



EMN Study 2012: Immigration of International Students – Preliminary findings

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Aim of the Study



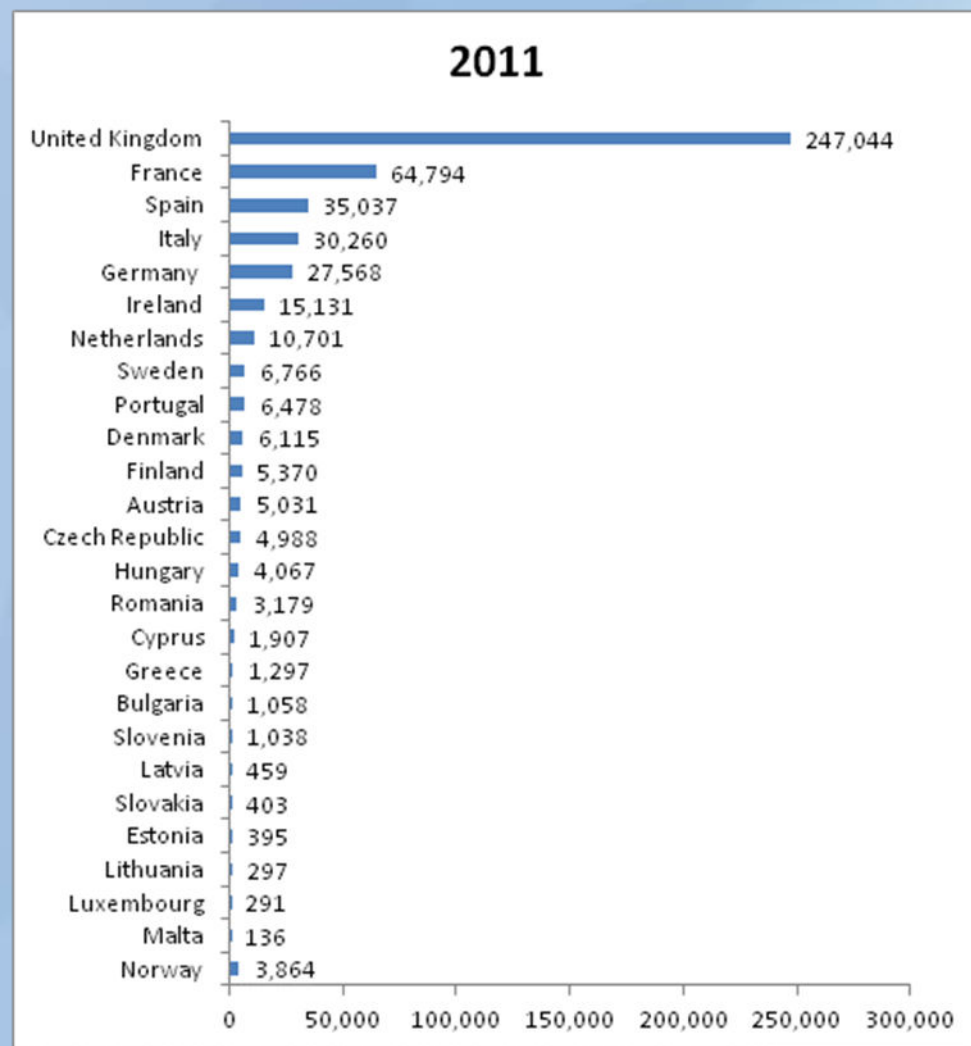
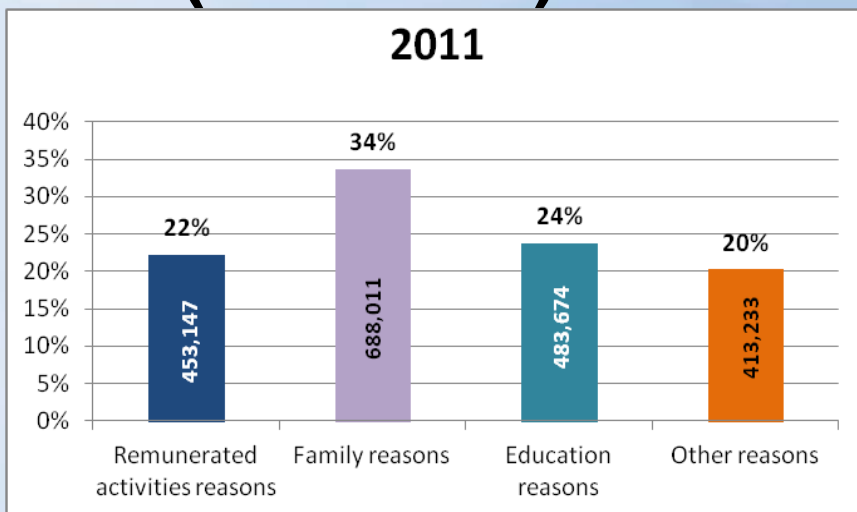
- ✳ Overview of immigration policies implemented by (Member) States for international students, to:
 - ✓ assist policymakers and practitioners to achieve a balance between actively attracting international students into the EU; and
 - ✓ prevent the misuse of international student routes.
- ✳ Extent to which policies and practice impact on the uptake of opportunities to study in the EU;
- ✳ Examine the impact of Directive 2004/114/EC (Student Directive) and other relevant EU policy/legislation.

