

Metadata for Other Policy Relevant Indicators

Inbound mobility rate

Definition

Number of students from abroad studying in a given country, expressed as a percentage of total tertiary enrolment in that country.

Purpose

To measure the mobility of students across countries for academic reasons.

Calculation method

Number of internationally mobile students enrolled in all levels of tertiary education (ISCED 5 to ISCED 8) in a given country, in a given academic year, expressed as percentage of the total tertiary enrolment in the same academic year.

$$IMR_{5t8,t} = \frac{E_{5t8\ foreign,t}}{E_{5t8,t}}$$

where:

$IMR_{5t8,t}$ = Inbound mobility rate in tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8) in academic year t

$E_{5t8\ foreign,t}$ = Number of inbound internationally mobile students enrolled in tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8) in a given country, in academic year t

$E_{5t8,t}$ = Total enrolment in tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8) in the specific country, in academic year t

Interpretation

A high percentage of inbound mobility rate indicates a high degree of participation of students from abroad, and a strong capacity of the host country's education system to attract international mobile students.

Type of data source

Administrative registries, including national (Higher) Education Management Information Systems; and surveys.

Disaggregation

By sex and ISCED level.

Data required

Enrolment in tertiary institutions by country of origin.

Data sources

UIS survey of formal education and the joint UNESCO-OECD-EUROSTAT (UOE) survey.

Quality assurance

Inbound mobility rate should be based on enrolment at all levels of tertiary education and types of institutions, covering ISCED levels 5 to 8 in all public and private institutions.

The UIS sets standards, develops questionnaires and quality control protocols for country data reporting, and maintains the global database on the structure of education and enrolment data in tertiary education by students' country of origin and sex.

Limitations and comments

A number of considerations may affect the accuracy of the indicator. For example, inbound mobility rate may not properly capture mobile students enrolled in foreign

university campuses operating in the reporting country. Furthermore, the criteria used to define mobile students may vary from one country to another, which may affect the cross-country comparability of this indicator.