

## **EUROSTUDENT VI update**

### **Meeting of the Bologna Follow Up Group, March 7-8, 2016, in Amsterdam**

The beginning of the year has marked the start of the sixth round of the EUROSTUDENT project (2016-2018). As in previous rounds, the main goal of the project is to ensure that EUROSTUDENT VI will once again deliver valid, high-quality data which contribute to understanding and furthering the social dimension of higher education in the European Higher Education Area at higher education institutions, the national and European level. In order to coordinate the BFUG data needs with the project, EUROSTUDENT will take part in WG 1 “Monitoring”.

28 countries are expected to take part in EUROSTUDENT VI (some contractual issues are still pending). Led by the German Centre for Higher Education Research and Science Studies (DZHW), a consortium consisting of seven partner organisations (Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS), AT; Praxis Centre for Policy Studies (Praxis), EE; MOSTA Research and Higher Education Monitoring and Analysis Centre, LT; ResearchNed, NL; National Commission for Further and Higher Education (NCFHE), MT; Federal Statistical Office (FSO), CH) has taken up the work on the project.

Based on feedback from the previous round’s participants and international experts, the EUROSTUDENT core questionnaire has been finalised and provided to the national research teams, together with an extensive handbook. Preparatory seminars to support national teams in aligning the national surveys with the central EUROSTUDENT conventions are taking place in the first three months of 2016. Besides offering one-on-one support to national teams from the EUROSTUDENT consortium, these seminars provide a chance for networking and exchange of best practices regarding surveying among the national research teams. The field phases in the countries are planned to take place in the spring/summer semester 2016.

In parallel, the EUROSTUDENT consortium is currently mainly working on the following tasks:

- Development of an indicator handbook and analysis strategy
- Development of a communication strategy
- Preparation of a quality plan
- Plans and preparations for the EUROSTUDENT Users’ conference (main target group: national research teams)
- Preparation of guidelines for data cleaning and delivery

The EUROSTUDENT consortium will meet in late February 2016 to discuss (among other things) the above matters. A first meeting of the EUROSTUDENT VI Steering Board is planned for March 2016.

The project website provides continuously updated information on project activities and publications: [www.eurostudent.eu](http://www.eurostudent.eu)