

## Box A2.1

**Things to keep in mind when interpreting the EUROSTUDENT data**

- **Watch out for deviations from EUROSTUDENT conventions:** The basis for data comparisons across countries are the EUROSTUDENT conventions. Inter alia, they define the standard target group of the national surveys (Box A3.1). Not all countries manage to fully comply with the conventions (Box A3.2). This is indicated in the respective figures, with detailed explanations of the deviations found in chapter >C2. Cases which should only be directly compared to other countries with extreme caution are marked with an asterisk beneath or next to the country abbreviation in figures and tables.
- **Differences not tested for significance:** The analyses presented in the Synopsis are based on aggregate data collected from the national contributors. Micro data are not centrally collected. For this reason, differences between countries cannot be tested for statistical significance.
- **Focus groups not mutually exclusive:** Many indicators further differentiate the figures for all students by so-called focus groups. These are groups of students considered to be particularly relevant (Box A2.2). The focus groups may overlap, for instance, a student can be a Master student, a delayed transition student and 30 years or older at the same time.
- **EUROSTUDENT average refers to unweighted cross-country means:** Unweighted mean and median values of all EUROSTUDENT countries with available data on the respective indicator are used in the charts and text as a first orientation. They should be read with caution because they may conceal differences between countries in terms of the size of the national student and sample populations.
- **Comparisons over time possible only for selected indicators:** For selected indicators, the Synopsis of Indicators undertakes a comparison between EUROSTUDENT V and EUROSTUDENT VI data. However, such comparisons are not possible for all countries as changes in a target group or in a survey question may have taken place despite the EUROSTUDENT conventions having stayed the same. It should be noted that the indicators for a comparison over time have been carefully selected. Not all indicators can be directly compared due to changes in the core questionnaire.