

~ Methodology ~

HIGHER EDUCATION STATISTICS

LEGAL BASIS

The statistical activity of higher education is conducted pursuant to the Law on Statistics of Republika Srpska ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", No 85/03) and in accordance with the Statistical Programme of Republika Srpska for the period 2026-2029 and the current Work Plan of the Republika Srpska Institute of Statistics.

CLASSIFICATIONS APPLIED

Statistical data on higher education are produced in accordance with the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED-2011) and the International Standard Classification of Education – Fields of Education and Training (ISCED F-2013). These classifications ensure comparability of data both within countries and internationally.

METHODOLOGICAL BASIS

Aim and content

The aim of this statistical activity is to produce annual data on enrolled and graduated students of the first, second and third cycles of studies, as well as data on teachers and assistants at higher education institutions.

Reporting units/ Observation units

The data on students, teachers and assistants are submitted by all higher education institutions – universities and their member institutions (faculties and academies) and schools of higher education.

Coverage

Annual surveys on enrolled students cover all students enrolled in all three study cycles in the observed academic year at all public and private higher education institutions in Republika Srpska.

Annual survey on students who graduated/completed academic or vocational studies covers students who completed the first cycle of studies in the calendar year at all higher education institutions in Republika Srpska.

Annual surveys on specialists, masters of science, masters and doctors of science cover students who have completed postgraduate studies, that is, studies of the second or third cycle, at all higher education institutions in Republika Srpska.

Annual survey on academic staff includes all teachers and assistants in the educational process, employed based on employment contracts or hired based on all other contracts. The data on teachers and assistants are collected according to the academic title, duration of working hours, teaching time, age and sex.

Method and period of data collection

The data on students are collected using the following statistical questionnaires:

- 1) Aggregate enrollment report – web application,
- 2) Student application form,
- 3) Statistical sheet for students who graduated/completed academic or vocational studies at higher education institutions,
- 4) Control sheet for students enrolled in master and specialist studies - web application,
- 5) Application form for enrollment in master/specialist studies,
- 6) Statistical sheet for students who completed master/master of science or specialist studies,
- 7) Control sheet for students enrolled in doctoral studies – web application,
- 8) Application form for enrollment in doctoral studies, and
- 9) Statistical sheet for doctors of science.

The aggregate enrollment report for all three study cycles is completed by higher education institutions via a web application. Individual enrollment reports are filled in by students when enrolling in the observed academic year. Statistical sheets for students who have completed their studies are filled in by students upon completion of their studies.

The data on academic staff at higher education institutions are collected through the summary report on academic staff at higher education institutions, as on 15 November. The data are collected through a web application.

The higher education surveys are conducted annually.

Protection of confidential data

Confidential data are protected pursuant to Articles 25 and 27 of the Law on Statistics of Republika Srpska ("Official Gazette of Republika Srpska, No 85/03) and in accordance with the Rules of protection of confidential data.

Definitions

Higher education is education that follows secondary education, and it leads to an internationally recognised level of higher education.

According to the law, higher education is organised in three cycles, as follows:

- a) First cycle studies last three or four years of study and are valued with at least 180, that is, 240 credits, in accordance with the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)
- b) Second cycle studies are organised upon completion of the first cycle of studies, these last one or two years, and they are valued with 60 or 120 ECTS credits, thus reaching 300 ECTS credits together with the first cycle;

An exception is integrated studies that are organised as a single study programme that includes the first and second cycles of studies and is valued with at least 300 ECTS credits, or with at least 360 ECTS credits for integrated studies in medicine and dentistry.

- c) Third cycle studies are organised upon completion of the second cycle of academic studies, or upon completion of integrated studies; these last three years, and they are valued with at least 180 ECTS credits.

Upon completion of the first, second, integrated or third cycle studies, one acquires a professional, academic, scientific or artistic title in a specific field, depending on the type and level of the completed study programme.

Higher education institutions are universities and higher education schools, and these may be public and private.

Higher education school is a higher education institution that combines educational work, scientific research, and professional and artistic work, as well as projects of importance for the business community, as components of the process of higher education. A higher education school implements at least three study programmes from at least one field of education and organizes professional and/or academic studies of the first cycle.

University is a higher education institution that combines educational work, scientific research, and professional and artistic work, as well as projects of importance for the business community, as three components of the process of higher education. A university implements at least ten different academic study programmes from at least four fields of education and organises academic studies in all three cycles. A university may also organise vocational studies of the first and second cycles. Member institutions of a university may be faculties, art academies and scientific research institutes. Member institutions do not have the status of a legal entity.

Higher education institutions perform higher education activities at their headquarters or outside the headquarters with the approval of the Ministry of Scientific and Technological Development and Higher Education.

Enrolled student is any person enrolled at a higher education institution.

A student who graduated/completed academic or vocational studies is a person who has completed the first cycle of studies and obtained a professional or academic title in the relevant field.

Master of science is a person who has completed postgraduate studies and defended the master's thesis.

Master is a person who has completed an academic study of the second cycle, lasting a year or two, valued at 60 ECTS points or 120 ECTS points; the total of points of the first and of the second cycle of studies equals 300 ECTS points.

Specialist is a person who has completed postgraduate studies and defended the specialist's thesis.

Doctor of science is a person who has defended doctoral dissertation

Compliance with international recommendations and standards

The data partly comply with international recommendations and standards.

IMPLEMENTATION ORGANISATION

Authorities implementing the statistical survey

The Republika Srpska Institute of Statistics is the responsible authority for the production of data on students. The collection of data is carried out at the regional offices of the Republika Srpska Institute of Statistics, while the data entry and processing are carried out at the Institute.

Obligation to provide data

Reporting units must submit data to the Republika Srpska Institute of Statistics in accordance with the Law on Statistics of Republika Srpska.

IMPLEMENTATION FREQUENCY

Reporting units must submit data on students enrolled in the first cycle of studies to the Republika Srpska Institute of Statistics 15 days after the end of regular and subsequent enrollment; the data for the second and third cycle are submitted by 15 January.

Data on graduated students must be submitted by the 5th of the month for the previous month. Preliminary data are published on 15 April and final data on 15 August.

INSTRUMENTS

Questionnaire

Questionnaires available at the Institute's website are used for the implementation of activities in the field of higher education statistics. Aggregate enrollment reports for all three study cycles and reports on academic staff at higher education institutions are collected through a web application.

Instructions for completing the questionnaire

Instructions for completing the questionnaire are provided in the questionnaire itself.

PUBLISHING

The data are published in the following annual releases:

- 1) Enrolled students,
- 2) Students who graduated/completed academic or vocational studies,
- 3) Enrolled in master and specialist studies,
- 4) Masters of science, masters and specialists,
- 5) Doctoral candidates – persons in the process of acquiring a doctorate of science,
- 6) Doctors of science,
- 7) Teachers and assistants in higher education institutions,
- 8) Higher education bulletin.

Detailed data on students and academic staff at higher education institutions are published once a year in the thematic bulletin Higher education, as well as in the Statistical Yearbook of Republika Srpska and in the publications "Cities and Municipalities of Republika Srpska" and "This is Republika Srpska". All the publications are available at the website of the Republika Srpska Institute of Statistics.

ONLINE DATABASE

An online database containing a series of statistical data on higher education is available at the official website of the Republika Srpska Institute of Statistics.

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