

Study in the EU: Set apart by gender



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The other big study field is education, health and welfare (EHW) with one fifth (19 %) of all EU graduates. Subjects in this field are equally unbalanced, but to the other extreme. For example, men account for only 19 % of education graduates.

The reasons behind this segregation largely come down to gender stereotypes that influence subject choices and career aspirations for girls and boys. Education systems and the wider societal context (e.g. job prospects) also have a strong impact on their educational choices.

What's the current situation?

Declining take-up of STEM subjects by women

The choice to study STEM subjects is not a very popular one among women in the EU. About 15 % of STEM graduates in tertiary total attain are women, and this share is even lower in vocational education and training (VET) (13 %). The countries (1) with the highest share of women among STEM graduates are the Netherlands (28 %) and Sweden (27 %).

Men a gender-balanced proportion of STEM graduates in tertiary education, but not equally in vocational education and training

ICT studies the share of women in tertiary. From 2004 to 2012, the number of women studying in the field went down in 20 Member States. There was an especially large drop in the proportion of women (graduates) in Hungary and Poland. Bulgaria is the one exception, where 47% of ICT graduates are women.

Figure 1. Share of men graduates in EHW in tertiary education and VET (2013, 2015)

Source: Eurostat, EIGE. Note: EU Member states from 2013 to 2015, non-graduated.

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Further information

[Study and work in the EU: set apart by gender: Report](#)



[Press release: Study and work in the EU - set apart by gender](#)



Downloads



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