

# 1. How many students participate in IVET?

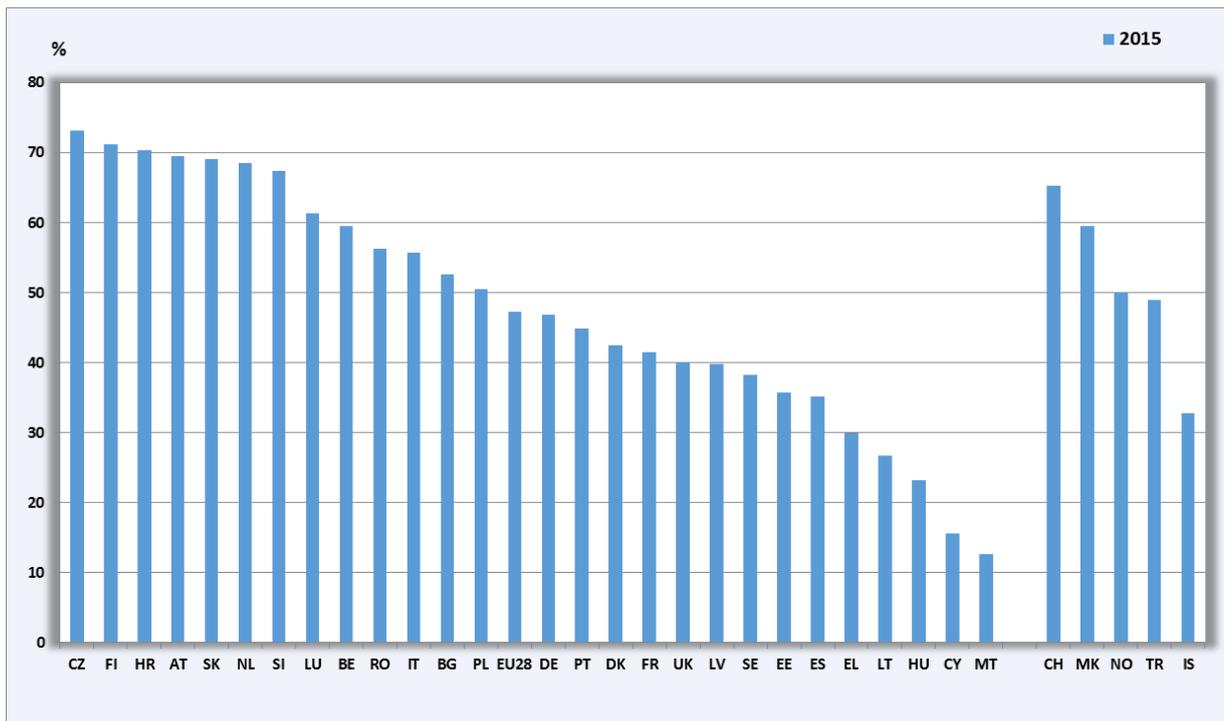
Indicator 1010: IVET students as a percentage of all upper secondary students

Cedefop skills forecasts confirm that upper secondary qualifications will remain in high demand in the labour market and a key aim of IVET policy in the EU is that it should be an attractive option. Participation in IVET contributes not only to raising education beyond lower secondary levels, but also to developing skills and professionals geared towards specific occupations in the labour market.

Participation levels in IVET provide a proxy measure of its attractiveness, even though they may not always reflect the parity of esteem with general education or the extent to which students did not enroll in IVET even though they wanted to. The indicator below refers to participation in IVET at upper secondary education level.

The indicator is defined as the percentage of all upper secondary students (ISCED 3) enrolled in the vocational stream of education (IVET). EU averages are estimated from available country data.

**Figure 1** IVET students as % of all upper secondary students



Source: Cedefop calculations based on Eurostat data/UOE data collection on education.

## Key points

In 2015, it was estimated that nearly half (47.3%) of all upper secondary students in the EU were enrolled in vocational programmes. The share of upper secondary students undertaking vocational programmes varies considerably between the EU Member States. In 2015, the Czech Republic had the highest share of upper secondary students in the VET stream at 73.2%.

Finland, Croatia, Austria, Slovakia, the Netherlands and Slovenia reported more than 65%. Malta (12.7%), Cyprus (15.6%), Hungary (23.2%), Lithuania (26.8%) and Greece (29.9%) had the lowest shares (all below 30% in 2015).

Data for non-EU countries indicate that VET programmes account for sizeable shares of upper secondary enrolments. In 2015, the percentages ranged from 32.8% in Iceland to 65.3% in Switzerland.

