

## Metadata for Other Policy Relevant Indicators

### Outbound mobility ratio

#### Definition

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

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

where:

$OMR_{5t8,t}$  = Outbound mobility ratio in tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8), in academic year  $t$

$E_{5t8 \text{ foreign},t}$  = Number of internationally outbound mobile students from a given country enrolled in tertiary education abroad in academic year  $t$

$E_{5t8,t}$  = Total enrolment in tertiary education in the specific country, in academic year  $t$

### **Interpretation**

A high outbound mobility ratio indicates a high outflow of students from the specific country for study purposes, which may reflect a low retention capacity of students by the national tertiary education system.

### **Type of data source**

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

### **Disaggregation**

By sex, ISCED level, region or continent of destination.

### **Data required**

Enrolment in tertiary institutions of national students studying abroad, total enrolment in tertiary education.

### **Data sources**

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

### **Quality assurance**

Outbound mobility ratio should be based on enrolment in all levels of tertiary education (ISCED levels 5 to 8) and types of institutions (public and private).

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 comprehensive enumeration of outbound mobile students may be challenging task if there is no systemic mechanism to track outbound students by country of destination, or if

the host countries (universities abroad) do not report data on the international students by country of origin.

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.