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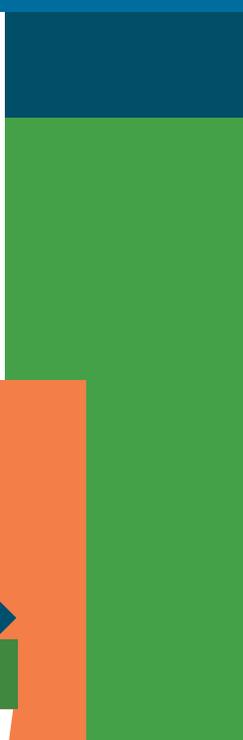
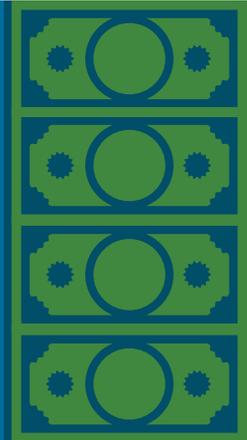
Institute for Statistics

WHEC
2022

UNESCO
World Higher
Education
Conference

Higher education figures at a glance

The UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) is the official and trusted source of internationally-comparable data on education, science, culture and communication. It develops, produces and analyses cross-nationally comparable data in UNESCO's fields of competence so that countries can benchmark their progress towards their development goals.

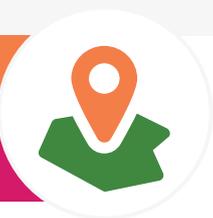
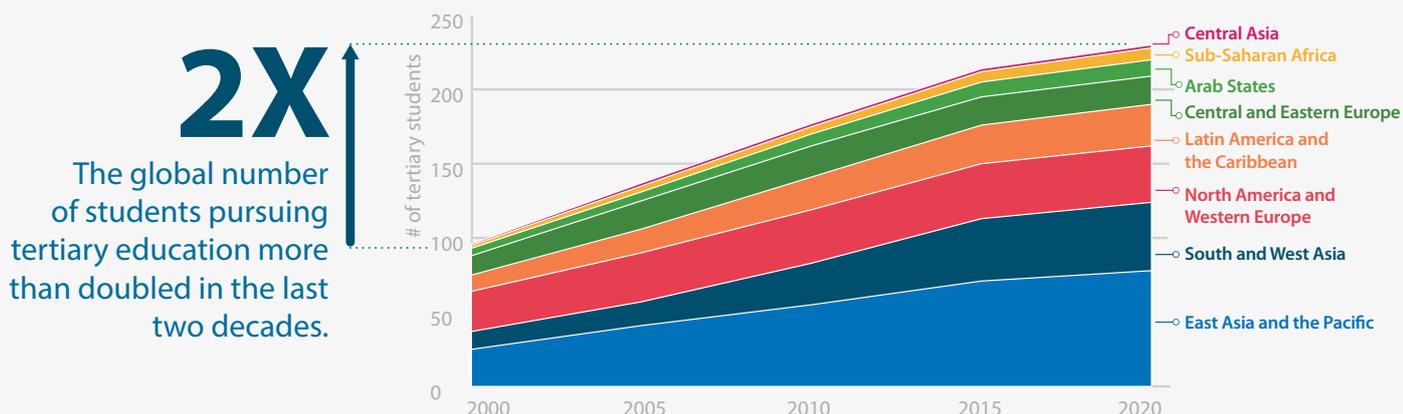


