



***EMN Study 2012:
Immigration of International Students
– Preliminary findings***

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Petra van Nierop

EMN Service Provider (ICF GHK-COWI, emn@ghkint.com)



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.

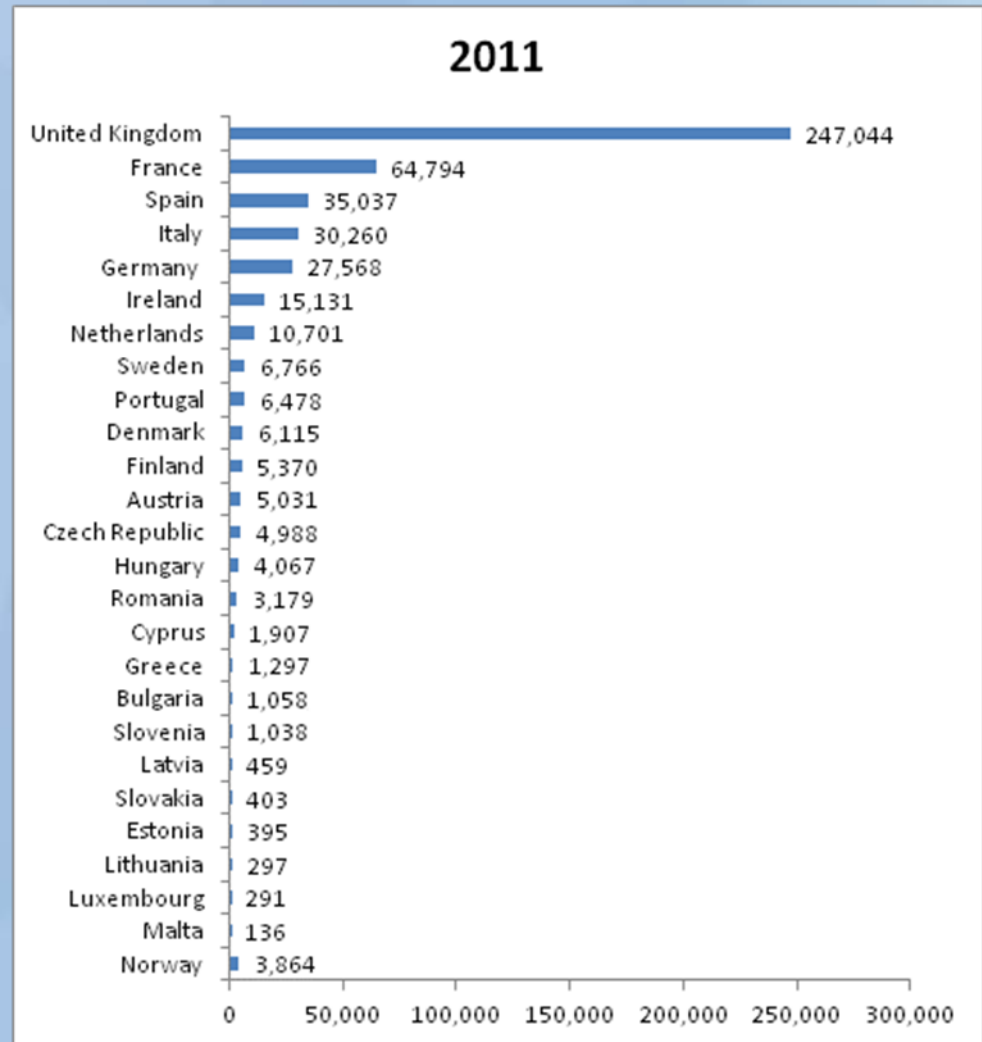
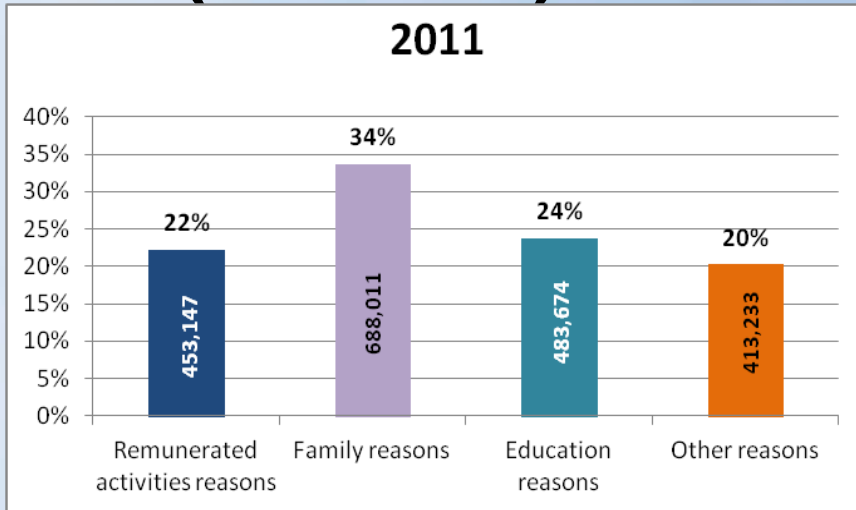
EU policy background



- ✘ 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:

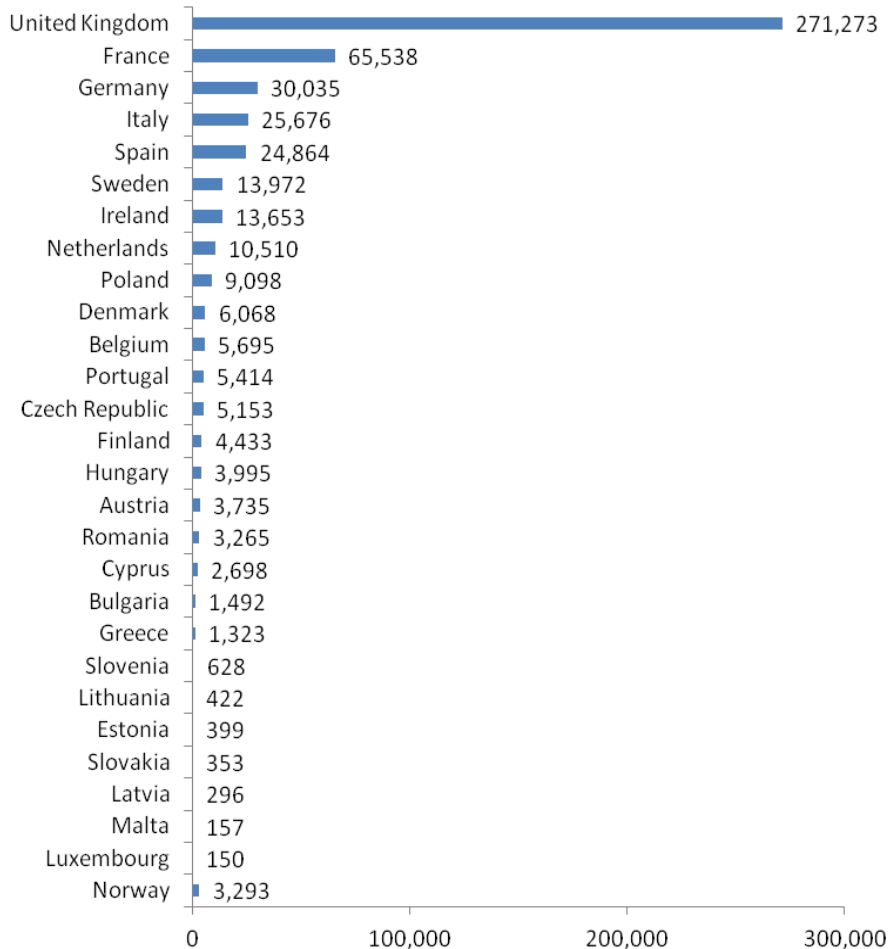
www.emn.europa.eu

Contact: HOME-EMN@ec.europa.eu

Statistical overview

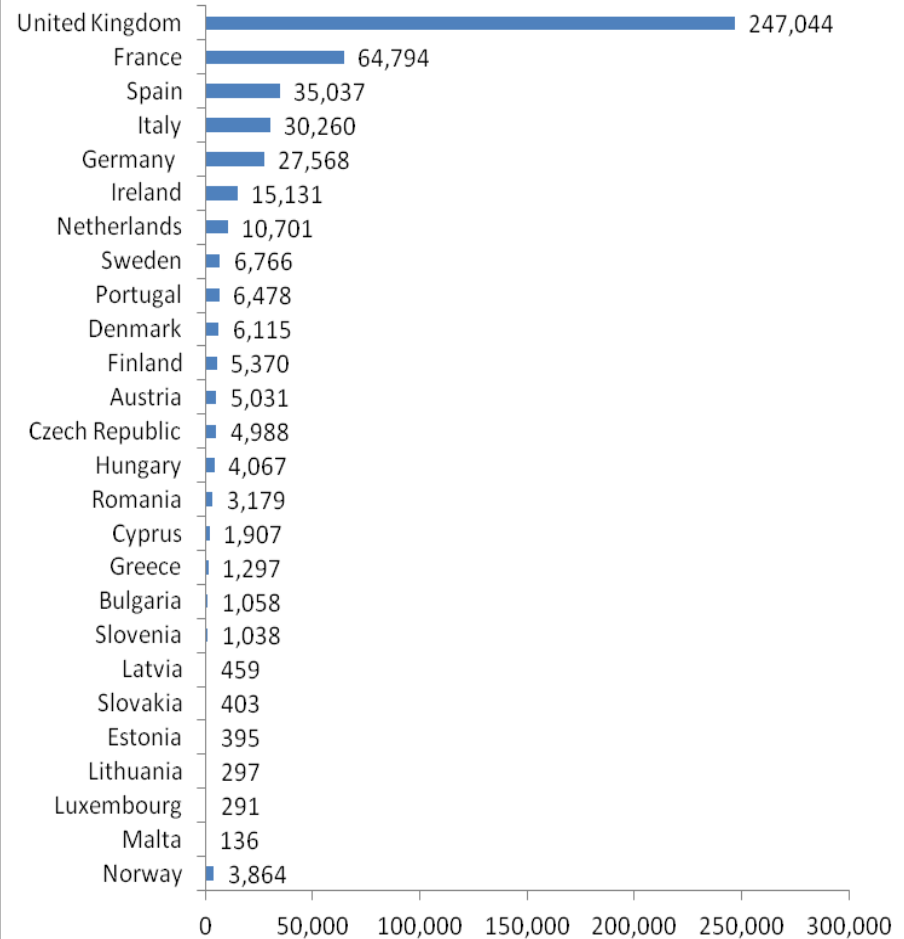
First permits issued for education

2010



Source: Eurostat

2011



No data for Belgium and Poland