**EUROSTUDENT – meeting of the Steering Board, Berlin 13 February 2013**

Bucharest Communiqué (2012*): “We welcome the improved quality of data and information on higher education. We ask for more targeted data collection and referencing against common indicators, particularly on employability, the social dimension, lifelong learning, internationalisation, portability of grants/loans, and student and staff mobility. We ask Eurostat, Eurydice and Eurostudent to monitor the implementation of the reforms and to report back in 2015.”*

**EUROSTUDENT V – period: April 2012 – May 2015**

EUROSTUDENT is an established network of researchers, representatives of national ministries and other stakeholders.

It has been examining the social and economic conditions of student life in HE; EUROSTUDENT is the only source for gathering information on “credit” mobility of students and on access.

Changes in running the project since 2012

* Namely in the funding structure: from the EU funded project to the project co-funded jointly by the EU, member states and two contributing states: Germany and the Netherlands.
* Stems from previous experience when the centralised coordination has always been combined with the principle of shared responsibility.[[1]](#footnote-1)

The project is centrally **coordinated by international** **Consortium:** (1) *HIS-Institute for Research on Higher Education (HIS-HF), Germany*; (2) *Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS), Austria*; (3) *Praxis Centre for Policy Studies (Praxis), Estonia*; (4) *European Council on Student Affairs (ECStA), Belgium*; (5) *ResearchNed, Netherland*s; (6) *National Commission for Further and Higher Education (NCFHE), Malta;* (6) *Federal Statistical Office (FSO), Switzerland.*

**The Steering Board:** The role of Steering Board has been growing, a new structure due to the project scheme, mainly the financial one. The Steering Board has partly function of the **Supervisory Board** – it is responsible for approval of the Annual Reports, Financial Reports, **deals with complains of the member states**; it also should **give strategic advice to the Consortium**; say something about the strategic orientation of the project and its policy impacts.

**The Secretariat to the Steering Board** is Federal Statistical Office (FSO), Sarah Gerhard Ortega;

Composition of the Steering Board: **5 country representatives** (three elected by the participation states + Germany + The Netherlands[[2]](#footnote-2)) and **European Commission**, a representative of the **Bologna Follow Up Group** and of **European Student Union**.

The Steering Board meets once a year (next meeting January 2014)

The mandate of the Steering Board has to be clarified still.

**EUROSTUDENT V** – 4 periods

**First period: Preparation, contract with countries, tools development** (new questionnaire and handbook) **- April 2012 till February 2013:**

* Stress on:
  + Transparency;
  + Efficient use of money
* Difficult period – a lot of time spent by signing contracts and negotiations with member states;
* Outcomes: New products
  + new questionnaire with a hand book; the questionnaire is fixed, the handbook has been developing according to the country experience ***constantly***;

**Second period: Data Collection – March 2013 – July 2013** (all countries except Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Austria ([[3]](#footnote-3)))

**Third period: Control – individually with countries, data processing - August 2013 – December 2013**

**Fourth Period: January 2014 - May 2015**

**collection of data of those countries which have not managed in 2013** (it is necessary that the remaining countries collect data in the period March - July; the report will be developed and newly collected data of 5(?) countries added

**Spring 2014 first intelligence brief**

**Contribution to the Bologna Implementation Report**

**February 2015 final report and final conference**; in parallel this event is planned to be the **pre-kick off of EUROSTUDENT VI** (to avoid problems with budget planning of participating countries.

**Participating countries**

* **27 countries participate**
* Out of them 20 EU, Croatia and 6 non-EU (Balkan countries, Norway, Switzerland, Armenia).
* **Emerging cluster of NIS countries** – the Initiative Group for the implementation of the EUROSTUDENT Survey established (26 experts from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia, Ukraine, Austria and Germany). At present letters of commitment have been signed by each country´s ministry, clarification of funding issues, delayed data collection etc.

**Dissemination planned outside Europe** as well (in the last part of the project: USA, Canada, cooperation with the World Bank)

**Questionnaire:**

* Six parts: **Current Study Situation** (12 questions)**, Study Background** (9)**, Living Conditions** (15)**, International Mobility** (10)**, Personal Details** (9)**, Family Background** (3)**. Totally 58 questions.**
* Cca 25% of questions have been changed (to different extent) or they are new;
* **Handbook for data delivery** will be prepared; in discussion - the data will be standardized via so called “focus groups” (in EUROSTUDENT IV there were six, at present 22 focus groups are envisaged); i.e. the data will provide substantial insights differences between student groups e.g. by educational background, by study intensity, by access route, by age etc.

**Other:**

**Period of 3 years is appropriate**; necessary to prepare the next stage early enough to be able to concentrate on the project. EUROSTUDENT V too much time spent in preparatory measures; e.g. with negotiations with countries and contracts.

Pre-kick off of EUROSTUDENT VI already in February 2015 (see above).

1. EUROSTUDENT Network established in 1999. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Germany and the Netherlands Contribute to the project budget by extra funds. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Already established data collections, however in slightly different periods. Discussions about tuning the timing. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)