Setting the scene of tertiary education



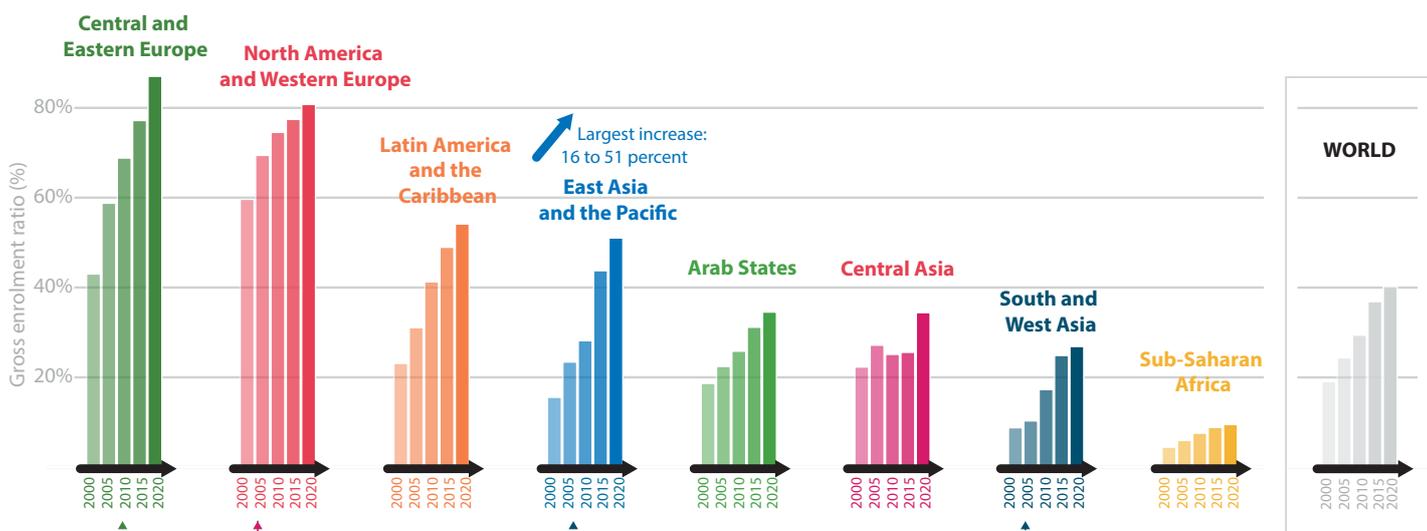
—global trend

Number of tertiary students by region, both sexes 2000–2020 (Million)



—regional perspective

Gross enrolment ratio (GER) in tertiary education by region, 2000–2020



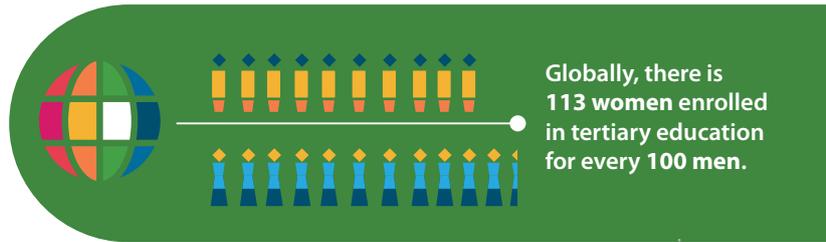
Central and Eastern Europe have surpassed **North America and Western Europe**, the region with historically the highest participation ratio. With GER of 87% and 81% respectively, these two regions remain the global leaders despite considerable progress in other regions.

The largest expansion took place in **South and West Asia** and **East Asia and the Pacific** where the numbers of students grew by more than 200% and 280% respectively.

Measured by Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), global participation in tertiary education doubled from 19% to 40% between 2000 and 2020.

