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English-Taught Programmes in Europe.

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English-Taught Programmes in Europe.
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Background

Two ACA predecessor studies (2002, 2008). Like the present one, mapping exercises of English-taught programmes (ETPs)

- 2002: 19 European countries, almost 1,600 HEIs;
- 2008: 27 European countries, about 2,200 HEIs
- 2014: 28 European countries, about 2,600 HEIs

Main results

- A quantitatively important phenomenon, with a flattening growth curve, and modest enrolment
- Concentrated in the Netherlands, the Nordic and Baltic countries and Switzerland, and at large, multidisciplinary university-type institutions
- Almost no provision in southern and modest provision in east-central Europe (Alps remain ETP watershed)

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Methodology

- A project of ACA, GES (Kassel) and StudyPortals (Eindhoven), funded by the LLP of the European Union
- Geographical coverage: 28 countries (EU-28 minus UK, IRL, Malta and LUX; EFTA minus LIE; and Turkey)
- Institutional eligibility: right to participate in Erasmus (« charter »); ETP definition: 100% taught in English, at Bachelor and Master level (no sub-Bachelor, no PhD programmes)
- Two main questionnaire-based surveys:
  - ✓ Institutional survey (to identify ETPs), about 2,600 HEIs
  - ✓ Programme survey (to collect information and data on each ETP), around 8,000 ETPs. Use of StudyPortal database.
- Carried out mainly in 2014.

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Basic data

- Total sample institutional survey: 2,637 HEIs
- Response rate institutional survey: 1,155 HEIs (= 43.8%)
- Number of ETPs identified by institutional survey plus StudyPortals database: 8,089 HEIs
- Response rate programme survey: 1,154 (=16.2%)
- Statistical analysis at programme level problematic

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The leaders in absolute numbers

Country	Number of programmes 2014	Number of programmes 2008
The Netherlands	1,078	509
Germany	1,030	214
Sweden	822	123
France	499	79
Denmark	494	96
Turkey	459	94
Estonia	417	18
Poland	405	90
Finland	395	208

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The leaders in relative terms (1)

Country	ETPs of all programmes (2014)	ETPs of all programmes (2008)
All 28	5.7	0.7
Denmark	38	7.4
The Netherlands	29.9	17
Cyprus	25.5	2.5
Sweden	24.2	4.1
Finland	23.2	13.9
HR	1.2	No data available

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The leaders in relative terms (2)

Country	Enrolment in ETPs as a share of total enrolment in % (2014)	Enrolment in ETPs as a share of total enrolment in % (2008)
All 28	1.3	0.7
Denmark	12.4	3.0
The Netherlands	7.2	5.3
Cyprus	6.6	25.9
Sweden	4.4	0.8
Finland	2.9	2.7
HR, GR, BG	0.1	No data available

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Top 12 countries by multi-criteria

Country	Rank / mean value 2014	Rank / mean value 2008	Rank / mean value 2002
Netherlands	1 / 2.3	1 / 2.0	2 / 3.0
Denmark	2 / 3.0	6 / 7.7	4 / 6.3
Sweden	3 / 3.3	4 / 6.7	9 / 8.0
Finland	4 / 3.7	2 / 2.3	1 / 2.0
Cyprus	5 / 4.7	3 / 3.3	No data
Switzerland	6 / 7.0	5 / 7.3	12 / 8.0
Lithuania	7 / 8.3	9 / 10.7	No data
Latvia	8 /9.7	15 / 13.3	No data
Austria	9 / 10.0	16 / 13.7	16 / 14.3
Norway	9 / 10.0	6 / 7.7	7 / 7.3
Iceland	11 / 11.7	23 / 23.3	4 / 6.3
Estonia	12 / 12.7	25 / 24.7	No data

Quantitative importance of ETPs (1)

- **Tremendous growth in ETP numbers**: from slightly over 700 (2002) to nearly 2,400 in 2008 to almost 8,100 in 2014
- Likely artificial effect of increase from 19 countries (2002) to 28 (2014) and inclusion of the programmes listed in StudyPortals database.
- If attributing half the growth to these survey methodology changes, we would still have growth of 500% since 2002.
- **Growth rates** in the past 12 years **peaked in 2009 / 2010**: ETP numbers still rise, but more slowly.
- There remains a **north-south divide**, as in our earlier studies, with **the south (both south-east and south-west) 'abstentious'** (exception: Cyprus).

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Quantitative importance of ETPs (2)

- Countries earlier leading still in top group, though changes in individual ranks
- The Netherlands twice no. 1 (2008; 2014) and once no. 2.
- Noteworthy: ‘ETP power houses’ are The Netherlands, the Nordic and **Baltic countries** and Switzerland, all of which are in the top 12 in 2014.
- Central-eastern Europe, with rare exceptions, in middle group.
- Germany, in relative terms, with lukewarm performance. France even weaker.

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Main trends (1)

Level of study

- ETPs = graduate-level phenomenon: about 80 % of ETPs are Master programmes (unchanged from 2008; lower in 2002: 68%).
- Masters-level dominance strongest in BE, DE, SE and CH (over 90%), and weakest in Turkey (as already in 2008).

Subject areas

- top subject cluster: social sciences, business and law (36%), sciences (23%), and Engineering, manufacturing and construction (18%). Social sciences thus regained their leading position, which they had lost in the 2008 study to Engineering.
- Likely distortion through ISCED 2011 classification changes.

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Main trends (2)

Age of ETPs

- Peak of ETP introduction in the years 2009 and 2010 (21% of all).
- 51% in the years since 2009 (49% until 2008).

Enrolment (warning: weak data)

- 44% of enrolment domestic (35% in 2008). Trend towards stronger domestic enrolment?
- Foreign enrolment in Masters higher than Bachelor.
- 17% of all students enrolled are from another EU/EEA state; 6% are from elsewhere in Europe.
- Asians make up 14% of ETP enrolment (4 %age points from China and India each); all other continents/world region provide 5% or less
- Sadly, still no enrolment from Martians and from inhabitants of outer space.

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Main trends (3)

Babel?

- According to both programme and institutional coordinators, language-related problems are small and have further decreased over time.
- Of institutional and programme directors
  - ✓ 11% and 3% found that domestic students had deficiencies in English;
  - ✓ 18% and 8% found that foreign students had deficiencies in English;
  - ✓ 34% and 7% found that foreign students had serious problems with host country language (consistently biggest problem in all 3 surveys);

Thanks for your kind attention.

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