

Box A2.2

Focus groups names and symbols

Name of variable	Values	Further explanation
Socio-demographic characteristics of students		
Age group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ < 22 years ◆ 22–24 years ◆ 25–29 years ◆ 30 years and older 	–
Educational background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ with higher education background ▼ without higher education background 	<p>Students are grouped according to the highest educational attainment of at least one of their parents.</p> <p>In EUROSTUDENT, students with higher education background have parents of which at least one has attained a tertiary education degree. In terms of ISCED 2011, this means that at least one of these students' parents has successfully completed a short cycle tertiary degree (level 5), a Bachelor's (level 6) or Master's degree (level 7), or a doctorate (level 8) or their national equivalent. In some countries, these national equivalents may not be considered to be a part of higher education (>Box B2.1).</p> <p>Students without higher education background have parents whose highest educational degree is no higher than ISCED 2011 level 4 (post-secondary non-tertiary education).</p>
Impairments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● students with impairments ● students without impairments 	This focus group distinguishes between students with and without impairments , regardless of whether the impairments are limiting the students in their studies or activities people usually do. Impairments include physical chronic diseases, long-standing health problems, functional limitations, mental health problems, sensory, vision or hearing impairments, learning disabilities, and mobility impairments.
Migration background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> students without migration background, domestically educated 2nd generation migrants, domestically educated 	<p>EUROSTUDENT categorises students according to their migration background based on their own and their parents' place of birth. In addition, in order to be able to identify international students, EUROSTUDENT considers the place of attainment of the higher education entry qualification, or, in absence of this, the place of first leaving the regular school system (>Box B1.1). The focus groups distinguishes the following two groups:</p> <p>Students without migration background, domestically educated are students who were born in the country of survey, as were their parents, and who attended/completed the national school system.</p> <p>2nd generation migrants, domestically educated are students with at least one parent born abroad, who were born in the country of survey, and who attended/completed the national school system.</p>
Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ male ● female 	–
Living conditions		
Dependency on income source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ dependent on family support ✚ dependent on self-earned income ✚ dependent on national public student support 	A student is considered dependent on an income source if one of the three sources "support from family/partner" (including transfers in kind), "self-earned income" or "public support" provides more than 50% of the student's total income (total income includes transfers in kind). Students with a mixed budget (i.e. no source providing more than 50% of total income) are not assigned to a group.
Financial difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ with financial difficulties ★ without financial difficulties 	This focus group distinguishes between the two groups based on students' self-assessment.
Housing situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🏠 living with parents 🏠 not living with parents 	–
Students in paid employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ students working in paid job up to 20 hours per week ❖ students without paid employment during the semester 	The groups are differentiated based on the extent of their regular paid employment during term time, not taking into account employment from time to time during the semester or paid jobs during the holidays.
Study conditions		
Field of study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ arts and humanities □ engineering, manufacturing & construction 	<p>This focus group categorises students based on their field of study (according to ISCED-F2013) as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • education (incl. teacher training) • arts and humanities • social sciences, journalism and information • business, administration and law • natural sciences, mathematics and statistics • information and communication technologies (ICTs) • agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary • health and welfare • services <p>EUROSTUDENT data can be differentiated by all fields of study, but not all fields will be used as focus groups in this report.</p>
Study intensity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊖ low intensity ⊕ high intensity 	<p>This indicator groups students according to their weekly workload in a typical week for study-related activities (taught courses and personal study time).</p> <p>Low intensity students spend between 0 and 20 hours a week on study-related activities.</p> <p>High intensity students spend more than 40 hours a week on study-related activities.</p>

Name of variable	Values	Further explanation
Study conditions		
Type of higher education institution (HEI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> university <input type="checkbox"/> non-university 	<p>Types of HEIs are characterised based on national legislation and understanding. If a distinction between types of HEIs exists within a country, institutions classified as universities are typically allowed to award doctoral degrees. Other types of HEIs may include, depending on national legislation, universities of applied sciences, polytechnics, professional HEIs, and similar institutions, which offer higher education programmes covered in the EUROSTUDENT standard target group. These are included in the EUROSTUDENT focus group non-university.</p>
Type of study programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bachelor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Master 	<p>Within the EUROSTUDENT standard target group, which covers all types of higher education study programmes, students currently enrolled in a Bachelor degree programme and students currently enrolled in a Master degree programme are two special focus groups often used throughout the report. All data are also available for short-cycle programmes, short national degrees, long national degrees, and are presented on occasion and are available in the online database.</p>
Study-related background		
Access route	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="radio"/> standard access route <input type="radio"/> alternative access route 	<p>This focus group categorises students based on their entry qualification into higher education. Students are classified as having used the standard access route if they possess an upper secondary qualification or equivalent obtained in direct relation to leaving school for the first time (e.g. Matura, Abitur, Baccalauréat), either in the country of survey or abroad. The alternative access route has been used by students who either do not possess such a qualification, or obtained it later in life, e.g. via evening classes or adult learning.</p>
Educational origin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> international students <input type="checkbox"/> domestic students 	<p>Educational origin of the student is determined based on the origin of the higher education entrance qualification or – in the absence of such a qualification – the place of leaving the school system for the first time.</p> <p>International students are studying in the country of the survey and have left the school system for the first time outside of the country of the survey. That means the status as international student is not related to place of birth, nationality, or citizenship.</p> <p>Domestic students hold a higher education entry qualification from the country of survey or have left the school system for the first time there.</p>
Transition route	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> direct transition <input type="checkbox"/> delayed transition 	<p>This focus group distinguishes between students according to the duration between leaving the school system for the first time and entering higher education.</p> <p>Direct transition students have a delay of no more than 24 months between leaving school and entering higher education.</p> <p>Delayed transition students have entered higher education for the first time more than 24 months after leaving the regular school system for the first time.</p>