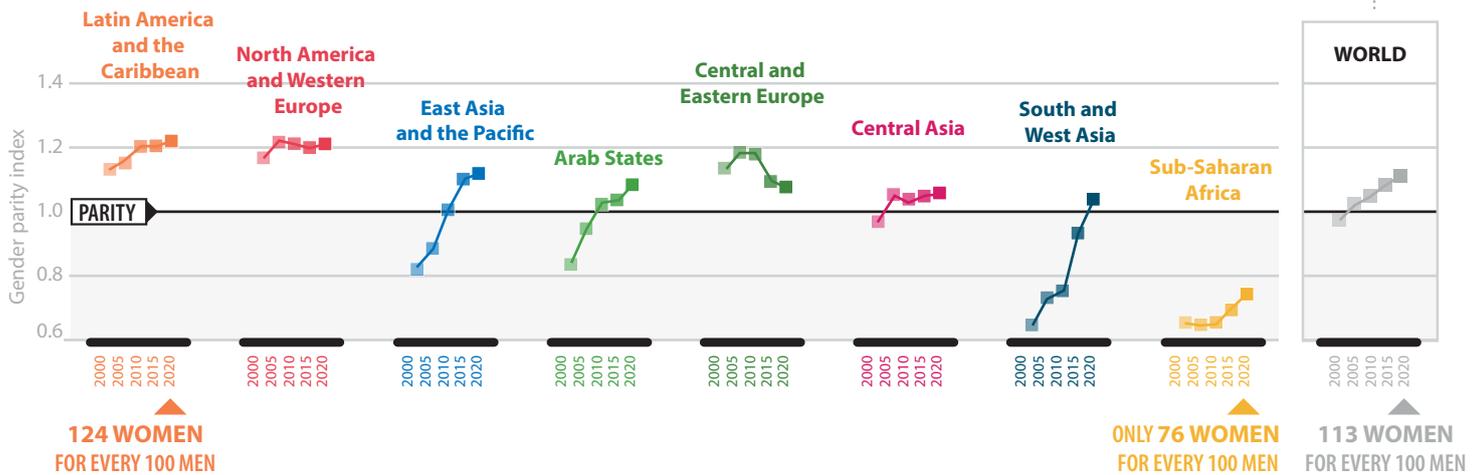
Gender parity in tertiary education

The rapid expansion of tertiary education has also been fuelled by the increasing participation of women.



Global trend in gender parity in tertiary education

According to the global average, tertiary enrolment ratios of men and women reached parity around the year 2000 but since then, the average global participation of females has been exceeding that of males.

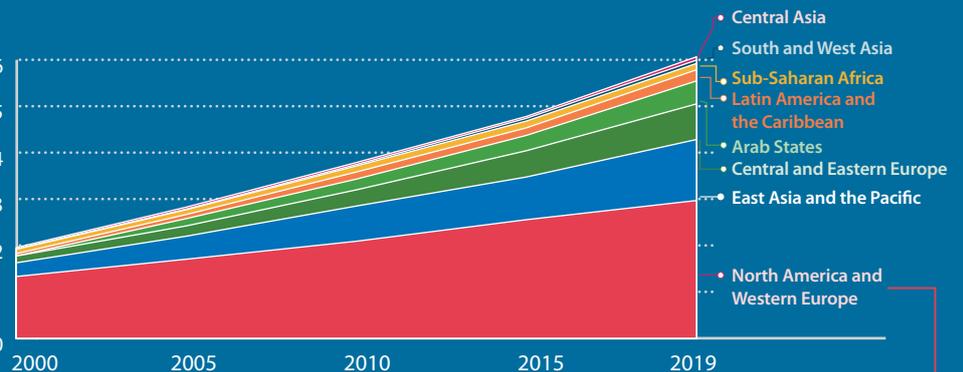


International Student mobility

International mobile students by host region, 2000–2019 (Million)

3X

The number of students who pursue their tertiary education outside their home country almost tripled during the last two decades.



In 2019, there were more than **6 million tertiary international mobile students** around the world. This is almost 3% of the total number of tertiary students.

Top 5 of countries with students abroad



ALMOST

1/2

of the world's international mobile students were hosted in countries in North America and Western Europe in 2019.

Global Flow of Tertiary-Level International Mobile Students:
Top 5 countries of origin (inbound) and top 5 countries of
destination (outbound), 2019.