EU policy background

- ✧ Directive 2004/114/EC sets harmonised conditions for Member State with regard to the admission of third-country nationals for the purposes of studies, pupil exchange, unremunerated training or voluntary service;
- ✧ It is part of a wider EU migration policy, which also includes legislative instruments concerning the entry of, for example, Researchers, Highly skilled, Seasonal workers and Inter-corporate transferees, as well as on family reunification and long-term residency of third-country nationals;
- ✧ The conformity assessment of the Student Directive brought to the light several transposition issues in the Member States (e.g. limited scope / harmonisation);
- ✧ The Commission is currently preparing a proposal for the amendment of Directive 2004/114/EC.

Statistical overview

First permits by reason; First permits by (Member) State for education reasons



No data for Poland and Belgium

National policies and practices

- ✧ Policies and strategies focus on facilitating access to education and promoting (Member) State as an attractive destination for study;
- ✧ Policies combine different purposes:
 - ✓ Improving closer relations with third countries, including improvement of international trade;
 - ✓ Increase revenue at national level;
 - ✓ Improve enterprise;
 - ✓ Satisfying labour market needs.
- ✧ Policies focus strategically on attracting international students from particular countries, e.g. Brazil, India, China.
- ✧ Targets have been set relating to the number of international students entering some (Member) States.

Issuance of visas and residence permits

- ✖✖ Some (Member) States facilitate entry with different visas issued, depending on study purpose and length of study;
- ✖✖ Sponsorship schemes are used in some instances to facilitate the visa procedure;
- ✖✖ Fast-tracking of applications occurs;
- ✖✖ Barriers exist in some (Member) States in the issuing process, which can restrict access, e.g. Obligation to submit application in country of origin;
- ✖✖ EMN Study on Visa Policy as Migration Channel explores in depth visa policy of the (Member) States.

Family Members



- ✖ Some (Member) States allow family members to accompany international students, though conditions vary.
- ✖ Different limitations are placed on family members relating to subsistence, housing, education.
- ✖ In a few (Member) States, the rights of family members are more restricted than other migrants, e.g. access to labour market, social security

International cooperation

- ✳ Bilateral and multilateral agreements which have a focus on attracting international students from:
 - China
 - India
 - USA
 - Russian Federation
 - Ukraine
 - Israel
 - Brazil
 - Turkey
- ✳ Purpose of the agreements vary and include strategic cooperation, management of migration flows, facilitation of information sharing.
- ✳ Few (Member) States make specific concessions for international students taking part in EU programmes promoting mobility.

