.6	26.0	45.1	44.4u	59.1	58.7u
<b>United Kingdom</b>	26.9	38.0	42.5	50.2	67.3	73.3
<b>Iceland</b>	12.5	14.1u	27.4	29.3u	52.5u	50.6u
<b>Norway</b>	16.3	21.9u	30.8	30.6	54.9	56.0

\* Low (ISCED 0-2), medium (ISCED 3-4) and high (ISCED 5-6)

\*\* Provisional data

: Data not available

u Due to a small sample size these data should be interpreted with caution.

Source: European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC)

### Tertiary education students studying abroad\*

	Foreign students in a given country (% of all students in that country)		Students from a given country studying abroad in Europe** (% of all students from their country of origin)	
	2000	2006	2000	2006
<b>EU27</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.6</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	12.1	14.3	4.4	3.7
<b>Bulgaria</b>	3.2	3.9	2.7	8.9
<b>Czech Republic</b>	2.5	7.0	1.1	1.8
<b>Denmark</b>	7.9	9.0	4.4	2.7
<b>Germany</b>	10.0	12.8	1.9	3.4
<b>Estonia</b>	1.8	3.2	2.7	5.7
<b>Ireland</b>	:	:	:	:
<b>Greece</b>	:	3.6	:	8.1
<b>Spain</b>	1.5	2.7	1.0	1.2
<b>France</b>	8.2	14.6	1.7	2.5
<b>Italy</b>	1.4	2.4	1.1	1.3
<b>Cyprus</b>	7.3	7.8	73.4	78.7
<b>Latvia</b>	7.0	1.2	1.3	2.2
<b>Lithuania</b>	0.6	0.8	1.9	3.5
<b>Luxembourg</b>	:	:	:	:
<b>Hungary</b>	:	3.5	:	1.3
<b>Malta</b>	5.6	7.7	9.2	10.6
<b>Netherlands</b>	2.9	6.5	1.6	1.7
<b>Austria</b>	12.9	15.6	3.9	5.0
<b>Poland</b>	0.4	0.5	0.8	1.4
<b>Portugal</b>	3.0	4.6	1.9	3.2
<b>Romania</b>	3.0	1.5	1.4	2.1
<b>Slovenia</b>	1.0	1.6	2.8	2.8
<b>Slovakia</b>	1.2	0.9	2.3	9.5
<b>Finland</b>	2.1	2.9	3.1	2.7
<b>Sweden</b>	7.5	12.8	2.3	2.6
<b>United Kingdom</b>	13.4	18.3	0.7	0.5
<b>Croatia</b>	:	0.6	:	7.6
<b>Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b>	0.7	0.4	5.9	11.2
<b>Turkey</b>	2.0	1.3	3.6	1.9
<b>Iceland</b>	4.5	4.6	15.3	16.2
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	:	90.1	:	88.7
<b>Norway</b>	4.7	8.1	4.2	4.3
<b>Switzerland</b>	:	19.8	:	4.6
<b>Canada</b>	:	14.6	:	1.0
<b>Japan</b>	1.9	3.2	0.3	0.3

\* Excludes students participating in exchange programs such as Erasmus. Total enrolment in education classified as ISCED 5A and 6.

\*\* Only students studying abroad in the following countries are considered: EU27, EFTA and candidate countries (Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey). This indicator slightly differs from the indicator on outbound mobility presented in the publication "The Bologna Process in Higher Education in Europe – Key indicators on the social dimension and mobility".

: Data not available

Source: Eurostat and UNESCO/OECD/EUROSTAT (UOE) data collection on education statistics

1. Data are classified according to the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED): high education corresponds to ISCED levels 5 and 6 (tertiary education); medium education corresponds to ISCED levels 3 and 4 (upper secondary and post secondary non-tertiary education) and low education to ISCED levels 0-2 (pre-primary, primary and lower secondary education).

Tertiary education covers programmes that are largely theoretically based and are intended to provide sufficient qualifications for gaining entry into advanced research programmes and professions with high skill requirements (ISCED level 5A), programmes that are generally more practical/technical/occupationally specific than ISCED 5A programmes (ISCED level 5B), and tertiary programmes that lead to the award of an advance research qualification (ISCED level 6).

Level 5A programmes have a minimum theoretical duration of three years' full-time studies, although typically they are of four or more years. Level 5B programmes are typically shorter than those in 5A with a minimum of two years' full-time studies.

2. The Bologna Process is the process of creating the European Higher Education Area by 2010 and of promoting the European system of higher education worldwide. The Bologna Process is based on cooperation between ministries, higher education institutions, students and staff from 46 countries, with the participation of international organisations.

For more information visit: [http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/educ/bologna/bologna\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/educ/bologna/bologna_en.html) or <http://www.ond.vlaanderen.be/hogeronderwijs/bologna/>

3. Eurostat, "The Bologna Process in Higher Education in Europe – Key indicators on the social dimension and mobility", can be downloaded free of charge in PDF format from the Eurostat website at <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>.
4. EU27, EFTA and candidate countries (Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey)

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