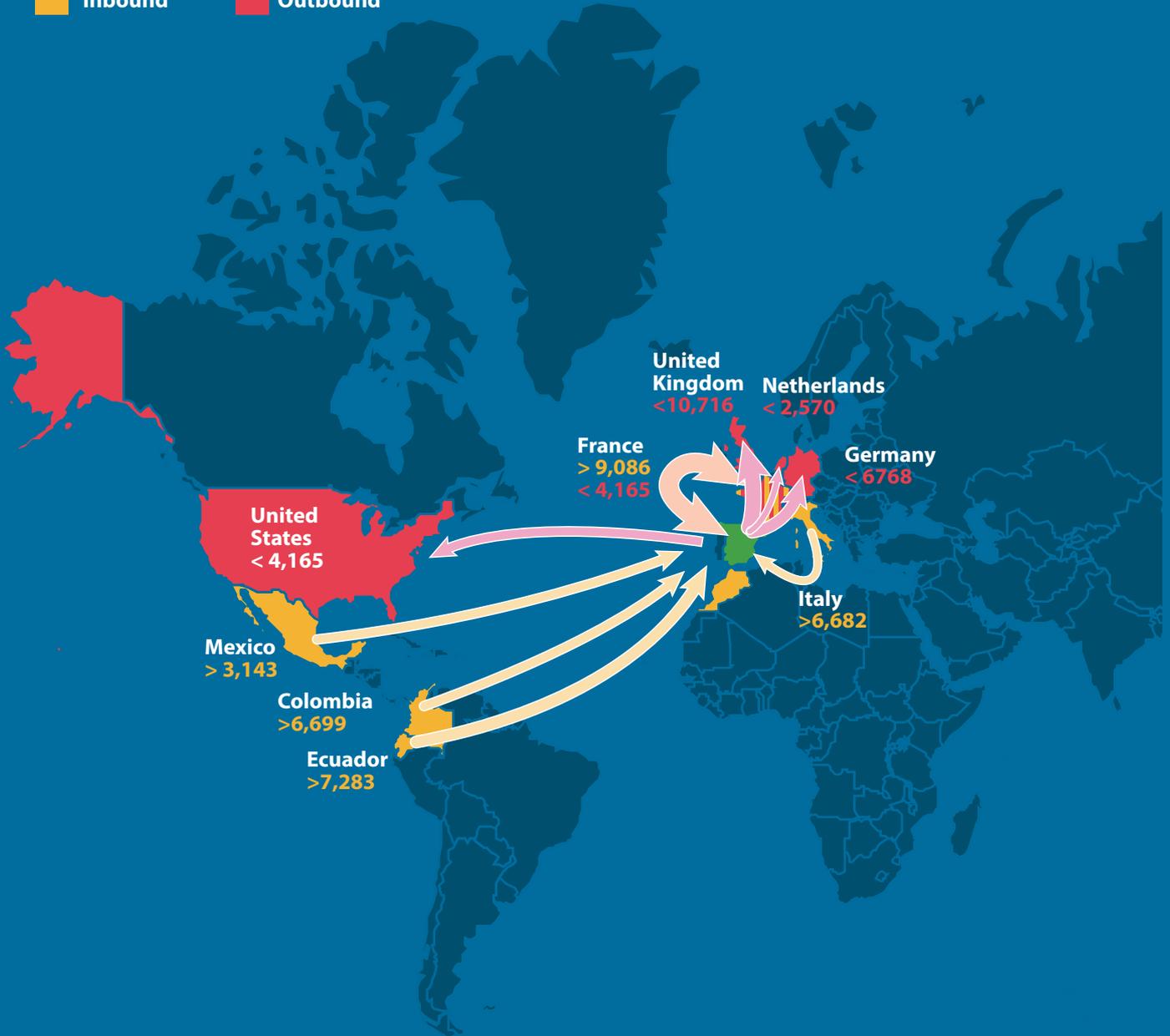


Example: Spain

Scan to view a
different country



■ Inbound ■ Outbound



Number of international
mobile students Spain hosted:

77,062

Number of international
mobile students from Spain:

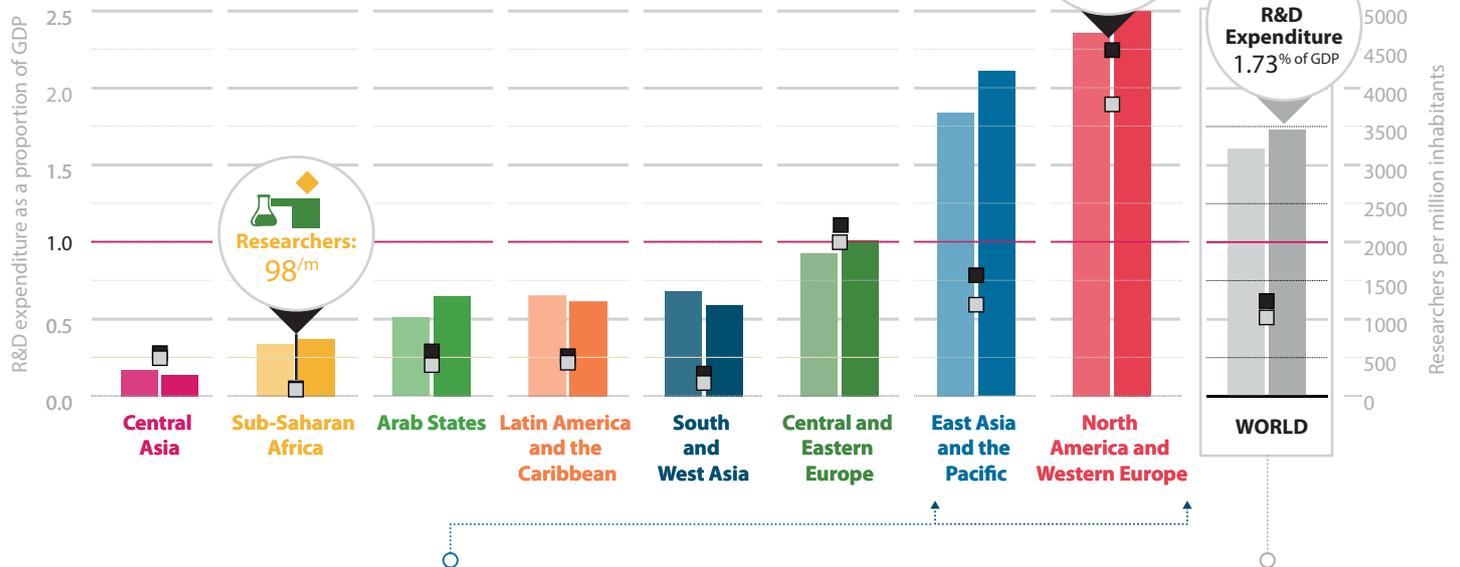
39,668



Regional trends on Research and development (R&D) expenditure as a proportion of GDP, and Researchers per million inhabitants (2010–2018)

Expenditure: 2010 2018 Researchers: 2018 2010

Most of the developing regions fall short of the world average, even spending less than 1% of GDP on R&D.



North America and Western Europe, as well as **East Asia and the Pacific**, spend the highest percentage of GDP on R&D (2.50% and 2.11% respectively in 2018).



The global investment in R&D continues to grow, with the increase in the proportion of global GDP invested in R&D rising from 1.61% in 2010 to 1.73% in 2018.

The number of **researchers per million inhabitants** has increased from 1,022 in 2010 to 1,235 in 2018.

Notes: For Researchers, the data presented are based on full-time equivalents (FTE).

All data in this flyer are collected, processed and disseminated by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics. Education data refer to UIS data release of September 2021 whereas the data on Research and Development refer to the release of March 2021.

This brochure uses past trend data from 2020 or earlier and therefore does not reflect the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the tertiary education system.

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For more details, please visit our data center at <http://data.uis.unesco.org/>



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