Access to Labour Market

- ✧ All (Member) States examined to date allow international students to work during studies though they can be subject to the following:
 - ✓ Limitations on the number of hours;
 - ✓ Obligation to have a work permit or another form of additional authorisation to work.
- ✧ Most common sectors: Hospitality, including bar and restaurant services; Health & social services; Household services; Finance & Administration.
- ✧ After study, a few (Member) States permit stay for employment or to look for a job, though conditions differ.

Economic impacts (identified so far)

- ✧ In some (Member) States, many students enter the labour market following completion of studies:
 - ✓ In **Finland**, 73% of international students in 2007 who remained found work
 - ✓ In **United Kingdom**, 17% remained for work in 2008
- ✧ The economic impact of students varies:
 - ✓ Economic benefits can be measured in (Member) States with a high international student population;
 - ✓ Revenue by international students is considered to be low in some (Member) States, due to the other associated costs of education.

Misuse of the Student Route

✘ Main forms of misuse identified were:

- ✓ Overstaying
- ✓ Working outside the terms of their permission
- ✓ Use of forged qualifications/documentation as part of the application process
- ✓ Limited or no progression in their studies

✘ Most prominent nationalities: China, India, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Cameroon.

✘ Practical measures undertaken to detect and/or prevent misuse include:

- ✓ Checking qualifications;
- ✓ Obligation to take tests to ensure qualifications are genuine;
- ✓ Checking documents, e.g. fraudulent bank statements;
- ✓ Licensing and/or inspection regimes for both higher and further education institutions.



Thank you!

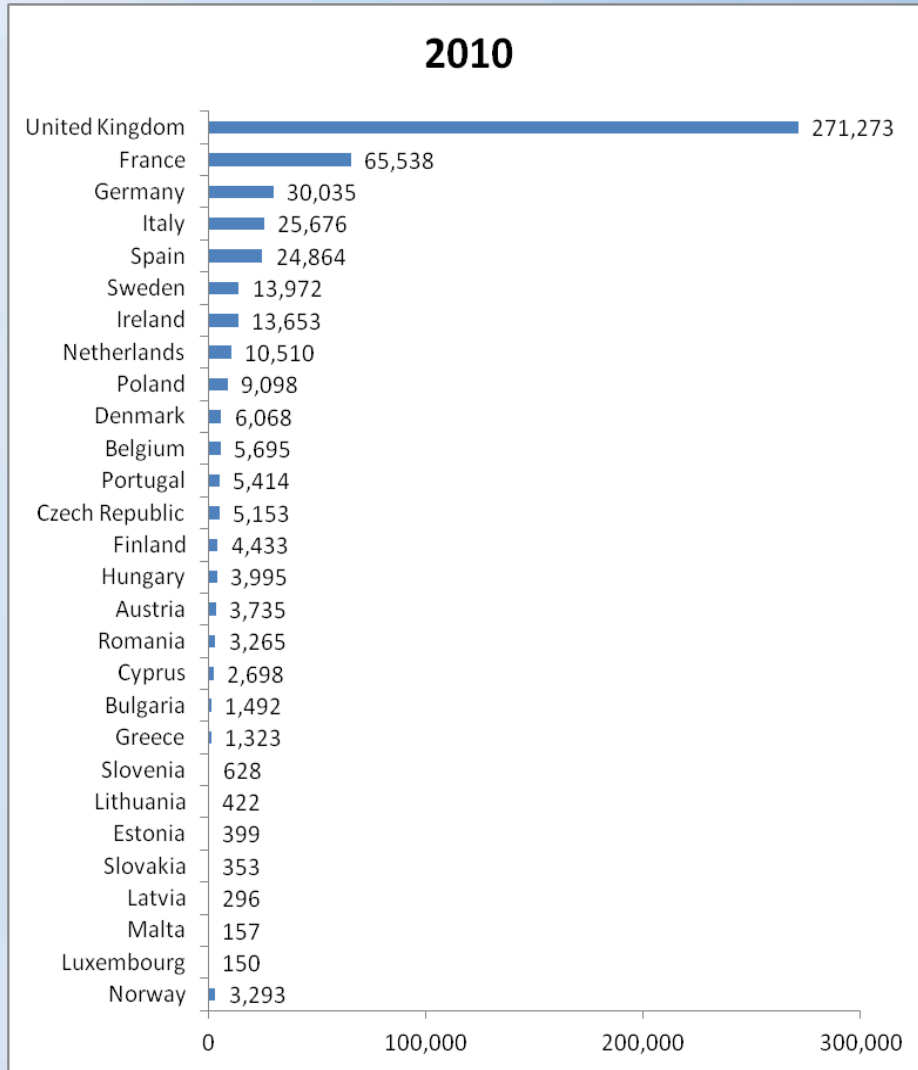
Reports available from EMN Website:

www.emn.europa.eu

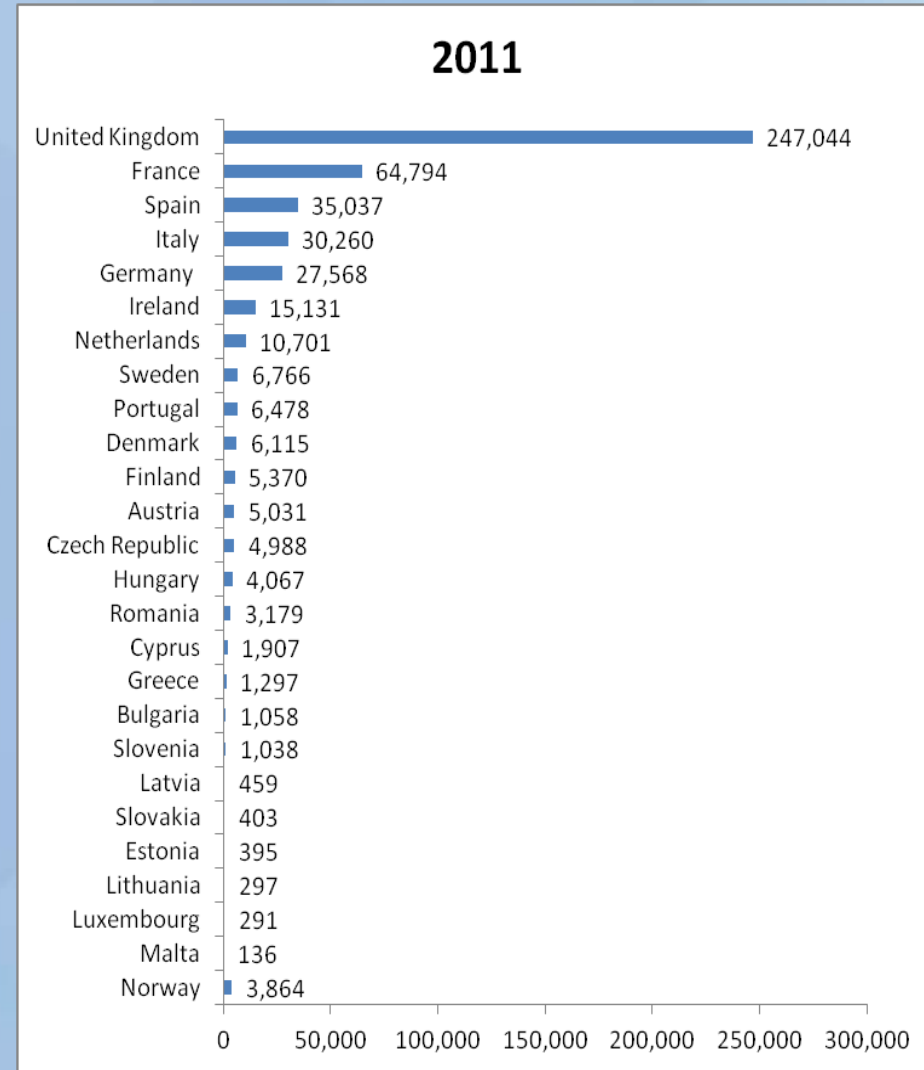
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Statistical overview

First permits issued for education



Source: Eurostat



No data for Belgium and Poland