On average, in the EU, the share of IVET students dropped between 2013 and 2015 (down 1.7 percentage points). The largest percentage point change was in Sweden where it fell by 8.6 percentage points to 38.2%, dropping further below the EU average. The cases of Greece (at 29.9% in 2015 after a decrease by 3.8 percentage points), the United Kingdom (at 40.1% in 2015 after a decrease by 3.7 percentage points) and Hungary (at 23.2% in 2015 after a decrease by 3.3 percentage points) are similar. In Romania, the share decreased by 3.8 percentage points between 2013 and 2015 and in Italy it fell by 3.6 percentage points, but (at 56.3% and 55.8% in 2015) still remained above the EU average.

**Table 1 IVET students as % of all upper secondary students**

Country code	Country	2015		Recent change			
		Value	Flag	Range	Country	EU28	
EU28	European Union (28)	47.3	b	'13-'15	↘	-1.7	
BE	Belgium	59.6	b	'13-'15	↘	-0.7	↘ -1.7
BG	Bulgaria	52.6	b	'13-'15	↗	0.2	↘ -1.7
CZ	Czech Republic	73.2	b	'13-'15	↘	-0.5	↘ -1.7
DK	Denmark	42.5	b	'13-'15	↘	-0.8	↘ -1.7
DE	Germany	46.8	b	'13-'15	↘	-0.7	↘ -1.7
EE	Estonia	35.7	b	'13-'15	↗	1.3	↘ -1.7
IE	Ireland	0.0	b z	'14-'15	→	0.0	↘ -0.9
EL	Greece	29.9	b	'13-'15	↘	-3.8	↘ -1.7
ES	Spain	35.2	b	'13-'15	↗	1.7	↘ -1.7
FR	France	41.5	b	'13-'15	↘	-1.5	↘ -1.7
HR	Croatia	70.4	b	'13-'15	↘	-0.7	↘ -1.7
IT	Italy	55.8	b	'13-'15	↘	-3.6	↘ -1.7
CY	Cyprus	15.6	b	'13-'15	↗	2.0	↘ -1.7
LV	Latvia	39.8	b	'13-'15	↗	0.7	↘ -1.7
LT	Lithuania	26.8	b	'13-'15	↘	-0.8	↘ -1.7
LU	Luxembourg	61.4	b	'13-'15	↗	1.5	↘ -1.7
HU	Hungary	23.2	b	'13-'15	↘	-3.3	↘ -1.7
MT	Malta	12.7	b	'13-'15	↘	-0.1	↘ -1.7
NL	Netherlands	68.5	b				
AT	Austria	69.5	b	'13-'15	↘	-0.6	↘ -1.7
PL	Poland	50.5	b	'13-'15	↗	1.8	↘ -1.7
PT	Portugal	44.9	b	'13-'15	↘	-0.9	↘ -1.7
RO	Romania	56.3	b	'13-'15	↘	-3.8	↘ -1.7
SI	Slovenia	67.5	b	'13-'15	↗	1.6	↘ -1.7
SK	Slovakia	69.0	b	'13-'15	↗	0.9	↘ -1.7
FI	Finland	71.3	b	'13-'15	↗	1.1	↘ -1.7
SE	Sweden	38.2	b	'13-'15	↘	-8.6	↘ -1.7
UK	United Kingdom	40.1	b	'13-'15	↘	-3.7	↘ -1.7
MK	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	59.5	b	'13-'15	↘	-0.3	↘ -1.7
IS	Iceland	32.8	b	'13-'15	↗	1.3	↘ -1.7
NO	Norway	50.1	b	'13-'15	↘	-1.7	↘ -1.7
CH	Switzerland	65.3	b	'13-'15	↘	-0.6	↘ -1.7
TR	Turkey	49.0	b	'13-'15	↗	3.6	↘ -1.7

Arrows ↗ or ↘ signal a positive or negative change. Arrow → indicates: no change.

The UOE back reconstruction of the 2010 values based on ISCED 2011 is not yet available.

The EU28 values are based on 28 countries, with partial information for NL.

(b) Break after 2010. Therefore baseline data not included. (z) Eurostat: "not applicable".

Source: Cedefop calculations based on Eurostat data/UOE data collection on education.

Please cite this document as: Cedefop (2018). 1. How many students participate in IVET? Indicator 1010: IVET students as a percentage of all upper secondary students, (2017 update) In: Cedefop. *Statistics and indicators: Statistics and graphs*. <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/statistics-and-indicators/statistics-and-graphs/01-how-many-students>